

2025-26 GVCS CURRICULUM MAP

Month	Standard/Learning Target	Program Materials/Resources	Vocabulary	Assessment	Writing
September	Students will understand the structure and functions of New York State government. Students will analyze the roles of the three branches with emphasis on the legislative process. Students will apply their knowledge by drafting and presenting a mock bill.	NYS Education Department Civics resources NYS Assembly and Senate websites (How a Bill Becomes Law in NYS) Sample bills from Youth & Government / Model Legislature programs	Bill, Legislature, Senate, Assembly, Committee, Governor, Veto, Lawmaking	Formative: Quizzes on NYS government structure Summative: Bill writing project & mock legislative session presentation	Legislative Bill Draft (individual or small groups) Reflection essay: How does the NYS process compare to the federal system?
October–November	Students will describe the major Native American cultures before European contact, with emphasis on the Haudenosaunee. Students will analyze the impact of European exploration and early settlement on Native Americans. Students will evaluate primary sources to understand cultural perspectives.	Textbook Ch. 1: Early American Civilizations Documentary: '1491: The Untold Story of the Americas' Primary Sources: Native American creation stories, excerpts from Columbus’s journals	Indigenous, Haudenosaunee, Culture, Colonization, Exploration, Columbian Exchange	Formative: Vocabulary and geography quizzes Summative: Unit test on Native American cultures and exploration	Essay: Compare and contrast the cultures of the Haudenosaunee and Plains Native Americans. Journal Entry: Imagine you are a Native American encountering Europeans for the first time.
December–January	Students will identify the reasons for European colonization in North America. Students will explain the development of the 13 colonies and regional differences. Students will evaluate the impact of colonization on Native Americans and settlers.	Textbook Ch. 2: Colonization of North America Interactive Map: Colonial America (1620–1763) Primary Sources: Mayflower Compact, John Winthrop’s 'City upon a Hill'	Colony, Mercantilism, Puritan, Indentured Servant, Triangular Trade	Formative: Map quizzes on the original 13 colonies Summative: DBQ on the economic and social effects of colonization	Informative Essay: Create a brochure describing colonial regions (culture, economics, geography). Creative Writing: Letter from a settler describing life in the new colony.
February–March	Students will explain the causes of the American Revolution,	Textbook Ch. 3: The American Revolution	Revolution, Independence,	Formative: Timeline of key Revolutionary	Argumentative Essay: Was the American

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	<p>including events in New York State. Students will analyze the principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students will evaluate primary sources to understand Revolutionary ideals.</p>	<p>Film Clip: 'Hamilton' (debates on independence and government) Primary Sources: Declaration of Independence, The Federalist Papers, NYS historical documents</p>	<p>Republic, Constitution, Federalism</p>	<p>events Summative: Essay on causes of the Revolution and its impact on American society</p>	<p>Revolution justified? Support your claim with evidence. Research Paper: Analyze the contribution of a New Yorker to the Revolution or Constitution.</p>
April	<p>Students will evaluate the challenges faced by the early United States. Students will describe the development of political parties and government institutions. Students will analyze New York's role in shaping the early republic.</p>	<p>Textbook Ch. 4: The Early Republic Simulation: A day in the life of an early American citizen Primary Sources: Washington's Farewell Address, Hamilton's writings</p>	<p>Republic, Political Party, Cabinet, Neutrality, Precedent</p>	<p>Formative: Quiz on government leaders and institutions Summative: Unit test on the formation of the U.S. government and early challenges</p>	<p>Analytical Essay: Discuss the significance of Washington's Farewell Address. Group Project: Create a political cartoon critiquing policies of an early president.</p>
May-June	<p>Students will analyze the causes and effects of westward expansion. Students will examine reform movements and their impact on American society. Students will explain the causes of the Civil War.</p>	<p>Textbook Ch. 5: Expansion and Reform Primary Sources: Excerpts from 'The Oregon Trail,' speeches by reform leaders Maps and graphs: Tracking U.S. expansion and sectional tensions</p>	<p>Manifest Destiny, Abolition, Suffrage, Industrialization, Sectionalism, Secession</p>	<p>Formative: Map activity tracing expansion routes Summative: Essay on the impact of reform movements Summative: Short essay on the causes of the Civil War</p>	<p>Expository Essay: Describe Manifest Destiny and its effects on Native Americans. Debate: Argue for or against a reform movement (abolition, women's suffrage). Cause-and-effect essay: Identify key causes of the Civil War.</p>