

7th Grade Social Studies - World Geography
2017-18
Mr. Hess
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Social Studies Department Vision

We often view hard science as the only type of science. But science (from the Latin *scientia* -- knowledge) is something much more general, which isn't defined by decimal places and controlled experiments. It means the enterprise of explaining and predicting -- gaining knowledge of -- natural phenomena, by continually testing one's theories against empirical evidence. The world is full of phenomena that are intellectually challenging and important to understand, but that can't be measured to several decimal places in labs. They constitute much of ecology, evolution, and animal behavior; much of psychology and human behavior; and all the phenomena of human societies, including cultural anthropology, economics, history, and government. - *Jared Diamond*

Communication

Email is the most direct method to communicate during the school day.

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Course Description

Students will gain knowledge about the ever changing world that they share with seven billion other people. The ability to analyze information will be emphasized. The Five Themes of Geography will help to provide a framework for our study of Geography.

Student Textbook

World Explorer: Prentice Hall 2007

Mr. Hess's Website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/basdschools.org/hess/>

Required Student Supplies

Book Cover - Green

Binder - Green

Folder or Dividers for: Homework, Maps, Tests/Quizzes, and Projects

Colored Pencils

Pencils

Highlighter

Notebook paper

Major Course Objectives

- The student will be able to identify, apply and synthesize information using the 5 themes of Geography.
- The student will be able to apply Pennsylvania Eligible Geography Content to situations in their everyday life.
- The student will be able to discuss the role of geography in historical; current and future events.

Major Projects

1. Students will design a business proposal using the 5 Themes of Geography.
2. Students analyze the Hydraulic Fracturing debate in the state of Pennsylvania.
3. Document Based Question - Equality in the United States
4. Current Events Project - Persuasive Essay
5. Students will design, analyze and execute a city using the Sim City application.

Teacher Homework Policy

Homework will be given several times per week. Student have up to three days to show late work, losing 10% per day. Students that are absent should get assignments upon return to school, these assignments will be accepted within a reasonable amount of time. Assignments are usually worth 10 points.

Teacher Grading Policy

40% - Quizzes and Tests

25% - Projects

25% - Assignments

10% - Responsibility - Warm Ups, Notebooks, and Being Prepared

Classroom Management Plan

Student Expectations

1. Be here...be ready to learn
2. Be respectful
3. Be responsible
4. Be actively engaged in learning
5. Follow instruction the first time
6. Follow all classroom procedures

Consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. Teacher Detention - parent notification
3. Code of Conduct Referral

Extra Help

Extra Help is available on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons from 3:05 - 3:25 pm in Room 203.