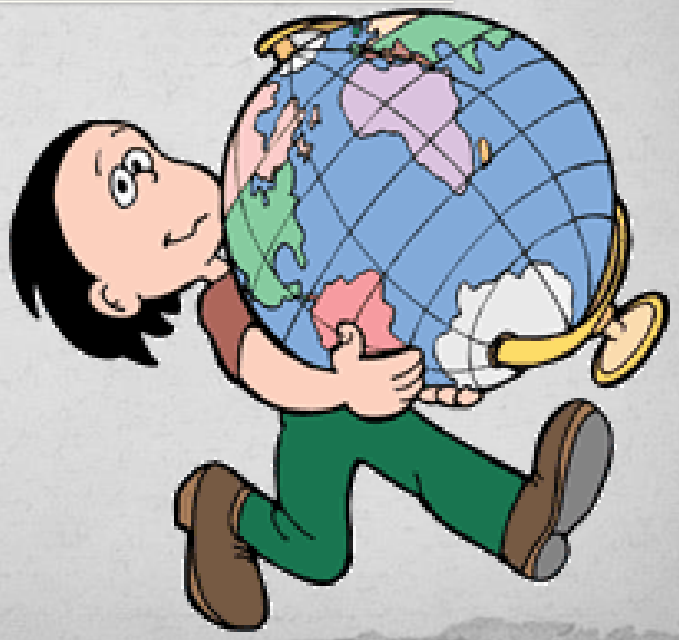
Middle School Social Studies

Mrs. Ahern

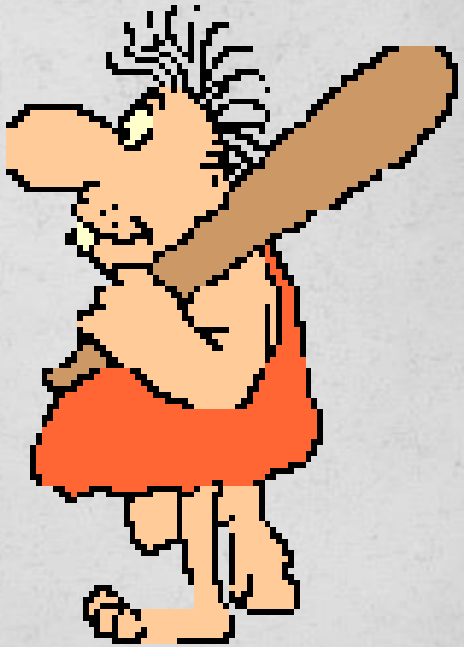


Middle School - Classroom Rules:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest Commandment. And the second is like it: <u>'Love your neighbor as yourself.'</u>

Social Studies Curriculum: The Basics

- 6th Grade
  - Early Man - Renaissance
- 7th Grade
  - Our Colonial Heritage - Lincoln and the Civil War
- 8th Grade
  - Reconstruction - Modern Times



Social Studies – the Methodology!

- **Methodology** – an intentionally **"<u>active</u>"** learning environment!
  - Reading textbooks and nonfiction
  - SQ3R – <u>s</u>urvey, <u>q</u>uestion, <u>r</u>ead, <u>r</u>ecite, and <u>r</u>eview
  - Focus - ***Critical thinking*** and reasoning … **why?**
  - Note taking – Cornell Method, graphic organizers, storyboards, time lines, PowerPoints, Padlets
  - Socratic Seminars – Current Events
    - North Korea – "The Most Dangerous Man on Earth"
    - U.S. – "We're the Generation That's Going to End It."
  - Creative ventures – skits, plays, artwork, anything **hands-on!**
  - Centers
    - Who murdered King Tut?
    - Mummy Maker
    - Pyramid Builder!
  - Visual Media
    - Film making
    - News reports
    - Interviews
  - Meditation

The Methodology – continued!

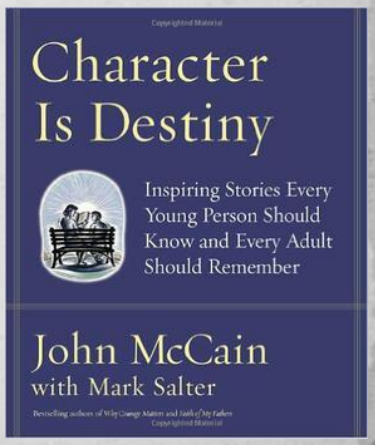
- **Reflecting on great speeches/writing, discourse and class discussion …**
  - The Bible
  - Aesop's Fables & The Odyssey
  - Hammurabi's Code, Magna Carta, Confucius say ….
  - The Declaration of Independence & the Constitution
  - The Gettysburg Address, Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address
  - Kennedy's Inaugural Address, "I Have a Dream…"
  - Robert Kennedy on the loss of MLK, Jr. …
- **Special Projects**
  - Otzi R.A.F.T. Writing
  - Ancient Egypt – 2-D Mapping
  - Greek Mythology – a "book" for my buddy … more writing!
  - Debates
  - The Crusades – route maps, artwork, and narrative writing
  - In general … artwork, posters, storyboards, stamp collections, comics, political cartoons, create game boards, playing cards, etc…
- **Geography**
  - GeoBee
  - CW Enrichment – map analysis and MobyMax

The Process …

- Schoology and website
- Text in pdf format on the iPad
- "Notes Ready" – teacher notes/PowerPoint **(provided - pace!)**
- Highlighted/annotated notes in text
- Classroom notes – graphic organizers, timelines, storyboards, Padlet (app), Cornell, deck of cards, etc…
- Class reviews – Socrative and eclickers
- quizlets – vocabulary preparation
- Jeopardy – review
- Videos – Ted Ed, Brainpop, The History Channel, The Vault, etc…
- Historical text/novels: The Boys in the Boat and Shane
- Study guides
- **CHUNKING!**

Additional Reading/Read Alouds

- Character is Destiny, John McCain
- A Teen's Game Plan for Life, Lou Holtz
- Heroes for My Son, Brad Meltzer
- When God Winks at You, Squire Rushnell
- Where Angels Walk, Joan Wester Anderson
- The Princess Bride, William Goldman
- The Westing Game, Ellen Raskin



Key terms

Key Learning Objectives

Resources for study

Mesopotamia: Chapter 3 Study Guide

SOCIAL STUDIES

KEY VOCABULARY AND TERMS	KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES SECTIONS 1 - 4
Fertile Crescent silt irrigation canals surplus division of labor alphabet city-state empire polytheism priests social hierarchy cuneiform Nebuchadnezzar Sumerian pictograph scribe rural	***Students will learn that …*** 1. The valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers were the site of the world's first civilization. 2. The Sumerians developed the first civilization in Mesopotamia. 3. The Sumerians made many advances that helped their society develop. 4. After the Sumerians, many cultures ruled parts of the Fertile Crescent.
RESOURCES FOR STUDY	**REMINDER**
1. Textbook 2. Classroom notes 3. Study Guide 4. Chapter Summary 5. Quizlet – for key vocabulary 6. Worksheets – both homework and classwork 7. Jeopardy 8. Other – as directed by teacher	Study materials can be accessed initially through ***schoology***. Please file appropriate materials in ***notability*** for highlighting and annotating.

Questions?

"Loyalty, faithfulness, commitment, courage, patriotism, the ability to distinguish between right and wrong – I hope that these values are as much a part of your life as any calculus course or social science study."

- Ronald Reagan, 40th President