



# 8 BLUE SOCIAL STUDIES

Welcome to 8th grade Social Studies! Our goal is to see the BIG PICTURE of history and understand how all people and places are connected to one another by historical events.

## CLASS GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Asking Questions & Making Mistakes: We all have questions about the past and our current time - that's a good thing! Asking questions is an essential part of Social Studies and is how some of the best minds in history got things done. No one can improve without making mistakes. In Social Studies this year, we will use our mistakes to help us get better. This is also why we study history: to learn from the past to make the future better.

Responsibility & Perseverance: It is your responsibility to get your work done. It is also your responsibility to ask questions when you need clarification, and to help a neighbor out if they need it - we are a team. We are all going to have some difficulties this year, but persevering (working hard and not giving up) is an important part of success in this class.

In-Class Work & Discussion: We discuss the material a LOT! Participation in class discussion is essential, even if you're just asking questions. It's not always easy for everyone to share their ideas, so we are listening when our peers are talking and are respectful of what they have to say. If you are uncomfortable talking in discussion, taking notes and actively listening are also ways you can participate.

## TECHNICAL STUFF

Homework: Homework is usually a reading to introduce a topic we will be talking about the next day. Homework assignments are posted on the board as well as assignments in Schoology. You should not be spending more than 20 minutes on your homework. If you are, stop and email me. If you are absent and have questions, email me.

Retakes: Retakes are available for final assessments **when you have shown that you have been working**. This means completing classwork, homework, participating in class activities, and making edits to your first submission. This follows the team policy as outlined in the 8 Blue Handbook.

After School Help: I can be after school Mon/Weds/Thurs for extra help, just a check in, or a quiet place to get work done for any subject. Please let me know in advance that you want to stay.

# ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS & STANDARDS

This is a History course, not a Geography course. This year, we will study the major events that happened in and all around the Mediterranean region from Scandinavia to Arabia and from the time of the ancient Roman Republic all the way through the Age of Exploration.

## 8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

### T1: Explains the development and rise of the Roman Empire

*How was the Roman Republic similar to the US government?  
How did Caesar rise to power?  
What were the main engineering feats of the Romans?*

### T1: Analyzes the fall of the Empire and the influence of the Roman Legacies

*What factors led to the fall of the Roman Empire?  
How does the influence of Rome live on in Europe and North Africa today?  
What things from the Romans do we use in our day to day life?*

### T1: Describes the origins and achievements of the Byzantine Empire

*How are the Roman Empire and the Byzantine Empire connected?  
What were the main engineering feats of the Byzantines?  
How did Byzantine politics and lawmaking compare to the US?*

### T2: Describes major developments and achievements of Islamic history

*What is going on today in the Middle East and how is Islam viewed today?  
What were the origins of Islam and how did it spread?  
What are the legacies and achievements of the Islamic Empire?*

### T2: Analyzes the development of Medieval Europe

*How did Europe re-organize itself after the fall of the Roman Empire?  
What was manorialism and how did it help Europe function after the fall of the Roman Empire?*

### T2: Explains the structure and decline of feudalism

*Which classes were part of the feudal system?  
Over time, how did events like the Magna Carta, the Black Death, trade revival, and the Hundred Years War cause the decline of the feudal system?  
What is the legacy of the Magna Carta and how does that apply to the US?*

### T3: Analyzes the origins and impact of the Renaissance

*What is humanism and how did it change the way people thought in the early 15th century?  
What were the major achievements in art, science, architecture and engineering during the Renaissance?*

### T3: Explains the origins and impact of the Reformation

*Who was Martin Luther and why did he see a need for religious reform in 16th century Europe?  
Who was Henry VIII and how did he change religion in England?  
How did the Reformation lead to increased religious freedom?*

### T3: Analyzes the impact of European exploration

*Why were European nations, mainly Spain and Portugal, interested in exploring during and after the Renaissance?  
What was the impact that exploration had on the "New World" as well as Asia and Africa?  
How are we, in Shrewsbury, a direct product of the Age of Exploration?*