M/J Contemporary World delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build middle school students' knowledge of contemporary world geography, cultures, civics, and economics. By honing their ability to analyze the physical, social, and political forces that shape our world, students build the depth of knowledge and higher-order thinking skills required to demonstrate their mastery when put to the test.

The two-semester course is arranged in themed units, each with three to six lessons. In each unit, activities make complex ideas about the modern world accessible through focused content, guided analysis, multi-modal representations, and personalized feedback. Each lesson includes a variety of activities such as direct instruction, application of skills, performance tasks, and formative and summative assessments. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored assignments.

M/J Contemporary World is built to state standards and informed by the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Introduction to Contemporary World

- Thinking Geographically
- World Geography
- World Climates and Environments
- Working with Data
- Reading Historical Evidence
- Wrap-Up: Introduction to Contemporary World

Unit 2: Government and People

- World Governments
- Citizenship Around the World
- People and Culture
- Global Connections
- Wrap-Up: Government and People

Unit 3: Global Economics

- Examining Basic Economic Concepts
- The World Economy
- Economic Systems
- Wrap-Up: Global Economics

Unit 4: The American Continents

- The United States

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- Canada
- Mexico
- Central America and Caribbean South America
- Atlantic South America
- Pacific South America
- Wrap-Up: The American Continents

Unit 5: Abrahamic Religions

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam
- Wrap-Up: Abrahamic Religions

Unit 6: Semester Wrap-Up

- Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 7: Europe and Russia

- Northern Europe
- Western Europe
- Southern Europe
- Eastern Europe
- Russia
- Wrap-Up: Europe and Russia

Unit 8: Central Asia and the Middle East

- Central Asia and the Caucasus
- Eastern Mediterranean
- Southwest Asia
- Wrap-Up: Central Asia and the Middle East

Unit 9: Africa

- Northern Africa
- Western Africa
- Eastern and Central Africa
- Southern Africa
- Wrap-Up: Africa

Unit 10: Asia and the Pacific

- The Indian Subcontinent
- China, Mongolia, and Taiwan
- Japan and Korea
- Southeast Asia
- Oceania
- Wrap-Up: Asia and the Pacific

Unit 11: Major Religions in Asia

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- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Confucianism and Daoism
- Wrap-Up: Major Religions in Asia

Unit 12: Semester Wrap-Up

- Semester Wrap-Up

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