



DERBY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Social Studies Military History

Grades 10-12

Derby's Instructional Core Beliefs

Derby Public Schools believes that an assured curriculum outlines what students will know and be able to do as a result of their experiences in our classrooms. Teachers continue to develop effective ways to implement the “what” of the curriculum with "how," which can be more effective for student learning. They engage in meaningful learning experiences to develop knowledge, skills and love of learning.


- *The curriculum is built on a series of learning progressions.*
- *The curriculum allows for connections to expectations for the Portrait of the Graduate*
- *The district's model for High-Quality Instruction involves equitable access to well planned tasks that grow relationships, risk taking and agency for learning in all students. Learning is developed through all of us and is cultivated through personalized actionable feedback, a growth mindset, and developmental relationships among all learners.*
- *Assessment is a co-created process in a learning environment that enables participants to understand how learners are thinking, what they know, and what skills need to be developed and refined.*

[Derby's Vision of MEL](#)

[Derby's Portrait of the Graduate](#)

[References](#)



Content Area: Social Studies	Course: Military History	Grade Level: Grades 10-12
<p>M.I.T. GROUND SCHOOL CLASS J.R. PAYDEN IS SECOND ROW, THIRD FROM LEFT</p> 	<p>Vision of the Graduate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Citizen • The Critical Thinker • The Communicator • The Problem Solver • The Collaborator 	
Unit Titles	Length of Unit	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Military History and Ancient Warfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-5 weeks 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medieval and Early Modern Warfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-5 weeks 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warfare in the Age of Revolutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-5 weeks 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Wars and Modern Warfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-5 weeks 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics, Law, and the Future of Warfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 weeks 	



DERBY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Course Overview

Military History: Conflict and Strategy Through the Ages

Grade Level: 10-12

Duration: Half Year (20 weeks)

Course Description:

This course explores the evolution of warfare from ancient times to the modern era, examining key battles, military leaders, and technological advancements that have shaped history. Students will analyze the causes and consequences of major conflicts, study military strategies and tactics, and consider the social, political, and ethical implications of war. Through critical analysis of primary and secondary sources, students will develop a deeper understanding of how military history has influenced and been influenced by broader historical trends.

*Standards are based on the [Common Core for ELA Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and technical Subjects](#) and [Social Studies Frameworks](#)

Unit Title	Introduction to Military History and Ancient Warfare	Length of Unit	4-5 weeks
Inquiry Questions (Engaging & Debatable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. How has warfare evolved from ancient times to the present? • 2. What role did geography and technology play in ancient battles? • 3. How did ancient military leaders impact the course of history? 		
Focus Standards*	<p>Connecticut Social Studies Framework Standards: HIST 9–12.1, HIST 9–12.3, GEO 9–12.2</p> <p>Common Core Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2</p>		
Concepts and Strands (Big Ideas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - Foundations of military history • - Ancient Greek and Roman warfare • - Eastern military traditions (China, Japan) 		
Key Vocabulary	Phalanx, legion, siege warfare, strategy, tactics		

*Standards are based on the [Common Core for ELA Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and technical Subjects](#) and [Social Studies Frameworks](#)

Unit Title	Introduction to Military History and Ancient Warfare	Length of Unit	4-5 weeks
-------------------	--	-----------------------	-----------

Critical Content: My students will Know...	Key Skills: My students will be able to (Do)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key battles and military leaders of ancient Greece and Rome 2. The impact of geography on ancient warfare 3. Major military innovations of ancient civilizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the strategies used in ancient battles 2. Compare and contrast Eastern and Western military traditions 3. Evaluate the impact of key military leaders on ancient societies

Assessments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essay: Analyze a significant ancient battle - Create a timeline of major ancient military innovations - Group presentation: Compare ancient Greek and Roman military structures
Teacher Resources:	<p>Ancient History Encyclopedia: https://www.ancient.eu/</p> <p>The Great Courses - Ancient Warfare: https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/ancient-warfare</p> <p>Ancient History Encyclopedia: https://www.ancient.eu/ Provides detailed articles, images, and videos on ancient civilizations and warfare.</p> <p>The Great Courses - Ancient Warfare: https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/ancient-warfare</p> <p>Comprehensive lectures on ancient military history.</p> <p>MIT OpenCourseWare - The Ancient World: Greece: https://ocw.mit.edu/courses/history/21h-301-the-ancient-world-greece-fall-2004/ Free course materials on ancient Greek history, including military aspects.</p> <p>PBS - The Roman Empire in the First Century: https://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/</p> <p>The Art of War by Sun Tzu (free online versions available): A classic text on military strategy.</p>

Unit Title	Medieval and Early Modern Warfare	Length of Unit	1-2 weeks
Inquiry Questions (Engaging & Debatable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. How did feudalism influence medieval warfare? • 2. What impact did gunpowder have on military tactics and technology? • 3. How did naval warfare evolve during this period? 		
Focus Standards*	Connecticut Social Studies Framework Standards: HIST 9–12.4, HIST 9–12.7, ECO 9–12.1 Common Core Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.3, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7		
Concepts and Strands (Big Ideas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - Feudal warfare and the Crusades • - The Gunpowder Revolution • - Rise of professional armies • - Naval warfare and exploration 		
Key Vocabulary	Chivalry, longbow, cannon, tercio, galleon		

Unit Title	Medieval and Early Modern Warfare	Length of Unit	4-5 weeks
-------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------

Critical Content: My students will Know...	Key Skills: My students will be able to (Do)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The structure of feudal armies and their tactics 2. Key battles of the Crusades and their outcomes 3. The impact of gunpowder on warfare and fortifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the role of knights and castles in medieval warfare 2. Evaluate the effectiveness of new weapons technologies 3. Explain the development of professional standing armies

Assessments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research paper: Impact of a specific weapon or technology - Debate: The military effectiveness of the Crusades - Create a model or diagram of a medieval castle or early modern warship
Teacher Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - De Re Militari: The Society for Medieval Military History: http://deremilitari.org/ - BBC History - War: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/b06n5qvj The Met Museum - Arms and Armor: https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/curatorial-departments/arms-and-armor Excellent visual resources for medieval and early modern weapons and armor. Internet History Sourcebooks Project - Medieval History: https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/sbook1n.asp Primary source documents related to medieval warfare. Khan Academy - Renaissance and Reformation: https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history/renaissance-and-reformation Includes sections on changing warfare in the early modern period.

Unit Title	Warfare in the Age of Revolutions	Length of Unit	4-5 weeks
Inquiry Questions (Engaging & Debatable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. How did the American and French Revolutions change warfare? • 2. What was Napoleon's impact on military strategy and tactics? • 3. How did industrialization affect military technology and organization? 		
Focus Standards*	<p><u>Connecticut Social Studies Framework Standards:</u> HIST 9–12.5, CIV 9–12.3, ECO 9–12.2</p> <p><u>Common Core Standards:</u> CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.6, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.11-12.1</p>		
Concepts and Strands (Big Ideas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - American Revolutionary War • - French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars • - Industrial Revolution and warfare • - American Civil War 		
Key Vocabulary	Guerrilla warfare, levée en masse, Grande Armée, ironclad, total war		

Unit Title	Warfare in the Age of Revolutions	Length of Unit	4-5 weeks
-------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------

Critical Content: My students will Know...	Key Skills: My students will be able to (Do)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key battles and strategies of the American Revolution 2. Napoleon's military innovations and their impact 3. Major technological advancements in 19th-century warfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the military tactics used in the American Revolution 2. Evaluate Napoleon's successes and failures as a military leader 3. Explain how industrialization changed the nature of warfare

Assessments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comparative essay: American Revolution vs. French Revolutionary Wars - Create a battle plan using Napoleonic tactics - Group project: Innovations of the American Civil War
Teacher Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Napoleon.org: https://www.napoleon.org/en/ - American Battlefield Trust: https://www.battlefields.org/ PBS - Liberty! The American Revolution: https://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/ Multimedia resources on the American Revolutionary War. The National Museum of the United States Army: https://www.thenmusa.org/ Virtual exhibits and educational resources on U.S. military history. Library of Congress - Civil War Primary Sources: https://www.loc.gov/collections/civil-war-glass-negatives-and-related-prints/about-this-collection/ Primary source documents and images from the American Civil War.

Unit Title	World Wars and Modern Warfare	Length of Unit	4-5 weeks
Inquiry Questions (Engaging & Debatable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. How did World War I change the nature of combat? • 2. What were the major military innovations of World War II? • 3. How has warfare evolved in the nuclear and post-nuclear age? 		
Focus Standards*	<p><u>Connecticut Social Studies Framework Standards:</u> HIST 9–12.2, HIST 9–12.8, CIV 9–12.5</p> <p><u>Common Core Standards:</u> CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.8, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.11-12.2</p>		
Concepts and Strands (Big Ideas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - World War I and trench warfare • - World War II and blitzkrieg • - Cold War conflicts and proxy wars • - Modern warfare and counterinsurgency 		
Key Vocabulary	Trench warfare, blitzkrieg, strategic bombing, nuclear deterrence, counterinsurgency		

Unit Title	World Wars and Modern Warfare	Length of Unit	1-2 weeks
-------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------

Critical Content: My students will Know...	Key Skills: My students will be able to (Do)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The impact of new technologies on World War I tactics 2. Key battles and military strategies of World War II 3. The evolution of warfare in the nuclear age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the effectiveness of trench warfare in World War I 2. Evaluate the role of technology in World War II victories 3. Assess the challenges of modern asymmetrical warfare

Assessments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research project: Technological innovations in modern warfare - Debate: The ethics of strategic bombing in World War II - Create a timeline of major Cold War conflicts and their outcomes
Teacher Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National WWI Museum and Memorial: https://www.theworldwar.org/ - The National WWII Museum: https://www.nationalww2museum.org/ Cold War Museum: http://www.coldwar.org/ Resources on Cold War conflicts and their impact on modern warfare. Imperial War Museums: https://www.iwm.org.uk/learning Learning resources covering both World Wars and modern conflicts. Atomic Heritage Foundation: https://www.atomicheritage.org/ Information on the development and impact of nuclear weapons.

Unit Title	Ethics, Law, and the Future of Warfare	Length of Unit	4-5 weeks
Inquiry Questions (Engaging & Debatable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. How have international laws and conventions affected warfare? • 2. What are the ethical considerations in modern military conflicts? • 3. How might future technologies change the nature of warfare? 		
Focus Standards*	<p><u>Connecticut Social Studies Framework Standards:</u> CIV 9–12.1, CIV 9–12.7, INQ 9–12.6</p> <p><u>Common Core Standards:</u> CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.11-12.7</p>		
Concepts and Strands (Big Ideas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • - Laws of war and international conventions • - Ethics in warfare • - Emerging military technologies • - Future scenarios in warfare 		
Key Vocabulary	Geneva Conventions, just war theory, cyberwarfare, autonomous weapons, space warfare		

Unit Title	World Wars and Modern Warfare	Length of Unit	1-2 weeks
-------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------

Critical Content: My students will Know...	Key Skills: My students will be able to (Do)...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key international laws governing warfare 2. Ethical debates surrounding modern military tactics 3. Potential impacts of emerging technologies on future conflicts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the effectiveness of international laws in regulating warfare 2. Evaluate ethical dilemmas in historical and contemporary conflicts 3. Predict how new technologies might change future warfare

Assessments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essay: Ethical analysis of a modern military conflict - Group presentation: Future warfare scenarios - Debate: The use of autonomous weapons in combats
Teacher Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Committee of the Red Cross: https://www.icrc.org/en - Stockholm International Peace Research Institute: https://www.sipri.org/ United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs: https://www.un.org/disarmament/ Information on international efforts to regulate warfare and weapons. Future of Life Institute - AI Policy Challenges: https://futureoflife.org/ai-policy-challenges/ Resources on the potential impact of AI on future warfare. NATO Review Magazine: https://www.nato.int/docu/review/ Articles on current and future security challenges.

References

[Common Core for ELA Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and technical Subjects](#)

[Social Studies Frameworks](#)