

Cambridge Public Schools
HISTORY SOCIAL SCIENCE Learning Expectations: GRADE 7

EARLY CIVILIZATIONS: EMPIRE AND EXPLORATION

(BOLD TEXT ENTRIES ARE REQUIRED, *ITALIC ENTRIES ARE RECOMMENDED*, UNDERLINED ENTRIES ARE OPTIONAL FOR STUDY)

Generative Topic: Early Civilizations: Development and Continuity.

Overarching Understanding Goals (Throughlines) :

1. Students will understand the concept and characteristics of civilization.
2. Students will understand that modern democracy evolved in and is still influenced by ancient and early civilizations.
3. Students will understand the role of geography, the environment and religion in the development of early civilizations.
4. Students will understand that human culture develops as a result of and interaction to/with the environment.

Approximate Unit Length	Massachusetts Standard	Topic/Theme	Key Understandings	Assessments/Evidence
6-8 weeks (Assuming 28 weeks, 80% of the school year would be covered by a smaller unit, leaving 6-8 weeks for optional topics. The higher number of weeks on each topic would cover a full 36 week year).	7.35-7.40 7.42-7.44 A.1 WA.1 E.1	Empire -Rome (REQUIRED)	Students will be able to: Understand how empires develop, expand and fail. Describe the role of geography in creating and maintaining an empire. Understand how empires are governed. Identify the achievements of Roman civilization and their impact upon later societies. Describe the relationship between religion and empire-building. Describe the role of Rome in the creation of Western democratic principles.	

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6-8 weeks	7.21 7.41 7.23 WA.1 E.1 WHI. 1 WHI. 2 WHI.6 (A) WHI.7 (A, B)	New Beliefs Christianity (REQUIRED) <i>-Islam (RECOMMENDED)</i>	Students will be able to: Describe the central beliefs and practices of two new major world religions (Christianity and Islam), review Judaism briefly. Explain the growth and spread of these new religions. Identify the relationship between religion and trade. Understand the role of Christianity in the development of the West.	
Approximate Unit Length	Massachusetts Standard	Topic/Theme	Key Understandings	Assessments/Evidence
6-8 weeks	A.1 A.2 A.3 A.4 NEA.1 NEA.2 NEA.3 WHI 18-19 WHI 23-24	Beyond the West/ Medieval Times -China in the Middle Ages (REQUIRED) <i>-Medieval West Africa (RECOMMENDED): topic is studied again in 9th grade.</i>	Students will be able to: Identify the characteristics of Chinese medieval society. Describe the achievements and impact of Chinese medieval society in Asia and beyond. Understand the role of trade and religion in the medieval societies of West Africa. Describe government, culture and religion in the medieval societies of Asia / Africa.	

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5-6 weeks	WHI.7 WHI.19 WHI.23	Bridge unit to medieval Europe/ foreshadows 9th grade. (REQUIRED)	Identify the characteristics of early medieval life in France and England. Compare the similarities and differences between these societies and those of medieval China and West Africa.	
Approximate Unit Length	Massachusetts Standard	Topic/Theme	Key Understandings	Assessments/Evidence
5-6 weeks	SAM.1-3 SEA. 1-3 CSA. 1-3 WHI. 12 WHI. 13 WHI. 14 8 th grade Skills and Concepts- History and Geography, 5-10.	New Worlds -The Americas (Review and bridge unit to 8th grade) (REQUIRED)	Students will be able to: Identify motives for European exploration. Explain the relationship between technology and exploration. Recognize the effects of exploration on modern political and social structures such as colonialism and economic development. Identify political, economic and religious elements of the historic encounter between indigenous peoples, Africans and Europeans in the Americas.	