



Department of Instruction

What Your Child Will Learn in HS United States History

All Calvert County Core Social Studies Curriculum is based on [Maryland Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks](#)

Social Studies Skills and Processes

Reading and Source Analysis and Application

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.
- Integrate and evaluate content presented graphically, visually, orally, and multimodally as well as in words within and across print and digital sources.
- Evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and fluency of the evidence.

Writing Standards

- Students will write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
- Students will write informative/ explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events.

Historical Thinking and Reasoning

- Engage in inquiry, including constructing compelling questions, supporting questions, and determining helpful resources needed to answer their questions.
- Evaluate context, continuity and change by analyzing connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts.
- Analyze various perspectives by analyzing the multiple factors that influenced peoples' perspectives during different historical eras and explaining how and why perspectives change over time.
- Analyze the relative influence of various causes of events and developments in the past and in contemporary society while evaluating their effects and implications.

United States History Course Content

Unit One: The Challenges and Achievements of Industrialization and Urbanization

1. Analyze the policies of the United States government towards Native Americans following the Civil War. Assess the impact and consequences these policies had on Native Americans.
2. Analyze the development of Jim Crow and institutionalized racism in America and its lasting impact on communities of color.
3. Examine how a laissez-faire approach to American capitalism caused rapid industrialization and led to significant challenges and societal problems that were subsequently addressed through a variety of reform efforts.
4. Evaluate how new technologies and economic models of production created rapid industrial growth and transformed the United States.
5. Evaluate the dramatic changes in the daily lives of Americans in the latter half of the 19th and early 20th Century, such as automobiles, electricity, telephones, and indoor plumbing.
6. Evaluate how the negative effects of industrialization and urbanization were addressed through Progressive reform efforts.

Unit Two: The United States Becomes a World Power

1. Evaluate the motives that contributed to American imperialism.
2. Evaluate the causes and effects of the Spanish-American War.
3. Evaluate the beliefs that affected United States foreign policy in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia and the outcomes of this policy.
4. Analyze the arguments of Americans who opposed imperialism, including the Anti-Imperialist League and organized labor.
5. Describe American perception of the events that led to the outbreak of World War I and the response of the United States.
6. Evaluate the impact of World War I on various groups within American society.
7. Evaluate the challenges to civil liberties and American ideals that emerged following America's entry into World War I.
8. Analyze the significance of Woodrow Wilson's foreign policy decisions.

Unit Three: Prosperity and Depression

1. Compare traditional values of American society with the changing social values that emerged following World War I.
2. Describe the political and social consequences of nativism and the Red Scare, including the Palmer Raids, immigration restrictions and the Sacco and Vanzetti case.
3. Analyze how communities of color and immigrants resisted discrimination and racist policies.
4. Analyze the shift of African American demographics from the rural South to the urban, industrial north and west during the Great Migration and the consequences of the migration on these regions.
5. Analyze the relationship between the arts and social and political changes that resulted in the Harlem Renaissance.

6. Examine the immediate and long-range causes for the stock market crash and the Great Depression.
7. Examine the hardships of the Great Depression on various groups in American society, including families, farmers, marginalized groups, industrial workers, homeless, and unemployed.
8. Compare and evaluate the responses of President Hoover and President Roosevelt to the Great Depression.
9. Evaluate the goals, successes and failures of New Deal programs and analyze its lasting legacy, including economic stability and the increased involvement of the government in the lives of citizens.

Unit Four: World War II: A World in Crisis

1. Summarize the events that led to the beginning of the Second World War, including the failure of the Treaty of Versailles, the rise of totalitarian regimes in Europe and Asia, and the worldwide recession of the 1920s and 1930s.
2. Examine the United States shift from neutrality to gradual involvement in the war in Europe and Asia.
3. Briefly examine the key events of WWII throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa.
4. Evaluate the impact of World War II on American society.
5. Evaluate the impact of the United States' use of atomic weapons to end WWII.
6. Examine the United States involvement in and outcomes arising from the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences and the creation of the United Nations.

Unit Five: Prosperity and New World Leadership

1. Analyze the breakdown of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States and its western allies following World War II.
2. Describe the development of United States containment policies in Asia and the Pacific region (China, Taiwan, Korea, French Indochina [Vietnam]), including participation in the Korean Conflict (1950-1953)
3. Explain how fear of communist expansion led to the second Red Scare, McCarthyism, and a renewed conflict between protecting civil liberties and maintaining national security.
Analyze President Kennedy's Cold War policies, including:
4. Examine the causes, escalation and significant events related to the United States involvement in the Vietnam War.
5. Explain the development of the anti-war movement and its consequences for American society and support for the war, including the role of the media on shaping public opinion about the Vietnam War.
6. Describe the impact of the changing relationship between the United States and China; the Soviet Union.

Unit Six: Social Change

1. Describe the economic boom of the 1950s and its impact on American life, including shifts in population, technology, and lifestyle.
2. Analyze the post-war momentum of the civil rights struggle of African Americans.
3. Analyze the struggle for equity and civil rights of marginalized groups within the United States and the significant economic, political, and social changes experienced by different Americans.
4. Describe various methods and actions that Civil Rights activists used to protest segregation.

5. Examine the government's policies to provide for more equity in American Society and the rights of Americans.

Unit Seven: Contemporary America

1. Analyze the impact of the Watergate crisis and President Nixon's resignation on American attitudes toward the government and the office of the President.
2. Examine the impact of the "Reagan Revolution" on economic policy, Federalism, and public perceptions of the role of government.
3. Analyze how the policies and actions of President Reagan and President George H.W. Bush towards the Soviet Union affected the Cold War.
4. Explain how United States foreign policy has affected the Middle East and how it has been affected by events in the Middle East.
5. Evaluate the goals and outcomes of President Clinton's development of a more centrist Democratic party.
6. Explain how the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the United States reshaped the nation politically, socially, and economically.
7. Trace the polarization of American political ideals and practices from President Reagan through President Obama and the impact on policy-making and American culture.
8. Analyze the opportunities and challenges that technology and globalism pose to the American economy and society from the end of the Cold War to the present.
9. Evaluate the evolution of American culture and norms in the 21st century.