

# **SOCIAL STUDIES**

## **Geography and History of the World**



### **Geography and History of the World Curriculum Overview**

The [Indiana Academic Standards](#) define what students should know, understand, and be able to do at grade level beginning in kindergarten and progressing through grade twelve. These standards serve as the foundation to our curriculum in Noblesville Schools but are not a curriculum on their own. The Indiana Academic Standards are supported through grade-level, content-area curriculum maps and a selection of curriculum materials to support these maps. These curriculum maps and materials are aligned to the Indiana Academic standards while also providing the conditions necessary to be responsive to the needs of all learners. Therefore, the Noblesville Schools' curriculum is constantly undergoing periodic and systematic analysis and revision.

High school social studies standards, regardless of course level or content, have a shared goal of developing students' skills in critical thinking, inquiry, research, and participation in a democratic society. At the high school level, social studies standards have five content areas that make up the core curriculum: history, government, geography, economics; and Individuals, society and culture (psychology, sociology, and anthropology). One of these content areas is generally the focus of a course while the other content areas play a more supporting role.

*Geography and History of the World* is “designed to enable students to use geographic tools and skills and historic concepts and perspectives to deepen their understanding of major global themes including the origin and spread of world religions; exploration; conquest and imperialism; urbanization; and innovations and revolutions” (Indiana Department of Education, 2020).

Instructional time is focused on building students' geographical and historical skills related to primary and secondary source documents, analyzing patterns and trends throughout the development of history, and using geography to explore global themes. The [Social Studies Indiana Academic Standards for Geography and History of the World](#) serve as the foundation of our curriculum. These standards are supported in Noblesville Schools through the following primary curriculum materials: *Geography: The Human and Physical World* (McGraw-Hill, 2017). For the most relevant and up-to-date information on your child's social studies curriculum pacing, please [enroll as a Parent Observer on Canvas](#).

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### Units of Study

Table 1: Units of Study for Geography and History of the World

| Unit                                                                      | Duration  | Enduring Understandings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Essential Questions<br><i>May include but are not limited to the following:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1:<br/>Introduction to<br/>Geography/History<br/>of the World</b> | 7-9 weeks | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Factors that made the cultural hearths successful or unsuccessful.</li> <li>2. How religions developed/spread over time.</li> <li>3. The major beliefs of the world's religions.</li> <li>4. How countries acquire the resources needed to survive.</li> <li>5. How government and economics have developed around the world.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why did geographic luck make it possible for cultural hearths to be successful?</li> <li>2. How was the spread of religion over time impacted by the growth of culture and cultural hearths?</li> <li>3. How does religion create cultural unity and world conflict at the same time?</li> <li>4. How does geography influence trade between countries?</li> <li>5. How do governments provide the organization and power to govern?</li> <li>6. How does where you live impact how you live?</li> </ol> |

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| Unit                               | Duration  | Enduring Understandings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Essential Questions<br><i>May include but are not limited to the following:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 2:<br/>The Middle East</b> | 6-7 weeks | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Religious differences have caused conflict, past and present.</li> <li>2. Limited resources and arable land lead to conflict between cultures.</li> <li>3. The desire for nationalism of different ethnic groups leads to conflict.</li> </ol>                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How has the division of Islam led to civil wars in the region?</li> <li>2. How have the differences between the three monotheistic religions caused years of tension in the Middle East?</li> <li>3. How have historical land claims led to unrest in Israel and other nations?</li> <li>4. How has religion impacted the formation of government?</li> </ol>                                                                |
| <b>Unit 3:<br/>South Asia</b>      | 2-3 weeks | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Religion and imperialism have led to the formation of countries.</li> <li>2. Physical geography has an impact in positive and negative ways on the area's culture.</li> <li>3. The challenges of population growth have negatively impacted South Asia.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How did the difference between Hinduism and Islam lead to the creation of two modern nations?</li> <li>2. How did the desire for nationalism clash with the demands of British Imperialism?</li> <li>3. How has the diverse physical geography of South Asia led to a unique culture?</li> <li>4. How has the population growth of South Asia led to a strain on resources, impacted quality of life and economy?</li> </ol> |

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| Unit                 | Duration  | Enduring Understandings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Essential Questions<br><i>May include but are not limited to the following:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Unit 4:<br>East Asia | 2-3 weeks | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The challenges of population growth negatively impact East Asia.</li> <li>2. The impact of an autocratic government on a country's people.</li> <li>3. The lasting effects created by military weapons on the civilians of East Asia and Americans.</li> <li>4. The economic impacts of tourist sites in East Asia.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the long-term consequences of China's One Child Policy?</li> <li>2. What have been the negative effects of the communist government in East Asia, both past and present?</li> <li>3. Was the use of the Atomic Bomb and other chemical weaponry necessary in the wars involving the United States and East Asia?</li> <li>4. After knowing the last effects of chemical weapons on civilians of East Asia and the US, should chemical weapons be used today?</li> <li>5. How do tourist sites reflect and represent a country's culture?</li> <li>6. Why is the growing economy of East Asia attractive to the United States?</li> </ol> |

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| Unit                       | Duration | Enduring Understandings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Essential Questions<br><i>May include but are not limited to the following:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Unit 5: Sub-Saharan Africa | 9 weeks  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The impact of climate change on Africa.</li> <li>2. The spread of disease in Africa.</li> <li>3. The positives and negatives of European Imperialism on Africa.</li> <li>4. The natural resource curse of Africa.</li> <li>5. The causes of genocide and civil war in Africa.</li> <li>6. The use of apartheid.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Has the problem of desertification been man-made or nature-made?</li> <li>2. If famine and drought were solved in Africa, would that eliminate other conflicts?</li> <li>3. Was the spread of disease in Africa a problem caused by Europeans or by the Africans themselves?</li> <li>4. How has the increase in civil war and genocide increased the spread of AIDS/HIV?</li> <li>5. How did tribalism prevent Africans from stopping European Imperialism?</li> <li>6. How has tribalism led to unstable economies and governments in African nations?</li> <li>7. If Africans could redraw the borders of African countries, how would that solve problems that Africans face today?</li> <li>8. How has the exploitation of resources affected Africa?</li> <li>9. How have African resources led to civil wars and the use of child soldiers?</li> <li>10. How did Apartheid in South Africa compare to segregation in the United States?</li> </ol> |

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| Unit              | Duration  | Enduring Understandings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Essential Questions<br><i>May include but are not limited to the following:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Unit 6:<br>Europe | 2-3 weeks | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to plan and balance a budget when traveling.</li> <li>How innovations and revolutions impacted Europe and the world.</li> <li>How modernization leads to world wars.</li> <li>How geographic luck allowed Europe to dominate the rest of the world.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What tasks are involved in traveling to Europe?</li> <li>Did the Industrial Revolution impact Capitalism, Socialism, and Communism?</li> <li>How did Nationalism, Militarism, Imperialism, and the System of Alliances influence WWI?</li> <li>Did diseases and resources allow Europe to colonize the world?</li> </ol> |