

DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL STUDIES	COURSE TITLE: GRADE 8 SOCIAL STUDIES (GEOGRAPHY)
GRADE(S): 7	PRE-REQUISITES (IF ANY): NONE

UNIT	LENGTH	CONTENT	SKILLS	METHODS OF ASSESSMENT	FRAMEWORK STRAND(S) & STANDARD(S)
China (first quarter)	30 days	Location of China Latitude & Longitude Climate zones Cultural influences Cultural universals Importance of family Gender roles Language Religion Contemporary topics such as adoption from China	Interpret maps Monitor for meaning while reading Questioning while reading Use prior knowledge while reading Complete sentences Topic sentences & paragraphs Grammar, spelling, punctuation Determine key ideas Summarizing Organize notebook Work in a cooperative group Use an assignment notebook	Maps Notes from reading Writing in complete paragraphs Notebook check	
China (second quarter)	30 days	Location of China Cultural influences Importance of family Gender roles Language Religion Contemporary topics such as adoption from China	Interpret maps Interpret graphs and diagrams Determine importance while reading Create mental images while reading Take notes Organize notes into a web Construct an outline Draft a multiparagraph essay Edit and revise multiparagraph essay Work in a cooperative group Use an assignment notebook	Maps Notes from reading Multiparagraph essay	
China (third or fourth quarter)	30 days	Location of China Cultural influences Importance of family Gender roles Language Religion Contemporary topics such as adoption from China Economy and government Inquiry research process	Interpret maps Interpret graphs and diagrams Make inferences while reading Synthesize while reading Inquiry research Take notes Construct a thesis supported by evidence Construct an outline Draft a multiparagraph essay	Research essay	

		Bibliography	Edit and revise multiparagraph essay Work in a cooperative group Use an assignment notebook		
Rome	15 days	Expansion and governance Warfare Cultural values Technology and material culture Decline and fall: causation Economic structures and problems, Social structure Germanic peoples, diversity		Magazine (Greece) Decision making exercise Maps “Swinging Hub” (edited) “To Tell the Truth” (Caesar)	
Middle East Unit (Third Quarter)	30 -35 days	Examination of the geography and cultures of this region. Geography, history, cultures, religions, economic, political and historic development with an emphasis on culture conflict. Current conditions in the region are also investigated. Reading maps and timelines, scale and symbols	Map work – creating a map from scratch; summarizing news items; discussion and debate; presentations and projects; group and dyad work; cooperative learning; writing essays –cause and effect; compare and contrast; research work; computer work;	Map work; Middle East Scrapbook of current events articles; quizzes; self evaluation; research work; class participation; test taking; essay writing; homework; discussion and debate	History Strand LS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Middle East Unit (Second Quarter)	30 35 days	Examination of the geographic conditions of the region-topography, climate, resources, location and the Five Themes of Geography; Introduction and application of cultural terminology to the region; investigate the role of the major religions in the region; study of the origins of the current conflicts in the region; look at the development of the region’s history, etc. Invention and technology	How to understand and use maps, globes and visual representations of quantitative data (including graphs, charts and tables); Understanding the point of view of others; Gather, interpret and assess evidence from multiple sources; Distinguish sound generalizations from false over-simplifications.	Challenge/Response Chart Primary Sources Expository Writing: 2 essays, thesis, topic sentences, evidence	History Strand LS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Geography Strand LS 9
Egypt	14 days	Reapplying geography concepts, developing comparisons with Mesopotamia. Religions and values, influence of, Osiris and Isis Distinguis hing Old, Middle and New Kingdoms Kush and Axum Role of technology/cultural limitations Using art as historical evidence	Distinguish knowledge from various forms of opinion; Understanding the point of view of others; How to understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence, and correlation.	Textbook exercises Extracting information from video Test taking Maps	History Strand LS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Geography Strand LS 9
Greece	15 days	Geography and climate influence culture Mapping Comparison Athens and Sparta Types of government, evolution of democracy	How to understand and use maps, globes and visual representations of quantitative data (including graphs, charts	Magazine (optional with Rome) Research and library skills Democracy simulation/Mock	History Strand LS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Geography

		Minoan, Mycenaean, Hellenic, Hellenistic periods: distinguishing characteristics of each Art, philosophy, literature, mythology Cultural influence of Greeks Role of warfare in society	and tables); How to understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence, and correlation; Gather, interpret and assess evidence from multiple sources.	Trial or dramatic dialogues “Love and Death” (edited) Architecture Project	Strand LS 9
Rome	15 days	Monarchy to republic to empire: analysis of change Expansion and governance Warfare Cultural values Technology and material culture Decline and fall: causation Economic structures and problems, Social structure Germanic peoples, diversity	Distinguish knowledge from various forms of opinion; Gather, interpret and assess evidence from multiple sources; How to frame a problem and conduct research.	Magazine (Greece) Decision making exercise Maps “Swinging Hub” (edited) “To Tell the Truth” (Caesar)	History Strand LS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6