

The World Today: Its People and Places

Grade 7 Social Studies

The grade seven Social Studies course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of the diverse cultures and lands throughout the world. More specifically, it is a course that encourages us to see how different cultures around the world are connected in the ways they grow our food, create their clothing and living spaces, how they interact with others, enjoy recreation and how they worship, among others. Yes there are differences and we will explore those as well; however, we will be surprised that we have so much in common with people living in lands far away from us.

We will also come to understand the importance of basic Human Rights, the importance of freedom and democracy and the effects of power and wealth and its inequitable distribution around the world.

A final part of the course will be to encourage students to ask important questions about how we can use the resources we all share to ensure that future generations can also enjoy the wonderful places we call home on this planet.

The textbook: The World Today: Its People and Places by William Norton, Michele Visser-Wikkerink and Linda Connor. Portage and Main Press, Winnipeg, 2006.

Section 1: Describing this Planet

1. Where in the World
2. Our Physical World
3. Our Human World

Section II: Well- Being Around the World

4. Quality of life
5. Universal Human Rights
6. Democratic Values and Principles
7. Power and Wealth in Today's World
8. Working Together Around the Globe

Section IV: Societies and Ways of Life

9. Society and Culture
10. Adapting to the Natural Environment
11. Indigenous Peoples of the World
12. Comparing Cultural Expressions
13. Changing Peoples and Places
14. Health and Well-Being Across the World

Section V: Ecological Effects of Modern Societies

15. People and Places of Europe
16. People and Places of the Americas
17. Influences of the Past
18. Moving to the Cities
19. Toward a Sustainable World
20. Sharing the Planet

What are my expectations?

1. Students will come to class on time with their notebook and the necessary items needed for that class.
2. That we learn to respect each other by speaking gently to each other avoiding interrupting each other and treating each other with kindness.
3. That students learn the importance of handing in assignments on time, and if they are unable to do so, to communicate with me about the problems they might have had in completing it and a plan about how and when it will be completed.
4. That students will make an effort to use class time productively both for group work as well as individual assignments. This will minimize considerably the amount of assignments that need to be completed outside of class time.

What do you need?

1. A one inch binder with loose-leaf and a notebook that fits into the binder would be great
2. Pencil crayons
3. Pens/pencils
4. A good sense of humour
5. A keen and inquisitive mind
6. The ability to handle Plettsky schooling you at table tennis or in one on one basketball.

Evaluation Breakdown

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|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Critical and Creative thinking | 10-20% |
| Enduring Understandings and knowledge | 20-30% |
| Citizenship | 10-20% |
| Research and Communication | 10-30% |

Students can expect their progress to be evaluated based on a combination of quizzes, tests, written work and oral, multi-media presentations, and work that will be done both individually and collaboratively. For projects done within a group, marks will be given based on the work completed by each individual within the group.

A list of assignments for the year will be given to the students and will be available to parents.

I love Social Studies and the opportunity to study different cultures and the lands people live in excites me in a very personal way. I was not born in Canada but grew up overseas, on a couple of Caribbean islands. I have traveled extensively. Both my son and my daughter and her husband have traveled and lived in many different places around the world. Those are just some of the reasons why this course holds a deep personal interest for me. It will be a great year. I'm really looking forward to it

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

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