

**Course Description****World Geography and Ancient Civilizations II**

World Geography and Ancient Civilizations II is the second year of a two year course exploring ancient civilizations and the geography pertaining to these civilizations. In Grade 7, students will be studying the geography of Asia and Europe while we study the ancient civilizations of India, China, medieval Japan, Rome and Greece. Geography is studied from first an ancient perspective answering questions as to why civilizations might have developed in specific areas, what resources were available, how information was spread from one location to another and how Indian and Central Asian societies interacted with those around them including East African, Western Asian, and European societies. Historically, students will learn about ancient India, the growth of Hinduism and the growth and spread of Buddhism, the Mauryan and Gupta Empires. Students will also study important economic, political, and religious developments in early Chinese history and how they compare to other civilizations around them. This course will also examine ancient and classical Greece as well as, ancient and classical Rome, the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire. Within the Greece unit, students will explore the democratic political concepts of ancient Greece, religious and major accomplishments of the ancient Greeks in a multitude of areas. Students will also explore the Persian Wars, the Peloponnesian Wars and the influence of Alexander the Great. The Rome unit for this course will include the rise of the Roman Republic, the influence of Julius Caesar, Augustus as well as, its political constructs, social constructs and transition from republic to empire. A focus will also be placed on the forces that led to the disintegration of the Roman Empire and contributions of the Romans to the fields of language, science, government, philosophy, mathematics and engineering.

Content Standards

[Grade 7 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework - History and Social Science](#)



Subject: Grade 7 Social Studies

Units	Essential Questions	Key Activities May Include
TERM 1 Unit 1 - Central and South Asia MA Standards: 7.T1a, 7.T1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the most significant contribution of early societies in India and Central Asia to mathematics, science, the arts, and technology in the modern world? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography Activity: Using various maps to determine physical features, settlement patterns and comparison of ancient/modern countries: Central and South Asia Open Response: How did the Geography of India contribute to the settlement of this area? Indus River Valley Exploration/Examination of Vedic Texts: Mahabharata; Bhagavad Gita Ancient Civilization Job Fair: job placement for Siddhartha Gautama, Changupta Maurya, Asoka and Chandra Gupta II
TERM 2 Unit 2- East Asia MA Standards: 7.T2a, 7.T2b, 7.T2c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what degree have Chinese societies over time been shaped by geography? How has Korea served as both a cultural bridge and a battleground between China and Japan? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparing/contrasting countries of East Asia. Comparison of the settlement of Huang He Valley to other civilizations such as India, Egypt, Mesopotamia Exploration of the Shang and Zhou Dynasties including project based activities related to their achievements Exploration and examination of Four Philosophies: Compare/Contrast Writing



Units	Essential Questions	Key Activities May Include
Unit 3 - Southeast Asia and Oceania MA Standards: 7.T3a, 7T3b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what degree have the Maori and Aboriginal societies been shaped by geography? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student research paper on a country in southeast Asia and Oceania. Australian Webquest focusing on geography, economy and natural environment Student map activity Slide show that focuses on the history and aboriginal culture of Australia Video Clip: Southeast Asia and their capitals General video: Geography of Southeast Asia: Origins of the Culture, which focuses on the diversity of Southeast Asia and its position between the powerful civilizations of India and China.
TERM 2 & TERM 3 Unit 4 - Rome MA Standard: 7.T4c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the influence and legacy of the Roman Empire on the conquered peoples in the territory it controlled? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map Skills: Identifying the expansion of the Roman Empire Writing: How did Rome's location contribute to its political power in the Mediterranean world and beyond? Explore the development of the Roman Republic as it relates to the principles of modern governments including the ideas of separation of powers, representative government, and civic obligation Group Project: Rome's Legacy - engineering, architecture, arenas, aqueducts, plumbing, urban sanitation



Units	Essential Questions	Key Activities May Include
TERM 3 Unit 5 - Greece MA Standards: 7.T4a, 7.T4b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the democracy of Athens compare to the democracies of today? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing: Compare/contrast the geography of Greece and the development of city-states including Athens and Sparta Activity: Ancient Greek Olympics Writing: Creation of myth using Greek mythology and utilizing necessary literary elements Compare/Contrast Athenian Democracy with Democracy in the U.S. "Mythic Warriors" TV episode: Persephone and the Winter Seeds