



# World History Curriculum Outline

Course Name: World History

Grade Level (s): 10-12

Course Description: World History provides students with a comprehensive exploration of political, economic, religious, military, and cultural developments from ancient times through the Cold War era. Students will learn how societies evolved and interacted over time. The course is designed to develop students' understanding of the historical forces that shaped the world we live in today.

## SDWD Essential Learning Standards

### Wisconsin State Standards for Social Studies

ACT College/Career Readiness Standards: [Reading](#), [Writing](#)

### Unit Outlines:

Unit Title	Major Topics/Essential Questions
<b>Ancient Civilizations</b>  <u>Key Terms &amp; Vocabulary</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City-State</li><li>• Empire</li><li>• Monarchy</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Civilization</li><li>• Theocracy</li><li>• Dynasty</li><li>• Republic</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greece</li><li>• Rome</li><li>• China</li><li>• Egypt</li><li>• Mesopotamia</li><li>• Incas</li><li>• Mayans</li><li>• Aztecs</li></ul> <b><u>Ancient Civilizations Inquiry Topics:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Daily Life in Ancient Egypt: Pharaohs vs. Peasants</li><li>• Contributions of Ancient China: Technology, Philosophy, and Governance</li><li>• Ancient Greek Democracy: Origins, Structures, and Influence</li><li>• The Roman Empire: Expansion, Governance, and Legacy</li><li>• The Incas: Engineering Feats and Administrative Systems</li><li>• Mesopotamia: home of the first civilization</li></ul> <b><u>Common Lit Deep Reading &amp; Analysis Articles:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Aztec Sacrifice</i></li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ancient Greece: The Birthplace of Western</i></li></ul>

	<p><i>Individualism</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Clash of Cultures: Indigenous America and the Conquistadores</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Life of Julius Caesar</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Greek Society</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Athenian Democracy</i></li> </ul>
Unit Title	Major Topics/Essential Questions
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Religions</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Key Terms &amp; Vocabulary</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monotheism</li> <li>• Polytheism</li> <li>• Atheism</li> <li>• Agnosticism</li> <li>• Sacred</li> <li>• Ritual</li> <li>• Doctrine</li> <li>• Sect</li> <li>• Clergy</li> <li>• Scripture</li> </ul> <p>*theocracy addressed in previous unit; other key terms to be studied along with specific religions*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christianity</li> <li>• Islam</li> <li>• Judaism</li> <li>• Buddhism</li> <li>• Hinduism</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>World Religion Inquiry Topics:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian Reformation</li> <li>• Islam in the modern world</li> <li>• The Holocaust and human rights</li> <li>• Buddhism in the modern world</li> <li>• Hindu rituals and worship practices</li> <li>• Native-American mythology and oral traditions</li> <li>• Confucianism in East Asian Societies</li> </ul> <p><u><b>History.com Deep Reading &amp; Analysis Articles:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Christianity</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Islam</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Judaism</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Buddhism</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hinduism</i></li> </ul>
Unit Title	Major Topics/Essential Questions
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Connecting the World</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Key Terms &amp; Vocabulary</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age of Exploration</li> <li>• Navigation (and its tools: cartography, compass, etc.)</li> <li>• Columbian Exchange</li> <li>• Colonization</li> <li>• Mercantilism</li> <li>• Cultural Diffusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Columbus, Cortes, Polo, da Gama, Cook, Magellan, Vespucci, Cabot, Drake, de Leon, Raleigh, de Soto, Erikson</li> <li>• Exchange of Goods &amp; Ideas</li> <li>• Conquest of Americas</li> <li>• Why did the West need the slave trade?</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Age of Exploration Inquiry Topics:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploration and Global Trade</li> <li>• Exploration and Cultural Exchange</li> <li>• Impact of Exploration on Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>• Exploration and Scientific Discovery</li> <li>• Consequences of Exploration</li> </ul>

	<p><b><u>History.com Reading &amp; Analysis Articles:</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>How Portugal's Seafaring Expertise Launched the Age of Exploration</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>7 Ships and Navigational Tools Used in the Age of Exploration</i></p>
Unit Title	Major Topics/Essential Questions
<p><b>Slave Trade</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Terms &amp; Vocabulary</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transatlantic Slave Trade</li> <li>• Middle Passage</li> <li>• Triangular Trade</li> <li>• Plantation Economy</li> <li>• Chattel Slavery</li> <li>• Indentured Servitude</li> <li>• Slave Ship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World-wide slave trade beyond the Colonies</li> <li>• Why did the West need the slave trade?</li> <li>• Columbian Exchange</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Slave Trade Inquiry Topics:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Origins and Causes of the Transatlantic Slave Trade</li> <li>• Resistance and Revolt Exhibited by the Enslaved</li> <li>• Economic and Social Impact of the Slave Trade</li> <li>• Gender and the Slave Trade</li> <li>• Slave Trade Routes and Networks</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Common Lit Reading &amp; Analysis Articles:</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>West African Society at the Point of European Contact</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Olaudah Equiano Recalls the Middle Passage</i></p>
Unit Title	Major Topics/Essential Questions
<p><b>Revolutions</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Terms &amp; Vocabulary</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revolution</li> <li>• Rebellion</li> <li>• Reform</li> <li>• Liberalism</li> <li>• Nationalism</li> <li>• Popular Sovereignty</li> <li>• Tyranny</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French, Haitian, American, and Russian Revolutions</li> <li>• Reform and Terror</li> <li>• Napoleon takes Charge</li> <li>• Napoleon Falls</li> <li>• Aftermath of Revolution</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Revolution Inquiry Topics:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causes of Revolutions</li> <li>• Role of Leadership in Revolutions</li> <li>• Revolutions and Social Change</li> <li>• Comparative Revolutions (two or more)</li> <li>• Long-Term Impact of Revolutions</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Common Lit Reading &amp; Analysis Articles:</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Reign of Terror</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Napoleon Bonaparte</i></p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Road to American Independence</i>
Unit Title	Major Topics/Essential Questions
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Imperialism</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Key Terms &amp; Vocabulary</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colonialism</li> <li>• Imperialism</li> <li>• Colony</li> <li>• Empire</li> <li>• Protectorate</li> <li>• Sphere of Influence</li> <li>• Assimilation</li> <li>• White Man's Burden</li> <li>• Missionary</li> <li>• Social Darwinism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scramble for Africa</li> <li>• Spheres of Influence in China</li> <li>• Economic Imperialism in South America</li> <li>• What makes an Empire?</li> <li>• Spanish-American War</li> <li>• Philippines question</li> <li>• Migrant Labor</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Colonialism/Imperialism Inquiry Topics:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of Colonialism on Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>• Economic Exploitation and Resource Extraction</li> <li>• Colonial Policies and Governance Structures</li> <li>• Resistance Movements and Anti-Colonial Struggles</li> <li>• Cultural Imperialism and Cultural Hegemony</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Common Lit Reading &amp; Analysis Articles:</b></u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Scramble for Africa</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Japan's Quest for Empire</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Monroe Doctrine and American Imperialism</i></p>
Unit Title	Major Topics/Essential Questions
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World War I</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Key Terms &amp; Vocabulary</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trench Warfare</li> <li>• Central Powers</li> <li>• Allies</li> <li>• Total War</li> <li>• War of Attrition</li> <li>• Armistice</li> <li>• No Man's Land</li> <li>• U-Boat</li> <li>• League of Nations</li> <li>• Treaty of Versailles</li> <li>• 14 Points</li> <li>• Conscription</li> <li>• Propaganda</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causes of WWI (Nationalism, Alliances, etc.)</li> <li>• Technology: Chemical Weapons</li> <li>• Medical Technology (Penicillin, Prosthetics, etc.)</li> <li>• Treaty of Versailles (Rise of Hitler)</li> <li>• U.S. Isolationism</li> <li>• Rise of Facism/Communism</li> <li>• Borders of Middle-East (in relation to modern-day conflicts)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>World War I Inquiry Topics:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legacy of World War I</li> <li>• Treaty of Versailles and the Rise of Hitler</li> <li>• Banning of Chemical Weapons</li> <li>• Legacy of Trench Warfare</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>History.com Reading &amp; Analysis Articles:</b></u></p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>World War I</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>World War I Battles: Timeline</i>
Unit Title	Major Topics/Essential Questions
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Genocides</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Key Terms &amp; Vocabulary</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genocide (U.N. definition)</li> <li>• Ethnic Cleansing</li> <li>• Crimes Against Humanity</li> <li>• Dehumanization</li> <li>• International Criminal Court (ICC)</li> <li>• Propaganda</li> <li>• Gregory Stanton's "10 Stages of Genocide"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pyramid of Hate (Wisconsin Act 30)</li> <li>• Rwanda</li> <li>• Armenian</li> <li>• Khmer Rouge (Cambodia)</li> <li>• Serbia/Bosnia</li> <li>• Uyghur Genocide in China</li> <li>• Modern Hate Flares</li> <li>• Holocaust</li> <li>• Darfur</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Genocide Inquiry Topics:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causes of Genocide</li> <li>• Justice and Accountability Genocide</li> <li>• Role of Leadership in Genocide</li> <li>• Gender and Genocide</li> <li>• Memory and Commemoration of Genocides</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Common Lit Reading &amp; Analysis Articles:</b></u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Dark History of Rwanda's Genocide</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nazi Germany's "Euthanasia" Program</i></p>
Unit Title	Major Topics/Essential Questions
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cold War - Decolonization</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Key Terms &amp; Vocabulary</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cold War</li> <li>• Superpowers (United States &amp; Soviet Union)</li> <li>• Iron Curtain</li> <li>• Containment</li> <li>• Arms Race</li> <li>• NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)</li> <li>• Warsaw Pact</li> <li>• Proxy Wars</li> <li>• Detente</li> <li>• Marshall Plan</li> <li>• MAD</li> <li>• Space Race</li> <li>• Domino Theory</li> <li>• Nuclear Proliferation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mao Tse Tung</li> <li>• Capitalism vs. Communism</li> <li>• USSR Invasion of Afghanistan</li> <li>• Politics &amp; Oil in the Middle East</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Cold War Inquiry Topics:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collapse of the Soviet Union</li> <li>• Leadership of Gorbachev and Reagan</li> <li>• Space Race Urgency and Impact</li> <li>• Division of Germany after World War II</li> <li>• Proxy Wars Analysis</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Common Lit Reading &amp; Analysis Articles:</b></u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Berlin Wall</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>McCarthyism</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Excerpt from "A Time for Choosing" Speech</i></p>

**Textbook/Other Resources:**

- Common Lit
- Textbook: **Modern World History Patterns of Interaction**, Houghton Mifflin, Harcourt
- Various: Primary Sources, Secondary Sources, Websites and Media
- OER