

7th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Global Awareness

LENGTH OF TIME: one period daily, school year

GRADE LEVEL: 7

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

In a society which is becoming increasingly globally connected, students need to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century. This course focuses on the cultural, political, environmental, scientific, and economic issues in modern times. Students will be encouraged to become active local and global citizens who can imagine creative solutions to today's challenges.

COURSE STANDARDS:

Students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of political geography as it relates to each unit of study. (PA Academic Standards for Geography 7.1.7, 7.2.7, 7.3.7)
- Develop media literacy by identifying bias, opinions, and stereotypes, as well as practice assessing different points of view. (PA Academic Standards for Geography, Economics, Civics/Government, History 7.1.7, 7.3.7, 7.4.7, 5.2.7, 5.3.7, 5.4.7, 6.1.7, 6.2.7, 6.3.7, 6.4.7, 8.1.7; PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)
- Recognize and analyze unfairness between groups and cultures, and challenge viewpoints which perpetuate inequality. (PA Academic Standards for History, Geography, Economics, Civics 8.3.7, 8.4.7, 7.3.7, 5.1.7, 5.2.7, 5.3.7, 6.3.7, 6.4.7; PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)
- Identify the contributions of different cultures, values, and beliefs to our lives, as well as the nature of cultural misunderstanding and ways to combat it. (PA Academic Standards 7.1.7, 7.3.7, 7.4.7, 5.1.7, 5.2.7, 6.3.7, 6.4.7; PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)
- Trace the geographic movement of groups of people (migration, refugees, and asylum seekers). (PA Academic Standards for Geography, Civics/Government, Economics 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 5.4, 6.2, 6.4)
- Articulate globalization and interdependence in relation to political and economic systems. (PA Academic Standards for Geography, Economics,

Civics/Government 7.1.7, 7.2.7, 7.3.7, 7.4.7, 5.4.7, 6.2.7,6.4.7, PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)

- Evaluate the increasing role of information technology. (PA Academic Standards for Civics/Government, Economics, Geography 5.4.7, 6.1.7, 7.4.7; PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)
- Examine the relationship between humans and their environments, availability of finite resources, and the different views of economic and social development, locally and globally. (PA Academic Standards for Geography, Civics/Government 7.1.7, 7.2.7, 7.3.7, 7.4.7, 5.3.7, 5.4.7; PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)
- Analyze causes and effects of conflict, globally and locally, and also develop strategies for tackling conflict and for conflict prevention. (PA Academic Standards for History, Geography, Civics/Government 8.3.7, 8.4.7, 7.1.7, 7.3.7, 5.1.7, 5.2.7, 5.3.7, 5.4.7; PA Core Standards 8,5, 8.6)
- Realize the human potential to change conditions that affect the future. (PA Academic Standards for History, Geography, Civics/Government 8.3.7, 8.4.7, 7.1.7, 7.3.7, 5.1.7, 5.2.7, 5.3.7, 5.4.7)

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT

- 5.1 Principles and Documents of Government
- 5.2 Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship
- 5.3 How Government Works
- 5.4 How International Relationships Function

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR ECONOMICS

- 6.1 Economic Systems
- 6.2 Markets and the Functions of Governments
- 6.3 Scarcity and Choice
- 6.4 Economic Interdependence
- 6.5 Work and Earnings

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR GEOGRAPHY

- 7.1 Basic Geographic Literacy

- 7.2 The Physical Characteristics of Places and Regions
- 7.3 The Human Characteristics of Places and Regions
- 7.4 The Interactions between People and Places

RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR HISTORY

- 8.1 Historical Analysis and Skills Development
- 8.3 United States History
- 8.4 World History

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS:

Students will demonstrate achievement of the standards by:

- Using maps and computer-based mapping tools to create and present independent study projects. (Course Standard 1)
- Analyzing, sharing, and discussing current events, weekly. (Course Standards 2,7)
- Completing case studies and graphing activities to examine social justice and equality. (Course Standard 3)
- Engaging in and reflecting upon simulations—with peers and online—to develop awareness and empathy for diversity and other cultures. (Course Standard 4)
- Analyzing current events, geographic and economic studies, as well as political cartoons to demonstrate an understanding of globalization and interdependence, and also the movement of people. (Course Standards 5, 6)
- Completing research and creating presentations on the effects of human and natural disasters, as well as other issues relating to the environment and sustainable development. (Course Standards 8)
- Using English skills and social studies information to write a research paper (interdisciplinary)

TITLES OF UNITS:

1. Political Geography (integrated all year)

2. Current Events (integrated all year)
3. Culture (one marking period – 45 days)
4. Human Rights (one marking period – 45 days)
5. Millennium/Sustainable Development Goals (one marking period -45 days)
6. Sustainable Development (one marking period - 45 days)

SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

- Writing
- Cooperative learning
- Discussion and debate
- Projects
- Research
- Presentations
- Differentiated instruction
- Technology
- Effective questioning

MATERIALS:

- Magazines
- Videos
- Guest speakers
- Newspapers
- Classroom atlas, newest copyright available
- Internet and other web-based resources

METHODS OF ASSISTANCE AND ENRICHMENT:

- Differentiated instruction
- Cooperative learning groups
- Teacher/special assistance or enrichment
- Interdisciplinary units
- Teacher lists or suggestions for extension activities

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

- Class participation, classwork, homework
- Tests and quizzes
- Projects (written, oral, demonstrations, presentations, etc.)
- Problem solving
- Analyzing
- Predicting
- Research Paper

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES:

- Communication: listening skills, discussion skills, presentation skills
- Thinking/Problem Solving: compare/contrast, analyze, evaluate, apply learned concepts, predict
- Application of Knowledge: use map skills, demonstrate connections
- Interpersonal Skills: demonstrate communication skills, work cooperatively, develop leadership skills