

Grade 7/ 8 Social Studies 2025-2026

WORLD HISTORY: SOCIETIES OF THE PAST

Teacher Contact Information

Mr. D. Podaima

Email dpodaima@trsd.ca

School Phone Number 204-835-2083

Course Overview

Welcome to Grade 8 Social Studies. During this course we will be looking at 5 clusters related to World History.

Cluster 1 will focus on Understanding Societies past and present.

Cluster 2 will focus on Early Societies of Mesopotamia

Cluster 3 will focus on Ancient Societies of Greece and Rome

Cluster 4 will focus on Transition to the modern world

Cluster 5 will focus on shaping the modern world

Course Goals

Cluster 1 Students examine what world view is, origins of human society, societies and civilizations and knowing the past.

Cluster 2 Begins with a brief world overview, focusing on Mesopotamia, Egypt, The Indus Valley, and China from about 3500 to 500 BCE. Students then explore life in one early society, Mesopotamia. This comprehensive study includes on the physical environment and the social, political, technological and cultural aspects of the selected society.

Cluster 3 Begins with a brief world overview, focusing on China, Greece, Rome, Persia, and the Mayas from about 500 BCE to 500CE. This overview includes a consideration of world religions that emerged during this time period. Students then explore life in ancient societies of both Greece and Rome. This comprehensive study focuses on the physical environment and the social, cultural, political, and technological issues of these societies. Students consider the enduring qualities of the art, architecture, science, and ideas of ancient Greece and Rome, and explore their influence on the contemporary world.

Cluster 4 Continues with a global perspective. It begins with a brief overview, focusing on China, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and the Americas from 500 to 1400. Students then explore individuals and events in selected places in the world during this time period. This study includes a focus on the impact of the fall of Rome, the rise of Islam, Arab conquests and Viking invasions, life in medieval Europe, and the expansion of the Mongol and Ottoman Empires. Students examine the significance and impact of technological development and the spread of ideas during this period. Through an exploration of art, architecture, literature, and science, students consider achievements and contributions of diverse cultures during this period of transition to the modern world.

Cluster 5 Begins with a brief world overview, focusing on Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia, and the Americas from about 1400 to 1850. Students then explore individuals, ideas, and events related to the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation, global exploration, and the Industrial Revolution. Students also focus on the impact of changing social and political ideas and advances in science and technology. They examine the motivations for global exploration and territorial expansion and their impact on diverse groups, including indigenous peoples. Through an exploration of art, architecture, ideas, literature, science, and technology, students consider

achievements and contributions of diverse cultures of the past and how they continue to influence and shape the modern world.

Course Pacing and Major Assignments

Cluster 1 8 weeks

Course Learning Experiences:

1. What is World View?
- 2: Origins of Human Society
- 3: Societies and Civilizations
- 4: Knowing the Past

Students will have group and individual assignments, mapping, presentation on creation stories and a final unit test.

Cluster 2 8 weeks

Course Learning Experiences:

1. Overview of Early Civilizations
2. Interaction with the Natural Environment
3. Communication and art in Early Society

Students will have group and individual assignments, mapping, presentations and a final project on the Indus Valley or China.

Cluster 3 8 weeks

Course Learning Experiences

1. Overview of Antiquity
2. Culture of Ancient Greece
3. Democracy in Ancient Greece
4. Roman Empire
5. Legacy of Ancient Rome and Greece

Students will have group and individual assignments, mapping, presentations, projects on Roman Gods, Greek Mythology, tests on both Rome and Greece.

Cluster 4 8 weeks

Course Learning Experiences

1. Overview of the Middle Ages
2. Life in Medieval Europe
3. The Rise of Islam and the Ottoman Empire
4. China and the Mongol Empire
5. Legacy of the Middle Ages

Students will have group and individual assignments, mapping presentations and a final unit test.

Cluster 5 8 weeks

Course Learning Experiences

1. World overview
2. Global Exploration
3. Renaissance and Reformation
4. Industrial Revolution

Students will have group and individual assignments, mapping presentations and a final unit test.

Assignments and pacing are subject to change at the discretion of the teacher.

Materials

Students are expected to bring the following materials to all classes.

-pen/pencil

-binder with loose leaf paper or notebook with lined pages
-pencil crayons
-textbooks will be kept in the classroom until needed-students may sign them out if they are needed for homework.

Evaluation

To follow along with the new Provincial Report Cards, marks will be divided between knowledge and understanding, research and communication and Critical Thinking and Citizenship. All work is cumulative.

Additional Information

1. Students are expected to be on time for class.
2. Students are expected to show respect to fellow students and teacher.
3. Students are expected to give their best effort.
4. Students are responsible for all homework and notes which were missed while they were absent.
Students are encouraged to ask a classmate upon returning to catch up on the materials covered during their absence.
5. Cell phones and iPods are not permitted in class unless used for educational purposes.
6. Test rewrites are at the discretion of the teacher. You should be prepared the first time.
7. If work is not completed during class time it will be assigned as homework.
8. Ste. Rose School handbook outlines the expectations regarding academic dishonesty (If at any time you are unsure about an assignment it is the students responsibility to ask for clarification)
9. If extra help is required, it is up to the individual student to make arrangements to meet with teacher.

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be based on a variety of activities that cater to the various learning styles of students. Individual and group projects, assignments, textbook exercises, class discussions, and additional in-class activities will be part of the evaluation course. Rubrics will be given for major projects and assignments prior to the assignment or project beginning, but it is your responsibility to ask for additional help if you do not understand the assignment. All due dates will be discussed at the beginning of the project. Peer and self-assessment will also be used throughout the year. All course projects will be weighted out of 100, and all other assignments will be based on the denominator or number of questions. All content is cumulative and will contribute to 100% of the final grade. All content will be reported on in the following categories, as per the Manitoba Report card requirements. This will be reported on in a percentage, as well as a rating of 1 to 4.

- . Knowledge and Understanding
- . Research and Communication
- . Critical Thinking and Citizenship

Category	Grade Weight
Cluster 1: World Geography	20%
Cluster 2: Global Quality of Life	20%
Cluster 3: Ways of Life in Asia, Africa	20%
Cluster 4: Human Impact on Europe and Americas	20%
Research Projects	20%

Behavioral Assessment

Students will receive a letter grade on their report cards for the following:

. Personal Management: Uses class time effectively; works independently; completes homework and assignments on time.

. Active Participation in Learning: Participates in class activities; sets learning goals.

Social Responsibility: Works well with others; resolves conflicts appropriately; respects self, others and environment; contributes in a positive way.