

Middle School (Grades 7-8) Thematic Project-Based Curriculum

School-Wide Theme: Discovering the Human Spirit

Each semester has a unique thematic-based project that answers this investigation with different guiding questions.

Investigations: Revolutions

Guiding Questions

Politics	Geography	Historic Figures	Culture & Arts	Revolution & Literature
How do governments influence world revolutions?	How does the location of a revolution have a lasting effect on the people and land?	How have historical figures in history shaped world revolutions?	How does culture and art represent revolutionary moments in history?	How have world revolutions been portrayed in literature?

Topics

Politics	Geography	Historic Figures	Culture & Arts	Revolution & Literature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Constitution • Types of world governments • Branches of US government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural geography • world religion • Political geography • US/world countries, capitals, territories • Physical geography • Major world rivers, mountains, deserts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biographical research • Friendly vs Business letter formats • Primary Sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music of the Civil War • Photography of the Women's Suffrage Movement • Daily Life of Children During WWII • Motion Pictures of the Digital Age • Women's Clothing of the French Revolution • Food and Recipes of the US Revolution • Literature of the Early Twentieth Century 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Revolution • Dystopian Future • Satire

Products

Politics	Geography	Historic Figures	Culture & Arts	Revolution & Literature
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Constitution WebQuest • MI Products • Independent research and essays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Models of important battles, buildings, locations • Political and topographical map makings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspapers • Diary Entries • Speeches • Non-Fiction research • Portraits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of culture then vs now • MI Product and presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature Circle Products

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Learning Targets

Politics	Geography	Historic Figures	Culture & Arts	Revolution & Literature
<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revolution can be both peaceful and violent • The US Constitution provides the framework of democracy <p>Key Learning Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of peaceful vs violent revolution • Class debates 	<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revolution and war plays a major role in shaping world geography <p>Key Learning Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map exploration • Primary source analysis • Independent research 	<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The human spirit is shared universally among people from different backgrounds <p>Key Learning Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chautauqua Presentations • Non-Fiction research • Living Memoir writing products • Portrait Paintings 	<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in the arts change over time • Culture helps shape the daily life of citizens <p>Key Learning Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Source Analysis • Study of various art forms (digital, musical, painting, etc.) • Independent research 	<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories about revolution help to convey the human emotion of time-period in which they take place. <p>Key Learning Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socratic Seminars • Online Discussions • Readers Theater

Multiple Intelligences

Terra/Aqua Systems	Characteristics of Life	Taxonomy of Living Organisms	Writing/Language Arts	Literature Cafe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal • Intrapersonal • Interpersonal • Visual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodily • Verbal • Visual • Intrapersonal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal • Intrapersonal • Interpersonal • Visual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodily • Verbal • Visual • Interpersonal • Intrapersonal • Musical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodily • Verbal • Visual • Interpersonal • Intrapersonal • Musical

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Assessment

Terra/Aqua Systems	Characteristics of Life	Taxonomy of Living Organisms	Writing/Language Arts	Literature Cafe
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MI Products• Class debate essay• WebQuest Research•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cause & effect research• MI products•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Living Memoir (newspaper, diary, epitaph, letter writing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MI Products• Notes & Summaries• Research Report•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online discussion boards• Socratic Seminars• MI Products•

Celebration of Learning

- Dance of Time and Vignettes of Historical Figures from World & US History 1776-Present
- *Les Miserables* Class Performance

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Investigations: The Grand Canyon

Guiding Questions

<i>Geology</i>	<i>Exploration</i>	<i>Grand Canyon Artists</i>	<i>The Good Fight</i>
How was the <i>Grand Canyon</i> created?	Who were the first explorers down the Colorado River	How have the arts been inspired by the <i>Grand Canyon</i>	What current problems affect the environment and ecology of the Canyon?

Topics

<i>Geology</i>	<i>Exploration</i>	<i>Grand Canyon Artists</i>	<i>The Good Fight</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock types • Rock layers • River Erosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Wesley Powell • River navigation • Geography of the Colorado River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kolb Brothers Photography • Mary Colter Architecture • Ferde Grofe Music • Thomas Moran Paintings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Management • Glen Canyon Dam • Sierra Club

Learning Targets

<i>Geology</i>	<i>Exploration</i>	<i>Grand Canyon Artists</i>	<i>The Good Fight</i>
<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Colorado River is responsible for creating the Canyon. • It takes millions of years to carve each rock layer. • No all rocks are made the same. <p>Key Learning Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-fiction research • Math calculations • Rock cycle activities 	<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore and analyze the decisions of Major Powell • Explain the importance of the expedition <p>Key Learning Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-fiction reading of Powell's journal • Re-enactment of river journey by constructing models and mapping routes 	<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Canyon is a cultural icon in art, dance, music, and photography. <p>Key Learning Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting analysis • Examination of primary documents (photo, video, literature, etc.) • Interpretive dance pieces to Ferde Grofe's "Cloudburst" 	<p>Enduring Understandings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado River: the ecosystems, economy, and beauty of the Canyon • 1960's Dam Controversy • Rapid growth the southwest and use of natural resources <p>Key Learning Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class debate of environmental issues • Writing a business letter

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Multiple Intelligences

<i>Geology</i>	<i>Exploration</i>	<i>Grand Canyon Artists</i>	<i>The Good Fight</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Spatial • Logical Mathematical • Verbal Linguistic • Bodily-Kinesthetic • Naturalist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodily • Visual • Verbal • Interpersonal • Intrapersonal • Naturalist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodily • Visual • Verbal • Interpersonal • Intrapersonal • Naturalist • Musical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrapersonal • Interpersonal • Verbal • Visual

Assessment

<i>Geology</i>	<i>Exploration</i>	<i>Grand Canyon Artists</i>	<i>The Good Fight</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-fiction reading task • Rock layers research/chart • Model/visual of rock layers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-fiction reading task • Model of Powell's boat • Map of Colorado River • Diary entries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonfiction reading task • Dance performance • Watercolor paintings • Creative short stories/poems inspired by Canyon art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business letter • National Park Poster • Non-fiction reading task

Celebration of Learning

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunrise Dance Video on the South Rim, to Ferde Grofe's "Cloudburst"
