



Building on the social studies skills developed in the elementary grades, students in the middle school years begin with a study of people, cultures, and ideas in the Western Hemisphere and move from there to explorations of the Eastern Hemisphere, ending with the early history of the United States. In each grade, students investigate historical events, examine geographic features and resources, consider economic decision-making processes, and understand types of governments and civic responsibility.

#### Expectations for 7th Grade Students:

- **History:** Locate and evaluate multiple historical sources with different points of view to investigate a historical question and to formulate and defend an argument; examine the historical eras, individuals, groups, ideas and themes in regions of the Eastern Hemisphere and their relationships with one another.
- **Geography:** Use different types of geographic tools such as maps, globes, diagrams, charts, and geographic data and technologies to make inferences and predictions about the differing perspectives and issues within regions in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- **Economics:** Explain how economic systems address the problems of scarcity. **Personal Financial Literacy:** Investigate the role of consumers within the Eastern Hemisphere.
- **Civics:** Analyze the relationships of different nations in the Eastern Hemisphere and their systems of government.

#### Throughout 7th Grade You May Find Students:

- Gathering and analyzing primary and secondary sources (documents, photos, letters, diaries) from different perspectives to develop and defend an historical thesis about the significant eras and current events in the Eastern Hemisphere; explaining the interconnectedness of the political, cultural, economic and technological development of early civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere (Ancient Greece, Rome, China, Africa, the Medieval world, and the Crusades); tracing the movement of ideas and people over time.
- Using maps and other geographic tools to explain and predict how the physical environment of a place influences a society's culture, economy, and trade patterns; asking and answering geographic questions related to environmental issues and the spread of cultural influences.
- Identifying the factors in local, national, and global economies that impact scarcity of resources and trade agreements; using economic reasoning to explain how individual choices in purchasing and investing can impact global markets.
- Describing and comparing the opportunities and limitations of civic participation; discussing how various government structures interact.