

Curriculum at a Glance
World Studies

This course examines the world since 1945 with particular emphasis on non-Western areas. It begins with units on the Cold War, the end of the Soviet Union and changes in Russia and Eastern Europe. It then focuses on key areas of the non-Western world with historical and cultural background provided for each region in order to understand developments in the post World War II era. Among the areas addressed are, China, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. Imperialism, decolonization, economic changes, political leadership and dynamics, specific regional conflicts, and issues that connect these areas to other world regions will be studied. Throughout the year, students will develop research, thesis-writing, and argumentation skills.

Unit Name	Essential Content and Skills
Russia & the Cold War	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Overview of cultural concepts, political and economic systems, and significant WWII events● Overview of 20th century Russian history, geography, and tools of diplomacy● Superpower competition, Containment, Arms/Space Race, Proxy Wars, Cuban Missile Crisis,● Detente and decline of Communism: Hungarian Revolt, Prague Spring, Soviet-Afghan War, Détente● Collapse of the USSR: Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe● Post-Soviet Russia ● Develop a thesis statement● Differentiate between primary and secondary sources● Examine historical records and effectiveness of international institutions in mediating international conflicts and crises.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compare & Contrast the means and objectives each side had during the Cold War and post Cold War era.
<p>East Asia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● East Asia’s geography and demography ● Religious and philosophical influences of Chinese culture ● Imperialism and the response to the west ● China’s decline in the 19th and 20th Century and the Chinese Civil War ● Impact of the Cold War, Mao ZeDong and China under Communism, Deng Xiaoping, China’s Modernization ● Western interaction with East Asia, Contemporary Issues ● Critique the policies, methods and decisions of these leaders. ● Analyze and predict the outcomes of conflicts within the region. ● Reading and analysis of primary and secondary source documents ● Writing a thesis statement and developing an argument
<p>South Asia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The physical and political geography of South Asia ● Traditional culture of the Indian sub-continent ● Religious influences: Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim ● Imperialism – focus on the British role in the region ● Nationalism, independence, Gandhi, and Partition ● Post-colonial trends: democracy, development, urbanization ● Regional conflicts ● Roles played by the countries of South Asia in the world today ● Research and evaluation of sources ● Identifying bias in source materials ● Note taking, outlining, and keep track of sources ● Writing a thesis statement, developing an argument and supporting a thesis with research.

<p>Middle East</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geography and Demographic Diversity of the Middle East ● Beliefs of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam ● Imperialism, Nationalism and independence movements in the twentieth century ● Zionism and the creation of the modern state of Israel ● The Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process ● Oil and how it affects politics and the world economy ● Revolution and war - Iran/Iraq ● The rise of political Islam and its impact ● Contemporary issues in the region ● Orally defend a position ● Reading, interpreting, and analyzing maps ● Critique the policies, methods and decisions of leaders. ● Reading and analyzing primary sources.
<p>Sub-Saharan Africa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Africa’s geography—physical, political, and cultural ● Traditional cultures and the period of European colonization ● Case studies – nationalism, decolonization, nation building ● Post-colonial African problems - economic, political, and ethnic ● Barriers to Development & Africa’s role in the world today ● Research and evaluation of sources ● Reading, interpreting, and analyzing maps ● Critique the policies, methods and decisions of leaders. ● Collaborate with peers to create a presentation ● Presentation skills
<p>Latin America</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Latin American geography, including demography, resources and environmental change ● European colonialism and its legacy in shaping Latin American culture ● Diversity of people and social stratification

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Economic and political trends in contemporary Latin America● Latin America- Revolution, Dictatorships, Democracy and Free Markets
● Research and evaluation of sources● Reading, interpreting, and analyzing maps● Critique the policies, methods and decisions of leaders.● Collaborate with peers to create a presentation● Presentation skills |
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