

Course Description

8th Grade Social Studies

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Eighth grade 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: After completing the course, students will be able to:

1. Use geographic tools such as thematic and interactive maps, graphs, charts, models, and databases to collect, analyze, interpret and present data.
2. Apply, examine, and develop timelines and chronology by sequencing events, people, technology, time periods, and people.
3. 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
4. Identify points of view from the historical context surrounding an event and the frame of reference that influenced the participants.
5. Analyze political, economic, and social effects of war.
6. Consider the obligation of society to individuals and the obligations of citizens to society.
7. 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.
8. Understand the effects of the interaction between humans and the environment.
9. Compare types and uses of technology, past and present by analyzing the effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations.
10. Apply critical thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of sources including electronic technology.
11. 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.
12. 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.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

COURSE LENGTH: One Year

REQUIRED TEXT: None

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit I: Exploration – Topics include: The World in 1500 • The European explorations

Unit II: The Colonization of North America – Topics include: The English establish 13 colonies • American identity develops • Early culture of the colonies • Representative government develops • The French and Indian War

Unit III: Revolution – Topics include: The road to revolution • Taxation without representation • The early battles • The early years and expansion of the war • Victory

Unit IV: Establishing a republic – Topics include: The Confederation • The Constitution • The Bill of Rights

Unit V: The early years – Topics include: Washington's presidency • The Federalists • Challenges to the new government

Unit VI: The Jefferson Years – Topics include: The Louisiana Purchase • Problems from abroad • The Lewis and Clark expedition • The War of 1812

Unit VII: National growth and expansion – Topics include: The industrial revolution years • The spread of slavery • Nationalism and sectionalism

Unit VIII: The Jackson Years – Topics include: Jackson’s relationship with the people • Jackson’s policy toward Native Americans

Unit IX: Manifest Destiny – Topics include: Westward expansion • The Mexican War • The California Gold Rush

Unit IX: Societal changes – Topics include: The new immigrants • Abolition and Women’s Rights

Unit X: A Nation Divided – Topics include: Strain between the north and south • Slavery an major issue in politics • The election of Lincoln instigates war

Unit XI: The Civil War – Topics include: War begins • The Emancipation Proclamation • The effects of and legacy of war • Reconstruction • Growth in the west

Unit XII: Industrialization – Topics include: The growth of industry • Transportation changes the nation • The growth of big business and unionization

Unit XIII: A changing society – Topics include: Cities grow and change • More immigrants arrive • Segregation and discrimination • Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson as progressives • Women’s Rights

Unit XIV: America enters the world arena as a power – Topics include: U.S. expansion • The Spanish-American War • The U. S gets involved abroad

Unit XV: World War I and its aftermath – Topics include: The U. S. joins the war in Europe • The effects and legacy of the war

Unit XVI: The 1920’s – Topics include: The Great Depression • Life during the depression • The New Deal

Unit XVII: World War II and its aftermath