

Grade Seven

THEME: WORLD STUDIES FROM 750 B.C. TO 1600 A.D.: ANCIENT GREECE TO THE FIRST GLOBAL AGE

The seventh-grade year is an integrated study of world history, beginning with ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration. All four social studies strands are used to illustrate how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today.

TOPIC:	HISTORICAL THINKING AND SKILLS	EARLY CIVILIZATIONS	FEUDALISM AND TRANSITIONS	FIRST GLOBAL AGE
HISTORY STRAND	<p>Content Statement:</p> <p>1. Historians and archaeologists describe historical events and issues from the perspectives of people living at the time to avoid evaluating the past in terms of today's norms and values.</p>	<p>Content Statement:</p> <p>2. The civilizations that developed in Greece and Rome had an enduring impact on later civilizations. This legacy includes governance and law, engineering and technology, art and architecture, as well as literature and history. The Roman Empire also played an instrumental role in the spread of Christianity.</p>	<p>Content Statements:</p> <p>3. Germanic invasions helped to break up the Roman Empire and set the stage for the development of feudal and manorial systems. Later invasions helped establish Mongol dominance in central Asia and led to the destruction of the Byzantine Empire by the Turks.</p> <p>4. Mongol influence led to unified states in China and Korea, but the Mongol failure to conquer Japan allowed a feudal system to persist.</p> <p>5. Achievements in medicine, science, mathematics and geography by the Islamic civilization dominated most of the Mediterranean after the decline of the Roman Empire. These achievements were introduced into Western Europe as a result of the Muslim conquests, Crusades and trade, influencing the European Renaissance.</p> <p>6. The Renaissance in Europe introduced revolutionary ideas, leading to cultural, scientific and social changes.</p> <p>7. The Reformation introduced changes in religion including the emergence of Protestant faiths and a decline in the political power and social influence of the Roman Catholic Church.</p>	<p>Content Statements:</p> <p>8. Empires in Africa (Ghana, Mali and Songhay) and Asia (Byzantine, Ottoman, Mughal and China) grew as commercial and cultural centers along trade routes.</p> <p>9. The advent of the trans-Saharan slave trade had profound effects on both West and Central Africa and the receiving societies.</p> <p>10. European economic and cultural influence dramatically increased through explorations, conquests and colonization.</p> <p>11. The Columbian Exchange (e.g., the exchange of fauna, flora and pathogens) among previously unconnected parts of the world reshaped societies in ways still evident today.</p>

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GEOGRAPHY STRAND	TOPIC: SPATIAL THINKING AND SKILLS	HUMAN SYSTEMS	
	<p>Content Statement:</p> <p>12. Maps and other geographic representations can be used to trace the development of human settlement over time.</p>	<p>Content Statements:</p> <p>13. Geographic factors promote or impede the movement of people, products and ideas.</p> <p>14. Trade routes connecting Africa, Europe and Asia fostered the spread of technology and major world religions.</p> <p>15. Improvements in transportation, communication and technology have facilitated cultural diffusion among peoples around the world.</p>	
GOVERNMENT STRAND	TOPIC: CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS	ROLES AND SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT	
	<p>Content Statement:</p> <p>16. The ability to understand individual and group perspectives is essential to analyzing historic and contemporary issues.</p>	<p>Content Statements:</p> <p>17. Greek democracy and the Roman Republic were radical departures from monarchy and theocracy, influencing the structure and function of modern democratic governments.</p> <p>18. With the decline of feudalism, consolidation of power resulted in the emergence of nation states.</p>	
ECONOMICS STRAND	TOPIC: ECONOMIC DECISION MAKING AND SKILLS	SCARCITY	MARKETS
	<p>Content Statement:</p> <p>19. Individuals, governments and businesses must analyze costs and benefits when making economic decisions. A cost-benefit analysis consists of determining the potential costs and benefits of an action and then balancing the costs against the benefits.</p>	<p>Content Statement:</p> <p>20. The variability in the distribution of productive resources in the various regions of the world contributed to specialization, trade and interdependence.</p>	<p>Content Statement:</p> <p>21. The growth of cities and empires fostered the growth of markets. Market exchanges encouraged specialization and the transition from barter to monetary economies.</p>