



Department of Instruction

What Your Child Will Learn in 7th Grade Social Studies

All Calvert County Core Social Studies Curriculum is based on [Maryland Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks](#)

Social Studies Skills and Processes

Reading and Source Analysis and Application

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.
- Integrate and evaluate content presented graphically, visually, orally, and multimodally as well as in words within and across print and digital sources.
- Evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and fluency of the evidence.

Writing Standards

- Students will write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
- Students will write informative/ explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events.

Historical Thinking and Reasoning

- Engage in inquiry, including constructing compelling questions, supporting questions, and determining helpful resources needed to answer their questions.
- Evaluate context, continuity and change by analyzing connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts.
- Analyze various perspectives by analyzing the multiple factors that influenced peoples' perspectives during different historical eras and explaining how and why perspectives change over time.
- Analyze the relative influence of various causes of events and developments in the past and in contemporary society while evaluating their effects and implications.

7th Grade Course Content

Unit One: Medieval Europe

1. Analyze how the geography of Europe influenced the ways in which humans in the region lived and worked.
2. Analyzing how the fall of Rome created a power vacuum in Europe that led to the rise of Feudalism.
3. Evaluate the political, economic, and social structure of feudal Europe and how it affected the lives of its inhabitants.
4. Describe the events that led to the decline of feudalism and the rise of democratic thought and individualism.
5. Build an understanding of the major legal and constitutional developments of the late medieval Era.

Unit Two: West Africa and the Rise of Islam

1. Describe the geography and physical features of the Arabian Peninsula.
2. Describe key geographic features of West Africa and analyze how this geography influenced the ways in which humans in the region lived and worked.
3. Analyze the evolution and achievements of pre-European early societies in West Africa.
4. Investigate the three Abrahamic (monotheistic) religions.
5. Analyze the development of West African Empires and evaluate the impact of trade on these empires.
6. Analyze the causes and effects of the crusades.

Unit Three: Renaissance/Scientific Revolution and Reformation

Renaissance

1. Describe the origins and early stages of the Renaissance, the growth of cities, and the focus on the revival of classical learning, arts, and humanism.
2. Determine the achievements of scholars and artists during the Renaissance and Scientific Revolution.

Reformation

1. Evaluate why the Catholic Church faced criticism during this time period and experienced some loss of power and influence.
2. Explain the lasting effects of the Reformation.

Unit Four: Pre-Columbian America

1. Describe the key geographical and political features of pre-Columbian American civilizations and analyze how the geography of Central and South America influenced the ways in which humans in the region lived and worked.
2. Investigate the development of the following Central and South American civilizations.
3. Analyze the cultural achievements of the Maya, Inca, and Aztec civilizations.
4. Analyze the significance of the accomplishments, population growth and structure of the civilizations in the Americas prior to European colonization.

Unit Five: Age of Exploration

1. Analyze the push/pull factors that led to the age of European exploration and colonization.
2. Evaluate the impact of Spanish conquest on Central and South American civilizations.
3. Evaluate the impact of the Age of Exploration on Europe (Portugal, Spain, England, France, etc.).
4. Assess the enduring impact of the Columbian Exchange and the beginning of the Triangle Trade.