Course Overview

Middle School | 7 | Social Studies - *Last Updated on October 28, 2024*

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement
• Social Studies prepares the nation's young people for college, careers, and civic life. • Inquiry is at the heart of social studies instruction which involves interdisciplinary applications, deep understandings, concepts, and skills from the disciplines. • Young people require analytic, strategic, chronological, and critical thinking skills to prepare for participating in democratic decision-making. • Social studies instruction directly and explicitly connects to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.

Course Description
In seventh-grade Geography, students will begin to explore the Earth's regions, delving into the unique physical and human characteristics that define each area. Throughout the year, students will also develop essential geographic skills, including map reading, spatial analysis, and research techniques. Students will examine the intricate geological features that shape our planet's surface and learn how these physical landscapes influence human societies. Students will investigate the Earth's physical features, including landforms, climates, and ecosystems. Students will engage in storytelling, interactive activities, and multimedia resources to understand the traditions, religions, and customs that make up different regions of the world. By analyzing case studies, conducting research, and engaging in collaborative projects, students will develop critical thinking skills and become active participants in shaping our global future. In the North America unit, students debate the features that make national parks special and worth preserving. Students step into the role of a tour planning company owner and create tours for three different national parks. In the South America unit, students debate how the resources of the Amazon Rainforest should be used and preserved. Students create and present news reports about the different groups in the Amazon Rainforest and their competing interests in how to preserve and use the resources. Students write a letter to the Brazilian government about how best to preserve and use the Amazon Rainforest. Students then venture to Europe and Russia. It is in this unit that students analyze images and maps to understand the causes, locations, and impact of radioactive pollution, acid rain, and industrial water pollution. Students learn about how transboundary pollution affects the eastern United States. When students move to investigate the continent of Africa, students discuss the challenges of adapting to the Saharan environment. They create and perform act-it-outs featuring those adaptations. Finally, students study Monsoon Asia and it is in this unit that students engage in the experimental exercise of climbing Mount Everest. Students will documental their experience by completing a climbing journal as they ascend Mount Everest. In the final unit, Oceania and Australia students begin to answer the question of how a country's location shapes life within its borders. Students investigate the impact of location and other factors on threatened species worldwide while examining placards to understand how life in Australia is affected by its relative and absolute location. The goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the various regions of the world and to examine their specific geographic features before turning to a thematic approach covering those issues of

most significance from a global perspective. Important regions include North America, Middle and South America, Europe, Russia and Central Asia, East Asia, South and Southeast Asia, Southwest Asia, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and Oceania.

STANDARDS

Pennsylvania - Grade 7 - Geography

7 | 7.1 | 7.1.7.A | 7.1.7.B | 7.2 | 7.2.7.A | 7.2.7.B | 7.3.7.A | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.4.7.B | 7.4.7.A

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives for this course are aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards for Social Studies and the Common Core Standards for Social Studies as outlined in the Scope and Sequence for Grade 7 Social Studies.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments

SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Below is a list of suggested strategies for high-quality instruction in Social Studies:

- Instructional components outlined in the Framework for Teaching by Charlotte Danielson
- Interactive Lectures
- Hands-on Activities
- Technology Integration
- Cooperative Learning
- Inquiry-Based Learning
- Differentiated Instruction

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RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
Geography Alive: Regions and People (Teachers' Curriculum Institute)		