Geography through Recent Historical Events: The Middle East, Asia, Africa and Central and South America

Students in Grade 7 will study the regions and nations of the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. Through print and electronic media, data bases, community resources, organizations and institutions, students will use geography, recent history, current events and technology to examine and compare major geographic characteristics and analyze patterns of change in the world. They will assess economic systems that have contributed to the development of nations in the last 20 years to today, examine the characteristics and perspectives of cultures and societies, understand the workings of governments, and trace the influence of the recent past on the present and the near future.

Social Studies Content Standards (SS):

Statements of what students should know and be able to do in a specific social studies grade level course. The standards provide a clear outline of content so that teachers can develop and align curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Components under each standard describe knowledge or skills and serve as progress indicators for gauging student's achievement of each standard.

Standard: 7SS1: Students analyze the major geographic characteristics and

regions of the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Central and South America using geography, recent history, and technology.

Components: 7SS1.a: Locate major regions and nations in the Middle East, Asia, Africa

and Central and South America.

7SS1.b: Analyze and compare the major geographic characteristics of the

Earth's regions using geographic skills, map projections and the

Geographic Information System.*

Examples: mountain ranges, river systems, climate, and ecosystems *Geographic Information System (GIS): information technology systems

used to store, analyze, manipulate, and display a wide range of

geographic information.

7SS1.c: Describe the restrictions that climate and landforms place on land use

and discern how patterns of population distribution reflect these

restrictions.

7SS1.d: Evaluate the impact of human migration on physical and human systems.

Standard: 7SS2: Students examine the influence of economic systems found in

nations of the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Central and

South America.

Components: 7SS2.a: Analyze the effects of trade between nations in the Middle East, Asia,

Africa and Central and South America and how trade results in the rising of

the standard of living of individuals.

Examples: increased consumption of goods and services and lower

prices

for consumers

7SS2.b: Explain how changes in exchange rates can have an impact on the

purchasing power of individuals and countries.

7SS2.c: Describe why and how different economic systems (traditional, command, market, mixed) in nations of the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Central and South America answer the basic economic questions: What to produce? How to produce? For whom to produce?

7SS2.d: Analyze the influence of competition on process and production and the role played by laws and regulation.

Examples: NAFTA, the Diamond Cartel, European Union, and World Bank

7SS2.e: Compare and contrast the standard of living of various nations in the regions using per capita Gross Domestic Product as an indicator.

7SS2.f: Describe ways people can increase individual human capital. Example: acquire knowledge and skills through education or training

7SS2.g: Explain how a market economy is affected by types of business, organizations, labor unions, non-profit organizations, technological changes and international competition.

7SS2.h: Explain how the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Central and South American nations interact economically with each other today.

Examples: trade, diplomacy, treaties and agreements, humanitarian aid, economic incentives and sanctions, and the threat and use of military force

7SS3: Students examine recent historical events and leaders that contributed to the development of nations in modern Middle Eastern, Asian, African and Central and South American nations from the 1980s to today.

Components: 7SS3.a: Analyze and compare major groups of people, events and developments in the recent history of nations that comprise the Middle East, Africa, Asia and

Central and South America.

Examples: Desert Storm, economic expansion of China, Apartheid, rainforest depletion, and Osama Bin Ladin

7SS3.b: Understand the challenges in the regions, including their geopolitical, cultural, military, and economic significance and the international relationships in which they are involved.

7SS3.c: Analyze the effects of North American economic and foreign policies on the nations that comprise the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Central and South America.

Examples: Arab/Israeli Policy, Darfur, outsourcing in India, support of governmental policies

7SS3.d: Discuss the important trends in the regions today. *Example: individual freedom and democracy*

Standard: 7SS4: Students compare and analyze the different forms of

governments in the Middle Eastern nations, Asia, Africa and Central and South America.

Components: 7SS4.a:

Standard:

Examine and compare different forms of government in the Middle Eastern nations, Asia, Africa and Central and South America and their sources of authority and power which include examples of limited/unlimited government.

Examples are: representative democracy, parliamentary democracy, republic, dictatorship, and monarchy

7SS4.b: Define and compare citizenship and the citizen's role in selected nations. Examples: methods of voting, participation in voluntary organizations of civil society, and participation in government

7SS4.c: Identify and analyze social, economic and political issues related to recent events and natural resources in selected nations in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Central and South America.

7SS5: Students identify economic, social, and political connections among cultures in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Central

and South America.

Components: 7SS5.a: Analyze the historical origins, central beliefs, and spread of major

religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and

Confucianism.

7SS5.b: Contrast how social institutions in the past and present, including the

> family, religion, educational institutions, and the economy influence individual behavior in different societies in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Central and South America in the recent past and present. Examples: individual responsibility, rule of law, and civil rights

7SS5.c: Examine the impact of cultural diffusion on society.

> Examples: globalization of communication, the evolution of language, availability of products, international scholarship, trade, and travel

7SS5.d: Examine benefits of connections among cultures.

> Examples: developing opportunities for trade, cooperating in seeking solution to mutual problems, outsourcing, learning from technological advances, acquiring new perspectives, and benefiting from developments

in architecture, music, and the arts

Social Studies Skills (SSK):

The intellectual skills noted below are to be learned through, and applied to, the content standards for grade seven. They are to be assessed only in conjunction with these content standards. Students demonstrate the following intellectual reasoning, reflection, and research skills:

Chronological and Spatial Thinking

7SSK1: Students explain how major events are related to one another in time. Skills:

> 7SSK2: Students construct various time lines of key events, people, and periods of the

historical era they are studying.

7SSK3: Students use a variety of maps and documents to identify physical and cultural features of neighborhoods, cities, states, and countries and to explain the historical migration of people, expansion and disintegration of empires, and the

growth of economic system.

Research, Evidence, and Point of View

Skills: 7SSK4: Students frame questions that can be answered by historical study and

research.

7SSK5: Students distinguish fact from opinion in historical narratives and stories.

7SSK6: Students distinguish relevant from irrelevant information, essential from

incidental information, and verifiable from unverifiable information in historical

narratives and stories.

7SSK7: Students assess the credibility of primary and secondary sources and draw

sound conclusions from them.

7SSK8: Students detect the different historical points of view on historical events and

determine the context in which the historical statements were made (the

questions asked, sources used, author's perspectives).

Historical Interpretation

Skills: 7SK9: Students explain the central issues and problems from the past, placing people

and events in a matrix of time and place.

7SSK10: Students understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence, and correlation in

historical events, including the long-and short-term causal relations.

7SSK11: Students explain the sources of historical continuity and how the combination of

ideas and events explains the emergence of new patterns.

Skills: 7SSK12: Students recognize the role of chance, oversight, and error in history.

7SSK13: Students recognize that interpretations of history are subject to change as new

information is uncovered.

7SSK14: Students interpret basic indicators of economic performance and conduct cost-

benefit analysis of economic and political issues.