

Social Studies 8– Middle School

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students will build on their concepts of geography, civics, and political societies beginning with the world as it was in the 1500's followed by the natural unfolding of events from the explorations, the establishment of the colonies, the colonial era leading up to the causes of and including the French and Indian War and The Revolutionary War. The development of American government from a confederation to a constitutional one, the launching of the Republic, through the War of 1812, the growth and development of the nation through the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark exploration on through Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War will follow. Students will explore the changes in the nation from immigration and abolition issues to the Civil War and Reconstruction, westward expansion, to the development of the U.S. as a world power and into World War One. They will explore the 1920's, the Great Depression and World War Two.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Use geographic tools such as thematic and interactive maps, graphs, charts, models, and databases to collect, analyze, interpret and present data.
- Apply, examine, and develop timelines and chronology by sequencing events, people, technology, time periods, and people.
- Identify contributions of significant individuals including Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, King George III, Martin Luther, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, the Marquis de Lafayette, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Harriett Tubman, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu
- Identify points of view from the historical context surrounding an event and the frame of reference that influenced the participants.
- Analyze political, economic, and social effects of war.
- Consider the obligation of society to individuals and the obligations of citizens to society.
- Organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, media, databases, and visuals including graphs and graphics, charts, timelines, and maps in order to apply generalizations about past, present, and future events in history from the 1500's to the present.
- Understand the effects of the interaction between humans and the environment.
- Compare types and uses of technology, past and present by analyzing the effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations.
- Apply critical thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources including electronic technology.

- Analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause and effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions.
- Evaluate documents such as the Mayflower Compact, The Treaty of Paris, Articles of Confederation, The Constitution of The United States of America, The Bill of Rights and The Emancipation Proclamation.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE LENGTH: Two Semesters

REQUIRED TEXT: No required textbook for this course.

MATERIALS LIST: No required materials for this course.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Semester 1

Unit 1: Early Exploration

Unit 2: Excitement, Expansion, Changing Horizons

Unit 3: Spanish Influence and Colonization in The New World

Unit 4: Jamestown and The New England Colonies

Unit 5: The Middle and Southern Colonies

Unit 6: The Right to Representation

Unit 7: Irresolvable Differences

Unit 8: The American Revolution

Unit 9: We Are The United States of America

Unit 10: Your Government, Your Rights, Your Turn

Unit 11: You Have Rights

Unit 12: Citizenship

Unit 13: A New Government

Unit 14: Thomas Jefferson Wins

Unit 15: War and Its Legacy/The Industrial Revolution

Unit 16: Continuing Transformation

Unit 17: The Call of The West

Unit 18: State Webquest

Semester 2

Unit 19: From Sea to Shining Sea

Unit 20: A Nation About to Break

Unit 21: Civil War Scavenger Hunt

Unit 22: A Long War and Its Legacy

Unit 23: Reconstruction: The South Rebuilds

Unit 24: Moving West

Unit 25: Real Life in the West

Unit 26: The Industrial Revolution Continues

Unit 27: The Growth of Industry
Unit 28: Change and Challenge
Unit 29: Progressivism
Unit 30: The World Outside of America
Unit 31: United States Expansion
Unit 32: World War I
Unit 33: Life in the Twenties
Unit 34: Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal
Unit 35: World War II
Unit 36: Civil Rights