

# SJC HISTORY PROGRAM

WONDER, INSPIRE, ASK QUESTIONS

# wonder, inspire, ask questions



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**SJC HISTORY**  
department



online classroom:

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The writer Evan X Hyde has been calling for the teaching of African and Indigenous studies since the early 1970s and in June 2013 he was invited to SJC to be presented with the school's intentions to roll out this new program. On November 25, 2015 history teachers Delmer Tzib and Yasser Musa formally presented the 1st and 2nd form curriculum to Principal Yolanda Gongora.



History is about thinking out loud, arguing, debating, listening to the views of others, and reflecting on the journey of others. We must learn to wear history, not just on our street, or our neighbourhood, but in our hemisphere. The global space is pressed against our ears every minute of the day, we press into its screens with force and ease.

The purpose of teaching history is not to duplicate the mystique of the marketplace with all its technological seductiveness, but to inspire in our students a desire to be self-directed in their learning, to stand up against injustice and to act in the now.

# history program

summary of study

St. John's College High School  
Belize City, Belize

In first form we teach Africa as the birthplace of humanity, one of the early cradles of agriculture, iron, higher education and empire. We teach Africa because we believe in providing our students a solid clarity to root line. We believe in dispelling ignorance and retrograde perceptions about who we are and where we came from. In first form we teach Maya because we want to make connections not to a fantasy Maya created for brochures and tour guides, but to the living Maya of Belize fighting for land, for survival, to live and participate in the multi-cultural space we say we want for our modern society.

# 1st Form

## African and Maya Civilizations

1. What is History? Categories of Inquiry
2. Thinking Like a Historian – a model
3. Human Evolution (Darwin's theory and natural selection)
4. Early Forms of technology – Stone Age
5. Bantu peoples – Iron Age
6. African Agriculture within regions
7. African Civilizations – Nubia, West African Empires – Ghana, Mali and Songhay, Asante Empire, Great Zimbabwe
8. Migration out of Africa to Asia
9. Migration into the Americas (Land Bridge and Coastal Theories)
10. Paleo-Indian and Archaic peoples
11. Olmecs and pre-classic Maya
12. Maya Civilization – lowlands and highlands
13. Maya – agriculture, society and governance, astronomy, world view
14. Maya – writing, mathematics and art
15. Maya – decline (terminal and post- classic periods)

# 2nd Form

## Introduction to BELIZEAN HISTORY

1. Introduction to Belize (geography, symbols, borders, neighbours)
2. Belize – physical and climatic + economic system + constitution
3. Spanish-Maya contact
4. Maya Society at time of contact
5. Entrance of British (British in Yucatan, empire, Forestocracy, King Mahogany)
6. British expansion – contact with the Maya
7. Caste War of the Yucatan (overview)
8. The Atlantic World and the Europeans
9. Slavery in Belize - resistance and revolt
10. Resistance to British Dominion (labour, riots, UNIA, racism)
11. The Nationalist movement
12. Belize – Guatemala dispute (origin and overview of the claim)
13. The Road to Independence (self-government to 1981)
14. Claim after Independence (the ICJ question)
15. Multi-cultural Belize (PEOPLE)

In second form we develop our narrative as a journey of the many, but from the perspective of the oppressed – the enslaved African, the dispossessed Maya, those fleeing war in the Yucatan, St. Vincent; those returning from wars in the 20th century, rioting, rising up for better working conditions, those of a post-WW2 era, decolonizing, nationalizing, on the road to our independence still stuck with aggression from the nation to our west.

# 3rd Form

## Central American History

1. Discovering America (Central America and the Caribbean)
2. Ancient American civilizations (Apache, Aztec, Olmec, Inca)
3. Colonial America – transatlantic interaction
4. Spanish empire in America
5. Conquest of Ancient Civilizations
6. Colonial Administration and control/ Slavery
7. Liberal Movements in the Americas – Zapatistas, Mexican Revolution, Caste War
8. South America: Simon Bolivar, Jose de San Martin, Jose de Sucre
9. United Provinces of Central America
10. Liberals vs Conservatives
11. US in Central America
12. Civil Wars in Central America
13. Sandinista Revolution and Guatemalan Civil War
14. The place of Belize in Central America

# 4th Form

## Caribbean History

1. 18th Century Sugar Plantations
2. Slave Resistance and Revolt
3. Control in British, French and Spanish Caribbean
4. Maroons of Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname and Belize
5. The Emancipation Revolts
6. Emancipation and Apprenticeship
7. Metropolitan movements towards emancipation
8. Establishment of free peasantry 1838 -1900
9. Coming of Chinese, Europeans, Indians and Africans
10. USA in the Caribbean
11. Popular Protests in the 1930s
12. Trade Unions and Politics in the Caribbean
13. Movements towards Independence and Regional Integration