



Bedford Public Schools

Grade 7 – Social Studies

Seventh grade Social Studies explores the essential question *What happens when cultures interact?* Students begin the year focusing on their own culture and then study some of the cultures of Asia, Europe, and Central America. There is a focus on the five major religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and how people who believe in these religions have interacted with each other. Throughout the year, students learn many skills necessary to help them to research, read and comprehend historical knowledge through a variety of sources. They also develop the skills necessary to present that information in a variety of formats, such as a written essay, oral and visual presentation, classroom debate, and small and large group discussions.



Learning Expectations

Culture

Culture

Enduring Understandings In order to meet the standards, the students will need to understand that . . .	Essential Questions In order to understand, students will need to consider questions such as . . .	Knowledge and Skills Learning this material will require students to . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture is an essential part of what makes up a civilization.• Religion is an important part of the culture of a civilization.• When people with different beliefs come into contact with each other, there are positive and negative consequences.• Studying the events of the past helps us understand the present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What happens when cultures interact?	<p><i>In all units</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop study guides in preparation for assessments.• Distinguish between main ideas and details using 2-column note-taking methods and readings• Discuss topics in small group and large group settings. <p><i>Culture Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe the elements that make up a culture.• Define key terms that will be used throughout the year related to dates and timelines.• Identify appropriate methods of independent research. <p><i>India Unit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify characteristics of the Indus River Valley and the civilizations that developed there.• Describe the Caste System.• Describe the beliefs of Hindus and Buddhists.• Discuss the importance of reincarnation in ancient Indian culture.

Enduring Understandings In order to meet the standards, the students will need to understand that . . .	Essential Questions In order to understand, students will need to consider questions such as . . .	Knowledge and Skills Learning this material will require students to . . .
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the rise and fall of the different empires of ancient India. <p><u>China Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe the characteristics of Legalism, Daoism, and Confucianism.• Discuss the rise and fall of different dynasties of ancient China.• Describe the culture of ancient China. <p><u>Rome Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain the founding and expansion of Rome.• Describe the culture of ancient Rome.• Discuss the strength of Rome as an empire.• Describe the beliefs of Pagans, Christians, and Jews in ancient Rome.• Discuss the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.• Discuss the factors that led to the fall of Rome. <p><u>Islamic Civilization Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the development of Islam.• Describe the beliefs of Muslims.• Discuss the development of empires within the Islamic Civilization.• Discuss the Crusades and the impact they had on Europe and the Middle East.

Enduring Understandings In order to meet the standards, the students will need to understand that . . .	Essential Questions In order to understand, students will need to consider questions such as . . .	Knowledge and Skills Learning this material will require students to . . .
		<p><u>European Renaissance Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss the impact of the plague on Europe.• Describe the Renaissance and Humanism.• Describe the impact of the Reformation on Europe. <p><u>Aztec and Inca Unit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe the culture and religion of the Aztec and Incan civilizations.• Describe the impact of the Spanish on the Aztec and Incan civilizations.