

# *Norwood Public Schools*

## **Grade Eight World History I**

### **Curriculum Overview**

**Course Description:** This course examines world history and cultures from the medieval to early modern period.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will build their knowledge and appreciation of other world cultures.
- Students will develop their literacy skills of effective reading and writing.
- Students will increase their ability to effectively research and analyze historical topics.

**Learning Experiences:**

#### Reading Skills

Textbook reading skills (SQ3R method), Primary and Secondary source analysis skills, Inference skills, Paraphrasing skills

#### Writing Skills

Five Paragraph Essay, Open Response/Paragraph Writing

#### Research Skills

Manage and organize a long term research assignment, Develop effective research questions, Use of varied and valid sources, Proper research note taking, Construct an annotated bibliography

#### Geography Skills

Reinforcement of map skills learned in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades

**Content Outline:**

#### Fall of Rome/Byzantine Empire

- Division of Roman Empire into east and west
- Diocletian and Constantine
- Spread of Christianity
- Reason for the downfall of Western Roman Empire (at least three)
- Constantinople
- Importance of Justinian's Rule—Justinian Code, Theodora, Hagia Sophia, Nika Revolt
- Christian schism of 1054

#### Foundations and Legacy of Islam

- Identify where Islam began and trace its expansion to 1500
- Pre-Islamic Arabian Peninsula
- Muhammad's life and teachings
- Five pillars/basic practices
- Islam's connections to Judaism and Christianity
- Koran and Sunnah
- Rightly Guided Caliphs
- Sunni/Shiite Split
- Abbasid Empire/ "Golden Age" of Islamic Civilization
- Medieval Europe versus Muslim Spain

#### Life in the Middle Ages

- Vikings, Magyars, and Muslim Invasions
- Charlemagne
- Feudalism and Manorialism
- Daily life for the different social groups of medieval Europe
- Importance of the Catholic Church
- Religious practices of medieval Christians

### High Middle Ages and Changes in Europe

- Crusades
- Rise of towns and trade
- Black Death
- Hundred Years War and Joan of Arc
- Rise of Nations
- Magna Carta and Parliament

### Sub-Saharan African History and Culture

- Traditional Sub-Saharan African Culture
- Examples of Sub-Saharan African civilizations
- The development of the trans-Atlantic slave trade

### Indian History and Culture

- Religious Belief Systems--Hinduism, Buddhism
- Medieval Indian Empires

### Chinese History and Culture

- Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism
- Mandate of Heaven
- Qin Dynasty—Emperor Qin Shi-Huang Di
- Tang and Song Dynasties—Civil Service Exam, Terraced Farming, Important Inventions, Golden Age of Chinese Culture
- Yuan Dynasty/Mongol Empire—Reasons for the Mongol Empire's Success, Genghis Khan, Marco Polo, Kublai Khan

### Japanese History and Culture

- Japanese feudalism
- Comparison to European feudalism

### The Rebirth of Europe

- Origins/Reasons for the Renaissance
- Humanism
- Famous Writers—Petrarch, Castiglione, Machiavelli, Shakespeare
- New Art Techniques
- Famous Artists—Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Brunelleschi, Albrecht Durer
- Guttenberg and the Printing Press

### The Protestant Reformation

- Martin Luther's Protest
- 95 Theses and Indulgences
- Lutheranism
- Henry VIII and Anglicanism
- John Calvin
- Counter Reformation and Saint Ignatius of Loyola
- Spanish Inquisition
- Peace of Westphalia in 1648

### The Age of Exploration

- Motivations to Explore
- Christopher Columbus
- Columbian Exchange
- Mayan Empire
- Aztec and Incan Empire

### **Resources Used:**

Textbook (World History: Medieval and Early Modern Times), Numerous Supplemental Worksheets, Supplemental Documentaries, *Current Events* and *Junior Scholastic Magazine*, United Streaming Videos