

7th Grade Social Studies  
2011-2012

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### Course Description

The seventh grade history program works closely with seventh grade English to provide learning opportunities which develop social studies as well as language arts skills. Units of study cover the early history of the United States from Jamestown (1607) through ratification of the Constitution (1788), as well as a parallel curriculum studying early Oklahoma and Tulsa history with a culminating project called Downtown Study. All units of study include an emphasis on United States history as well as world history, geography skills, various literary genres (short story, novel, poetry) oral and written expression.

### Learning Benchmarks

Reads and annotates actively to demonstrate critical thinking.

Consolidates salient information in notes using various formats.

Creates and analyzes tools of geography to explain historical events

Demonstrates historical thinking by identifying cause and effect relationships and patterns in history.

Evaluates and discusses issues in historical context using primary source material.

### Preparation for Class / Course Materials

Students use a binder and agenda daily to organize and record assignments. A portfolio of student work is maintained throughout the year.

*Atlas of United States History*, Nystrom; *Blood on the River*, Elisa Carbone; *The Winter People*, Joseph Bruchac; *The Real Revolution*; *The Global Story of American Independence*, Marc Aronson; *Chains*, Laurie Anderson; *Forge*, Laurie Anderson

### Methods of Instruction

The primary instructional methods include involve students in various performance tasks. Listening skills, note taking, inquiry, critical thinking, dialogue, problem-solving, and self-assessment are emphasized. Individual and group activities and long term projects enrich the class experience. Activities in the classroom are often student-led with the teacher acting as observer and facilitator.

## Assessment

Students demonstrate their level of mastery of the material and achievement of benchmarks by way of daily work in and outside of class, quizzes, tests, participation in dialogue, and projects. Student grades are based on a point system. Please see the Holland Hall Handbook for policies regarding late work and absence.

## Projected Course Schedule

- Trimester 1: United States history from Jamestown (1607) - 13 Colonies (1754)  
Oklahoma history / becoming a social scientist: How do you DO history?
- Trimester 2: United States history from the 13 Colonies (1754) - Revolution (1775)  
Tulsa history / downtown study: project planning
- Trimester 3: United States history from Revolution (1775) - Constitution (1788)  
Downtown Study: field work and project completion