

GRADE EIGHT UNITED STATES HISTORY (to the Civil War)

Students examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States during the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. They learn about the important political and economic factors that contributed to the outbreak of the Revolution as well as the consequences of the Revolution, including the writing and key ideas of the U.S. Constitution. Students also study the basic framework of American democracy and the basic concepts of American government such as popular sovereignty, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights. Students study America's westward expansion, the establishment of political parties, and economic and social change. Finally, students will learn about the growth of sectional conflict, how sectional conflict led to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War, including Reconstruction.

Content:

The Revolutionary Era 1745-1776 (6 weeks)

- French & Indian War
- American Revolution
- Declaration of Independence

The Constitution of the United States / Civics 1787 - present (10 weeks)

- Early American Government
- The Constitution
- Government, Citizenship, & the Constitution (to the present)
- How the federal government works
- State & local governments
- Rights and responsibilities of citizenship

The Early Republic 1789 - 1824 (6 weeks)

- Launching the new government
- The Age of Jefferson
- The Louisiana Purchase
- The War of 1812
- The Industrial Revolution
- Americans Move Westward

An Era of Expansion 1824 - 1860 (6 weeks)

- The Jacksonian Era
- Westward Expansion
- North and South
- Reform and a New American Culture

Division and Reunion 1861 - 1896 (7 weeks)

- Slavery Divides the Nation
- The Republican Party Emerges
- A Nation Divides
- The Civil War
- Reconstruction and the Changing South (if time)