

Haddon Township School District Curriculum Overview

Subject Area: Social Studies

Grade Level: 7th

Course Name: World Cultures

Course Overview/Description: In grade seven *World Cultures* classes, students will study the world regions of Africa and Asia, more specifically South Asia, China, Japan, and the Middle East. The course is a historical survey chronologically tracing the major historical periods of each region. History, geography, government, economics, culture, and the humanities are strands that will be covered in the study of each respective region. An underlying theme of the course will be an emphasis on contemporary culture and how it relates to both the past and the present.

Unit Title	Unit Summary	Student Learning Targets
Unit 1: Geography	A review of the five themes used by geographers to describe places and people. Compare and Contrast maps and globes. Discuss various map projections and their strengths and weaknesses. Examine the parts of a map, map scale and different types of maps. Analyze bar, pie & line graphs as well as analyzing comparable tables and charts.	<i>Students will...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Read a map legend● Identify the components of maps● Identify the key terms in Geography and map essentials● Interpret an atlas● Locate and label specific places on a map● Locate places using longitude and latitude● Distinguish between different types of maps● Read a time line● Understand advantages of a globe over a map● Understand components of a thematic map

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss the impact of the Internet and technology on global communication ● Discuss factors that contributed to oceanic travel and exploration in the 15th and 16th Centuries, including technological innovations in ship building navigation, naval warfare, navigational inventions such as the compass, and the impact of wind currents on the major trade routes ● Discuss factors that stimulated European overseas explorations between the 15th and 17th Centuries and the impact of that exploration on the modern world ● Trace the major land and water routes of the explorers ● Distinguish among the distinct characteristics maps, globes, graphs, charts diagrams, and other geographical representations, and the utility of each in solving problems ● Translate maps into appropriate spatial graphics to display geographical information ● Explain the spatial concepts of relative and absolute location and distance ● Use geographic tools and technologies to pose and answer questions about spatial distributions and patterns on Earth
Unit 2: Culture	<p>A discussion of the influence of landforms, water resources & climate regions on where people live. Examine the negative impact of human activities on the environment. Identify the shared characteristics that define the culture of a group of people. Analyze factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyze how geography determines culture ● Identify the major elements of culture ● Understand the central role of the family in society

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	<p>that lead to cultural change. The unit will also compare the four kinds of economic systems and growing interdependence among the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Analyze the types of government and economies societies have developed● Explain the factors that cause cultures to change● Identify reasons why the rate of cultural change has increased in this century● Discuss why people of ten have trouble understanding one another's cultures● Describe the technologies developed by early people● Explain the chief characteristics of a civilization● Assess the credibility of primary and secondary sources● Use effective strategies for locating information● Describe the underlying values and principles of democracy and distinguish these from authoritarian forms of government● Discuss the major characteristics of democratic governments● Describe major conflicts that have arisen from diversity and discuss how the conflicts have been addressed● Explain the benefits, costs, and conflicts of a diverse nation● Analyze the ways in which nation-states interact with one another through trade, diplomacy, cultural exchanges, treaties or agreements, humanitarian aid, economic incentives and sanctions, and the use or threat of military force● Discuss factors that lead to a breakdown of order among nation-states and describe
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		<p>the consequences of the breakdown of order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Describe how one's heritage includes personal history and experiences, culture, customs, and family background● Analyze how the life, culture, economics, politics, and the media of the United States impact the rest of the world● Discuss how cultures may change and that individuals may identify with more than one culture● Discuss the impact of the Internet and technology on global communication● Discuss the impact of stereotyping on relationships, achievement, and life goals● Analyze how prejudice and discrimination may lead to genocide as well as other acts of hatred and violence for the purposes of subjugation and exploitation● Describe the physical and cultural changes that shaped the earliest human communities as revealed through scientific methods: early hominid development, including the development of language and writing, migration and adaptation to new environments, differences between hunter/gatherer, fishing, and agrarian communities● Explain the law of supply and demand● Compare and contrast the characteristics of the three basic economic systems: traditional or barter and trade, market capitalism, and command● Explain what taxes are, how they are collected, and how tax dollars are used by
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		<p>local, state, and national governments to provide goods and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss how societies have been affected by industrialization and by different political and economic philosophies
<p>Unit 3: Africa South of the Sahara</p>	<p>Students need to be aware that Africa South of the Sahara is a vast region of physical and ethnic diversity. This region faces many challenges. It has the world's fastest-growing and youngest population. Their people face challenges to their environment, especially related to natural resources and wildlife. There is a constant struggle to improve the quality of life of its people. The people of Africa South of the Sahara face political and economic difficulties caused in part by a colonial past.</p>	<p><i>Students will ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain how geography helped Africa South of the Sahara developed differently from the rest of Africa ● Explain how culture helped Africa South of the Sahara developed differently from the rest of Africa ● Describe the four sub-regions of Africa South of the Sahara ● Explain the effect escarpments have on trade ● Describe the diverse landforms of Africa South of the Sahara ● Explain how Africa South of the Sahara's location caused them to develop in isolation ● Explain the role of rainforests in ecotourism ● Describe how Mt. Kilimanjaro has snow despite being on the equator ● Explain why Africa South of the Sahara has a hot climate ● Explain how the first humans developed in Africa South of the Sahara ● Describe the Bantu Migration ● Analyze how the Bantu Migration led to many Africans sharing Bantu as a root language ● Explain how the Kush were able to gain control of Eastern Africa

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe the role Christianity played in the development of the Axum Empire ● Explain how Swahili was created and spread throughout Africa ● Describe the Atlantic Slave Trade and each continent's role ● Analyze the effect the slave trade had on Africa South of the Sahara ● Explain the reasons for European interest in Africa South of the Sahara after the slave trade ended ● Describe how the Europeans were able to colonize Africa ● Explain the results of the Berlin Conference ● Describe how European rule affected the Africans ● Explain the role WWII played in the independence movement ● Describe Nelson Mandela's role in ending the Apartheid ● Explain how/why many African countries are still undeveloped ● Explain why Africa has the youngest/fastest growing population ● Explain the role of extended families in traditional African culture ● Describe the job of a griot ● Describe the major religions practiced in Africa South of the Sahara
Unit 4: The Middle East	Students are introduced to a culture region that includes North Africa, Southwest Asia and Central Asia. These regions include areas of vast deserts and dry climates. The majority of the world's oil and natural gas reserves	<p><i>Students will...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain how the geography of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia helped the Middle East develop separately from the rest of Africa and Asia

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	<p>can be found here. There are challenges to the environment in this region, including damage to farmland in some areas. Most of the population is concentrated along rivers and in coastal plains. The population is predominantly Muslim, although Jews and Christians also live in the region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe the three major physical regions of the Middle East• Explain how the geography influences the culture of the Middle East• Explain how the vast deserts and dry climates affect the development of the sub-regions• Describe the natural resources of the region and how they have affected the world's relationship with the region• Describe how the two major river systems of the region allowed for the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia• Describe how the region deals with water shortages• Describe how the fertile crescent allowed for early civilizations to develop• Explain how agriculture allowed for civilizations such as Egypt or Mesopotamia• Explain how the development of the civilizations allowed for the creation of achievements such as a writing system, government, and organized religion• Explain how Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all developed in the region• Describe the characteristics of the religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam• Explain how the religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam are all connected• Explain how the Arab Empire gained power• Explain the Ottoman Empire gained power in the 1900s
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe the Palestinian – Israeli conflict ● Explain the Iran – Iraq war ● Explain what occurred in Iraq and Afghanistan after September 11th ● Describe the role of religion in the daily life of Middle Easterners ● Describe the role of family in daily life ● Explain how the governments of the present-day countries operate
Unit 5: South Asia	<p>Students will be introduced to the cultural region of South Asia. The countries of this region share the following characteristics: a location on or near the South Asian subcontinent, a varied landscape, ranging from some of the highest mountain ranges in the world to low-lying coastal areas, high population densities that have led to environmental challenges in many areas, seasonal dry & wet monsoon winds in much of the region & a daily life centered on marriage & the family.</p>	<p><i>Students will ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain how geography helped South Asia develop separately from the rest of Asia ● Describe the three major physical regions of South Asia ● List the river systems that are important to South Asia ● Analyze how South Asia reflects the influences of many cultures ● Explain how the monsoons affect South Asia ● List the basic Hindu beliefs ● Analyze how Hinduism & Buddhism are both similar & different ● Explain the role of the village in traditional Indian life ● Analyze how invasions contributed to cultural diversity in South Asia ● Describe how the caste system affects life in India ● Describe the structure of the traditional family life in India ● Explain how the British were able to win control of India ● Discuss how British rule affected India

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe how Gandhi helped India win independence from the British ● Explain how World War II affected the struggle for independence ● List the cultural differences that led to the partition of India
Unit 6: East and Southeast Asia	<p>This unit introduces students to the cultural regions of East Asia & Southeast Asia. The countries in this region share the following characteristics: areas of extremely fertile farmland & areas of high population densities, a wide variety of climate zones, including cold, tropical, dry & wet; some of the most modern & productive economies in the world, as well as some of the world's poorest countries, some of the world's largest cities, ethnic groups with rich cultural traditions & heritages & daily life centered on the family.</p>	<p><i>Students will...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain why East and Southeast Asia are a region ● Explain why East and Southeast Asia developed independently from the rest of Asia ● Explain how geography has affected the development of East and Southeast Asia ● Explain how the movement of Earth's tectonic plates shaped the landscape of East and Southeast Asia. ● Explain the effect of earthquakes and volcanoes on the environment and people of East and Southeast Asia ● Describe the climate of East and Southeast and how it effects where people settle in the region ● Describe the diverse landforms of East and Southeast Asia ● Explain how seas and rivers in East and Southeast Asia plan an important role in agriculture and trade in the region ● Describe the region's valuable resources and how they support its growing economies ● Explain how the wind patterns influence the climates in East and Southeast Asia

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explain how the region deals with uneven rainfall throughout the year● Explain how East Asia has a middle latitude climate● Explain how Southeast Asia has mostly tropical climates● Describe how powerful local empires ruled early East and Southeast Asia● Explain how dynasties ruled large empires in East and Southeast Asia● Explain why Europeans were interested in the East and Southeast Asia region● Describe how the countries of East and Southeast Asia were able to gain independence from European countries● Explain how several nations of East and Southeast Asia have developed strong economies● Describe how rapid population growth has created challenges for many countries in the region● Describe how traditional beliefs and practices have influenced daily life● Describe how the region has been affected by modern technology and Western culture● Explain how China's Communist government has moved toward freer economic policies● Explain how Japan's tremendous economic growth hurt the environment● Describe how opposing political views have made the two Koreas very different countries
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain how location, landforms, and distribution of resources make areas of Southeast Asia different from one another.
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