

Syllabus for 7th Grade Social Studies

Mr. Ryan H. Porter

World History

Description: A comprehensive look at how the history of the world from prehistoric man to classical civilizations of Greece and Rome that have affected the world we live in today.

Curriculum: A full copy of the Knox County Curriculum is available at:

<http://socialstudies.knoxschools.org>. Click on Middle School Curriculum and then download the link for 7th grade.

Instruction:

Topics & General Pacing:

- Ancient History
 - Unit 1 – Map Skills and Prehistory
 - Map Skills
 - The Stone Ages and Early Cultures
 - Unit 2 – River Valley Civilizations
 - Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent
 - The Hebrews and Judaism
 - Ancient Egypt
 - Ancient India
 - Hinduism & Buddhism
 - Ancient China
- Classical Cultures
 - Unit 3 – Ancient Greece
 - The Greek World
 - Unit 4 – Ancient Rome
 - The Roman Republic
 - The Roman Empire and Christianity

Materials Needed:

- 2 subject spiral notebook or 3 ring binder for Cornell Notes
- pencil or pen to write with
- (optional) – lined paper, highlighters, colored pencils, markers, etc.

Resources:

- Text: World History (Pearson).
- Supplemental – Audio/Visual Materials - Throughout the year I will supplement the Social Studies curriculum with videos: United Streaming clips and Brain pop. These videos and clips will help expose your child to visual examples of the topics we will cover in this class. Below is a list of the videos that MIGHT be shown throughout the year in part or entirety in my class. If for any reason you do NOT want your child to view one of these videos please let me know so I can create an alternative assignment for your child.
 - *Understanding World Religions series: What is Islam?, What is Hinduism?, What is Buddhism?, What is Judaism?*
 - *Greek Mythology for Students series: The Journeys of Odysseus, The Trojan War, Nature Myths, and the Gods of Olympus*
 - *Pyramid: hosted by David Macaulay*

- *Roman City: hosted by David Macaulay*
- *Ancient Civilizations for Children Series: Ancient Mesopotamia, Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece, Ancient Egypt, and Ancient China*
- *"Into the Rough" Video of man surviving in the wild and a bear*
- *"Tour the World" -- video about the countries and continents of the world*
- *"Continents of the World" video about the continents of the world*
- *"Yakko's World" video about the countries of the world*
- *"Early Man" video about the hunter-gatherers.*
- *"Cave Art" video about cave art in early history*
- *"Uruk" video about the earliest cities in history*
- *"Sumerians" video about the earliest kingdoms on Earth*
- *"The Mesopotamians" They Might Be Giants song*
- *Hammurabi's Code - video about the laws written by hammurabi*
- *Babylonian gardens - video about the early hanging gardens*
- *"The Tower of Babel"*
- *"Noah's Ark:*
- *Early Mesopotamia*
- *Late Mesopotamian Era*
- *King Tutenkamen's Tomb*
- *Hatshepsut and the early Pharoahs*
- *"The Prince of Egypt" scenes of Moses in the desert and the Red Sea*
- *The Great Pyramids of Giza*
- *The Chariot - Man's Greatest Invention?*
- *The Indus River Valley*
- *Sanskrit -- the Dead Language*
- *Ancient China and the Great Wall*
- *the Han Dynasty and Emperors of the Great Wall*
- *Oracle Bones -- How the Chinese Language came to be*
- *the Real Mulan -- Myth or Fact?*
- *Social Classes and China -- video about the cause of the fall of early dynasties*
- *Moses and early Israel*
- *The early Jews -- video about the first Jews to come to Canaan*
- *The Phoenicians and Africa -- video about the first to come around Africa*
- *The Minoans -- Early Greeks*
- *Bull-jumping,sport of the Minoans*
- *Explosion of the Caucus Mountain Warriors*
- *Mycenaean Warriors -- Greek Conquerors*
- *Olympic Glory -- the History of the Greeks in they Olympics*
- *Dave and Fred visit the Olympics in Greece - short cartoon about two kids visiting the Olympics*
- *Heracles -- play from Ancient Greece about the Gods*
- *Horrible Histories: Helen of Sparta and Menalaus*
- *Horrible Histories: Alexander the Great*
- *Greek Mythology -- video about the Greek Gods*

- *Tragedies -- video about Greek plays*
- *the real 300: the Persian Invasion of Greece*
- *The Battle of Troy -- the Trojan War and the Trojan Horse*
- *Movie Trailer of "Troy" show for the ships that sail to get Helen*
- *Alexander the Great*
- *Bacephalus*
- *Romulus and Remus, the birth of Rome*
- *Early Rome*
- *SPQR: the Roman Army*
- *Hannibal - Elephants over the Alps*
- *Gaul and Brittainia*
- *Julius Caesar*
- *Horrible Histories -- Nero and Claudius*
- *Horrible Histories: the Roman Republic*
- *Horrible Histories: Julius Caesar*
- *Horrible Histories: sponge on a stick*
- *Augustus Caesar*
- *The Pax Romana*
- *The birth of Christianity*
- *Christian Persecution -- Rome and the Christians*
- *the Colesseum -- Roman Gladiators*
- *The Barbarians*
- *Adrianople and the Fall of Rome.*

Assessment:

Grading Policy: Student achievement will be assessed according to the following:

- Summative (tests, projects, performances, products) = 60%
- Formative (journal, Bell Ringers, Exit Tickets, Notebook Checks, daily work, quizzes, homework) = 40%

Grading Scale: Knox County Grading Scale is as follows:

- 93-100 = A
- 85-92 = B
- 75-84 = C
- 70-74 = D
- 0-69 = F

Make-Up Work Policy: It is the student's responsibility to collect their make-up work if they are absent and turn it in. A file folder in the back of my room has all the assignments in them. It is the student's responsibility to get them and see me if they have any questions.

Parent Portal Post Policy: One way in which I am able to communicate with the student and parent is through Parent Portal. In order to give timely feedback, I will update grades at least once a week. Parent Portal will give you the most current grade for you child and detail on missing and

graded assignments. It is an excellent tool to track your child's progress. I HIGHLY recommend that students and parents check it routinely!

Students:

Expectations/Classroom Policies, etc.: I expect all students to adhere to Northwest Middle School's rules and expectations outlined in the student handbook and in the parent letter.

Plagiarism: According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition, "Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased. Do not do it, It's not worth failing. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Copying verbatim all or part of another's written work;
- Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
- Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
- Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator."

Consequences of Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision.

Teacher:

Intervention Strategy: Throughout the year several intervention opportunities will be available for students. I will personally contact the student and parent to recommend interventions if needed.

Contact Information: Instructions on how to access this site will be given later in the year.

- Phone: You may contact NMS to make an appointment to meet with me. The School Phone number is (865)-594-1345
OR
- Email: ryan.porter@knoxschools.org

****IMPORTANT****

Tennessee State Board Policy on teaching religion:

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion – and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs, provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively; the emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature, and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments, which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme, shall be accommodated. For example, students are free

to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech, and debate.

The following topics on religion will be covered:

- **Polytheism**
- **Judaism**
- **Hinduism**
- **Buddhism**
- **Christianity**

Welcome to Mr.Porter's 7th Grade Social Studies Class. If you have any more questions or comments please feel free to ask and I look forward to all of us having a wonderful school year at Northwest Middle School!!