

Grade 7: Early World History

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This course will focus on the enduring impact as well as cultural and scientific legacies of early civilizations in China. It will also emphasize feudalism in Asia and Europe, military conquests during the Middle Ages, including the Muslim conquests, the Crusades and the Mongol Invasions. The impact of new ideas from the Renaissance and Reformation will be examined, as well as the importance of the West African empires, the early civilizations of the Americas, and European Exploration after 1400. Topics in geography, including location, places and regions, human/environmental interaction and movement will be covered, as well as topics in economics (scarcity and resource allocation and markets), systems of government, civic participation and social studies skills and methods. Where applicable, the long lasting effects of historical events will be connected to current events.

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History

1. Group events by broadly defined historical eras and enter onto multiple-tier time lines.
2. Describe the enduring impact of prehistory and early civilizations in China including:
 - a. The development of concepts of government and citizenship;
 - b. Scientific and cultural advancements;
 - c. The spread of religions;
 - d. Slavery and systems of labor.
3. Describe the conditions that gave rise to feudalism, as well as political, economic and social characteristics of feudalism in Asia and Europe.
4. Explain the lasting effects of military conquests during the Middle Ages, including:
 - a. Muslim conquests;
 - b. The Crusades;
 - c. The Mongol Invasions.
5. Describe the impact of new ideas and institutions on European life, including:
 - a. The significance of printing with movable type;
 - b. Major achievements in art, architecture and literature during the Renaissance;
 - c. The Reformation.
6. Describe the importance of the West African empires of Ghana, Mali and Songhay, including:
 - a. Trade routes;
 - b. Products;
 - c. The spread of the Arabic language;
 - d. The spread of Islam.
7. Describe the effects of interactions among civilizations during the 14th through the 18th centuries.
 - a. Location;
 - b. Government;
 - c. Religion;
 - d. Agriculture;
 - e. Cultural and scientific contributions.
8. Describe the causes and effects of European exploration after 1400, including:
 - a. Imperialism, colonialism and mercantilism;
 - b. Impact on the peoples of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Americas.
9. Connect the effects of imperialism and colonialism to current events in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America.
10. Engage in a service learning project connected to the effects of colonialism and imperialism in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia or Latin America.

People in Societies

1. Analyze the relationships among cultural practices, products and perspectives of early civilizations.
2. Explain how the Silk Road trade and the Crusades affected the cultures of the people involved.

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3. Give examples of contacts among different cultures that led to the changes in belief systems, art, science, technology, language or systems of government.
4. Describe the cultural and scientific legacies of African, Chinese, Arab and European civilizations.
5. Describe belief systems, teachings, founding leaders and geographic origins of Islam.

Geography

1. For each of the societies studied, identify the location of significant physical and human characteristics on a map of the relevant region.
2. On a map, identify places related to the historical events being studied and explain their significance; then using a map, connect those places to today's current political divisions.
3. Describe changes in the physical and human characteristics of regions that occur over time, and identify the consequences of such changes.
4. Use physical and historical maps to analyze the reasons that human features are located in particular places.
5. Describe the geographic factors and processes that contribute to and impede the diffusion of people, products and ideas from place to place, including:
 - a. Physical features;
 - b. Culture;
 - c. War;
 - d. Trade;
 - e. Technological innovations.

Economics

1. Compare the endowment of productive resources in world regions and explain how this endowment contributed to specialization, trade and interdependence in ancient times.
2. Describe the growth of cities and the establishment of trade routes in Asia, Africa and Europe; the products and inventions that traveled along these routes (e.g., spices, textiles, paper, precious metals and new crops); and the role of merchants.

Government

1. Describe the essential characteristics of the systems of government found in city-states, kingdoms and empires from ancient times through the Middle Ages.

Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities

1. Explain how the participation of citizens differs under monarchy, direct democracy and representative democracy.
2. Describe the rights found in the Magna Carta and show connections to rights Americans have today.

Social Studies Skills and Methods

1. Describe historical events and issues from the perspectives of people living at the time in order to avoid evaluating the past in terms of today's norms and values.
2. Compare multiple viewpoints and frames of reference related to important events in world history.
3. Establish guidelines, rules and time lines for group work.

Nature of Technology

1. Discuss ways that technology is linked to creativity and innovation.

Technology and Society Interaction

1. Relate ways that the uses of inventions and innovations have led to changes in society and the creation of new needs and wants.
2. Analyze a design or invention, and explain its historical importance.

Technology for Productivity Applications

1. Apply technology resources to support group collaboration and learning throughout the curriculum.

Technology and Communication Applications

1. Generate multimedia presentations that communicate information for specific purposes.
2. Insert copyright-free images (photos-graphics) into multimedia presentations (e.g., GIF, JPEG).

Technology and Information Literacy

1. Compare multiple sources (online encyclopedia, Web site, online magazine database, print source) to check accuracy of information (e.g., do facts match on each site).
2. Develop open-ended research questions about a defined information need.
3. Compile information learned about a topic from a variety sources.
4. Create information products to share information using different formats (e.g., print, audio recording, digital, video, slide show).