

**Tokyo International Progressive School  
Grade 8, Social Studies Course Outline  
2021-2022**

**Mr. Jessen-Petersen, Room 24**



**“Culture is a way of coping with the world by defining it in detail.” - Malcolm Bradbury**

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE**

Grade 8 Social Studies Topics Include:

“The World of Geography”: The five themes of geography,  
Geography tools

“Research Skills”: Conducting web-based research, Identifying bias,  
Outlining and Citing

“Earth’s Human Geography”: Population, Migration, Economic  
Systems, Political Systems

“Cultures of the World”: Understanding culture, Culture and society,  
Cultural Change

“East Asia”: Physical geography, Cultures and history, Economics

In the first part of this course, students will learn how to be able to use maps, and transfer this knowledge to identify their location in the world in relation to others. Students will learn how to recognize effective research skills, and plan research projects using the related skills.

In the second part of this course, students will focus on human geography and learn how to interpret economic and political systems, as well as articulate factors of population and the processes of migration.

In the final part of this course, students will use the knowledge from the earlier parts of the course and connect it to a focus on East Asia and its physical geography, culture, history, and economic and political systems.

Textbooks Used:

“World Studies” - Foundations of Geography

“World Studies” - Asia and the Pacific

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

- Students are expected to bring the following materials to class each day:
  - Accordion binder with agenda inside
  - Pencil Case (w/ pencil, pen, eraser)
  - Any related handouts from teacher
  - Water bottle
  - Charged laptop or tablet

- Headphones
- Any materials for accommodations (e.g. noise-canceling earbuds)
- Work due
- Textbook if brought home (Textbooks will remain in class unless student requests to bring it home) (Materials will always be posted online, including pictures of text from the textbook, so students will typically not need to bring the textbooks home)
- Book being currently read

\*A numbered copy of a textbook will be lent to you. Write your name in it. When you return it, if it is not in usable condition or missing its cover, your family will be asked to replace the book.

- Immediately upon entering the classroom, students are expected to place their water bottle in the hanging shoe organizer. Following this, students will place all materials under their desk, and take out the needed materials for the warm-up activity. Students are expected to complete the 5-minute warm-up activity posted at the front of the class (necessary materials will be posted as well). The warm-up activity will be either printed or digital. If it is digital, students will be expected to open their charged laptops or tablets and immediately begin the warm-up activity.
- Students are allowed to drink closed drink bottles in the classroom. Water and sports drinks are preferred. Cans are not allowed in the classroom. Food is also not allowed in the classroom.

- If a student is unable to complete work by the expected due date, the grade will remain a 0 on Quickschools until the work is completed. The student will have the entire Quarter to finish the work if still unfinished. At the end of the Quarter, the grade will remain and be registered as a 0.
  
- If a student will require a re-do on their test, please talk with the teacher.
  
- Each class is broken down into the following time groups:
  - Warm-up = 5 minutes
  - 1st-half of class = 17.5 minutes
  - Optional break = 3 minutes
  - 2nd-half of class = 17.5 minutes
  - Cool-down = 5 minutes

## **EARNING YOUR GRADE**

Your grade will be determined by your work in these categories:

<b>Grade Category</b>	<b>Percentage of your grade</b>
6P	10%
Quiz	20%
Daily Work	25%
Project	25%
Test	20%

The grading scale for this course will be:

Letter grade	Mark range
A+	97-100
A	92-96
B+	88-91
B	83-87
C+	79-82
C	74-78
D+	70-73
D	65-69
F	64 or below

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**\* Schedule is subject to change**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Date</b>
“People, Place, and Environment” Mid-Unit Test	Friday, September 13th
“People, Place, and Environment” End of Unit Test	Friday, October 8th
“Earth’s Human Geography” Mid-Unit Test	Friday, November 26th
“Earth’s Human Geography” End of Unit Test	Wednesday, January 19th

“Cultures of the World” Mid-Unit Test	Friday, February 25th
“Cultures of the World” End of Unit Test	Friday, March 31st
“East Asia” Mid-Unit Test	Friday, May 13th
“East Asia” End of Unit Test	Friday, June 3rd

**There will be a main project in each quarter**