



Middle School: Social Studies Curriculum Overview

6TH GRADE MINNESOTA STUDIES

Starting with the first indigenous people of the area before European contact, we will study the history of Minnesota, and how physical geography has shaped our state today. We will also examine the roles of government, citizenship, and economics. Particular attention is paid to the individual stories of Minnesotans (past and present), and to comparing and contrasting perspectives.

Text: Northern Lights: The Stories of Minnesota's Past, Minnesota Historical Society

7TH GRADE UNITED STATES STUDIES: 1800-PRESENT

We will pick up right after the American Revolution, learning about the U.S. as a new nation and its foundations in the Constitution. From there, students will learn about how the young republic put that Constitution into practice and established itself as a young republic, gradually expanding westward. Careful consideration is given to the seeds of division that led to the Civil War, and the resounding impact of those tumultuous years. Students will further explore the growth of the nation through the Industrial Revolution and Imperialism, leading to World War I, the 1920s and the Great Depression, and World War II. If time permits (and is my goal), we will also cover the Cold War Era, Vietnam, and the United States today.

Textbook: History Alive! The United States Through Modern Times, TCI

8TH GRADE GLOBAL STUDIES

This course will use geography as a lead discipline while incorporating contemporary (1950-present) world history. Students will explore the regions of the world (North America, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Southwest Asia and North Africa, East Asia and Southeast Asia, South Asia and Central Asia, Africa South of the Sahara, Australia/Oceania) while analyzing the following themes as they relate to each region:

- Cultural Characteristics, Technology, and Ideas
- Economic Development and Trade
- Population and Migration
- Human Interaction with the Environment
- Skills such as civic participation, economic reasoning, geographic inquiry and geospatial technology, and historical inquiry

Textbook: Geography Alive! TCI

Students in all grades will also study current events throughout the school year. This includes watching CNN 10 in class (a ten-minute newscast for middle and high school students) and studying the Junior Scholastic magazine (current events for students, approximately twice a month).