

Essential Standards for 8th Grade Social Science - U.S. History

RED standards are time permitting

Unit I: Founding the Colonies through War of Independence (6 weeks)

- What inspired people to come to the New World?
 - Roanoke, Jamestown, Plymouth, and joint-stock companies
- What was life like in the three regions of colonies?
 - Great Awakening, rise of indentured servitude and slavery, Mayflower Compact
- How were the colonists involved in the French and Indian War?
- What were King George III's policies on taxation and westward expansion?
 - Know some of Parliament's acts, including the Proclamation of 1763, Stamp Act, Sugar Act, Townshend Acts, Tea Act, and Intolerable (Coercive) Acts
- What were the events that led to the call for Independence?
 - Quartering of soldiers, Boston Massacre, boycott of goods, Boston Tea Party, First Continental Congress
 - Unification of colonies, **Olive Branch Petition**, Second Continental Congress, Declaration of Independence
- What were the major events of the War of Independence?
 - Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, the winter at Valley Forge, and the surrender at Yorktown
- What was the impact of the War of Independence?
 - Treaty of Paris and American model for other nations

Unit II A: Creating a Nation (3 weeks)

- What was the Articles of Confederation?
 - What were its strengths and weaknesses?
- **How did we develop western land (Northwest Territory)?**
 - **Land Ordinance of 1785 and Northwest Ordinance of 1787**
 - **Relationships with Great Britain and Spain**
- What were the events of Shays' Rebellion and how did that inspire the need for change?
- What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
 - Virginia & New Jersey Plans, The Great Compromise, Three-Fifths Compromise, Slave Trade Compromise
- **What was the purpose of "The Federalist Papers"?**

Unit II B: The Constitution (4 weeks)

- **What is the purpose of the Preamble to the Constitution?**

- What are the three branches of government?
- What is federalism?
- How does the system of checks and balances work?
- **How does a bill become a law?**
- How does the Electoral College work?
- What is the Bill of Rights and what is its importance?
 - Review each of the ten amendments

Unit III: The Building of a Nation (4 weeks)

- George Washington's Administration
 - **Federalists vs. Antifederalists**, Britain and France, Whiskey Rebellion, **Jay's Treaty**, **Citizen (Edmond) Genet**, Farewell Address
- **Who was Alexander Hamilton?**
 - **Economic plans, feelings on federalism, feud with Thomas Jefferson**
- John Adams' Administration
 - Alien & Sedition Acts, undeclared war with France, **XYZ Affair**
- Thomas Jefferson's Administration
 - **Election of 1800**, Louisiana Purchase, **Lewis and Clark's expedition**, Embargo Act, **piracy**, *Marbury vs. Madison*

Unit IV: The Young Republic (5 weeks)

- Problems with Great Britain and frontier conflicts
 - Impressment, incitement, Battle of Tippecanoe, War Hawks
- What were the important events of the War of 1812?
 - **Battle of Lake Erie**, burning of Washington, D.C., Battle of Fort McHenry and "The Star-Spangled Banner", Battle of New Orleans, effects of the war
- **What was The Monroe Doctrine?**
- Andrew Jackson's Administration
 - Election of 1824, Spoils System, nullification, Indian Removal Act, Trail of Tears
- What were the steps to achieving Manifest Destiny?
 - Battle for Texas Independence, Mexican-American War, **Oregon Trail**
- **Why did people move west?**
 - **California Gold Rush, the Mormons, missionaries, Chinese immigration**
- **What was the Women's Rights Movement?**
 - **Education reform, Seneca Falls Convention, temperance and abolition**

Unit V - Part 1: The Road to The Civil War (5 weeks)

- What were the differences between North and South in the early days of America?

- Factory life, plantation life, invention of the cotton gin, **transportation, the Lowell System**
- What was “The Peculiar Institution”?
 - Living/working conditions of slaves, economics of slavery, slave laws
- What were the roots of the abolitionist movement?
 - The American Colonization Society, Authors (William Lloyd Garrison, Grimke sisters, Harriet Beecher Stowe), African American abolitionists (Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth), the Underground Railroad
- How did people attempt to compromise?
 - Missouri Compromise, Crittenden Compromise, Compromise of 1850, popular sovereignty
- **What were the Lincoln-Douglas debates?**
- What were some setbacks for African American rights during this time?
 - The Dred Scott decision, Fugitive Slave Act
- How did the abolitionist movement turn violent?
 - “Bleeding Kansas”, John Brown’s Raid, **Nat Turner Rebellion, violence in Congress**

Unit V - Part II: The Civil War (6 weeks)

- Election of 1860 and secession
- **Why did men want to fight in the war?**
- What were the important battles of The Civil War?
 - Fort Sumter, First Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Vicksburg
- What was the importance of The Gettysburg Address?
- What was the Emancipation Proclamation?
- **Who were the men of the Massachusetts 54th?**
- **What was life like for soldiers during the war?**
- What was “total war” and Sherman’s March to the Sea?

Unit VI: Reconstruction to Industrialization (5 weeks)

- What was Moderate Reconstruction?
 - The Freedman’s Bureau, Lincoln’s 10% Plan, Civil War Amendments
- What was Radical Reconstruction?
 - Impeachment of Andrew Johnson, Radical Republicans, military reconstruction zones, amnesty
- The rise of Jim Crow
 - Black codes, sharecropping, Ku Klux Klan, *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- What was the Transcontinental Railroad?

- Railroad barons, Union Pacific, Central Pacific, homesteaders, loss of Native American lands
- The rise of Big Business
 - John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie
 - Factories and child labor
- Who were the prominent inventors during this time?
 - Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, the Wright brothers, Henry Ford
- What was the significance of labor unions?
 - American Federation of Labor, Knights of Labor
- How did immigrants impact the modernization of America?
 - Immigrants from Russia, China, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico