

Unit Two Overview

The Influence of Culture in Africa: The Middle Ages and Today

There are three types of lessons included in Unit Two of Advanced Grade Seven World Studies. There are three sets of *Historical Thinking Lessons* that use primary sources (both visuals and text) to teach and reinforce the thinking and document reading skills for the unit. There is an *Extension Lesson* that introduces new content, providing an opportunity for interdisciplinary instruction. Finally, there is an *Independent Research Project* that applies principles of the unit to modern examples. This project extends throughout the quarter.

The thinking, reading, and writing skills that are taught and reinforced in Unit Two build important habits that will be used throughout the course. It is expected that students will have some familiarity with primary sources from Unit One and from Grade Six.

Advanced Skills		
Historical Thinking	Reading: Document Analysis	Writing
<p><i>Multiple Perspectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people view events and issues differently based on their experiences and culture • investigating multiple perspectives deepens a person’s understanding of events and issues 	<p><i>Perspective</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analyzing a document for the purpose, opinions, beliefs, and values of its author 	<p><i>Multiple Perspectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting an opinion that acknowledges multiple perspectives

Why Teach Multiple Perspectives?

Our world today is extremely diverse. Different backgrounds and ethnic groups bring with them their own opinions, beliefs, and values. The ability to take into account the viewpoints from many backgrounds is essential as our society becomes more diverse. This ability requires the skill of recognizing and taking into account multiple perspectives. Social studies classrooms provide a unique opportunity to teach students this valuable thinking skill. In Advanced Grade Seven World Studies, students will

- analyze multiple sources of evidence as they construct, challenge, and question the past.
- examine information from a variety of sources in order to make generalizations, form opinions, and create a historical narrative.