

## Middle School Social Studies Curriculum 2024-2025

# **World History: Human Origins and Ancient Civilizations**

This year's topics focus on human origins and ancient civilizations around the world. The goal in social studies is to support the civic competence of the students through knowledge, critical thinking, and multiple perspectives. The program's content and terminology are based on Virginia's Standards of Learning (S.O.L.) and the National Council for the Social Studies Curriculum Standards.

By the end of the course, students will:

- ☆ Use historical and geographical analysis to explore the historical development of people, places, and patterns of life from prehistory and many ancient civilizations, empires, and cultures in terms of impact on the modern world, particularly Western Civilization.
- ☆ Understand the principal themes of history including: Continuity and Change, Culture, Production, Distribution, and Consumption, and Civic Ideals
- ☆ Interpret and apply data from original documents, including cartoons, graphs, letters, etc.
- ☆ Use historical data to support an argument or position
- ☆ Effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, compare and contrast.
- ☆ Take notes from class lectures, peer presentations, and readings
- ☆ Present information in a variety of forms including posters, PowerPoint presentations, essays, research papers, oral presentations, dramatizations, traditional quizzes and tests, and other creative projects that will be evaluated
- ☆ Recall and analyze course content for assessments
- ☆ Work effectively with others to produce products and solve problems.
- ☆ Understand how geography can shape history
- ☆ Evaluate current events and connect them to historical themes

### **Written Assignments**

Writing is a powerful form of communication. Writing standards help us better understand each other. All work should be completed in standard MLA format, as is consistent in the Middle School program.

### **Canvas**

We will use Canvas as a repository for all class resources outside the textbook. Students will also have the option of turning in some assignments through Canvas if they choose. All work will be graded and returned in the format in which it is turned in and/or printed and placed into your portfolio. Groups may choose to use the features available in the Google Education Suite for project collaboration.

### **National History Day**

Each student will complete a National History Day project. This begins as a research paper in September and will be transformed into a final project later in the year. This year's theme is *Rights and Responsibilities in History*. Every student is expected to create a History Day project, though they may choose whether or not to compete in the official competition.

<p><b>Introduction to Historical Thinking</b></p> <p><b>Fall Trimester</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking like a Historian</li> <li>• Approaching History as a Mystery</li> </ul> <p><b>Pre-History</b></p> <p><b>Fall Trimester</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept of “Civilizations”</li> <li>• Human Origins</li> <li>• Formation of Early Civilizations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Regional Interactions</b></p> <p><b>Spring Trimester:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collapse and Restructuring</li> <li>• World Religion</li> <li>• Consequences of Connectivity</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Election 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presidential, Congressional, and Senate Races in Virginia</li> </ul>
<p><b>Classical Civilizations and Rise of Empires</b></p> <p><b>Fall/Winter Trimester</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Agrarian Civilizations (Mesopotamia, Egypt, etc.)</li> <li>• Empire Building (Persia, India, China)</li> </ul> <p><b>Winter Trimester</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient Greece</li> <li>• Ancient Rome</li> </ul>	<p><b>National History Day Research Project</b></p> <p><b>Throughout the year:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic choice and narrowed focus</li> <li>• Research using multiple secondary sources</li> <li>• Research using primary sources</li> <li>• Organization of research notes</li> <li>• Critical analysis of information: essay</li> <li>• Creation of NHD project conforming to rules</li> <li>• Presentation of NHD project</li> </ul>

\*schedule of topics subject to change during the year based upon student needs and interest

## World Studies Grading Policy

The following shows the break-down used to generate trimester and year-end grades for students:

Organization/Participation	15%
Homework/Classwork	20%
Quiz and Minor Project Performance	30%
Test and Major Project Performance	35%

