Independent School District of Boise City
1303 World Studies 8

Course Overview

This course is the third in the three-course sequence of world studies. World Studies 8 focuses on history, geography, and culture during the time period from the Renaissance to the Contemporary World. First semester includes units on the Renaissance, Enlightenment, French Revolution, Industrial Revolution and Imperialism. Second semester includes the study of World War I, the Russian Revolution, World War II, the Holocaust, the Cold War, and the modern world.

Adopted Materials

- Karpiel, Frank, et al. *My World History.* Pearson Learning Solutions, 2015.

First Semester		**Second Semester**	
Unit 1	Renaissance	Unit 4	WWI, Russian Revolution, and Interwar Years
Unit 2	Enlightenment and French Revolution	Unit 5	WWII and Holocaust
Unit 3	Industrial Revolution and Imperialism	Unit 6	Cold War and Modern World

Content Application	Making Connections	Analyzing and Evaluating Sources	Claim Evidence Reasoning

Updated May 2026

Unit 1 **Renaissance**
Unit Standards
6-9.WH.1.7 Identify examples of how writing, art, architecture, mathematics, and science have evolved over time, such as in Ancient, Middle Age, Early-Modern, or Modern societies and civilizations throughout the world. 6-9.WH.5.1 Explain the political, economic, religious, or cultural causes of conflicts in various civilizations and their consequences. ● 6-9.WG.6.1 Explain how and why events may be interpreted differently according to the points of view of participants and observing.

Unit 2 **Enlightenment and French Revolution**
Unit Standards
6-9.WH.4.2 Analyze the various political systems that shaped civilizations throughout the world, including the City-State, Monarchy, Republic, Nation-State, or Democracy.

Unit 3 **Industrial Revolution and Imperialism**
Unit Standards
6-9.WH.3.4 Analyze the impact of economic growth on society. ● 6-9.WG.3.7 Investigate how physical geography, natural resources, specialization, and trade have influenced the way people meet their material needs. ● 6-9.WH.3.5 Identify influential economic thinkers and the impact of their philosophies. ● 6-9.WG.3.4 Analyze current economic issues using a variety of sources representing multiple perspectives. ● 6-9.WG.3.6 Explain how the demand for important natural resources evolved in regions throughout the world. ● 6-9.WG.2.11 Analyze the locations of the major manufacturing and agricultural areas in regions throughout the world. ● 6-9.WG.2.16 Explain how human-caused changes in the physical environment in one place can cause changes in another place such as irrigation, air pollution, water pollution, and deforestation. ● 6-9.WH.2.8 Illustrate how the population growth rate impacts a nation's resources.

Unit 4 **World War I, Russian Revolution and Interwar Period**
Unit Standards
6-9. WG 5.5 Describe the costs and benefits of global connections including trading, seeking solutions to mutual problems, learning from technological advances, acquiring new perspectives, and benefiting from developments in culture. 6-9. WH. 1. 6 Identify the technological advances developed by the Ancient, Middle Age, Early Modern, and Modern societies and civilization throughout the world.

Unit 5
World War II and the Holocaust

Unit Standards

6-9. WH.5.4 Analyze the causes, events, and consequences of the Holocaust while exploring the impacts of discrimination and prejudice.

6-9. WH. 4.1 Describe the role of government in historical human migration, such as push and pull factors.

- 6-9. WG. 3.3 Compare the standard of living of various regions today using quality of life indicators and discuss their impact on everyday life locally, nationally, and globally.
- 6-9 WH.3.2 Describe examples that show how economic opportunity and a higher standard of living are important factors in human migration
- 6-9.WG.2.9 Identify patterns of population distribution and growth in regions throughout the world and explain changes in these patterns that have occurred over time.

Unit 6
Cold War and Modern World

Unit Standards

6-9.WH.5.1 Explain the political, economic, religious, and cultural causes of conflicts in various civilizations and their consequences.

- 6-9.WH.5.2 Identify and compare major modern world conflicts and explain their global consequences and impacts including European colonialism, World War I, World War II, the Cold War and decolonialism movements.
- 6-9.WG.5.4 Discuss present conflicts between the cultural groups and nation-states in regions throughout the world

6-9.WG.5.6 Explain the causes and consequences of current global issues including the expansion of global markets, the urbanization of the developing world, the consumption of natural resources, and the extinction of species.

- 6-9. WG.2.13 Give examples of how both natural and technological hazards have impacted the physical environment and human populations in regions throughout the world
- 6-9.WG.2.15 Describe the various views that affect environmental issues in regions throughout the world