



Challenging the “Dark Ages” and the Renaissance

By Grace Tesfae



César Chávez Academy High School

Public charter school within Detroit Public Schools lines

The numbers:

The high school has about 700 students enrolled

Over 90% Hispanic

95% free and reduced lunch

75% of students are English Language Learners

Our Curriculum

World History is required to graduate high school in the State of Michigan

The State of Michigan created standards which we follow, starting with the Agricultural Revolution and ending with the present over the span of 2 semesters.

Teach through absolutism and revolutions in the first semester. Revolutions to the present in the second semester.

What does this look like?

Introduction:

Agricultural
Revolution

Religions and the
Ancient World

UNIT 1:

Byzantine Empire

The Mongols

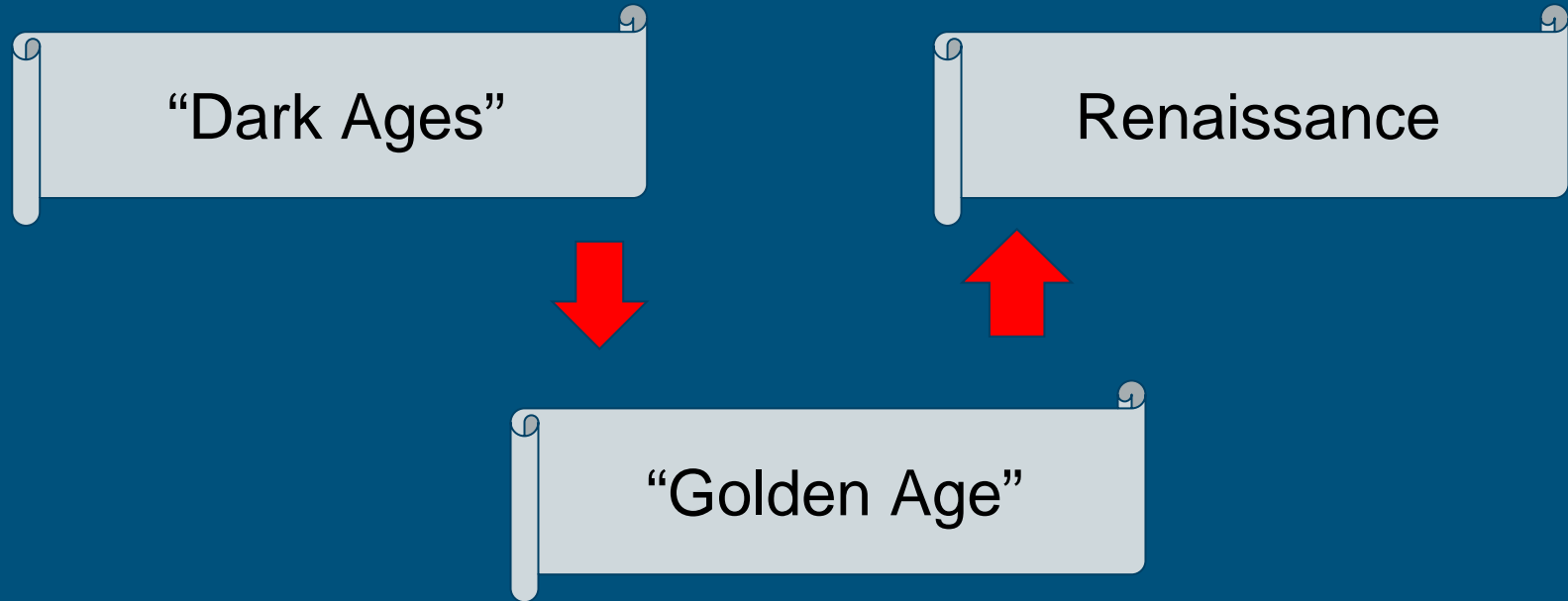
UNIT 2:

“Dark Ages”



Renaissance

The New Sequence



The textbook we use has “inserts” that talk about the Muslim and the East Asian “Golden Age(s)” but they seem to exist in their own space

Textbook “Rewrite”

Multi-Day project in which students (in groups) will be examining different sources to explain the Golden Ages and how they interact with the West to influence the Renaissance

SWBAT read, critique and synthesize information from sources to write a textbook section about the influences of the Renaissance from outside of Europe.

Excerpts are taken from videos, primary sources and secondary sources (all linked in another document for you to access). Students will be asked to outline the main idea behind the sources, and identify details to support their thinking.

These details will then be written into a textbook excerpt which will be workshopped, compared, etc.

- Letter to the editor?

Sources

“Re-Orienting the Renaissance: Cultural Exchanges with the East” edited by Gerald MacLean

“Arab Learning Enlightens the West: The Twelfth Century Renaissance in Europe” by Wajih Ibrahim Saadeh

“The House of Wisdom: How Arabic Science Saved Ancient Knowledge and Gave us the Renaissance” by Jim Al-Khalili

“No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam” by Reza Aslan

“Florence & Baghdad: Renaissance Art and Arab Science” by Hans Belting

“Islamic Central Asia: An Anthology of Historical Sources” edited by Scott C.