

Social Studies (8)

Social Science

Grade(s) 8th, Duration 1 Year, 1 Credit
Required Course

Course Overview

In this class we will study American History from 1800 - 1900. We will start by reviewing the results of the American Revolution and the founding of the United States Government.

Scope And Sequence

Timeframe	Unit	Instructional Topics
5 Week(s)	Forming a New Nation	1. The Road to the Revolution 2. The American Revolution 3. Creating the Constitution
6 Week(s)	The New Republic	1. Launching a New Nation 2. The Era of Thomas Jefferson
6 Week(s)	The Nation Expands and Changes	1. North and South Take Different Paths 2. Westward Expansion
7 Week(s)	Civil War and Reunion	1. The Nation Divided 2. The Civil War 3. Reconstruction and the New South
4 Week(s)	An Age of Industry	1. The West Transformed 2. Industry and Urban Growth

Materials and Resources

Text Book: [America, History of our Nation](#).

Course Details

Unit: Forming a New Nation

Duration: 5 Week(s)

Unit Overview

How did the colonists break away from Britain and create a republican form of government?

Materials and Resources

Chapter 5 - 7

Academic Vocabulary

cede, boycott, militia, alliance, writs of assistance, monopoly, repeal, minutemen, resolution, preamble, alliance, privateer, traitor,

Summative Assessment

Book Generated Test, I Spy Research

Topic: The Road to the Revolution

Duration: 2 Week(s)

Topic Overview

How did the relationship between Britain and the colonies fall apart?

Learning Targets

Trouble on the Frontier

A struggle on the western frontier draws France and Britain into a worldwide struggle.

The Colonists Resist Tighter Control

Efforts to solve Britain's financial problems raise the anger of people in the colonies.

From Protest To Rebellion

By 1775, many Americans were so enraged by British Tax policies that they were ready to break away from Britain.

The War Begins

In the first days of the war, both sides expected the struggle to be short. They never expected to fight for 7 years.

Topic: The American Revolution

Duration: 2 Week(s)

Topic Overview

How did the American colonists gain their independence?

Learning Targets

A Nation Declares Independence

The Declaration of Independence proclaimed that the colonies were separating from Britain.

Winning Independence

After a final victory, the Americans at last achieved independence from British rule.

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Topic: Creating the Constitution

Duration: 1 Week(s)

Topic Overview

How did the United States Constitution overcome the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and provide for the organization of the new government?

Learning Targets

Governing a New Nation

Weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation convinced leading Americans that the country needed a strong central government.

The Constitutional Convention

After months of intense debate, delegates to the Constitutional Convention agreed on a new plan of government.

Debating the Constitution

The states approved the Constitution, but many of the states insisted that it also include a bill of rights.

Unit: The New Republic

Duration: 6 Week(s)

Unit Overview

What problems might a new nation face?

Materials and Resources

Chapter 8-9

Academic Vocabulary

inauguration, precedent, bond, speculator, unconstitutional, tariff, faction, impressment, alien, sedition, laissez faire, judicial review, expedition, continental divide, tribute, embargo, smuggle, nationalism, blockade, secede

Summative Assessment

Book Generated Test, War of 1812 Essay

Topic: Launching a New Nation

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Overview

How did Americans respond to internal and external challenges?

Learning Targets

Washington Takes Office

George Washington oversaw the creation of new federal departments and asked Alexander Hamilton to tackle the nation's debt problem.

The Birth of Political Parties

Two political parties began to take shape - the Federalists and the Republicans.

Troubles at Home and Abroad

Under Washington, the United States dealt with challenges from Native Americans in the Northwest Territory and from the British navy at sea.

The Presidency of John Adams

Political divisions grew bitter during the presidency of John Adams, as he struggled to keep peace with France.

Topic: The Era of Thomas Jefferson

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Overview

How did Jefferson and Madison deal with unresolved problems?

Learning Targets

Jefferson Takes Office

Thinking of his election as "the Revolution of 1800," President Jefferson hoped to make far-reaching changes in government.

The Louisiana Purchase

Having acquired a vast expanse of western territory, Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the region.

A Time of Conflict

Conflicts with the British at sea and Native Americans in the West led to the War of 1812.

The War of 1812

Although the War of 1812 did not resolve British-American disputes, many Americans considered the war a victory.

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Unit: The Nation Expands and Changes

Duration: 6 Week(s)

Unit Overview

What forces unite and divide a nation?

Materials and Resources

Chapter 11 & 13

Academic Vocabulary

Industrial Revolution, factory system, mass production, interchangeable parts, urbanization, telegraph, famine, nativist, discrimination, cotton gin, slave code, spiritual, turnpike, corduroy road, canal, frontier, land grant, rancho, expansion, mountain man, rendezvous, dictatorship, siege, annex, cede, polygamy, forty-niners, vigilante

Summative Assessment

Westward Expansion Board Games, Book Generated Test

Topic: North and South Take Different Paths

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Overview

Why did Americans take different paths in the early 1800s?

Learning Targets

The Industrial Revolution

New inventions brought new ways of making basic products.

The North Transformed

Differences between the North and the South increased with the growth of industry.

The Plantation South

The invention of the cotton gin increased the South's dependence on the labor of enslaved people.

The Challenges of Growth

As settlement spread westward, debates over slavery increased tensions between North and South.

Topic: Westward Expansion

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Overview

How did westward expansion change the geography of the nation and demonstrate the determination of its people?

Learning Targets

The West

By the mid - 1800s, many Americans wanted the nation to extend westward to the Pacific Ocean. To journey westward, traders and settlers had to travel along difficult and dangerous trails.

Conflict with Mexico

The Texas War for Independence led to conflict and war between the USA and Mexico.

A rush to the West

While the Mormons migrated to Utah, other settlers flocked to California in search of gold.

Unit: Civil War and Reunion

Duration: 7 Week(s)

Unit Overview

How was the Civil War a political, economic, and social turning point.

Materials and Resources

Chapters 14 - 16

Academic Vocabulary

popular sovereignty, secede, fugitive, propaganda, civil war, border state, neutral, martial law, blockade, ironclad, casualty, emancipation, habeas corpus, draft, income tax, inflation, siege, total war, amnesty, freedman, black codes, scalawag, carpetbagger, impeachment, poll tax, literacy test, grandfather clause, segregation, sharecropper

Summative Assessment

Book Generated Test, Civil War Archive Project (visual aide and written report)

Topic: The Nation Divided

Duration: 2 Week(s)

Topic Overview

How did the nation try but fail to deal with growing sectional differences?

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Growing Tensions Over Slavery

With the addition of new western land, debate over the spread of slavery increased.

Compromises Fail

After all efforts at compromise failed, violent fighting broke out in the Kansas Territory.

The Crisis Deepens

As tensions increased, a new antislavery political party emerged.

The Coming of the Civil War

Abraham Lincoln's election led seven southern states to leave the Union.

Topic: The Civil War

Duration: 3 Week(s)

Topic Overview

How did people, places, and things affect the outcome of the Civil War?

Learning Targets

The Call to Arms

As the war began and states took sides, the North and the South drew up plans and hoped for an early victory.

Early Years of the War

The early years of the war were indecisive, as neither side seemed able to defeat the other.

The Emancipation Proclamation

President Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation opened the way for African Americans to join the Union army.

The Civil War and American Life

The war caused divisions in both North and South while changing the lives of civilians and soldiers alike.

Decisive Battles

Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in 1863 forced the South's surrender in April 1865.

Topic: Reconstruction and the New South

Duration: 2 Week(s)

Topic Overview

What were the short-term and long-term effects of the Civil War?

Learning Targets

Rebuilding the Nation

As the Civil War ended, Americans faced the problem of how to reunite the nation.

The End of Reconstruction

With the end of Reconstruction, African Americans in the South lost many of the rights they had gained.

Unit: An Age of Industry

Duration: 4 Week(s)

Unit Overview

How did the industrialization of the United States change the economy, society, and politics of the nation?

Materials and Resources

Chapters 17 - 18

Academic Vocabulary

vigilante, subsidy, transcontinental railroad, reservation, open range, cattle drive, vaquero, cow town, cattle kingdom, homesteader, sod, sodbuster, sooner, grange, farm cooperative, inflation, patent, assembly line, entrepreneur, corporation, monopoly, trust, free enterprise, urbanization, tenement, realist,

Summative Assessment

Book Generated Test, Essay, Student Taught Sections

Topic: The West Transformed

Duration: 2 Week(s)

Topic Overview

How did the growth of big business affect the development of the West?

Learning Targets

Mining and Railroads

Native Americans Struggle to Survive

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The Cattle Kingdom

Farming in the West

Topic: Industry and Urban Growth

Duration: 2 Week(s)

Topic Overview

How did industrialization increase the speed of change?

Learning Targets

A New Industrial Revolution

Big Business and Organized Labor

Cities Grow and Change

The New Immigrants

Education and Culture