



7th Grade Social Studies Curriculum

Reading and Writing Standards

Marking Period	Reading Standards	Writing Standards
1	Framing a Historical Problem Research Project	Prehistory Interactive Notebook
2	Ancient River Valley Civilizations Primary Source Analysis	Artifact Research Paper (5 paragraph essay)
3	Julius Caesar Cold Case Simulation	Chinese Philosophies One-Pager
4	Abrahamic Religions Research Project	Silk Road 5 DBQ Paper (5 paragraph essay)



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Scoring Guide for Written Work

Criteria	Limited	Developing	Proficient	Exemplary
Demonstrate Understanding of the Content	Demonstrates a limited understanding of the topic, providing incomplete or inaccurate information with significant gaps.	Demonstrates a partial understanding of the topic, providing some accurate and concise information but may lack depth or completeness.	Shows a solid understanding of the topic, providing accurate and concise information, addressing all key aspects of the prompt.	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic, providing comprehensive, accurate, and concise information. Complete: Addresses all aspects of the assigned topic or prompt Accurate: Provides accurate and relevant information supported by evidence or examples Concise: Presents ideas and information in a clear and concise manner without unnecessary repetition or digressions
Structure and Formatting	Lacks an engaging hook, inconsistent or insufficient use of citations, minimal use of CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and unclear or weak topic sentences.	Attempts to engage the reader with a hook, includes citations, attempts to use CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and provides topic sentences, but with some inconsistencies or lack of clarity.	Begins with an engaging hook, includes proper citations, effectively utilizes CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and presents clear topic sentences.	Engages the reader with a captivating hook, includes proper citations, effectively utilizes CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and presents clear and well-developed topic sentences. Hook: Engages the reader with a compelling opening that grabs attention Citation: Includes appropriate citations and references to give credit to sources used CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning): Constructs well-developed claims supported by relevant evidence and logical reasoning Topic Sentences: Clearly and effectively introduces the main ideas of paragraphs
Critical Thinking / Original Point of View	Shows limited evidence of critical thinking skills, with arguments or perspectives lacking coherence or supporting evidence.	Shows some evidence of critical thinking skills, but arguments or perspectives may be limited in depth or clarity.	Displays sound critical thinking skills, offering well-reasoned arguments and perspectives supported by relevant evidence.	Exhibits exceptional critical thinking skills, offering unique and insightful perspectives supported by strong reasoning and evidence. Demonstrates critical thinking skills by analyzing and evaluating information or arguments Presents a unique and original perspective or interpretation of the topic Supports arguments or ideas with thoughtful reasoning and evidence
Research / Reference	Relies on minimal sources, lacks integration of research findings, and shows inconsistent or inadequate citation and referencing.	Incorporates some sources, but may not fully integrate research findings or include proper citation and referencing consistently.	Incorporates appropriate sources, integrates research findings to support the content, and follows proper citation and referencing conventions with minor errors.	Research / Reference: Utilizes a wide range of relevant and credible sources, effectively integrating research findings into the writing, and consistently follows proper citation and referencing conventions. Utilizes relevant and credible sources to support arguments or claims Effectively incorporates research findings to strengthen the overall content and understanding of the topic Demonstrates the ability to properly cite and reference sources in the appropriate format (MLA)
Academic Writing	Contains frequent and significant errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure that impede readability.	Contains noticeable errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or sentence structure that occasionally hinder readability.	Demonstrates proficient spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure with occasional minor errors that do not hinder readability.	Demonstrates exemplary spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure with no or minimal errors. Spelling: Exhibits correct spelling throughout the writing Grammar: Demonstrates mastery of grammar rules, including proper subject-verb agreement, verb tense consistency, and pronoun usage Punctuation: Applies appropriate punctuation marks, such as commas, periods, and quotation marks, correctly Sentence Structure: Constructs clear and varied sentence structures, including complex and compound sentences



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Content Topics and Pacing

Topic	Duration	Guiding Questions	Reading/Writing Assignments
An Introduction to World History	6 weeks	<p>Why is it important to treat maps and “history” as accounts?</p> <p>How do historians know and create accounts about the past?</p> <p>Why might historians have different and sometimes conflicting versions of the same event?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Framing a historical problem research project2.) Analyzing the reliability of sources activity3.) Map skills4.) Comparing our histories assignment5.) Weekly reading assignments6.) Unit vocabulary
Beginnings of Human Societies	3 weeks	<p>How do we learn about humans and human ancestors in prehistoric times, before there was writing?</p> <p>How and why did humanity spread across the earth?</p> <p>How did the natural environment shape the way people lived in the Paleolithic Era?</p> <p>How and why did humans begin to shift from full-time foraging to living in settled villages?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Prehistory interactive notebook2.) Artifact research paper3.) Map skills4.) Weekly reading assignments5.) Unit vocabulary
Early Civilizations and Pastoral Peoples	4 weeks	<p>How did geography shape the way in which people lived in various world zones during this era?</p> <p>How and why did civilizations develop during this era?</p> <p>What new problems and solutions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Ancient river valley civilizations primary source analysis2.) Map skills3.) Weekly reading assignments4.) Unit vocabulary



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		<p>emerged from living in settled civilizations?</p> <p>What role did cultural diffusion play in this era?</p>	
The Rise of Classical Empires	6 weeks	<p>Why did some civilizations develop into large-scale empires while others did not?</p> <p>How and why did changes in social institutions change how people lived in large-scale empires?</p> <p>How did empires change exchanges between peoples across large expanses of territory?</p> <p>How did the emergence of world religions both influence and reflect the rise of empires?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Julius Caesar Cold Case simulation2.) Greco-Persian Wars simulation3.) Chinese philosophies one-pager4.) Map skills5.) Weekly reading assignments6.) Unit vocabulary
Global Interactions and the Fall of Empires	6 weeks	<p>How did the interaction between empires affect their growth and development?</p> <p>What were the most significant factors that enabled empires to stay in power, and why did these empires eventually fall?</p> <p>What other patterns of human societies and organization were in place during this era and why did they not become empires or parts of empires?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Silk Road simulation2.) Silk Road 5 paragraph DBQ essay3.) Map skills4.) Weekly reading assignments5.) Unit vocabulary



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<p>Patterns of Adaptation: Reorganizing and Restructuring Society</p>	<p>4 weeks</p>	<p>How did the legacies of large empires like the Roman and Han Dynasty influence the subsequent societies in the areas they formally controlled?</p> <p>How did both geography and the history of past societies contribute to the rise of new powers in this era?</p> <p>Why did new patterns of conflict emerge in this time period and how did they shape societal interactions?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Abrahamic religions research project2.) Vikings simulation3.) Map skills4.) Weekly reading assignments5.) Unit vocabulary
<p>Converging Patterns: 1000 CE - 1450 CE</p>	<p>3 weeks</p>	<p>How and why did African and American empires develop similarly to and differently from empires in Eurasia?</p> <p>How did large scale movements of people, ideas, technologies, and disease change the world on the eve of modernity?</p> <p>Why is it helpful to explore human history in terms of continuity and change over time?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.) Civilization design final project2.) Change and continuity in the world final project3.) Map skills4.) Weekly reading assignments5.) Unit vocabulary