
Social Studies: Grade 7

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.

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- 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

Standard: **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**

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

- Components:** **7SS4.a:** 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.
- Standard:** **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

- skills:** **7SSK1:** Students explain how major events are related to one another in time.
- 7SSK2:** Students construct various time lines of key events, people, and periods of the

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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:** **7SSK9:** 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.