

## 7th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Watershed Integration Program

Global/Local Awareness

LENGTH OF TIME: one period daily, school year

GRADE LEVEL: 7

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Curriculum integration and student choice are primary focal points of the PALMS Watershed Integration Program instructional plan. Within the framework, three overlying essential questions will be addressed. These questions encompassing the local watershed and environmental studies as a whole include: (1) *How do I make a difference?*, (2) *What is my impact on the environment?*, and (3) *How does the environment impact me?*

The curricular framework is designed around both essential questions and themes to springboard and guide student interest. Each theme contains a common thread by addressing a community aspect, various systems located within the theme, and an aspect concerning perspectives. The designated PALMS Watershed Integration Program themes include:

The Watershed Integration Program's (WIP) mission is to utilize a rigorous problem-solving approach in a personalized, student-driven, standards-based curriculum to prepare students to be successful in college and career preparation at the high school.

**Theme1** - Watershed Discovery

**Theme 2** - Stream Doctors

**Theme 3** - Protection Detectives

**Footprints Service Project**

COURSE STANDARDS:

Students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of political geography as it relates to each unit of study. (PA Academic Standards for Geography 7.1.7, 7.2.7, 7.3.7)
- Develop media literacy by identifying bias, opinions, and stereotypes, as well as

practice assessing different points of view. (PA Academic Standards for Geography, Economics, Civics/Government, History 7.1.7, 7.3.7, 7.4.7, 5.2.7, 5.3.7, 5.4.7, 6.1.7, 6.2.7, 6.3.7, 6.4.7, 8.1.7; PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)

- Recognize and analyze unfairness between groups and cultures, and challenge viewpoints which perpetuate inequality. (PA Academic Standards for History, Geography, Economics, Civics 8.3.7, 8.4.7, 7.3.7, 5.1.7, 5.2.7, 5.3.7, 6.3.7, 6.4.7; PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)
- Identify the contributions of different cultures, values, and beliefs to our lives, as well as the nature of cultural misunderstanding and ways to combat it. (PA Academic Standards 7.1.7, 7.3.7, 7.4.7, 5.1.7, 5.2.7, 6.3.7, 6.4.7; PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)
- Trace the geographic movement of groups of people (migration, refugees, and asylum seekers). (PA Academic Standards for Geography, Civics/Government, Economics 7.1.7, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 5.4, 6.2, 6.4)
- Articulate globalization and interdependence in relation to political and economic systems. (PA Academic Standards for Geography, Economics, Civics/Government 7.1.7, 7.2.7, 7.3.7, 7.4.7, 5.4.7, 6.2.7, 6.4.7, PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)
- Evaluate the increasing role of information technology. (PA Academic Standards for Civics/Government, Economics, Geography 5.4.7, 6.1.7, 7.4.7; PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)
- Examine the relationship between humans and their environments, availability of finite resources, and the different views of economic and social development, locally and globally. (PA Academic Standards for Geography, Civics/Government 7.1.7, 7.2.7, 7.3.7, 7.4.7, 5.3.7, 5.4.7; PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)
- Analyze causes and effects of conflict, globally and locally, and also develop strategies for tackling conflict and for conflict prevention. (PA Academic Standards for History, Geography, Civics/Government 8.3.7, 8.4.7, 7.1.7, 7.3.7, 5.1.7, 5.2.7, 5.3.7, 5.4.7; PA Core Standards 8.5, 8.6)
- Realize the human potential to change conditions that affect the future. (PA Academic Standards for History, Geography, Civics/Government 8.3.7, 8.4.7, 7.1.7, 7.3.7, 5.1.7, 5.2.7, 5.3.7, 5.4.7)

#### RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT

- 5.1 Principles and Documents of Government
- 5.2 Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship
- 5.3 How Government Works
- 5.4 How International Relationships Function

#### RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR ECONOMICS

- 6.1 Economic Systems

- 6.2 Markets and the Functions of Governments
- 6.3 Scarcity and Choice
- 6.4 Economic Interdependence
- 6.5 Work and Earnings

#### RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR GEOGRAPHY

- 7.1 Basic Geographic Literacy
- 7.2 The Physical Characteristics of Places and Regions
- 7.3 The Human Characteristics of Places and Regions
- 7.4 The Interactions between People and Places

#### RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR HISTORY

- 8.1 Historical Analysis and Skills Development
- 8.3 United States History
- 8.4 World History

#### PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS:

Students will demonstrate achievement of the standards by:

- Using maps and computer-based mapping tools to create and present independent study projects. (Course Standard 1)
- Analyzing, sharing, and discussing current events, weekly. (Course Standards 2,7)
- Completing case studies and graphing activities to examine social justice and equality. (Course Standard 3)
- Engaging in and reflecting upon simulations—with peers and online—to develop awareness and empathy for diversity and other cultures. (Course Standard 4)
- Analyzing current events, geographic and economic studies, as well as political cartoons to demonstrate an understanding of globalization and interdependence, and also the movement of people. (Course Standards 5, 6)
- Completing research and creating presentations on the effects of human and natural disasters, as well as other issues relating to the environment and sustainable development. (Course Standards 8)
- Using English skills and social studies information to write a research paper (interdisciplinary)

TITLES OF UNITS: Unit duration - generally 8 week period / marking period

### **Theme 1 - Watershed Discovery**

The first theme will encompass, but not be limited to natural systems and human impact on such a system, the transfer of energy in such systems and events, both local and social historic relevance, as well as long-term consequences from such events. Alongside science based watershed studies and analysis, a focus on native vs. non-native vs. invasive species as well as endangered species catastrophic impact on an ecosystem and essentially the watershed will be explored in depth.

Available community outreach activities may involve local flood damage evaluation, oral historical information gathering of catastrophic events, and comparison between recent and past events based upon student interest. Student interests have led to excursions and/or explorations including fall and winter water quality data collection from local Cooks Creek watershed test sites, laboratory studies on the Delaware Canal involving water quality and species analysis with additional comparison to our local Cooks Creek watershed data, an investigation into the catastrophic events causing the local phenomenon of Ringing Rocks using the scientific method as a tool, and GIS mapping of local watershed boundaries and past flood data mapping in correlation to such boundaries.

### **Theme 2 - Stream Doctors**

The second theme addressed will explore, but not be limited to species origination, population collapse/overpopulation, biodiversity, environmental consequences of human interaction, and the role of the local watershed, globalization, and interdependence/dependence of species.

Due to the nature of our community most activities could be completed within school grounds and other affiliated Palisades' district building property. Student interests have led to planned excursions and/or explorations including continued water quality data collection from local Cooks Creek watershed test sites, species analysis at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, and additional GIS mapping.

### **Theme 3 - Protection Detectives**

The third theme will consist of, but not be limited to global awareness, historical perspective concerning methodology and technology, local resources/industry, quarrying, environmental improvement/activism, human impact positive/negative, long-term effects, chemical and physics components to each of the above topics, in addition to an evaluation of Palisades School District green operations.

Available community outreach activities include a visitation to several environmental sites, industrial work areas and invitation of community speakers. Presently aligned

speakers include government officials who will address runoff and groundwater concerns.

### **Footprints – Get Dirty and Do Something**

Get Dirty and Do Something, consists of an open-ended, solution-based performance assessment based upon broad topic selection taken from the first three themes of study. Projected goals of such a performance assessment include an understanding of community-based efforts, data incorporation made tangible from year to year, and presentation of collected data to various audiences to allow for each student to make their own ecological footprint on our community.

1. Political Geography (integrated all year)
2. Current Events (integrated all year)
3. Local History (integrated all year)
4. Global Awareness (integrated all year)

### **SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:**

- Writing
- Cooperative learning
- Discussion and debate
- Projects
- Research
- Presentations
- Differentiated instruction
- Technology
- Effective questioning

### **MATERIALS:**

- Magazines
- Videos
- Guest speakers
- Newspapers
- Classroom atlas, newest copyright available
- Internet and other web-based resources

### **METHODS OF ASSISTANCE AND ENRICHMENT:**

- Differentiated instruction

- Cooperative learning groups
- Teacher/special assistance or enrichment
- Guest Speakers
- Field Trips
- Interdisciplinary units
- Teacher lists or suggestions for extension activities

#### METHODS OF EVALUATION:

- Class participation, classwork, homework
- Tests and quizzes
- Projects (written, oral, demonstrations, presentations, etc.)
- Problem solving
- Analyzing
- Predicting
- Research Paper

#### INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES:

- Communication: listening skills, discussion skills, presentation skills
- Thinking/Problem Solving: compare/contrast, analyze, evaluate, apply learned concepts, predict
- Application of Knowledge: use map skills, demonstrate connections
- Interpersonal Skills: demonstrate communication skills, work cooperatively, develop leadership skills