



## Middle School Course Outline Sixth Grade

### Subject: Social Studies – World Geography

#### **Introduction:**

World Geography is designed to teach students about the physical and cultural aspects of the world around them. In order to acquire a complete understanding of their world, students will study land resources, places, cultures, and people of various countries. Emphasis is placed on the physical and cultural geography and the impact of people on the earth. The class meets for six 45-minute periods in a six-day cycle.

#### **Content:**

##### **Earth's Features, Resources, and Climates:**

Students study the physical features, climates, and resources of planet Earth. They are introduced to the theory of plate tectonics. Students learn about alternative energy sources and renewable resources as they examine the planet in peril and changes in the global climate.

##### **Mapping the World by Heart:**

Students memorize and map the major regions of the world including all countries, capitals and major cities, and important land and water features. In each region study, students develop an understanding of the culture and important historical and current events. Students reflect upon the effect of the physical land and its climate on the people and their way of life.

##### **United Nations & World's Fair:**

Students conduct an in-depth study of a chosen country and prepare a display and oral presentation at the World's Fair. They represent their countries at the United Nations Day with debates of important world issues and resolution writing.

#### **Materials:**

*Geography Alive: Regions and People* (Teachers' Curriculum Institute), Michael Palin's *Sahara, Full Circle, Pole to Pole, Himalaya*, and *Around the World in 80 Days* DVD's, *Mapping the World by Heart* (Tom Snyder Productions), *International Inspire* (Tom Snyder Productions), *Ring of Fire: An Indonesian Odyssey* (Mystic Fire Video), slide shows, and reference resources are included in the materials for this course.

#### **Evaluation:**

Formal and informal assessment tools, which include teacher observation, student writings, individual and group projects, oral presentations, unit exams, and the End of the Year Mapping the World by Heart Project form the basis of the trimester grades.

## **Middle School Course Outline Seventh Grade**

### **Subject: Social Studies – World History**

#### **Introduction:**

Seventh Grade World History introduces students to a global picture of the people and events of world history. It is an in-depth survey of the history of human existence on earth with special emphasis on the mysteries of ancient civilizations. Students explore the relationship between the challenges faced by early civilizations and how they might relate to today's civilizations. They meet for six 45-minute periods in a six-day cycle.

#### **Content:**

##### **Early Humankind**

Students study the Paleolithic and Neolithic humans from archaeology and anthropology research. They discuss the theories of evolution and creationism.

##### **Ancient River Valley Civilizations:**

Students explore the civilizations of the Mesopotamia, the Egyptians in the Nile River Valley, the Indus River Valley, and the Huang Ho Valley.

##### **Pre-Columbian Civilizations:**

Students examine the civilizations of the Olmecs, Aztecs, Mayans, and Incas.

##### **Ancient Greeks:**

Students study the ancient Greeks and their impact on democracy. They also become familiar with their influence of trade and ideas.

##### **Five Great Religions:**

Students compare and contrast the five great religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. They learn about Tibetan Buddhism and the history of Tibet. They examine the Tibetan culture and role of the Dalai Lama.

##### **Holocaust:**

Students learn about the genocide of the Jewish population by the Nazi regime. They examine other examples of genocide of yesterday and today.

##### **United Nations Day & World's Fair:**

For the World's Fair, students prepare a display and oral presentation for a chosen country. They represent their countries in the United Nations Day's debates of issues and resolution writing.

#### **Materials:**

*History Alive: The Ancient World* (Teachers' Curriculum Institute), *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *UpFront Magazine* (NY Times), *Gods, Graves, and Scholars* (C.W. Ceram), "In Search of Human Origins" (PBS/Donald Johanson), and "This Old Pyramid" are the materials.

#### **Evaluation:**

Formal and informal assessment tools, which include teacher observation, student writings, projects, and unit exams, form the basis of the trimester grades.

## **Middle School Course Outline 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### **Subject: Civics**

#### **Introduction:**

Eighth grade civics introduces students to the historical development of the government of the United States and engages the students in a survey of important movements throughout the world that attempted to erase intolerance and injustice. Students will gain an appreciation and a responsibility for the role of being a contributing citizen. Through lecture, cooperative group work, discussions, readings, field trips, guest speakers, and writing students will be engaged in the study of civics. The eighth grade students are responsible for the leadership of the Middle School United Nations Day.

#### **Content:**

##### **United States Constitution:**

The course is designed to study the history, purpose and function of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government at the federal, state and local levels. Students will carefully study the United States Constitution and use this as a framework in their study of important movements throughout human history.

##### **Civil Rights:**

Students will engage in units covering the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, intolerance in America, non-violent resistance, and women's history month.

##### **Current Events:**

Current, national and international affairs are discussed throughout the year. These affairs will be learned within the context of the United States foreign policy decisions to allow students to explore the role of the United States within the world community.

#### **Materials:**

The text, *Overview of Important Facts and History of the Constitution and the Three Branches of Government*, and a variety of websites, video, and audio materials comprise the materials list.

#### **Evaluation Process:**

Students receive trimester grades based on their performance on test, quizzes, group and individual projects, homework, class participation and written work.