Course Overview

Middle School | 8 | Social Studies - *Last Updated on October 28, 2024*

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement

- Social Studies prepares the nation's young people for college, careers, and civic life.
- Inquiry is at the heart of social studies instruction which involves interdisciplinary applications, deep understandings, concepts, and skills from the disciplines.
- Young people require analytic, strategic, chronological, and critical thinking skills to prepare for participating in democratic decision-making.
- Social studies instruction directly and explicitly connects to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.

Course Description

In eighth-grade Social Studies, students begin a comprehensive journey through American history and government. They start by honing their geographic skills and look into the early North American colonies, exploring their origins, challenges, and growth into the original thirteen colonies. Through an analysis of key events, students uncover the tensions that sparked the American Revolutionary War, while deconstructing the meaning of the Declaration of Independence to grasp its significance. Students weigh the opposing perspectives of the war and engage in hands-on activities to understand its complexities. Transitioning to the Constitutional Convention, students examine the intricate compromises that shaped the U.S. government, students also investigate federalism, separation of powers, and the Constitution itself. The course expands to cover topics such as the Bill of Rights, foreign policy, manifest destiny, and westward expansion, offering insights into diverse societal movements. Finally, students explore the causes of the Civil War, understanding the division between North and South and the subsequent secession of the Southern states. Through this comprehensive curriculum, students gain a nuanced understanding of America's past and its enduring impact on the present.

STANDARDS

Pennsylvania - Grade 8 - Geography

7.1 7.2

Pennsylvania - Grade 9-12 - History - US History

8.3 8.1.U.B 8.1.U.A 8.1.U.C 8.3.U.A 8.3.U.B 8.3.U.C 8.3.U.D

Pennsylvania - Grade 9-12 - History - Civics & Government

8.3 8.3.C.B 8.3.C.C 8.4.C.B 8.3.C.A 8.4.C.D 8.4.C.C

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Pennsylvania - Grade 8 - Civics and Government

5.1 5.1.8.D 5.2 5.3

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives for this course are aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Common Core Standards for Social Studies as outlined in the Scope and Sequence for Grade 8.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments

SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Below is a list of suggested strategies for high-quality instruction in Mathematics:

- Instructional components outlined in the Framework for Teaching
- Interactive Lectures
- Primary Source Investigations
- Hands-on Activities
- Technology Integration
- Cooperative Learning
- Inquiry-Based Learning
- Differentiated Learning

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RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
History Alive U.S. Through Industrialism (3rd Ed.)		