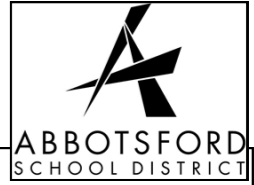


Grade 8 Social Studies-7th Century to 1750



Curricular Competencies

Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to: ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions
 Assess the significance of people, places, events, and developments at particular times and places (significance)
 Determine what is significant in an account, narrative, map, and text(significance)
 Assess the credibility of multiple sources and the adequacy of evidence used to justify conclusions (evidence)
 Characterize different time periods in history, including periods of progress and decline, and identify key turning points that mark periods of change (continuity and change)
 Determine what factors led to particular decisions, actions, and events, and assess their short-and long-term consequences (cause and consequence)
 Explain different perspectives on past or present people, places, issues, and events, and compare the values, worldviews, and beliefs of human cultures and societies in different times and places (perspective)
 Make ethical judgments about past events, decisions, and actions, and assess the limitations of drawing direct lessons from the past (ethical judgment)

Big Ideas

Contacts and conflicts between peoples stimulated significant cultural, social, political change.

Human and environmental factors shape changes in population and living standards.

Exploration, expansion, & colonization had varying consequences for different groups.

Changing ideas about the world created tension between people wanting to adopt new ideas and those wanting to preserve established traditions.

Content Learning Standards

Social, political, and economic systems and structures, including those of at least one indigenous civilization
Sample topics:

- feudal societal structures and rights (e.g., in Europe versus Japan)
- Reformation and Counter-Reformation in Europe
- diffusion of religions throughout the world
- collapse of empires
- labour management
- gender relations

Key questions:

- What was the status of women in various societies during this period of history
- How were political decisions made during this period of history?
- How was wealth distributed in societies during this period?
- Who has more power in Europe during the Middle Ages, the state or church?

Scientific and technological innovations
Sample topics:

- Arab world, Ibn Battuta, Islamic Golden Age (e.g., the diffusion of arts and mathematics)
- Zheng He and cartography
- European (Portuguese, Spanish, British) navigation tools and locations
- cartography and navigation
- agriculture

Key questions:

- How did technology benefit people during this period of history?
- Where did key scientific & technological discoveries occur?
- Should the printing press be considered a more important turning point in human history than the Internet?

Changes in population and living standards
Sample topics:

- forced and unforced migration and movement of people
- diseases and health
- urbanization and the effect of expanding communities

Key questions:

- In what ways did the Industrial Revolution transform societies?
- Did the first Industrial revolution in Britain result in an improvement in living standards for most people?

Exploration, expansion, and colonization
Sample topics:

- contact and conflict
- the Americas
- state formation and collapse
- environmental impact (e.g., resource and land use)

Key questions:

- Which explorer had the greatest impact on the colonization of North America?
- What would have been the impacts if indigenous peoples of the Americas had been immune to smallpox and other diseases?

Interactions and exchanges of resources, ideas, arts, and culture between and among different civilizations
Sample topics:

- Silk Road, Indian Ocean Trade (e.g., the flourishing of arts, architecture, math, and Islam)
- Crusades
- cultural diffusion
- linguistic changes
- environmental effects
- Columbian Exchange
- imperialism
- Renaissance
- Mesoamerica

Key questions:

- What lessons can we learn from the loss of languages due to Imperialism?
- Was religion the primary cause of the Crusades and religious wars?

Philosophical and cultural shifts
Sample topics:

- printing press
- Reformation and Counter-Reformation in Europe
- Enlightenment
- literary and artistic shifts

Key questions:

- How did religious institutions respond to scientific, technological, philosophical, & cultural shifts?

Key Questions that could lead to inquiries:

- Which had more impact on the world: Indian Ocean trade or the Italian Renaissance?
- What do different systems of mapping and cartography indicate about the cultures from which they emerged?
- How do the increasingly global networks of this period compare to the present-day global networks?
- What are the most influential factors that can help the spread of different global religions?
- How did the changing understanding about geography & astronomy affect how people perceived the world & their place in it?
- Which development produced the greater change: the Second Industrial Revolution or the First Industrial Revolution?
- How are different groups represented in different cultural narratives?
- What kinds of negative consequences can result from a positive event & what can result from a negative event?