

8th Grade Social Studies – Semester 1

- I. European Exploration
 - A. First American inhabitants
 - B. First European explorers (pre 1400s)
 - C. Portugal's influence on navigation (post 1400s)
 - D. Europe's destination point
 - i. Spread of Asian culture
 - ii. Clash of Christianity and Islam
 - E. Columbus' role in history
 - F. Spanish Conquistadors
 - i. The fall of the Aztec and Incan Empires
 - ii. The control of the Americas
 - G. Columbian Exchange
 - i. The impact on the Americas
 - ii. The introduction to slavery

- II. Colonial Development
 - A. English land claims
 - i. Lost colony at Roanoke Island
 - ii. Jamestown
 - iii. Plymouth Rock
 - B. Other European land claims
 - i. French, Dutch, German, Swiss, Scots, etc.
 - C. Native American conflict
 - i. Clash of cultures
 - ii. Land ownership
 - D. Early economic development
 - i. Virginia joint-stock company
 - ii. Tobacco as America's 1st cash crop
 - E. Early governmental development
 - i. The House of Burgesses
 - ii. Mayflower Compact
 - iii. Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

- III. Thirteen Original Colonies
 - A. New England Colonies
 - i. NH, RI, CT, and MA
 - ii. Puritan way of life
 - iii. Economic, political, social, and religious culture
 - B. Middle Colonies
 - i. NY, PA, NJ, and DE
 - ii. Melting pot society
 - iii. Economic, political, social, and religious culture
 - C. Southern Colonies
 - i. MD, VA, NC, SC, and GA

- ii. Plantation culture
 - iii. Economic, political, social, and religious culture
 - D. Social and political movements
 - i. Enlightenment, Great Awakening, formation of schools, Rights of Englishmen
 - E. French and Indian War
 - i. French and English land claims in the Ohio Valley
 - ii. Native American alliances (Iroquois League)
 - iii. American leadership (George Washington)
 - iv. Albany Plan of Union (Ben Franklin)
 - v. Key Battles (Ft. Necessity, Ft. Duquense, and Quebec)
 - vi. Pontiac's Rebellion
- IV. American Revolution
- A. Causes of the Revolution
 - i. Proclamation of 1763
 - ii. Sugar Act
 - iii. Stamp Act
 - iv. Tea Act
 - v. Coercive Acts
 - vi. Boston Tea Party
 - vii. Boston Massacre
 - viii. Intolerable Acts
 - ix. *Common Sense* – Thomas Paine
 - x. Lexington and Concord
 - B. Declaration of Independence
 - i. Ideas and fundamentals of the Declaration (Continental Congress)
 - ii. The development of a new nation
 - iii. Colonial leaders (Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston)
 - iv. Ratification
 - C. Revolutionary War
 - i. Strengths and weaknesses of the Continental and British Armies
 - ii. George Washington's leadership
 - iii. American and British strategies
 - iv. Key Battles (Princeton, Trenton, Saratoga, and Yorktown)
 - v. Foreign assistance (French and German support)
 - vi. Fighting on the Frontier (Ft. Vincennes/Sackville)
 - vii. War at Sea
 - viii. Guerrilla warfare and the Swamp Fox
 - ix. Treaty of Paris
 - x. Legacy of the Revolution – costs, casualties, and the birth of republicanism

- V. The Constitution
 - A. Confederation Era
 - i. Formation of state governments
 - ii. Articles of Confederation
 - iii. Land Ordinance of 1785
 - iv. Northwest Ordinance of 1787
 - B. Articles of Confederation
 - i. 1st attempt at Constitution
 - ii. Weaknesses (taxes, trade, ratification process)
 - iii. Shays's Rebellion
 - C. Constitutional Convention
 - i. Colonial delegates meet in Philadelphia.
 - ii. Founding Fathers (demographics and diversity)
 - iii. Virginia Plan
 - iv. New Jersey Plan
 - v. Great Compromise
 - vi. Three-Fifths Compromise
 - D. Ratification of the Constitution
 - i. Conflict between Federalists and Anti-Federalists
 - ii. Bill of Rights
- VI. The Constitutional Handbook (The Living Constitution)
 - A. The Seven Principles
 - i. Popular sovereignty, republicanism, federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, limited government, and individual rights
 - B. Preamble (Goals of the Constitution)
 - C. Article I – Legislative Branch
 - i. division between House of Reps and Senate
 - ii. qualifications and requirements for Congressmen
 - iii. duties of the House of Reps
 - iv. duties of the Senate
 - v. process of bill becoming a law
 - D. Article II – Executive Branch
 - i. terms of office
 - ii. Electoral College
 - iii. Qualifications
 - iv. Order of Succession
 - v. Impeachment

- E. Article III – Judicial Branch
 - i. Federal courts and judges
 - ii. Supreme Court duties and cases heard (Plessy v. Ferguson and Marbury v. Madison)

- F. Article IV – Interstate Relations
 - i. Rights of citizens
 - ii. Rights of states
 - iii. Extradition

- G. Article V – Amending the Constitution
 - i. Approval by 2/3 vote of Congress
 - ii. Approval by State governments

- H. Article VI – Supremacy of National Government
 - i. Supreme law

- I. Article VII – Ratification
 - i. Nine states must ratify original
 - ii. Signed September 17th, 1787
 - iii. Signed by 39 delegates

- J. Role of Citizens
 - i. Citizens’ rights and the limits thereof
 - ii. Citizens’ responsibilities

- K. Study of the Amendments
 - i. Bill of Rights 1-10
 - ii. 12th Amendment – Election of Executives
 - iii. 14th Amendment – Definition of a US Citizen
 - iv. 18th Amendment – Prohibition
 - v. 19th Amendment – Women’s Suffrage
 - vi. 21st Amendment – Repeal of Prohibition
 - vii. 22nd Amendment – Limit of Presidential Terms
 - viii. 25th Amendment – Presidential Order of Succession
 - ix. 26th Amendment – 18 year-olds Vote

8th Grade Social Studies – Semester 2

- VII. The Early Republic
 - A. Washington’s Presidency
 - i. 1st President
 - ii. Federal Judiciary Act
 - iii. Economic Problems and Hamilton’s Financial Plan
 - iv. Securing the Northwest Territory
 - v. Battle of Fallen Timbers

- vi. Whiskey Rebellion
- vii. The French Revolution and Neutrality
- viii. Washington's Warning to the Nation

B. The Jefferson Era

- i. Election of 1800
- ii. Jefferson's Philosophy
- iii. Judiciary Act of 1801
- iv. Louisiana Purchase
- v. Lewis and Clark
- vi. Problems with France and England at Sea
- vii. Embargo Act of 1807

C. War of 1812

- i. Battle of Tippecanoe and Tecumseh's Confederation
- ii. Fight over the Ohio River Valley and British Involvement
- iii. Oliver Hazard Perry and the Great Lakes
- iv. Washington D.C. Attacked and Spared
- v. Battle of New Orleans
- vi. Treaty of Ghent

D. Nationalism and Sectionalism

- i. American Pride Swells after War of 1812
- ii. Country Divides over Industrial Revolution and Slavery
- iii. Era of Good Feelings
- iv. Missouri Compromise of 1820

E. Monroe Doctrine

- i. Warning to Europe
- ii. Declaration as a World Power

F. Jackson's Presidency

- i. Election of 1824
- ii. Jacksonian Democracy
- iii. Spoils System
- iv. Indian Removal Act of 1830
- v. Trail of Tears
- vi. Debate of States' Rights
- vii. South Carolina Threatens to Secede

VIII. Manifest Destiny

A. Trails West

- i. Oregon Trail
- ii. California Gold Rush
- iii. Trail to Santa Fe
- iv. Mormon Trail

- B. Texas Revolution
 - i. Alamo
 - ii. Lone Star Republic
- C. Mexican-American War
 - i. Capturing New Mexico and California
 - ii. Mexican Cession
- IX. Cultural, Social, Economic, and Religious Changes in the 1800s
 - A. Immigration
 - i. Push-Pull Factors
 - ii. Scandinavian Influx
 - iii. German's Pursue Economic Opportunity
 - iv. Irish Potato Famine
 - v. Prejudicism Spreads in America
 - B. Industrial Revolution
 - i. Beginning in Europe
 - ii. Samuel Slater
 - iii. New England Economic Boom
 - iv. Population Shift to the City
 - v. Labor Unions
 - vi. Cotton Gin and Plantation Life
 - C. Romanticism and American Art and Literature
 - i. James Fenimore Cooper – *The Last of the Mohicans*
 - ii. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – *Paul Revere's Ride*
 - iii. Ralph Waldo Emerson
 - iv. Henry David Thoreau
 - v. Walt Whitman
 - vi. Emily Dickinson
 - vii. Transcendentalism
 - D. Second Great Awakening
 - i. Temperance Movement
 - ii. States outlaw alcohol
 - E. Abolition Leaders
 - i. Frederick Douglass
 - ii. Sojourner Truth
 - iii. Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad
 - iv. William Lloyd Garrison
 - F. Women's Rights
 - i. Dorthea Dix
 - ii. Susan B. Anthony

- iii. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
 - iv. Seneca Falls Convention
- X. The Nation Breaking Apart
 - A. Tension between the North and South
 - i. Northern economy and political power
 - ii. Southern economy and slavery
 - B. Slavery Legislation
 - i. Wilmot Proviso
 - ii. Compromise of 1850
 - iii. Fugitive Slave Act
 - iv. Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - v. Dred Scott Case
 - C. Slavery Divides Politics
 - i. Free-Soil Party
 - ii. Republican Party
 - iii. Lincoln and Douglas Debates
 - iv. Election of 1860
 - D. Violence over Slavery
 - i. Bleeding Kansas
 - ii. Attack in Congress
 - iii. Harper's Ferry and John Brown
 - E. Southern Secession
 - i. South Carolina 1st to secede
 - ii. Confederate Government and Jefferson Davis
 - iii. The Crittenden Plan
- XI. The Civil War
 - A. War Erupts
 - i. Ft. Sumter
 - ii. Choosing Sides
 - iii. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Union and Confederacy
 - iv. Union and Confederate Strategies
 - B. Key Battles and Events
 - i. 1st Bull Run
 - ii. Ft. Henry and Donelson
 - iii. Fredericksburg
 - iv. Shiloh
 - v. Antietam
 - vi. Emancipation Proclamation
 - vii. Gettysburg
 - viii. Vicksburg

- ix. Spotsylvania
 - x. Cold Harbor
- C. The Emergence of Ulysses S. Grant
- i. Shiloh
 - ii. Vicksburg
 - iii. Commanding General of Union Forces
- D. The Surrender at Appomattox Courthouse
- i. Terms of surrender
 - ii. Grant's generosity and comments
- E. Legacy of the Civil War and Societal Influence
- i. 54th Massachusetts
 - ii. Women's roles
 - iii. Prison Camps
 - iv. Costs of the War
 - v. 13th Amendment
 - vi. Lincoln's Assassination
 - vii. Ku Klux Klan
- F. Reconstruction
- i. Freedmen's Bureau and Schools
 - ii. Civil Rights Act
 - iii. 14th Amendment
 - iv. Reconstruction Acts of 1867
 - v. Republican Take Over of Southern States
 - vi. President Johnson impeached
 - vii. Ulysses S. Grant elected President
 - viii. 15th Amendment
 - ix. Compromise of 1877