

8th Grade Social Studies Course Outline

The major focus of 8th grade social studies is **modern world history** (1450-present). Topics will be addressed through the following themes:

The Emergence of the Global Age: The interlinking and collision of the major world regions

- Renaissance
- European Exploration of Asia, Africa, and the Americas
- Cultural Diffusion
- Exchange of flora, fauna, ideas, pathogens, etc.
- Spice Trade with Asia
- Slave Trade
- Colonialism/Imperialism

Revolution: Political, economic, and cultural transformations

- French Revolution
- Haitian Revolution
- Russian Revolution
- Chinese Revolution
- Cuban Revolution
- Industrial Revolution

20th Century World Conflicts: Conflicts, struggles for domination and control, and the search for peace and stability in the 20th and 21st century.

- WWI
- WWII
- Cold War
- Vietnam War
- Apartheid in South Africa
- Current World Conflicts

In addition to the historical topics listed above, our curriculum throughout the year will also include:

- An introduction and exposure to **world cultures**, including student examination of cultural influences on themselves and their own families through the Culture Fair Project.
- Various **geography** lessons, including regular map quizzes on the countries of the world.
- An extensive look into one country through several **country projects** of the students choice
- A regular focus on **current events** including presentation and class discussion.