

# Norwood Public Schools

## Grade 7 Social Studies Curriculum

**Description:** The seventh grade World Geography team seeks to provide a balanced approach to the curriculum through 7 units. This course focuses on the development and enhancement of basic skills in order for the students to increase and implement their geographic knowledge. Geographic Literacy is essential for the future of America citizens. A recent Geographic Poll indicated that of major world countries, the United States ranked second to last in geographic knowledge. Another poll shows that “only one out of ten Americans, aged 18-24, could find Afghanistan on a map of Asia. Seven out of ten could not locate North Korea, and six out of ten could not find Iraq or Saudi Arabia. These are simple map location questions, further suggesting that Americans may not know much about their economic, political, or military importance of these areas” (*Why Geography is Important*, Gilbert Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education). One facet of geography is culture. “The study of culture helps students understand the similarities and differences within groups of people. By studying a culture’s beliefs, values, and traditions, students gain a perspective that helps them relate to different groups” (*The World and Its People*, Glencoe/McGraw Hill 2005).

### Learning Experience

- Differentiated Instruction
- Small Groups/Partner/Individual/Whole Class
- Class Discussions
- Graphic Organizers
- QAR
- KWL
- Brainstorming
- Internet Research
- Presentations
- Word Processing
- Debates
- Clickers
- Ladibug
- Teacher Check-ins
- Tests and Quizzes
- Teacher Check-Ins
- Homework Checks
- Mid Year Exam
- Open Response Writing
- Summery Writing
- Project Based Assignments
- Current Event Reporting
- Oral Presentation
- 3 MCAS style open responses
- Mental Mapping
- Beginning of year diagnostic test
- Nations Project
- Debates

- Final Exam- World Map
- Final Exam- Multiple Choice

**Content Outline:**

Unit 1: The World

Looking at the Earth  
 Water, Climate and Vegetation  
 The World's People  
 Map Skills  
 5 Themes of Geography  
 Geography Handbook  
 Economics

Unit 2: Europe

Early History  
     Quick review from grade 6  
 Modern History  
     Modern Era Emerges  
     A Divided Continent  
     Moving Towards Unity  
 Western Europe Today  
     The British Isles  
     France and Benelux Countries  
     Germany and Alpine Countries  
     The Nordic Nations  
     Southern Europe  
 The New Eastern Europe  
     Poland and the Baltic Republics  
     Hungarians, Czechs and Slovaks  
     Rebuilding the Balkan Countries  
     Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova

Unit 5: Russia and the Eurasian Republics

Russia's Landscape and History  
 The New Russia and Independent Republics

Unit 6: Southwest Asia and North Africa

Three World Religions  
 Southwest Asia  
 North Africa Today

Unit 7: Africa South of the Sahara

West Africa  
 Central and East Africa  
 South Africa

Unit 8: Asia

South Asia  
 China and Its Neighbors  
 Japan and the Koreas  
 Southeast Asia

Unit 3: Latin America

Brazil and Its Neighbors  
 The Andean Countries

Optional Topics of Study:

Mexico  
 Central America  
 The Caribbean Islands  
 Antarctica  
 Australia- Land Down Under  
 New Zealand  
 Pacific Islands Cultures and Economics

**Resources Used:**

- Text: Glencoe: The World and its People, 2005
- Nystrom Desk Atlas
- Twip.glencoe.com
- Book on CD
- *Current Event* and *Junior Scholastic* Magazines
- Discovery Education