

Social Studies Notes

February 2012

Volume 9 Issue 6



5th Grade World History

The 5th grade has moved into chapters that bring us to civilizations that existed near North America. We finished January learning about the Olmec, Maya, and Aztec. We did some work in the computer lab as well as some artistic creations from home. We are currently working on a project that involves writing, sharing, and oral speaking skills as we study civilizations from South America. After some mapping activities, we will be reading a book about the Amazon from the Magic Tree House Series.

Reminders

Please remember to use school notes to check daily assignments.

6th Grade World History

Sixth grade is getting into some of the toughest material they will be learning this year. It is tough because we are learning about some countries that they may have never heard of before. They are learning their locations and roles in the world at the start of the 20th centuries. This is all in preparation to begin our unit on the World Wars. We will start with World War I this month and will have their first project due soon. They have really absorbed the climate of Europe prior to the outbreak of war and I hope this will help as we move through the rest of the war and transition to WWII.

Assignment notebooks are also a great way to check progress. Missing assignments and behavior are kept track of daily in them.

7th Grade American History

We are moving right through our Constitution unit. We took the Federal Constitution test this week and will begin the study of the Illinois Constitution next week. It is mandatory for them to pass both tests prior to graduation. The political firsts and turmoil affecting our country and state specifically have greatly contributed to our classroom discussions. They have been asking so many pertinent questions and learning from the experiences they are currently witnessing. Please encourage them to watch the news on a regular basis.

8th Grade American History

We have currently been studying the Great Depression. We have made many visits to the computer lab to work on the creation of our very own webpages using the Microsoft Publisher software. One of the most anticipated projects was just completed. Students worked in groups to design their own Monopoly games based on the Great Depression. This project is done during the Great Depression because the game was created as a way for people to take their minds off the economic crisis and have some fun playing around with money. These always are amazing!