

Major Instructional Goals SEVENTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Description

This course, required of all seventh grade students, is an introduction to world history from the middle ages through the age of exploration and geography. Topics of study include the history of the middle ages in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas through the age of exploration (*500 A.D. through 1700 A.D.*) Students will review fundamentals of geography including the five themes as well as learn about the geography of Europe, North America, and South America.

Rationale

Knowledge of history and geography is necessary to prepare students as citizens of a global society and provide them with skills and content knowledge for required coursework in grades 7-12.

Major Instructional Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the principles expressed in documents shaping constitutional democracy in the United States

Objectives:

- a. Analyze responsibilities governments and citizens need to accept to become effective in a constitutional democracy
- b. Compare and contrast the following:
 1. limited government
 2. rule of law
 3. majority rule
 4. minority rights

Goal 2. The student will demonstrate knowledge of principles and processes of governance systems

Objectives:

- a. Compare and contrast **limited** and **unlimited governments** (i.e., democratic and authoritarian governments) and how people's lives vary under these systems

Goal 3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of continuity and change in the history of Missouri, the United States and the world

Objectives:

- a. Investigate Europe in the Middle Ages, including:
 1. rise of kingdoms
 2. feudalism
 3. the Crusades
- b. Investigate Feudal Japan, including:
 1. rise of war lords
 2. art
- c. Examine and compare the Mayan, Aztec, and Incan cultures
- d. Investigate African Empires, including:
 1. agriculture, arts, gold production, and the trans-Saharan caravan trade
 2. spread of Islam into Africa
- e. Analyze the viability and diversity of Native American cultures before Europeans came
- f. Evaluate the importance of the discovery, exploration, and early settlement of America

Goal 4. The student will demonstrate knowledge of economic concepts (including productivity and the market system) and principles (including the laws of supply and demand)

Objectives:

- a. Apply the following economic concepts:
 1. investment
 2. productivity
 3. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
 4. inflation
 5. profit and profit motive
- b. Interpret the past, explain the present, and predict future consequences of economic decisions
- c. Explain the consequences of personal, and public economic decisions

Goal 5. The student will demonstrate knowledge of major elements of geographical study and analysis (such as location, place, movement, regions) and their relationship to changes in society and the environment

Objectives:

- a. Use geographic research sources to process and report information to solve problems
- b. Construct maps
- c. Locate major cities and nations of the world in historical context
- d. Locate the world's continents, oceans and major topographic features as civilizations spread
- e. Locate and describe geographic **places**, using **absolute** and **relative location**, especially as people were able to define them more accurately
- f. Explain **physical characteristics**, such as climate, topography, relationship to water and ecosystems
- g. Explain **human characteristics**, such as people's education, language, diversity, economies, religions, settlement patterns, ethnic background and political system
- h. Describe how physical processes shape the physical environment

- i. Describe a variety of ecosystems, and explain where they may be found and how physical processes and human activities may change them
- j. Identify and describe world-wide patterns of resource distribution
- k. Identify how technology and culture have influenced resource use in the past
- l. Identify and explain environmental consequences of how people use resources from historical examples
- m. Identify and explain the effect of natural forces upon human activities from historical experiences
- n. Explain causes and effects of migration streams, movements of people to job markets, barriers to human movement and how people overcome such barriers
- o. Explain how regions of the world relate to one another and change over time
- p. Use geography to interpret the past, explain the present and plan for the future

Goal 6. The student will demonstrate knowledge of relationships of the individual and groups to institutions and cultural traditions

Objectives:

- a. Analyze how the needs of individuals are met by families, friends, groups and organizations, such as governments, businesses, schools, religious institutions and charities in the United States and other nations
- b. Analyze how cultural traditions, human actions and institutions affect people's behavior
- c. Identify how laws and events affect members of and relationships among groups
- d. Evaluate constructive processes or methods for resolving conflicts

Goal 7. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the use of tools of social science inquiry (such as surveys, statistics, maps and documents)

Objectives:

- a. Select, investigate, and present a topic using primary and secondary resources, such as oral interviews, artifacts, journals, documents, photos and letters
- b. Use maps, graphs, statistical data, timelines, charts, and diagrams to interpret, draw conclusions and make predictions
- c. Create maps, graphs, timelines, charts, and diagrams to communicate information
- d. Use technological tools for research and presentation
- e. Distinguish between fact and opinion and recognize bias and points of view
- f. Identify, research, and defend a point of view/position

Goal 8. The student will be provided the opportunity to explore current events

Objectives:

- a. Differentiate between local, state, and national current events
- b. Relate to significant historical events
- c. Recognize how these events relate to their lives