

Curriculum & Student Development Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 5:30 PM

Town Campus Hammonasset Room/Zoom, 10 Campus Drive , Madison, CT 06443

I. Course Adoptions: Grade 6 Social Studies, US History, Civics & American Government

II. AP Psychology Textbook Adoption

III. International Trip Proposal

IV. Public Comment

V.

The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town ADA/Human Resources Director, Debra Ferrante, at 203-245-6310 or by email at ferranted@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.

S.S.
Curriculum
Update

Grades 6 and 11

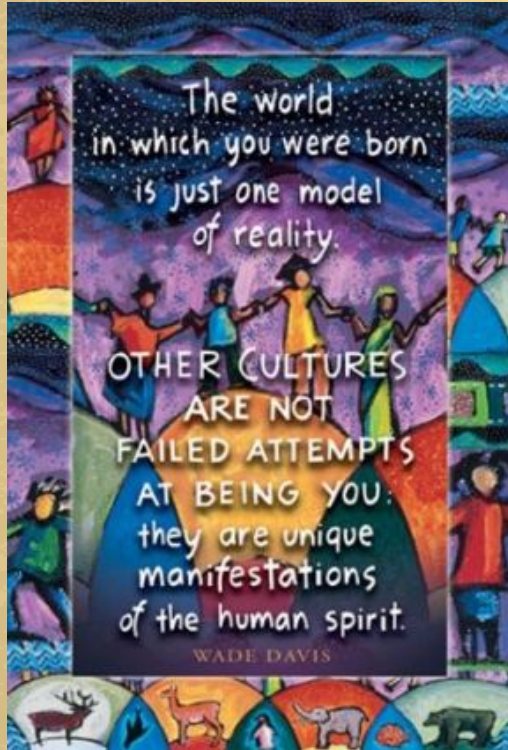
Grade 6

Our Units

3-30 day units that alternate with Science

Unit	Title/Theme	Capacity: PBA
1.	Bringing Order to the City	Citizenship: Confucian Role Application
2.	The Spread of Ideas	Analysis: Silk Road Trade Fair
3.	Worlds Collide	Alternative Perspectives: A Lawyer at Valladolid

Celebrating World Cultures



Inspiring a curiosity about the world.

“Be curious, not judgemental”

Alignment

Vertically from Grade 5 and to Grade 7 and 8

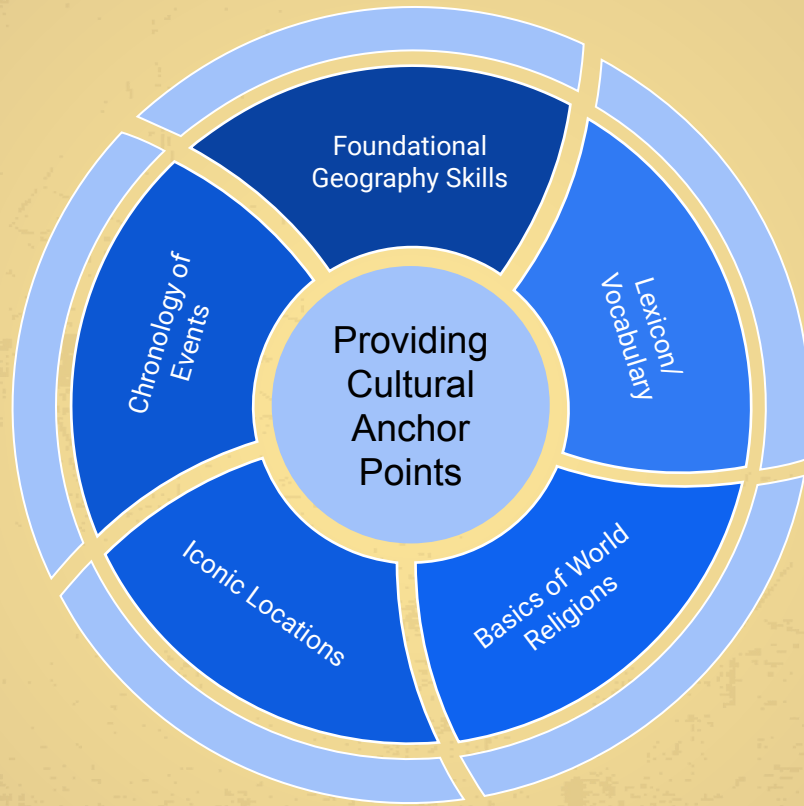
To CT State Social Studies Standards

With the Units to Grow Capacity

Interdisciplinary Alignment (particularly LA)

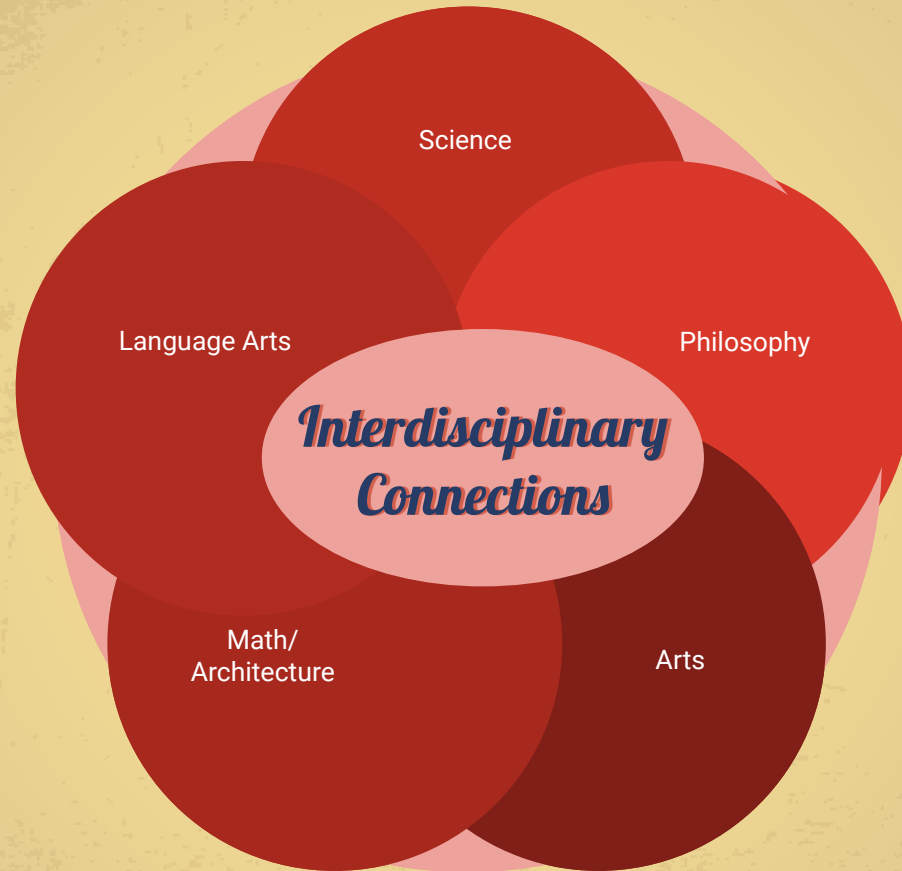
Instructional Priorities

- Celebrating World Cultures-The values of DEI
- Providing Cultural Anchor Points
- Geography-Physical and Cultural
- Scaffolding Skills and Content
- Interdisciplinary Activities
- Non-fiction Reading Skills
- Modern day connections to self and world



Scaffolding Skills





Scaffolded Content

1

Cuneiform

2

Rosetta Stone

3

Latin Alphabet

4

Chinese Characters

5

Arabic

Modern Connections

The Spread of Ideas
through Digital Technology

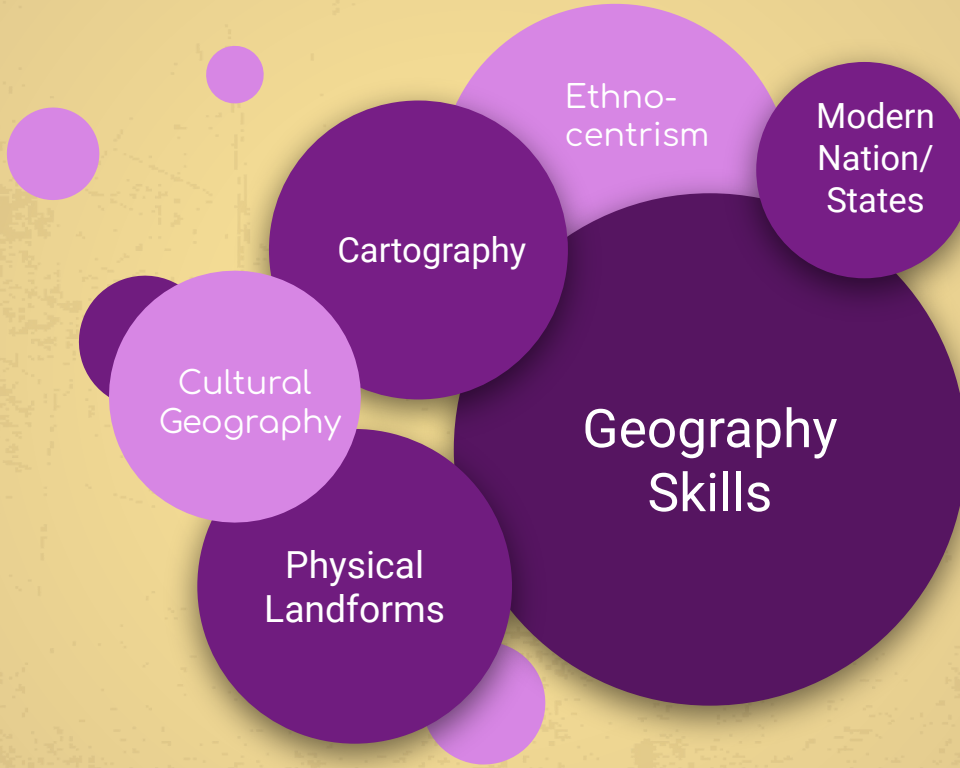
Direct Applications to
Students Personal Lives



Emphasis on Human
Dignity

East/West Interactions

Scaffolded Geography



Ethno-centrism

Modern Nation/
States

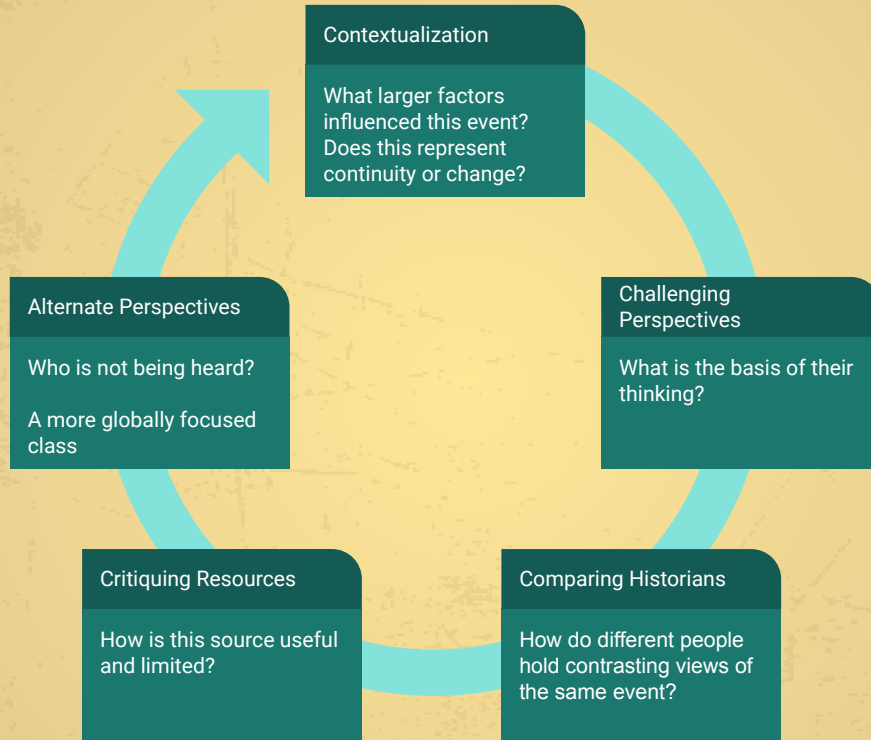
Cartography

Cultural
Geography

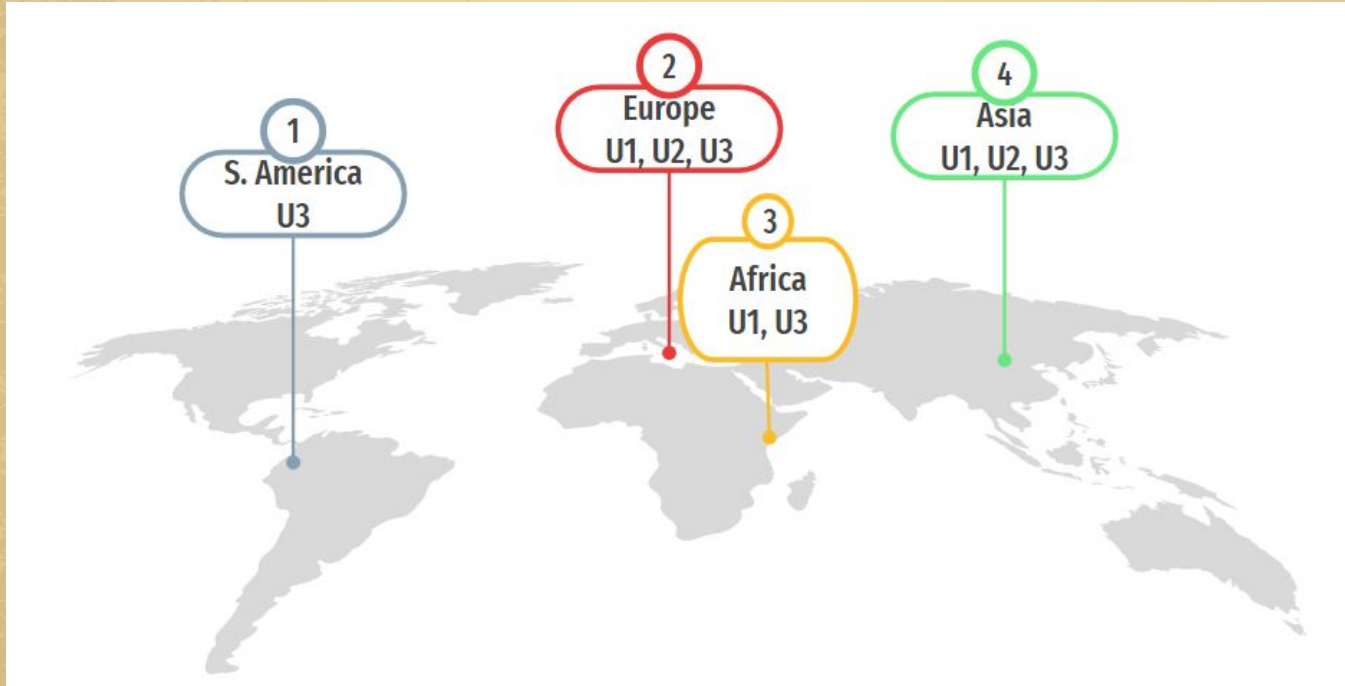
Geography
Skills

Physical
Landforms

Updates to Historical Thinking



Physical and Cultural Geography



Moving Forward

- Thank you to the Grade 6 team for their support, insights, time, and commitment
- Helping teachers unpack units during PD opportunities
- Suring up some topics and experiences

United States History

Reworking Themes and Chronology

Rationale:

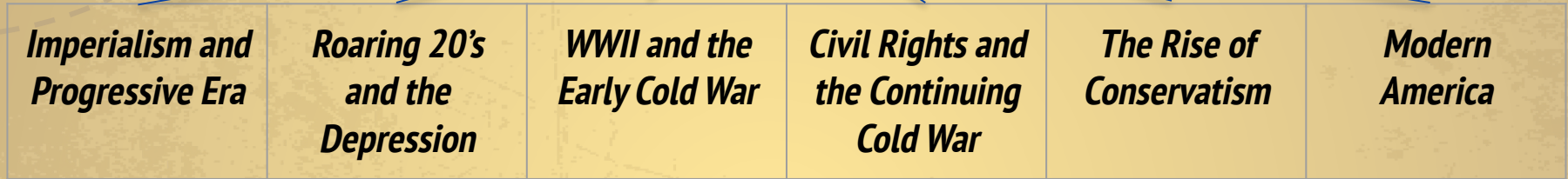
1. **Concurrency:** Events relevant across themes, happening simultaneously have impacts on each other (ex: Civil Rights and Cold War).
2. **Anchoring Events:** The process of revisiting the same eras multiple times throughout the course disrupted the comprehension of cause and effect.

United States History

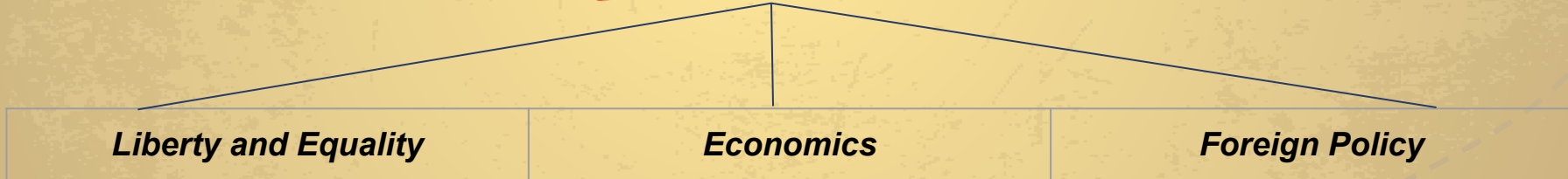
Grade 11

Unit	Title/Theme	Capacity: PBA
1.	<i>Imperialism and Progressive Era</i>	<i>Alternate Perspectives: Monument to Progressivism</i>
2.	<i>Roaring 20's and the Depression</i>	<i>Idea Generation: Grading the New Deal</i>
3.	<i>WWII and the Early Cold War</i>	<i>Alternate Perspectives: Perspectives on WWII</i>
4.	<i>Civil Rights and the Continuing Cold War</i>	<i>Citizenship: Social Activism in '50's/'60's</i>
5.	<i>The Rise of Conservatism</i>	<i>Analyzing: Triumph of Conservatism</i>
6.	<i>Modern America</i>	<i>Idea Generation: Futures Expo</i>
*	<i>Research Unit</i>	

Liberty and Equality



Civil Rights and Cold War



Adjustment to Civic Action Investigation

Rationale:

1. Inspire, but not mandate civic action. An “investigation” is more realistic within the timeframe and scope of course.
2. An investigation allows for deeper examination multiple perspectives and produces similar metacognitive results without the discouragement and frustration for all parties involved.

Civics

Grades 10-12

Unit	Title/Theme	Capacity: PBA
1.	<i>Foundations of American Democracy</i>	<i>Analyzing : Civic Issue Investigation</i>
2.	<i>Interactions Among Branches of Government</i>	<i>Inquiry: Current Legislation</i>
3.	<i>Political Participation</i>	<i>Idea Generation: Role of Interest Groups and Media</i>
4.	<i>Civil Liberties, Civil Rights and the Common Good</i>	<i>Citizenship, Product Creation, Design: Rights of Citizens</i>

A.P. Psychology Textbook Adoption

Myers' Psychology for the AP[®] Course Fourth Edition



Rationale

DSM

Two revisions since publication, so students receive conflicting information

APA

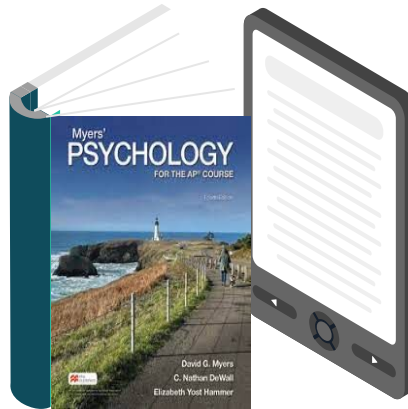
2022 APA released new recommendations for introductory psychology course content and skills

AP

New course framework rolls out for 2024-2025 school year; at least 2nd course revision since publication of current text

Exam

AP exam will be fully digital beginning May of 2025; no online testing or practice with current text to aid students



No digital platform with current text limits accessibility for all students with varying needs

Access

Current book 1st edition: 2010
New book 4th edition: 2024

Edition

Students across sections will have shared experiences with common instructional & testing materials

Shared

Outdated information creates confusion for students; supplemental sources and corrections required

Outdated

Current

Published **after** the recent framework revisions (2024)

Content

Reflects variety of diverse voices & perspectives; images and examples are relatable for all students

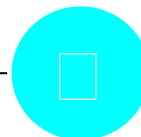
Alignment

Meets the current content & skill standards of the APA and AP, including proper DSM 5-TR terminology

Appearance

Organization, text size, and graphics were all noted by students as being exceptional

Strengths of the Text



Readability

Text is appropriately challenging for an AP class, yet very engaging due to style

Resources

Teacher resources facilitate content delivery through a variety of means to meet the varying needs of students.

Review

Units include review questions and exam tips in addition to a practice AP exam at end for students

Access

Students gain access to an ebook and digital platform with a variety of review materials to enhance comprehension and exam preparation



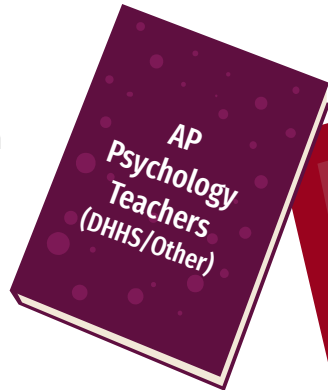
Process/Feedback

AP Teachers

Reviewed available textbooks and those recommended by both College Board and teachers in other districts

Other Teachers

Special education and social studies department coordinator reviewed for other perspectives



Students

Began process last year, so have feedback from both current and past students; overall positive reviews

Analysis

Based on our review of all perspectives and data available, this textbook is the obvious choice for our program

Curriculum Unit Overviews

Social Studies Courses Ready for Board of Education Adoption in April 2024

- *Grade 6 Social Studies*
- *U.S. History*
- *Civics & American Government*

Grade 6 Social Studies Curriculum Overview

2023-2024

<p>Unit 1 <i>Bringing Order to the City</i></p>	<p>As students enter Grade 6 Social Studies we seek to widen their conception of the world in both time and place. By investigating world civilizations, and making modern connections to them, Unit 1 inculcates a curiosity and appreciation of the world cultures in students through class activities that put the student at the center of learning including acting out literature, conducting an archeological study, role play, and more. A theme that ties unit one together is, bringing order to a growing world. As we make our way around the world through time students explore the many ways different civilizations tried to maintain peace through legal, religious, and artistic means in the growing cities in the ancient world. The unit begins with a study of prehistoric hunter-gatherer cultures. By putting students in the boots of an archeologist students learn that other cultures are unique in their own right and have a dignity to be honored. By learning about others we can learn about ourselves. In this light, students then explore Egypt, the role of law and literature in Mesopotamian society, social obligations in ancient China, and social class and mobility in ancient India. To support students in their inquiry nonfiction reading skills and geography skills are regularly integrated throughout the unit.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Citizenship</p>
<p>Unit 2 <i>The Spread of Ideas</i></p>	<p>While following Unit 1 chronologically, the theme of Unit 2, the Spread of Ideas, marks a distinct shift in historical focus. We live in the digital age, a time in which ideas and knowledge spread in nanoseconds. The amount of time it takes for the amount of knowledge in the world to double is now down to less than a year and experts predict it will be down to less than a day before long. Our unit will examine key moments in history that helped the amount of knowledge to vastly increase and the effects of that spread of knowledge. Students start their study with an examination of Roman infrastructure and how the arch, roads, and empire connected people to grow learning. Included in this portion is an investigation of the use of parables in Christianity as a means of oral transmission of the faith. As we make our way to the Han and Song Dynasties of classical China, we focus on the Chinese inventions of the printing press and compass. In each of these cases students predict the potential applications and impact of these inventions on the growth of knowledge. Students continue to the House of Wisdom of Baghdad was the learning center of the Muslim Empire, located at the crossroads of the world's great civilizations and a rich culture of learning resulted. Students finally examine the interdependence of economies through a study of the inflation caused by the Mali King, Mansa Musa's hajj to Mecca. Throughout the unit, activities that involve constructing, simulating, designing or interpreting are at the center of the student experience. Students are required to predict, extrapolate, and question the impact and meaning of the inventions on the spread of ideas. The exploration of each civilization is supported by nonfiction reading/listening sources and engaging geography skills. At the end of the unit, students will design an object to sell at our grade-wide trade fair as a summative assessment. The materials, symbols, shape, and design of their object will demonstrate aspects of the theme, content, and skills that were woven throughout the unit.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Product Creation</p>
<p>Unit 3 <i>Worlds Collide</i></p>	<p>Our previous study of the Medieval World sets the stage for Unit 3 in which the civilizations of the Middle East, the Americas, Africa, and Asia often collide. The guiding capacity for Unit 3 is alternate perspectives and a central question asked throughout the unit is, whose story is being told? As students seek to answer versions of that question they will use primary sources to support and critique the historical record. Students first apply this question in their study of Marco Polo in which they contrast two authors' opinions of whether the explorer actually traveled to China. Later in the unit, during their study of the Renaissance, students gather evidence to answer the question, "Was Galileo a heretic?" When the students investigate the conquistadors of the sixteenth century they ask, "Should it be called Pizzaro's conquest of the Inca" or "The Great Incan Rebellion?" Later, students critique the underlying values of Bartolome de las Casas and Juan Gines De Sepulveda who each debated about the Spanish treatment of Native Americans for the King of Spain. Finally, students examine the scramble for Africa from both the European and African perspectives. In each of these cases, students are encouraged to demonstrate the many aspects of global thinking. As students seek to draw conclusions about each of these historic instances, they are encouraged to keep an open mind to all perspectives. As objective historians, they seek to identify the values and principles, the merits and limitations, of</p>

	<p>all of the perspectives they are studying. Indeed, extreme black and white responses are often an oversimplification of complex issues. As in the previous units, student learning about these events is supported by nonfiction reading and geography skills.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Alternate Perspectives</p>
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U.S. History Curriculum Overview

2023-2024

<p>Unit 1 <i>American Imperialism and Progressive Era 1900-1920</i></p>	<p>The excesses of the Gilded Age and the completion of our quest to control the west led to a critical reexamination of our nation. Reformers, called Progressives, sought to right many of the wrongs they saw within Gilded Age America, seeking to protect social welfare, encourage moral improvement, reform the economy, and increase effectiveness and efficiency. The umbrella of Progressivism was so large, and their goals so broad, many reformers who called themselves Progressives actually worked in opposition to each other. At the same time, the closing of the frontier and accomplishment of our Manifest Destiny led the United States to reevaluate its place in the world and begin to emerge onto the world stage in a way that it had never done before. In this unit, students will explore this key transitional period in American history through the course themes of equality, economics, and foreign policy.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Analyzing, Alternate Perspectives</p>
<p>Unit 2 <i>Roaring 20s, Great Depression, and New Deal 1920s & 1930s</i></p>	<p>In this unit, students will examine the tumultuous decades of the 1920s and 30s, focusing on the main themes of equity, economics, and foreign policy.. They will explore the economic conditions that led to the boom of the late 20s and the bust of the Great Depression. They will examine the government's role in the creation of the economic prosperity of the 20s as well as their attempts to overcome the challenges of the Depression. At the same time, students will examine the continued efforts by marginalized groups to obtain their piece of the American dream, and the attempts by some to prevent them from doing so. In the PBA for the unit, students will take a closer look at some of the government's actions in the New Deal and recommend actions for what the government could have done differently to achieve greater relief, recovery, or reform.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Idea Generation</p>
<p>Unit 3 <i>World War II and Early Cold War WWII-1954</i></p>	<p>This unit will focus on examining World War II through the lens of the three main themes of the course (Equity, Economics, and Foreign Policy). Students will explore American attitudes towards the war before our involvement and how we ultimately came to join the war. Much of the unit will focus on the homefront and the impact of the war on the American economy and traditionally marginalized groups in the country (women, African Americans, Asian Americans). Students will also explore the foreign policy aspects of the war, examining the meetings of the Big Three during the war and the factors surrounding Truman's decision to drop the atomic bombs on Japan. Students will also explore how World War II led directly to the Cold War. Students will explore the early crises of the Cold War and how the United States came to pursue a policy of containment and the consequences of such a policy.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Alternate Perspectives, Decision Making</p>
<p>Unit 4 <i>Civil Rights and Continuing Cold War 1954 - 1973</i></p>	<p>In this unit, students will explore the tumultuous 20 years from the mid -1950s to the mid-1970s. Continuing to focus on the themes of equality, economics, and foreign policy, students will examine the Civil Rights movement and other movements it inspired. Students will pay particular attention to how groups of citizens can effectively create change in society. They will also explore the nation's evolving Cold War policy and its deepening involvement in Vietnam, culminating in the Vietnam war and the anti-war movements.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Citizenship</p>
<p>Unit 5 <i>The Rise of Conservatism 1974 - 1992</i></p>	<p>In this unit, students will explore the malaise of the 1970s and the resulting "Reagan Revolution," focusing on the course themes of equity, economics, and foreign policy. In particular, students will focus on uncovering what led to the rise of the modern conservative movement, including stagflation in the 1970s, the rise and fall of Richard Nixon, the turmoil of the Carter Administration, and the presidency of Ronald Reagan.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Analyzing</p>

U.S. History Curriculum Overview

2023-2024

<p><u>Unit 6</u> <i>Modern America</i> <i>1993-Present</i></p>	<p>In this final unit, students will be exploring modern America, continuing to focus on the themes of civil rights, economics, and foreign policy. Students will examine the presidencies of Clinton, Bush, and Obama with a major emphasis on the economic boom of the 90s (and subsequent crash), the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the financial crisis of 2008. In the PBA for this unit, students will use their knowledge of the preceding decades to try to make logical predictions for what the future holds for the United States.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Idea Generation, Product Creation</p>
<p><u>Research</u> <u>Unit</u></p>	<p>This unit provides students with the opportunity to embark on an in-depth, independent study of a topic of personal interest. Throughout this unit, using a "workshop-style" model, students will work with their peers and the instructor as they build a culminating argumentative research paper. Activities will be dedicated to an application of skills as well as reflection on the research and writing processes. Students will begin with the vital task of proper topic selection, followed by careful development of a workable research question and then the construction of a strong thesis statement. Students will narrow, broaden, or shift the focus of their papers as they research using both primary and secondary sources. Students will actively search for, evaluate, and read a variety of sources, take organized notes on evidence that supports their thesis statements, while properly citing all sources. After they organize their evidence using an outline structure, they will begin writing a formal research paper that clearly supports their thesis statement and demonstrates their understanding of the topic. Their papers will not be mere reports on historical facts, but rather argumentative papers that add to the scholarship on their topics. Throughout the process, teachers will conference with students and help guide them through this independent project.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Analyzing, Design</p>

<p>Unit 1 <i>Foundations of American Democracy</i></p>	<p>The first unit establishes the overarching mission and foundation for the Civics and American Government course. Students will identify a significant contemporary issue of personal interest which they wish to investigate throughout the course.</p> <p>Concepts of power, influence, and control are inseparable from the study of government. Understanding both the source and legitimacy of power will help the student understand many of the foundational concepts of the American Constitutional Republic. To inform their exploration, students will study the early philosophers and the different theories on how power is allocated in a government and also where the legitimacy of power is based. Students will connect this concept to their selected issue being followed throughout the course, examining the people, groups, and government organizations that may have power, influence, or control relative to their issue, as well as whether these individuals should be in control of this issue.</p> <p>Continuing with the theme of power, students will then look at various trends and events leading to the Declaration of Independence and American Revolution. This study will take place from multiple perspectives, considering both the viewpoints of the Patriots and Loyalists and their determination as to how to move towards the establishment of a new, independent nation. Students will journey through this process, understanding that the ineffectiveness of the Articles of Confederation would require "Constitutional compromises" from the powerful elite meeting together for a summer in Philadelphia. Much of what would come from these compromises represent not only a particular demographic perspective, but also a view of the ideological divide between Federalists and Antifederalists.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Analyzing, Inquiry</p>
<p>Unit 2 <i>Interactions Among Branches of Government</i></p>	<p>In 1787 the Founding Fathers established a Federal Republic through a Constitution which established core principles of democracy: equality, rights, liberties, opportunities, and security. Central to those principles is the concept of consensus. Over 200 years later, the importance of the role of consensus will allow the student to better grasp the inner workings of the American democratic system. The Unit on "Governing by Consensus" focuses on the structure, function, and relationship between and among branches in the federal government and local, state, and national governmental bodies. Through a deeper look into the principles of the Constitution, students will know and be able to apply knowledge and concepts about government power and purpose as the Founding Fathers may have intended. Students will discuss the organization of the government at the federal level, and may also compare those structures to state and local government structures. In particular, the unit will ask students to consider the reasoning behind laws, how they impact their daily lives, and the benefits and drawbacks of making decisions (legislating) by consensus. In a government that was established to consider equal representation and power of the majority, students will define consensus and evaluate how citizens work together within this social contract. Students, as lawmakers, will further their understanding of the way in which the Framers established the lawmaking process.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Idea Generation, Product Creation, Citizenship</p>
<p>Unit 3 <i>Political Participation</i></p>	<p>Essential to the health of the American political system is an active and informed electorate. Throughout this unit, students will explore the full range of the political spectrum, reflecting on their own beliefs and roles as active participants in the election process. Beyond the historical components of voting and voter rights, student focus will be to investigate the factors which influence an individual's political attitudes and actions to better understand voter behavior. Students will question and research political, economic, social, and geographic influences on voter behavior. In addition, a comprehensive look at political parties and their platforms will guide students as they dissect the</p>

	<p>structure and elements of elections, the campaign process, and campaign finance. Students will be able to recognize and assess many factors, including the role of the media and outside interest groups, which influence the political process and voter consensus.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Idea Generation, Product Creation, Citizenship</p>
<p>Unit 4 <i>Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and the Common Good</i></p>	<p>As students prepare to understand both individual rights and the common good, they will need to analyze how the Constitution and government are both limited and powerful as they aim to protect the citizen. Students will learn that the federal powers, as outlined in the Constitution and interpreted by the Judiciary, guide the operations of the US government. Students will also break down how both formal and informal change occurs in government, especially considering the enduring nature of a 200 year-old Constitution. Students will examine the process to amend the Constitution and the additions to the original text. Additionally, they will break down how interpretation and judicial review potentially exert the power of change in government . Students will learn, through case study, how the Supreme Court has broad power in government through its rulings on specific Constitutional issues, as established through precedent in landmark cases. Concepts of judicial activism, judicial restraint, and strict vs. loose constructionism will help students to dissect some of these past court rulings and determine how the court may rule on future issues. The unit will ask students to apply these lessons, from the judiciary to the Bill of Rights, to their own lives, weighing the balance between Individual rights and the common good. Specific Constitutional rights and liberties, as outlined in the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments, will be used to exemplify this balance between personal freedoms and the common good.</p> <p>Profile of a Graduate Capacities: Design, Citizenship, Product Creation</p>



Daniel Hand High School
April 12, 2025 - April 19, 2025

STEM: London & Paris



Educational Objectives

Our students will have the opportunity to engage with interactive exhibits and explore real-world applications of mathematical concepts. Additionally, the planned treasure hunts in pairs will not only foster teamwork and problem-solving skills but also encourage students to apply their mathematical knowledge in a practical and dynamic setting. This hands-on approach to learning aims to inspire a deeper appreciation for mathematics and its relevance in the world, ultimately enhancing students' enthusiasm for the subject.





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Tour specifics

01

Hotel Information

The selection of the hotels is based on proximity to tour sights, comfort, quality and safety. Students are roomed in either triple or quad accommodations based on the hotel availability



Wembley International In London

01

Meal Information

Meal information

Explorica provides breakfast and dinner daily on all tours (unless otherwise indicated on the itinerary).

Explorica makes sure all travelers have the opportunity to experience local cuisine with their meals, such as crêpes in France





Tour Director



The tour director is responsible for organizing the overall logistics of the trip. He or she will be with us from the beginning of the tour until the end to oversee the arrangements for all transportation, meals, accommodations and sightseeing.






02

Communication on tour



Communication on tour

Explorica provides a Tour Diary for each group that travels. The online Tour Diary lets parents and friends see pictures of the group as they travel, so they know their children are safe, happy, learning and having fun.






03

Safety and Security



All our directors come highly recommended with at least five years of experience in the industry. In addition to their safety expertise, we provide 24/7 emergency support, and have a global presence with over 45 offices around the world.

Explorica also offers each traveler the option to purchase the Travel Protection Plan at \$16/day or \$24/day for the Travel Protection Plan Plus.






04

Liability & Insurance



We want to assure you that the safety of the tour participants is Explorica's number one priority and that we have policies and procedures in place to protect the school, school district, teachers and participants involved with this tour.

Explorica's liability insurance is one of the largest in the industry at \$50 million. This insurance coverage extends to cover certain individuals acting on behalf of Explorica as tour directors, program leaders, chaperones, and volunteer speakers.





Payment Options



Full Payment

Monthly Automated Plan

4-Step Manual Plan





Tour Specifics

STEM: London & Paris
April 12, 2025 - April 19, 2025

Our students will be completely engaged during this math and science focused itinerary. After experiencing the highlights of London, spend time in the Science Museum exploring topics such as genetics, environmental science and engineering. Take the Eurostar to Paris for a math-themed treasure hunt throughout the iconic city. Get even more hands-on at Europe's largest science museum, the City of Science and Industry and the Palace of Discovery, which is located in the west wing of the Grand Palais





Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Overnight Flight to England (London)


Day 2 Hello London

- > Meet your tour director and check into hotel
- > London city walk Thames River, Trafalgar Square, National Gallery visit, Piccadilly Circus, Covent Garden, Leicester Square
- > Classic fish & chips dinner

Day 3 London landmarks

- > London guided sightseeing tour Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Tower Bridge, Hyde Park, St. Paul's Cathedral
- > Optional Windsor Castle guided excursion - \$80
- > Curry dinner

Day 4 London science & mathematics

- > Science Museum visit Mathematics: The Winton Gallery, Challenge of Materials, Exploring Space, Antenna - Science News
 - > Math treasure hunt
 - > Hard Rock Cafe dinner
 - > Jack the Ripper evening guided walking tour
- 



Tour Itinerary

Day 5 London -- Paris

- › Eurostar Chunnel crossing
- › Paris city walk Île de la Cité, Notre Dame Cathedral, Île St. Louis, Latin Quarter visit
- › Math & Science treasure hunt
- › Dinner in Latin Quarter

Day 6 Paris landmarks

- › Paris guided sightseeing tour Arc de Triomphe, Champs Élysées, Eiffel Tower, Champ de Mars, École Militaire, Les Invalides, Conciergerie, Tuileries Garden visit, Place Vendôme, Opera House
- › Optional Versailles guided excursion - \$80 State Apartments, Hall of Mirrors, Gardens of Versailles

Day 7 Paris sciences & mathématiques

- › City of Science and Industry visit Louis Lumière theater, Numeric crossroads, The Mathematics Room
- › Palace of Discovery visit Solar System Hall, Planetarium, The Mathematics Room, The Mathematical Surfaces collection, The Pi Room
- › Seine River cruise

Day 8: Coming back Home





Tour Investment




Travelers under 23 years \$3,902.00*

Travelers 23 and above \$4,297.00**

Save \$150! Sign up by 03/27/2024 and use voucher code 2025EarlySavings to receive this discounted price!

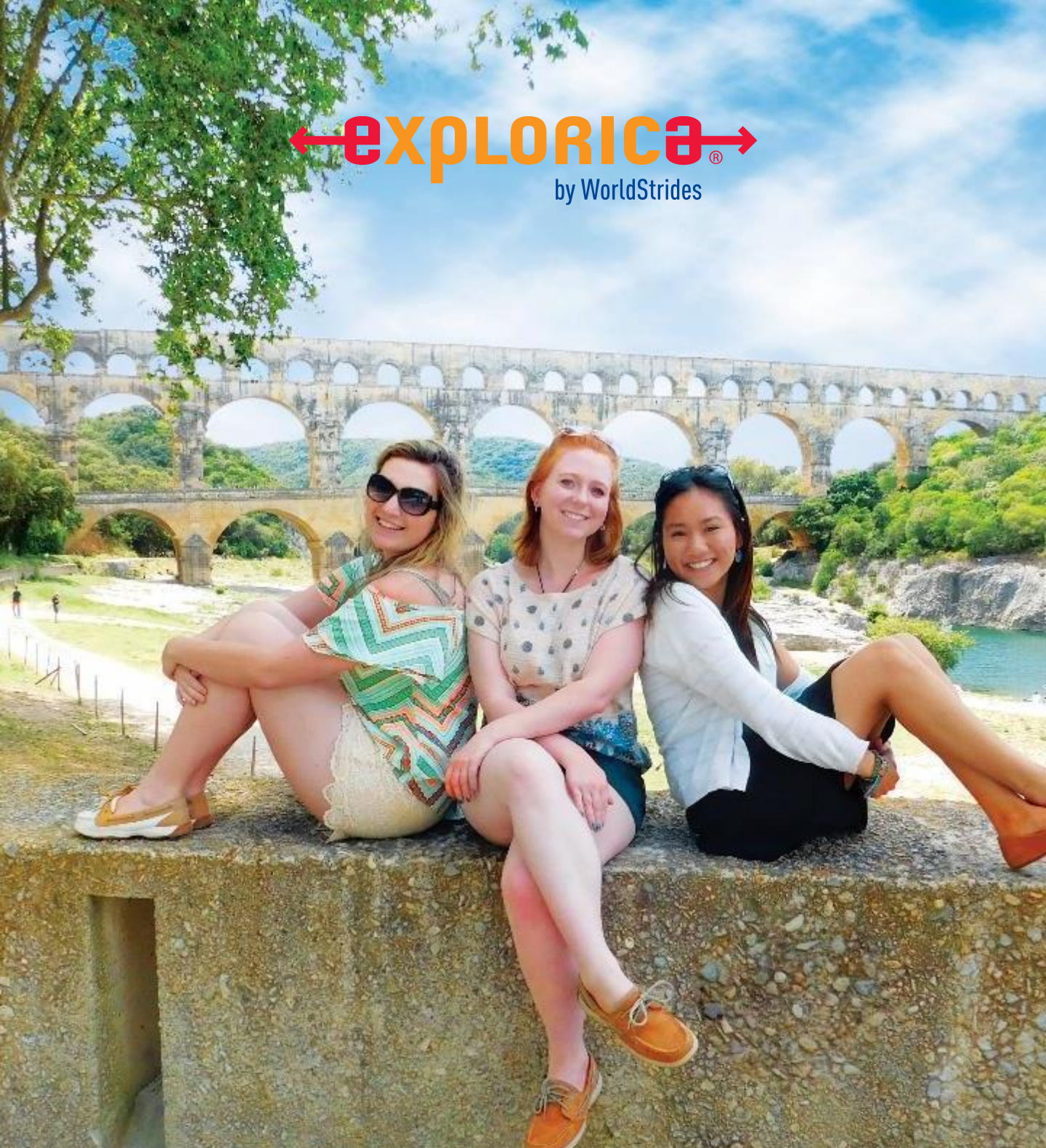
INCLUDED: Round-trip airfare, all transportation, sightseeing tours and site visits, all hotels with private bathroom, breakfast and dinner daily, full-time multi-lingual tour director.





Any questions?





**SCHOOL BOARD
PRESENTATION**

— 2023 —



SCHOOL BOARD PRESENTATION

STEM: London & Paris

April 12, 2025 - April 19, 2025

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Welcome to Explorica and thank you for your interest in student travel!

As a licensed tour operator, Explorica is proud to be able to give your students the opportunity of a lifetime! When your school travels with Explorica, you'll bring your classroom lessons to life and offer your students valuable exposure to a city outside of their home town. It's an educational adventure for both you and your students.

Before we begin, here's a little more about us:

Founded in 2000, Explorica helps teachers create educational tours full of authentic, interactive learning experiences. We specialize in connecting teachers and students to new cultures, languages and people on educational tours across the globe.

We believe we can create a better world by enriching every student with a cultural experience through travel. We aim to be the product leader in educational travel, helping teachers and students discover the wonders of the world through safe and reliable tour experiences. And we do this with a passion for delighting customers and connecting travelers to the world.

Explorica's combination of exclusive online tools and personalized service enables us to create tours uniquely suited to provide both the best value and the most customized tours in the industry.

Every Explorica tour includes flights or bus transportation, accommodations, on-tour transportation, most meals and an expert, full-time Tour Director dedicated to your group. What's more, as a WorldStrides organization, we have a network of more than 45 offices around the globe. And with our veteran Program Consultants, Customer Care Representatives, and comprehensive, user-friendly website, we're always here to support you from the moment you contact us, to the minute you shout bon voyage!

Join more than one million teachers and students in experiencing the world on Explorica tours!

Happy travels!

Sincerely,

The Explorica by WorldStrides Team



Hotel information

Even though you'll be far from home, your comfort won't be compromised. That's because when you travel with Explorica, you'll stay in clean, safe, attractive hotels that provide modern amenities and easy access to major attractions.

It is Explorica's policy to accommodate students in safe and clean hotels. We follow the three "C"s for our hotels – clean, comfortable and convenient. Upgraded hotels are available upon request.

The selection of our hotels is based on proximity to tour sights, comfort, quality and safety. Students are roomed in either triple or quad accommodations based on the hotel availability. Students have the option to upgrade to twin rooming for \$45 per night. Paying adults (23 or older) are roomed in twin/double accommodations and a \$45 per night double/twin rooming supplement is included in the adult total cost (\$75 per night for cruises and ferries). Adults have the option to upgrade to a single room for an additional \$40 per night.

HOTEL SAMPLE SPECIFIC TO LONDON, ENGLAND

Quality Hotel Wembley

Standard Quality

Hotel Description

Quality Hotel Wembley is a 15-minute tube (subway) ride from central London, and just a 5-minute walk from Wembley Park Underground (subway) Station. Featuring free on-site parking, on a first-come, first-serve basis, it is a 5-minute walk from Wembley Stadium, Wembley Arena and The X Factor Studios. With easy access into central London by tube (subway), makes it an ideal location for business clients and for leisure visitors looking to explore London's attractions, theaters, shopping and nightlife. Just a 5-minute walk away, guests can visit the London Designer Outlet Shopping Center with a Cineworld multi-screen cinema.

Group Leader Evaluations

"The hotel was nice and had great common spaces for hanging out. Excellent breakfast and nice rooms."



Meal information

Explorica provides breakfast and dinner daily on all tours (unless otherwise indicated on your itinerary). Explorica makes sure all travelers have the opportunity to experience local cuisine with their meals, such as a tapas dinner in Spain, crêpes in France or wiener schnitzel in Germany.

Tour director

Your tour director is responsible for organizing the overall logistics of the trip. He or she will be with you from the beginning of the tour until the end to oversee the arrangements for all transportation, meals, accommodations and sightseeing. The tour director can also provide a wealth of information and suggestions for your free time. Local guides are your resource for detailed destination information and help supplement the travel experience.

Communication on tour

Explorica provides a Tour Diary for each group that travels. We were the first company to develop the diary and have been providing this service for 10 successful years. Our online Tour Diary lets parents and friends see pictures of the group as they travel, so they know their children are safe, happy, learning and having fun. Here is an example of a posting for a group that traveled on our Galápagos Islands tour in February 2017:

“Day 2 - Hello everyone! Today was a wonderful first day! After breakfast we went to visit the highlights of Quito, museums, churches, plazas, government palace, and more. Then we had lunch in a traditional restaurant of the old town, after that we went to the equator line; there we had fun practicing some experiments and some of us got a certification as ‘egg master.’ We went back to the hotel and at night kids had dinner, and finally it was time to prepare everything to Galapagos! Tomorrow we leave early. We’re having a great time!”



Safety and security

All tour directors come highly recommended with at least five years of experience in the industry. In addition to their safety expertise, we provide 24/7 emergency support, and have a global presence with over 45 offices around the world.

Explorica also offers each traveler the option to purchase the Travel Protection Plan at \$16/day or \$24/day for the Travel Protection Plan Plus.

Explorica has a \$50 million Liability Insurance Policy (see below). We can have the school information printed on the certificate before traveling.

We are a member of USTOA: United States Tour Operators Association's \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program. As an Active Member of USTOA, Explorica, Inc. is required to post \$1 million with USTOA to be used to reimburse, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the USTOA Travelers Assistance Program, the advance payments of Explorica, Inc. customers in the unlikely event of Explorica, Inc. bankruptcy, insolvency or cessation of business. Further, the \$1 million posted by Explorica, Inc. may be sufficient to provide only a partial recovery of the advance payments received by Explorica, Inc. Complete details of the USTOA Travelers Assistance Program may be obtained by writing to USTOA at 275 Madison Avenue, Suite 2014, New York, New York 10016, by email to information@ustoa.com or by visiting their website at www.USTOA.com.

In addition to the USTOA, Explorica is affiliated with the following notable organizations: Student Youth Travel Association (SYTA), National Tour Association (NTA), European Tour Operators Association (ETOA), Better Business Bureau (BBB), International Air Transportation Association (IATA), World Youth Student & Educational (WYSE) Travel Confederation, British Educational Travel Association (BETA). We also partner with iJET, a leading worldwide security and risk management organization, for additional assistance in evaluating global conditions.



Liability policy

To Whom It May Concern,

We understand that many school officials have expressed concern about allowing their students to travel. We want to assure you that the safety of the tour participants is Explorica's number one priority and that we have policies and procedures in place to protect the school, school district, teachers and participants involved with this tour.

Explorica's liability insurance is one of the largest in the industry at \$50 million. This insurance coverage extends to cover certain individuals acting on behalf of Explorica as tour directors, program leaders, chaperones, and volunteer speakers. Your school can be named as additional insured, if desired.

We of course share your concern for the students' safety and peace of mind. Our optional Cancel for Any Reason travel protection plan provides medical, baggage and cancellation insurance coverage for our travelers. We also have a network of support staff in the United States as well as a 24-hour emergency service for groups and their families. We offer additional peace of mind for parents and friends of our travelers by providing an online Tour Diary that is updated with pictures and journal entries by the Tour Director throughout the trip.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, we would be happy to speak with you at any time. Please call us at 1.888.310.7120.

Sincerely,

Tim Sweeney

Chief Product Delivery Officer
Explorica by WorldStrides



Payment options

FULL PAYMENT

Pay in full at time of enrollment.

MONTHLY AUTOMATED PLAN

Pay your \$50 deposit plus any travel protection plan fees with a credit card or checking account upon enrollment, and the balance of your tour fee will be automatically charged to your card or debited from your account in equal monthly installments until 35 days prior to your departure date. Please note that you must make all payments by credit card, debit card or checking account. If two consecutive payments are returned NSF or declined, we will change your account to the 4-Step Manual Plan.

4-STEP MANUAL PLAN

Pay your \$99 deposit upon enrollment, and then pay \$500 toward your balance 30 days later. At 110 days prior to departure 75% of the balance is due. At 65 days prior to departure the remainder of the balance is due. You must make each payment manually.

GENERAL PAYMENT INFORMATION

We accept MasterCard, Visa, ACH checking account payments (and require a credit card or ACH payment for our monthly payment plan), money orders and personal checks. Please note personal checks are only accepted until 75 days prior to departure and ACH payments until 65 days prior to departure.

Each month we will automatically charge the credit cards or debit the checking accounts of participants who choose our monthly payment plan; we will send email reminders of payments due to all other participants approximately two weeks in advance of the payment due date. You will receive payment reminders only through email and not through the mail. Payments that are late are subject to a \$50 late fee. The date of payments is determined by the date of receipt at Explorica. If you are not paid in full by 75 days prior to your departure or do not meet the conditions of your payment plan, then your tour reservation will be cancelled (subject to standard cancellation policy).

Payments rejected due to insufficient funds, disputed by your credit company, returned to us by the drawer's bank, or returned due to a stop-payment order are subject to a \$35 non-refundable fee. We reserve the right to cancel reservations for any participant who does not meet his or her contractually obligated payment schedule. Any bounced checks are subject to a \$35 non-refundable fee.



Insurance policy

EXPLORICA'S TRAVEL PROTECTION PLANS

Through Trip Mate, our third-party travel protection plan provider, four out of five Explorica travelers protect their tours with our travel protection plans. Explorica offers two great plans that help protect your educational travel investment.

EXPLORICA'S TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

Our standard travel protection plan covers you for the following events:

- ›A traveler's injury, sickness, or death of a family member
- ›Theft of passport or visas
- ›Flight cancellations due to strike or bad weather
- ›Loss of luggage and personal effects
- ›Trip cancellation or trip interruption due to covered reasons such as a covered sickness, illness, injury or death
- ›Trip cancellation or trip interruption due to terrorist acts, as defined

EXPLORICA'S TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN PLUS

Along with providing you the same benefits as our standard Travel Protection Plan, the Explorica Travel Protection Plan Plus also includes our exclusive Cancel For Any Reason Waiver Benefit. With our Cancel For Any Reason Waiver Benefit, if you cancel your trip for any reason not otherwise covered by this policy, we will reimburse you for 75% of the non-refundable cancellation fees which apply to your trip, provided:

- 1) Payment for this plan is received by Explorica within 14 days of your initial deposit/payment for your trip; and
- 2) You cancel your trip 48 hours (2) days or more before your scheduled trip departure date.

This Cancel For Any Reason Waiver Benefit does not cover: 1) penalties associated with any air or other travel arrangements not provided by Explorica; or 2) the failure of Explorica to provide the bargained-for travel arrangements due to cessation of operations for any reason.

The Cancel For Any Reason Waiver Benefit is provided by Explorica and is not an insurance benefit underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company and must be purchased within 14 days of your initial payment for your trip.



Insurance policy cont.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN BENEFITS

The following benefits apply to both of Explorica's high-quality Travel Protection Plans:

TRIP INTERRUPTION

If you have to interrupt your Explorica trip after departure due to a covered injury, sickness or death (your own or that of a traveling companion or a family member) or for other covered reasons such as: cancellation of arrangements by an airline due to strike or bad weather; a documented theft of passports or visas; or a terrorist incident which occurs in a city which is listed on the itinerary of your trip and within 30 days prior to your scheduled departure date for your trip, as defined, you will be reimbursed up to the trip cost for the unused, non-refundable land or water arrangements and the additional transport charges paid to return home or to rejoin your trip (limited to economy one-way airfare, or first class if your original tickets were first class).

TRAVEL DELAY

Reimburses up to \$100 per day (maximum of \$500) for reasonable accommodation and traveling expenses until travel becomes possible if you are delayed for 12 hours or more due to a covered reason such as a common carrier delay; injury, sickness or death of you or your traveling companion; quarantine; loss of passport, travel documents or money; or natural disaster.

MEDICAL EXPENSE/EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Provides reimbursement up to \$25,000 for reasonable and customary medical expenses incurred while on your trip; emergency dental treatment received during your trip, up to \$750; the costs for emergency transport to home or an appropriate hospital, including escort expense (both, if deemed necessary by the attending physician), for a covered injury or sickness which occurs while on your trip; or the cost of homeward carriage if deceased, up to \$50,000.



Insurance policy cont.

BAGGAGE & PERSONAL EFFECTS

Coverage up to \$2,000 for direct physical loss or damage to your baggage, passports or visas while on your trip. A \$600 maximum limit applies to jewelry, gems, watches, cameras and camera equipment, and furs; a \$300 per article limit applies to all other items. If, while on your trip, your baggage is delayed for more than 24 hours, we will reimburse you up to \$100 for the purchase of necessary additional clothing and personal articles.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS WAIVER

The plan exclusion for pre-existing conditions is waived if you purchase the plan within 14 days of your initial deposit/payment for your trip.

A "Certificate of Coverage" which provides complete details of the plan, including conditions, exclusions and limitations is available to you on our website under the Travel Protection Plan or at any time by request.

The Explorica Travel Protection Plan benefits are administered by: Trip Mate, Inc. (In CA, dba Trip Mate Insurance Agency), 9225 Ward Parkway, Suite 200, Kansas City, Missouri 64114; tel. 1.800.888.7292.

The Explorica Travel Protection Plan is underwritten by United States Fire Insurance Company, Morristown, NJ.

The cost for Explorica's Travel Protection Plan is \$16 per day of your tour, maximum \$224. This plan must be purchased at the time of enrollment, and cannot be refunded once selected.

The cost for Explorica's Travel Protection Plan Plus is \$24 per day of your tour, maximum \$336. This plan must be purchased at the time of enrollment, and cannot be refunded once selected.



Positive feedback

After every tour Explorica asks our program leaders to create an evaluation to judge our overall pre-tour, during tour, and post-tour performance as a company. Everything is judged and it is a great way to provide feedback for us to improve as a company. Oftentimes we are given such positive feedback that we want to share it with potential Explorica program leaders.

Linda L., English & German teacher, Bowdoin, ME

My students had the time of their lives on this trip. Our tour director was so knowledgeable and incredible that Berlin, Prague and Munich just came alive during these 10 days. What an experience!

Michelle D., Coburg, ON

Well-organized, educational and safe travel — I couldn't ask for more! I have students knocking on my door the first day back asking, "Where is the trip next year?"

Joe H., Spanish teacher, Chandler, AZ

I LOVE teaching, but I LOVE traveling more! What better experience can we bring to the lives of our students than actually living in the countries we study?!

Kathleen W., French teacher, Higganum, CT

A wonderful experience for the students, especially hitting Carnevale in Venice. Our tour director enlivened the whole trip with his wit, charm and depth of knowledge.



STEM: London & Paris

April 12, 2025 - April 19, 2025

Your students will be completely engaged during this math and science-focused itinerary. After experiencing the highlights of London, spend time in the Science Museum exploring topics such as genetics, environmental science and engineering. Take the Eurostar to Paris for a math-themed treasure hunt throughout the iconic city. Get even more hands-on at Europe's largest science museum, the City of Science and Industry and the Palace of Discovery, which is located in the west wing of the Grand Palais.

Tour specifics

TOUR ITINERARY:

Day 1 Overnight Flight to England (London)

Day 2 Hello London

- › Meet your tour director and check into hotel
- › London city walk
Thames River, Trafalgar Square, National Gallery visit, Piccadilly Circus, Covent Garden, Leicester Square
- › Classic fish & chips dinner

Day 3 London landmarks

- › London guided sightseeing tour
Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Tower Bridge, Hyde Park, St. Paul's Cathedral
- › *Optional Windsor Castle guided excursion - \$80*
- › Curry dinner

Day 4 London science & mathematics

- › Science Museum visit
Mathematics: The Winton Gallery, Challenge of Materials, Exploring Space, Antenna - Science News
- › Math treasure hunt
- › Hard Rock Cafe dinner
- › Jack the Ripper evening guided walking tour

Day 5 London -- Paris

- › Eurostar Chunnel crossing
- › Paris city walk
Île de la Cité, Notre Dame Cathedral, Île St. Louis, Latin Quarter visit
- › Math & Science treasure hunt
- › Dinner in Latin Quarter

Day 6 Paris landmarks

- › Paris guided sightseeing tour
Arc de Triomphe, Champs Élysées, Eiffel Tower, Champ de Mars, École Militaire, Les Invalides, Conciergerie, Tuileries Garden visit, Place Vendôme, Opera House
- › *Optional Versailles guided excursion - \$80*
State Apartments, Hall of Mirrors, Gardens of Versailles

Day 7 Paris sciences & mathématiques

- › City of Science and Industry visit
Louis Lumière theater, Numeric crossroads, The Mathematics Room
- › Palace of Discovery visit
Solar System Hall, Planetarium, The Mathematics Room, The Mathematical Surfaces collection, The Pi Room
- › Seine River cruise

Day 8 End tour

TOUR INVESTMENT:

Travelers under 23 years \$3,902.00*

Travelers 23 and above \$4,297.00*

***Save \$150! Sign up by 03/27/2024 and use voucher code 2025EarlySavings to receive this discounted price!**

INCLUDED:

Round-trip airfare, all transportation, sightseeing tours and site visits, all hotels with private bathroom, breakfast and dinner daily, full-time multi-lingual tour director.



Supporting documents

This school board packet should be submitted with the following supporting documents:

- › Official price quote
- › Student application
- › Student/parent agreement & release form
- › Explorica's terms & conditions



101 Federal Street
Suite 900
Boston, MA 02110

591 Camino de la Reina
Suite 1025
San Diego, CA 92108

1.888.310.7120 | explorica.com



Office of the Superintendent
 Madison Public Schools
 Madison, CT 06443

School Trip Proposal / Request Form Student International Travel

I / We certify that this trip proposal is in accordance with Madison Public Schools policies #5100.8 and #6100.16.1 and corresponding regulations:

[Signature]
 Signature, Trip Organizer(s)

Trip approved

[Signature] 3-28-24
 Signature, Principal / Assistant Principal Date

[Signature] 3/28/24
 Signature, Superintendent or Designee Date

Trip Denied

Reason: _____

 Signature, Superintendent or Designee Date

International Travel Checklist

- Obtained approval at least six (6) months prior to the trip.
- Submitted list of participating students to Principal and Health Office at least three (3) months prior to the trip.
- Submitted an updated list of participating students to Principal and Health Office one (1) month prior to trip.
- Submitted flight, hotel, charter bus, and airport information one (1) month prior to trip.
- Arranged appropriate number of chaperones and provided orientation
- Clearly explained expectations of students
- Received parent permission forms and emergency medical forms