

2011-2012 ACADEMIC DECATHLON® CURRICULAR THEME AND TOPICS

United States Academic Decathlon® (USAD) announces that the curricular theme for 2011–2012 is *The Age of Empire*. Below is some general information on the topics in each subject area.

- **SUPER QUIZ***: The Super Quiz™ topic will be *The Age of Imperialism: The Making of a European Global Order*. The *Super Quiz Resource Guide* includes readings on mercantile empires, the Atlantic economy, motives for imperialism, the role of technology in the age of imperialism, New Imperialism, tactics of colonial rule, and decolonization and postcolonial immigration. *Only at [State Competition in Wisconsin](#).
- **LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**: The curriculum will include critical reading, one novella, three poems, and two short stories. The featured novella will be *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad.
- **ART**: The curriculum will cover art fundamentals and focus on art and imperial power.
- **MUSIC**: The curriculum will cover basic elements of music theory and focus on music of the Romantic era.
- **SCIENCE**: The curriculum will present an introduction to physical science and will include discussions of significant scientific advances made during the nineteenth century.
- **ECONOMICS**: The curriculum will cover fundamental economic concepts, microeconomics, and macroeconomics. The economics curriculum will also include a thematic section focused on the economics of Imperialism.
- **MATHEMATICS**: The curriculum will cover topics in general mathematics and geometry and will include a brief introduction to differential calculus.
- **ESSAY**: In Wisconsin, the Regional Competition essay is to be based on one of two prompts derived from the featured novel. The State Competition essay includes a choice of one of two prompts from the Super Quiz materials.
- **SPEECH**: At Regional and State Competitions, each participant must present a timed, prepared and impromptu speech on the topic of their choice. Each participant is scored by two volunteer judges.
- **INTERVIEW**: At Regional and State Competitions, each participant partakes in a timed interview and is scored by a panel of two judges.

The full subject area outlines will be posted on USAD's website (www.usad.org) on May 1 and will also be published in the Academic Decathlon® *Study Guide*, which begins shipping on May 15.

The Wisconsin Academic Decathlon website (www.wiad.org) includes all news and updates pertaining to our 2011-2012 season, or contact State Director, Molly Ritchie at mritchie@wiad.org.