

Social Studies Highlights

American History - Grade 8

What your Middle School Student will learn . . .

Students will explore the following units of study:

- Exploration
- Colonization
- American Revolution
- The U.S. Constitution
- The New Nation
- The Civil War

What your Middle School Student will do . . .

- Think, act, and behave just as historians do by developing explanations for their observations, hypotheses, and thoughts through investigating, reading, writing, and sharing
- Identify, analyze, and cite primary sources and evaluate the credibility and origin of the sources based on historical knowledge
- Analyze how the exploration and encounter of Europeans led to an exchange between the old and new worlds
- Trace how an ever changing colonial America and the new American nation discovered their identity while asserting themselves against Imperial Britain
- Explore how the limitations of the Articles of Confederation led to the creation of the United States Constitution
- Discuss how the government expanded democratic ideals while addressing an evolving population, a growing landscape, and an emerging market economy
- Identify important figures and then analyze their significance to the development of the United States
- Analyze how the U.S. became a “house divided against itself”

What families will see . . .

- Engaging digital and printable resources such as interactive simulations, text, reading passages, and video
- Emphasis on collaboration and cooperation as a community of learners
- Children using the Discovery Education Techbook, which is an online resource available anywhere, anytime and on almost any device with an internet connection

How families can help . . .

- Encourage your child to read for pleasure
- Explore your child’s writing assignments
- Discuss current issues with your child
- Log-in with your child to the Discovery Education Techbook at www.discoveryeducation.com
- Keep open communication with your child’s teachers
- Visit the Techbook Student Guide and Troubleshooting tips if needed at <http://goo.gl/i0ioHK>