

Geography, History and Earth Science

Eric Griffin

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

In the second semester, we are going to concentrate on Europe in the time between now and the trip to Iceland and Denmark. We will do a general survey of the European landscape and political geography then take a look at the politics and economies of the different regions of Europe. We, of course, will pay particular attention to the Scandinavian nations so that students will be able to better take advantage of the journey to these lands (or the stories their classmates bring back).

THE BALTIC

In the second semester we will continue the story of the rise of Sweden it's conflicts with Denmark and Russia. The period covered during the 17th and 18th centuries is the high point in Scandinavia's influence in European history and we will continue our general history of the area. Toward the end of the year, after we come back from Iceland and Denmark we will study the Baltic in the 20th century and take a look at two world wars and the Cold War.

WORLD WAR I

In this class we will be ready after exams to finish our look at a general military history of the war. We will also take a look at the technological and political developments that take place during the war as a set of separate but related topics. The final part of this course in the Spring will look at the decade or so after the end of the war to follow the huge changes that occurred in Europe as a result of the war.

EARTH SCIENCE

Volcanoes....the next quarter will be about volcanoes and the geology of Iceland. We are going to do a special study of volcanoes this year because when we get to Iceland we will be looking at a landscape dominated by volcanic activity. We are going to look at why volcanoes form, the different types of volcanoes, the different ways they can erupt and then do a survey of famous volcanoes of the world.

After our trip, we will look at the geological development of the Earth over time and the process that has created the modern surface of the earth. This final unit combines what we know about how rocks are made, how landscapes change and what has happened in the past.