



**Middle School Course Outline**  
**Subject: Social Studies**

**Sixth Grade**

**Subject: World Geography**

***(This course is scheduled for revision for the 2021-2022 school year.)***

**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.

**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.

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

Students conduct an in-depth study of a chosen country and prepare a display and oral presentation to the school community 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 Inspirer* (Tom Snyder Productions), *Ring of Fire: An Indonesian Odyssey* (Mystic Fire Video), *Junior Scholastic Magazine*,

slideshows, 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 Curriculum Outline  
Seventh Grade**

**Subject: World History**

***(This course was revised in the 2020-2021 school year. The outline will be updated soon.)***

**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 40-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.

**Holocaust:**

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

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

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  
Eighth Grade****Subject: Civics****Introduction:**

Eighth grade civics introduces students to the structure, function, and foundational principles of the United States government while emphasizing the importance and responsibility of good citizenship. Students explore these topics through lecture, debates, cooperative group work, discussions, readings, guest speakers, and written assignments. The eighth grade students are also responsible for the leadership of 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 carefully study the United States Constitution and its role as a legal framework of political movements throughout the nation's history.

**Current Events:**

Local, national, and international affairs are discussed throughout the year. These discussions focus on questions of what good citizenship and just governance looks like in local, national, and world communities.

**Materials:**

Students use a variety of educational websites, videos, online applications, news articles, and topic presentations.

**Evaluation Process:**

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