

8th Grade– Social Studies

CONTENT: History

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards

Select events and construct a multiple-tier time line to show relationships among events.

Describe the political, religious and economic aspects of North American colonization including:

- a. Reasons for colonization, including religion, desire for land and economic opportunity;
- b. Key differences among the Spanish, French and British colonies;
- c. Interactions between American Indians and European settlers, including the agricultural and cultural exchanges, alliances and conflicts;
- d. Indentured servitude and the introduction and institutionalization of slavery;
- e. Early representative governments and democratic practices that emerged, including town meetings and colonial assemblies;
- f. Conflicts among colonial powers for control of North America.

Identify and explain the sources of conflict which led to the American Revolution, with emphasis on the perspectives of the Patriots, Loyalists, neutral colonists and the British concerning:

- a. The Proclamation of 1763, the Stamp Act, the Townshend Acts, the Tea Act and the Intolerable Acts;
- b. The Boston Tea Party, the boycotts, the Sons of Liberty and petitions and appeals to Parliament.

Explain the results of important developments of the American Revolution including:

- a. A declaration of American independence;
- b. Character and significance of the military struggle in the North in the early years of the war and the shift of the battle to the South after 1779;
- c. Creation of state constitutions;
- d. Impacts on women, African-Americans and American Indians.

Explain major domestic problems faced by the leaders of the new republic under the Articles of Confederation including:

- a. Maintaining national security;
- b. Creating a stable economic system;
- c. Dealing with war debts;
- d. Collecting revenue;
- e. Defining the authority of the central government.

Explain the challenges in writing and ratifying the U.S. Constitution including:

- a. Issues debated during the convention resulting in compromises (i.e., the Great Compromise, the Three-Fifths Compromise and the compromise over the slave trade);
- b. The Federalist/Anti-Federalist debate

c. The debate over a Bill of Rights.

Describe the actions taken to build one country from 13 states including:

- a. The precedents established by George Washington, including the cabinet and a two-term presidency;
- b. Alexander Hamilton's actions to create a financially strong country, including the creation of a national bank;
- c. The establishment of an independent federal court system.

Describe and analyze the territorial expansion of the United States including:

- a. Northwest Ordinance;
- b. The Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition;
- c. Westward movement including Manifest Destiny;
- e. The Texas War for Independence and the Mexican-American War.

Explain causes of the Civil War with emphasis on:

- a. Slavery;
- b. States' rights;
- c. The different economies of the North and South
- d. The extension of slavery into the territories, including the Dred Scott Decision and the Kansas-Nebraska Act;
- d. The abolitionist movement and the roles of Frederick Douglass and John Brown;
- e. The addition of new states to the Union and their impact on the balance of power in the Senate, including the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850;
- f. The emergence of Abraham Lincoln as a national figure in the Lincoln-Douglas debates, the presidential election of 1860, and the South's secession.

Explain the course and consequences of the Civil War with emphasis on:

- a. Contributions of key individuals, including Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant;
- b. The Emancipation Proclamation;
- c. The Battle of Gettysburg.

Analyze the consequences of Reconstruction with emphasis on:

- a. President Lincoln's assassination and the ensuing struggle for control of Reconstruction, including the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson;
- b. Attempts to protect the rights of and enhance opportunities for the freedmen, including the basic provisions of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution
- c. The Ku Klux Klan and the enactment of black codes.

CONTENT: People in Societies

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards

Trace the development of religious diversity in the colonies, and analyze how the concept of religious freedom has evolved in the United States.

Describe and explain the social, economic and political effects of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Stereotyping and prejudice; b. Racism and discrimination; c. Institutionalized racism and institutionalized discrimination.
Analyze how contact between white settlers and American Indians resulted in treaties, land acquisition and Indian removal.
Analyze the economic, geographic, religious and political factors that contributed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The enslavement of Africans in North America; b. Resistance to slavery.
Describe the historical limitations on participation of women in U.S. society and their efforts to gain equal rights.
Explain how the diverse peoples of the United States developed a common national identity.

CONTENT: Geography

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards
Compare places and regions in the United States as they existed prior to 1877 with the same places and regions today to analyze changes in land use and population, political, social and economic characteristics.
Analyze how physical characteristics of the environment influenced population distribution, settlement patterns and economic activities in the United States during the 18 th and 19 th centuries.
Explain how colonization, westward expansion, immigration and advances in transportation and communication changed geographic patterns in the United States.

CONTENT: Economics

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards
Explain how the uneven distribution of productive resources influenced historic events such as the Civil War.
Discuss how mercantilism and the establishment of colonies led to increased global trading during the 17 th and 18 th centuries.
Explain the purpose and effects of trade barriers such as tariffs enacted before the Civil War.

Explain how lack of power to regulate the economy contributed to the demise of the Articles of Confederation and the creation of U.S. Constitution.

Explain how governmental protection of property rights and regulation of economic activity impacted the development of the U.S. economy.

CONTENT: Government

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards

Analyze the principles of self-government and natural rights expressed in the Declaration of Independence and their relationship to Enlightenment ideas.

Explain how political parties developed as a result of attempts to resolve issues in the early years of the United States including:

- a. Payment of debt;
- b. Establishment of a national bank;
- c. Strict or loose interpretation of the Constitution;
- d. Support for England or France.

Explain how events and issues demonstrated the need for a stronger form of governance in the early years of the United States:

- a. Shays's Rebellion
- b. Economic instability;
- c. Government under the Articles of Confederation.

Explain the political concepts expressed in the U.S. Constitution:

- a. Representative democracy;
- b. Federalism;
- c. Bicameralism;
- d. Separation of powers;
- e. Checks and balances.

Explain how the U.S. Constitution protects the rights of citizens, regulates the use of territory, manages conflict and establishes order and security.

Explain how specific provisions of the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, limit the powers of government in order to protect the rights of individuals with emphasis on:

- a. Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition;
- b. Right to trial by jury and the right to counsel;
- c. Due process and equal protection of the laws.

Explain how the Northwest Ordinance established principles and procedures for the orderly expansion of the United States.

Describe the process by which a bill becomes a law.

CONTENT: Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards

Show the relationship between participating in civic and political life and the attainment of individual and public goals including:

- a. The Sons of Liberty and Committees of Correspondence/American independence;
- b. The Underground Railroad and the abolitionist movement/Abolition of slavery.

Explain how the opportunities for civic participation expanded during the first half of the 19th century including:

- a. Nominating conventions;
- b. Expansion of the franchise;
- c. Active campaigning.

Evaluate the role of historical figures and political bodies in furthering and restricting the rights of individuals including:

- a. Jefferson and the contradiction between the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and his role as a slave owner;
- b. State constitutional conventions and the disenfranchisement of free blacks;
- c. Jackson and his role in Indian removal;
- d. Frederick Douglass and the abolitionist movement;
- e. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and women's rights.

Show connections between the rights and responsibilities of citizenship including:

- a. Voting and staying informed on issues;
- b. Being tried by a jury and serving on juries;
- c. Having rights and respecting the rights of others.

CONTENT: Social Studies Skills and Methods

Skills Based on Academic Content Standards

Compare accuracy and point of view of fiction and nonfiction sources about a particular era or event.

Construct a historical narrative using primary and secondary sources.

Write a position paper or give an oral presentation that includes citation of sources.

Organize and lead a discussion.

Identify ways to manage conflict within a group.

