

A grayscale world map is centered in the background, showing the continents of North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, and Australia. The map is rendered in a light gray tone against a white background.

Social Studies Curriculum Revision

**Grades 5-11
Implementation: Fall, 2022**

Why Revise Social Studies Curriculum?

- To ensure students are receiving a solid foundation of essential social studies knowledge and skills required for citizenship and success (Domains - history, geography, civics, economics)
- To add a civics course in grade 11
- To address major gaps (example - students not learning about modern history)
- To align courses to the updated Maine Learning Results for social studies
- To comply with state statutes requiring instruction about Maine Native Americans, personal finance, the Holocaust, and African American history
- To ensure courses and units flow in a cohesive manner that build off of one another from grades 5-11

Process

- **June, 2021** - Beth, Shane, and Erin met to discuss curriculum and identify needed changes
- **October, 2021** - SHS and SMS teachers met and developed a plan and goals for revision
- **October - February** - Departments worked together and came to consensus on updated courses and units in grades 5-11
- **February** - Grade 5-11 Silo
- **Ongoing** - Unit planning, lesson development, assessment development

Goals: SMS will provide students will a solid base of history through modern times. SMS will prepare students for citizenship and success in the modern world through instruction of civics, personal finance, and world geography. SHS will build off of the knowledge and skills acquired in middle school. SHS will dive deeper into historical topics, civics, and the modern world.

Grade 5: The Ancient World

Grade 5 students will explore ancient civilizations around the world. For each civilization, students will examine the themes of geography, power structure, daily life and culture, and major historical turning points (lasting contributions, fall of civilizations, etc...)

- Introduction to Social Studies
- Ancient Middle East - Sumeria and Mesopotamia
- Ancient Africa - Egypt
- Ancient Europe - Greece and Rome
- Ancient Americas - Maya, Inca, and Aztecs



Grade 6: Development of the United States

Grade 6 students will study North America from its earliest inhabitants through the development of the United States. In addition to major historical turning points, students will learn about U.S. geography, civics and government, and economics. The study of Maine, including the Wabanaki, and African American history, will be woven throughout several units.

- U.S. Geography
- The First Americans
- Explore, Conquer, Colonize
- From Colonies to Country - The Revolutionary War
- Creating the Constitution
- Westward Expansion or Invasion From the East?
- A Nation Divided - Slavery and the Civil War
- Money Basics - Personal Financial Literacy



Grade 7: The United States, Past and Present

Grade 7 students will pick up where 6th grade left off. Major historical turning points from the early 1900's through modern times will be examined. Maine and African American history will be woven throughout units. Students will also explore the modern U.S. and their role as citizens. This includes understanding rights, responsibilities, and personal finance.

- On the Move! Migration, Cities, and Industry
- War, Boom, Bust
- Terrible Times - World War II and the Holocaust
- Containing Communism
- Time for Jim Crow to Go! Civil Rights in America
- 9/11 and Modern Conflicts
- Modern Citizenship - Rights, Responsibilities, and Activism
- Money Smart - Personal Financial Literacy



Grade 8: The World and Its People

Grade 8 students will study the modern world through conceptual units. Physical and human geography, government systems, economic systems, and culture in various regions will be explored. In addition, students will draw upon acquired knowledge about the United States, history, and the modern world to better understand current events.

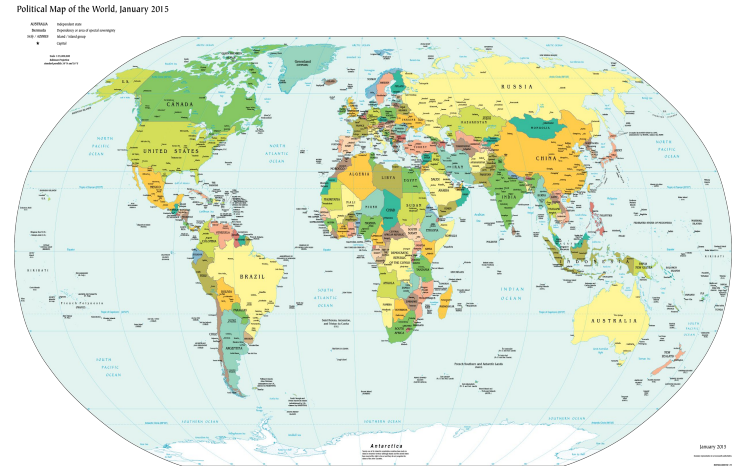
- Tools of Geography
- Life on Planet Earth
- The World is a Neighborhood - Globalization
- Religion and Culture Around the World
- Government Systems Around the World
- Economic Systems Around the World
- Mastering Money - Personal Financial Literacy
- Ongoing - Current Events



Grade 9: Geography and Global Perspectives

In this course, students will build upon their knowledge of core themes in geography by investigating various regions of the world and the effects of geographic influences on decisions about the present and future. Topics covered in this course may include: the influence of physical geography on the development of human systems (ideologies, religions, cultures, food, and identity); how the environment influences human interactions; and the identification and evaluation of ongoing human impact on the environment.

- Maine
- The U.S.
- The World
- Final Project



Grade 10 A: Early U.S. History

Students will examine key political, economic and social turning points in American history, and consider the role of citizens in affecting change. This course covers events from the pre-colonial period to the turn of the 20th Century. Students may learn about: Native American history, Columbian Exchange, westward expansion & manifest destiny, Industrialization, the Civil War & Reconstruction, and immigration. Students will learn historical thinking skills, such as crafting historical questions, interpreting primary and secondary sources, and using evidence to make arguments.

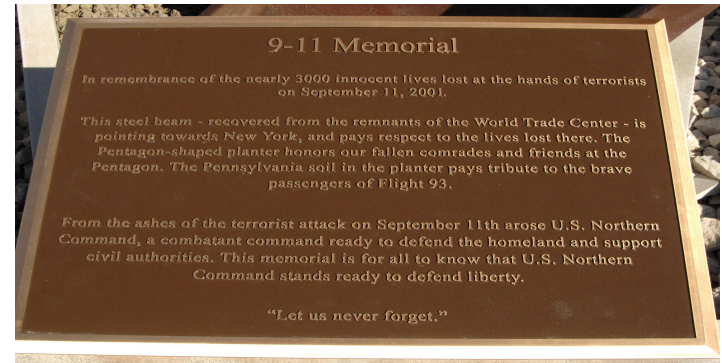
- Malaga
- Migration - Immigration, Westward Migration, Indigenous History
- Economics - Slavery and Beginnings of Industry
- Conflict - Civil War, Reconstruction, Spanish American War



Grade 10 B: Modern U.S. History

Students will examine key political, economic and social turning points in American history, and consider the role of citizens in affecting change. This course covers events from the turn of the 20th Century to today. Students may learn about: how the US became a world power, WWI, WWII, the Cold War, civil rights movements, 9/11, and globalization. Students will learn historical thinking skills, such as crafting historical questions, interpreting primary and secondary sources, and using evidence to make arguments.

- American Dream
- Conflict - World Wars Through Afghanistan
- Human Rights
- Economics - Progressive Era Through Globalization



Grade 11: Civics

In this course, students will focus on the fundamentals of the United States government, its structures and functions, democratic ideals, and the rights and responsibilities of its citizens. To form a comprehensive understanding of the role of government in the world, students will compare and contrast governmental and political ideologies. They will learn to become engaged members of our society. Students will demonstrate their understanding of how society functions and their ability to participate in a positive manner.

- Democratic Ideals
- Structure, Functions, and Responsibilities
- Civic Participation
- Public Policy Project

