

The following syllabus describes the chapters and the activities that can be expected for each chapter. Please note that the activities and/or the timing of the activities are subject to change. Activities and projects may also be **added** to this syllabus. Expect lesson quizzes, guided reading activities and unit tests for assessments.

The emphasis in the 7th grade is on the impact of early civilizations on later civilizations. Students will also explore how trade created a cultural diffusion among peoples both past and present. Students will delve into economics, and examine the role of scarcity and how it fosters trade. In addition, they will be exposed to cost–benefit analyses in the process of economic decision–making.

History of Our World

This book is also used in 6th grade; the 7th grade curriculum begins with China.

Ch 5 Section 4 China – The Silk Road; Ch 13 Mongols

The unit will begin with concept mapping of prior knowledge. Students will gain a geographic understanding by viewing and creating maps which portray the obstacles along the way.

Students will create a Venn diagram and compose an essay comparing the cultural exchange which took place along the Silk Road with the exchange which takes place on today's internet.

The 7th graders will study the Mongols and evaluate the question, "Did the Mongols help or hurt China?"

Ch 6, 7 Greece

The students will become familiar with the rise of Greece continuing on to the accomplishments of Alexander the Great.

Activities include a map scavenger hunt to familiarize the students with the terrain and its effects on the development of Greek civilization. Students will be asked to compare the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations as well as those of Athens and Sparta.

We will explore the Greek government and the ties to our government today. Students will use the internet to complete a webquest, as well as taking advantage of the mrdowling website for in-depth information.

Ch 8, 9 Rome

These chapters take the students through the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. The students will again visit a webquest

and the mrdowling site to explore specific aspects of this era. Much comparative work will be completed as we look at the lives of the patricians and plebeians, the governments of Rome, Greece, and the United States. Students will work in groups to create posters depicting some of these comparisons.

Comparison charts such as Venn Diagrams and tables will be used to help the students categorize the information. In addition, students will be asked to outline some sections in the chapter.

Ch 11 Africa

Students will study the great Bantu migrations and the kingdoms of West Africa. They will learn how the supply of a good affects its trade value when tracing the trade of gold and salt through the cities of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay.

The students will assemble a book about Africa. Each chapter will utilize different techniques of compiling notes. The students will store any Guided Reading worksheets and quizzes in each section in order to see the correlation between study style and scores. The cover will depict a labeled map of Africa. Creativity will be key where each student will truly inject his/her personality into the project.

Ch 14 Middle Ages

This is an exciting chapter where students will explore feudalism and the manor system. Knights, castles, nobles, the

Crusades, and the power of Kings are some of the many topics covered. Students will read primary sources and learn to distinguish between fact and opinion.

Students will collaborate on note taking as they begin to move into the realm of study groups. They will share ideas as well as obtain them from their fellow students discovering that insight can be gained through this group effort.

Ch 15 Renaissance

Students will explore the amazing changes which took place during this time period in art, literature, mathematics, science, and religion. We will uncover the contributions of many of the famous people and observe the impact on our society today.

This chapter will involve a research project where the students will choose a famous person or invention from this era, write a two page research paper, and create a poster to present to the class.

Reformation to the Magna Carta

Students will understand how Martin Luther was a catalyst in the Reformation and will be able to contrast pre and post Reformation ideas.

To set the stage for American History in 8th grade, students will examine documents and philosophies which were precursors to the Declaration of Independence.

At the end of this year students will have developed a self awareness, knowing the methods of organization and study skills which work best for them. This will prepare them for the eighth grade where much more independent study will be expected of them!

Hayes Jacobs, Heidi et al. History of Our World. Needham, MA:Prentice Hall, 2005.