

Haddon Township School District

Curriculum Overview

Subject Area: Social Studies

Grade Level: 6th Grade

Course Name: United States History: The Constitution to Reconstruction

Course Overview/Description: In grade six United States history classes, students will study the history of the United States from the end of the American Revolution to the Reconstruction after the Civil War. The course is a historical survey chronologically tracing the major historical periods of the overarching time frame. The course will also focus on the roles of each president during each individual time period in addition to the roles of men, women, children, Native Americans, and slaves. Students will also explore the importance of the Westward Expansion as well as the development of industry.

Unit Title	Unit Summary	Student Learning Targets
Unit 1: The Constitution	An examination of what led to the need for the creation of the U.S. Constitution and how the Constitution protects our individual rights today. Analyze such events as the failure of the Articles of Confederation to unite the 13 states, the inability of Congress to stop Shays' Rebellion, and the lack of basic understood human rights that would later be expressed in the Bill of Rights. Unit will also include an evaluation of compromises such as the 3/5 Compromise and the Great Compromise.	<i>Students will...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explain how and why early government structures developed, and determine the impact of these early structures on the evolution of American politics and institutions.● Evaluate the effectiveness of the fundamental principles of the Constitution (i.e., consent of the governed, rule of law, federalism, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, and individual rights) in establishing a federal government that allows for growth and change over time.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine the role that compromise played in the creation and adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. ● Compare and contrast the Articles of Confederation and the UNITED STATES Constitution in terms of the decision-making powers of national government. ● Evaluate the impact of the Constitution and Bill of Rights on current day issues. ● Determine the extent to which the geography of the United States influenced the debate on representation in Congress and federalism by examining the New Jersey and Virginia plans ● Summarize the effect of inflation and debt on the American people and the response of state and national governments during this time. ● Evaluate the extent to which the leadership and decisions of early administrations of the national government met the goals established in the Preamble of the Constitution.
<p>Unit 2: The Presidency and a New Nation</p>	<p>An analysis of how the first seven presidencies of the United States were influenced by the U.S. Constitution as well as an examination of how these presidencies defined the position of President. This unit will also compare key differences between presidential styles and circumstances influencing the decisions of each of the first seven Presidents of the United States.</p>	<p><i>Students will ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe the underlying values and principles of democracy and distinguish these from authoritarian forms of government. ● Compare and contrast purposes, organization, functions, and interactions of the legislative, executive, and judicial

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		<p>branches of national, state, and local governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss the role of political parties in the American democratic system.
<p>Unit 3: Strategies for Survival – Native Americans</p>	<p>An examination of the causes and consequences of the forced removal of Native-American tribes such as the Iroquois, Shawnee, and Cherokee from their homelands in the eastern part of the United States.</p>	<p><i>Students will ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss major historical and contemporary conflicts over United States constitutional principles, including the rights of minorities in the Indian Removal Act. ● Describe major conflicts that have arisen from diversity and discuss how the conflicts have been addressed. ● Analyze the causes and consequences of continuing conflict between Native American tribes and colonists. ● Discuss the background and major issues of the War of 1812 (e.g., role of Native Americans). ● Compare political interests and views regarding the War of 1812 (e.g., interests of Native Americans and white settlers in the Northwest Territory). ● Describe and map the continuing territorial expansion and settlement of the frontier, including the acquisition of new territories and conflicts with the Native Americans. ● Explain how state and federal policies influenced various Native American tribes.

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Unit 4: The Industrial Revolution	An examination of the transformation of the United States from a rural, agrarian nation to an industrialized nation capable of producing a self-sustaining economy.	<i>Students will...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Describe the political, economic, and social changes in New Jersey and American society preceding the Civil War, including the early stages of industrialization.● Describe how private industry acquires material and energy resources, provides jobs, raises financial capital, manages production processes, and market goods and services that create wealth in order to meet consumer and industrial requirements.● Be able to compare farming and market economies.● Discuss how meeting the needs and wants of a growing world population impacts the environment and economic growth.● Discuss how industrialization in the North contributed to the development of sectionalism in the United States.
Unit 5: Challenging Slavery	An analysis of compromises made by Congress to satisfy both pro-slavery advocates and abolitionists in the United States as well as a study of methods used via the Underground Railroad to help fugitive slaves escape to freedom.	<i>Students will...</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Analyze how certain values including individual rights, the common good, self-government, justice, equality, and free inquiry are fundamental to American public life.● Describe the continuing struggle to bring all groups of Americans into the mainstream of society with the liberties and equality to which all are entitled.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss major historical and contemporary conflicts over United States principles. ● Discuss how families long ago expressed and transmitted their beliefs and values through oral tradition, literature, songs, and celebrations. ● Discuss how millions of Africans, brought against their will from Central Africa to the Americas, retained their humanity, their families, and the cultures during enslavement. ● Identify factors that account for the establishment of African slavery in the Americas. ● Discuss sectional compromises associated with westward expansion of slavery, such as the Missouri Compromise and the continued resistance to slavery by African Americans. ● Understand the institution of slavery in the U.S., resistance to it, and New Jersey's role in the Underground Railroad. ● Explain the major events, issues, and personalities of the American Civil War including: causes of the Civil War and the Dred Scott Decision.
Unit 6: Westward Expansion	An evaluation of the meaning and impact of the concept of Manifest Destiny on white American settlers and Native-Americans. Compare and contrast the Santa Fe, Mormon, Oregon, and California Trails. Analyze the impact of westward settlement on the issue of slavery.	<p><i>Students will...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain the concept of Manifest Destiny and its relationship to the westward movement of settlers and territorial expansion.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe and map the continuing territorial expansion and settlement of the frontier, including the acquisition of new territories. • Compare the natural characteristics used to define a region.
Unit 7: A Nation Divided – The Civil War	An analysis the causes of the American Civil War. Discuss key battles and personalities of the American Civil War. Evaluate the impact of the American Civil War on the entire country. Discuss how the 13 th , 14 th , and 15 th Amendments attempted to fulfill the promises addressed in the Preamble of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.	<p><i>Students will...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use critical thinking skills to interpret events, recognize bias, point of view, and context. • Compare and contrast competing interpretations of current and historical events. • Explain the major events, issues, and personalities of the American Civil War.
Unit 8: Reconstruction	A comparison of Lincoln’s and Johnson’s post-war plans for the readmission of the South into the Union and the reconstruction of the South’s landscape. Analyze obstacles facing Southern whites and African-Americans in the South during this time period.	<p><i>Students will...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain Reconstruction as a government action, how it worked, and its effects after the war. • Discuss the impact of retaliatory state laws and general Southern resistance to Reconstruction.
Unit 9: Rights of Women and Children	An analysis of the struggles and goals of suffragist and labor movements in the United States during the Antebellum Period. Discuss major leaders of these movements and the effects of these movements on American politics and social structure.	<p><i>Students will ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the continuing struggle to bring all groups of Americans into the mainstream of society with the liberties and equality to which all are entitled, as

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		<p>exemplified by individuals such as Susan B. Anthony.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research contemporary issues involving the constitutional rights of American citizens and other individuals residing in the U.S., including voting rights.• Recognize the names of major figures in American history, including Susan B. Anthony.• Discuss American cultural, religious, and social reform movements in the antebellum period (e.g. abolitionists, the Second Great Awakening, the origins of the labor and women's movements).
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