

## 7th Grade Curriculum Map- Medieval History, 2023-2024

<b>First Trimester</b>	<p><b>A Light to the Nations:</b> This mini-unit reviews Christ’s historical entrance into humanity and establishment of the Church in the context of historical Palestine. The life of Jesus is presented as a kind of climax to the narrative developed in sixth grade whereby prehistoric man and ancient societies were constantly in search of the truth, the divine and eternal reality. Students understand the Christian faith as molding whole societies and cultures.</p>
	<p><b>Emperors and Madmen:</b> This mini-unit combines with the previous to show how the peace and order maintained under the Roman Empire, allowed for the spread of Christianity. Students gain a foundational sense of the Roman Empire as the real beginnings of European civilization.</p>
	<p><b>The Blood of the Martyrs:</b> This mini-unit combines with the next to show how the Church grew from what appeared to be an insignificant Jewish sect to become a force that shook imperial counsels and, eventually, won the endorsement of one of the greatest of the Roman emperors. In this unit, students study the earliest heresies and the reasoned Christian response.</p>
	<p><b>The Christian Empire:</b> The blood of the martyrs have been likened to the water that gives life to a garden. The witness of Christians in the previous mini-unit is linked to the building up of the Christian Empire under Constantine and continuing through Theodosius. This empire was the first attempt at church and state cooperating for the common good of all.</p>
	<p><b>Germanic Kingdoms in the West:</b> An understanding of ancient German culture is important for a full understanding of medieval western Europe. Medieval western Europe inherited the classical culture of Greece and Rome, the imperial and legal traditions of the Roman Empire, and the Christian religion, but Germanic culture modified the expression of these elements, forming a new Western European culture.</p>
	<p><b>Founders of Christendom:</b> Students will understand the means by which the barbarian West would be civilized through the influence of monasticism under St. Benedict and the central authority of the pope in Rome under St. Gregory the Great.</p>
<b>Second Trimester</b>	<p><b>The Rise of Islam:</b> This mini-unit combines with the next to introduce what was to become the chief rival to Christendom throughout the middle ages- Islam. Students will have a basic understanding of the Islamic religion, including the militant character by which it united the Arab world.</p>
	<p><b>The Defense and Building of Christendom:</b> This mini-unit continues from where the previous left off, but expands to show how Christian realms not only faced the threat of Muslim conquest; on the eastern borders of the Germany, pagan Saxons, Slavs and others threatened the security and peace of the Christian lands. It was in this world of peril that Charles the Great established the first powerful state that the West had seen since the fall of the western Roman Empire.</p>
	<p><b>The Achievements of Feudalism:</b> This summary chapter gives an overview of some important aspects of culture in the Middle Ages. Students understand the development</p>

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	<p>of feudal relationships as the basis for security and defense during the medieval period and lays the groundwork for making sense of the history in subsequent chapters.</p> <p><b>The Medieval Reformation:</b> This chapter demonstrates how the Church came out of a period of anarchy and decay to establish herself firmly as the leader of Christendom via: the monastic reform movement, reform by churchmen and lords, the appointment of worthy men to the papacy, the establishment of the college of cardinals, and the results of the Investiture Conflict.</p> <p><b>The New Nations: Spain, England, and France:</b> This mini-unit shows the early development of the nation state.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>The Crusades:</b> Students will see the peril the rise of the Turks posed for eastern Christendom and how the Christian people of the time would have seen the crusades- as a defensive war against “infidel” aggression.</p>
<p><b>Third Trimester</b></p>	<p><b>The Great Century:</b> Students review the achievements of “pivotal players” in the development of aesthetic and intellectual disciplines, including St. Thomas Aquinas’s <i>Summa Theologica</i>. Students also understand the importance of the mendicant orders- Dominicans and Franciscans.</p> <p><b>Decline and Decay of the Middle Ages:</b> Students understand that the 14th c. was a turning point in European history as it was a time of greater secularization. The effects of the Black Death are also presented.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>The Birth of a New World:</b> This mini-unit transitions from decline and decay that characterized the period of the Bubonic Plague to the optimism and achievements of the Renaissance. Students will also see how humanism led some to “become so fond of the pagan spirit of the ancient classical world, that they began to ignore the Christian religion.”</p> <p><b>The Protestant Reformation/Revolution:</b> Students understand the Reformation as a watershed event which transformed the character of European society.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Counter Reformation/ Catholic Reformation:</b> This mini-unit follows the previous to help students appreciate the Church’s response to the Protestant Reformation as a reconstructive effort to correct abuses and errors.</p>