

Mount Pleasant Central School District

7th Grade, Social Studies



We believe that all students should have a global perspective of diverse cultural, economic and political systems by showing understanding through inquiry, application and analysis.

How did society adapt and expand to its environment in the Americas? This course will explore the development of humans in the Americas, starting from the arrival of the first humans and ending at the reasons for the Civil War. This course builds on 6th grade Social Studies skills, exploring the interconnectedness of the world, as well as the skills to analyze artifacts, fossils, primary and secondary sources.

Unit Title	Month	Content	Vocabulary	Standards	Skills	Big Ideas	Assessments
Geography and Natives	September	Students will explore the key regions of North America (Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Northwest, Midwest, Far North) and discover the way the Native Americans adapted to those regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land Bridge -Nomadic -Sedentary -Agriculture -Topography 	7.1 NATIVE AMERICANS: The physical environment and natural resources of North America influenced the development of the first human settlements and the culture of Native Americans. Native American societies varied across North America.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perspective - Causality 	Geography and climate forced Native Americans to adapt to the area they lived in.	- Native American Survival Guide Project
Mesoamerica & Exploration	October	Students will explore the three largest Mesoamerican regions and how they developed as	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maya - Inca - Aztec - Mesoamerica - Slash and Burn 	7.1 NATIVE AMERICANS: The physical environment and natural resources of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perspective - Causality 	The meeting of the “New World” and the “Old World” shaped life in irrevocable ways.	-Structured Academic Controversy: Exploration

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		civilizations.	Farming - Terrace Farming - Chinampas - Quipu - Sapa Inca	North America influenced the development of the first human settlements and the culture of Native Americans. Native American societies varied across North America. 7.2 COLONIAL DEVELOPMENTS: European exploration of the New World resulted in various interactions with Native Americans and in colonization.			

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English Colonies	November	Students will investigate the reasons for coming to the Americas and how the three regions of the English colonies developed differently based on their location (New England, Middle, Southern).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - salutary neglect - mercantilism - colony - mother country - indentured servants - cash crops - subsistence farming - Middle Passage - religious tolerance - settlement - allies 	<p>7.2 COLONIAL DEVELOPMENTS: European exploration of the New World resulted in various interactions with Native Americans and in colonization. The American colonies were established for a variety of reasons and developed differently based on economic, social, and geographic factors. Colonial America had a variety of social structures under which not all people were treated equally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication: Source Evaluation - Research 	Geographic and economic differences lead to sectional differences which leads people to emphasize the value of their region.	Project: Colonies Recruitment Poster

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Causes of the American Revolution	December	Students will examine how the English practice of salutary neglect directly led to colonial resentment, which cyclically continued until it ended in revolution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minute men - militia - quartering - massacre - revolt - debt - loyalists - patriots - neutral 	7.3 AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE: Growing tensions over political power and economic issues sparked a movement for independence from Great Britain. New York played a critical role in the course and outcome of the American Revolution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication: Source Evaluation -Research 	Continued salutary neglect and rising debt led to escalating tensions between the British crown and the Colonists.	Structured Academic Controversy: Boston Massacre
American Revolution	January	Students will analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the colonial and British militaries, and the strategies utilized by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continental Army - Revolution - Turning Point - alliance - mercenary - patriotism 	7.3 AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE: Growing tensions over political power and economic issues sparked a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication: Source Evaluation -Research 	The American Colonists, with support from their allies, used new resources and strategies to win	Project: American Revolution News Report

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		the colonial army to lead to eventual success.		movement for independence from Great Britain. New York played a critical role in the course and outcome of the American Revolution.		independence.	
Constitution	January-February	Students will interpret the origins and purposes of the various components of the United States Constitution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - compromise - Federal / National / Central government - Congress - Executive - Judicial - Justice - Legislative - bicameral - federalist - anti-federalist - checks and balances 	7.4 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION: The newly independent states faced political and economic struggles under the Articles of Confederation. These challenges resulted in a Constitutional	- Contextualization	New ideas in Europe along with a pressing need for unity to better run the country, members of different states and political ideologies came together to create the Constitution.	Project: Create your own country and constitution

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				Convention, a debate over ratification, and the eventual adoption of the Bill of Rights.			
Presidential Powers	March	Students will investigate how the early presidents established precedents and exercised or limited the power granted to the executive branch under the Constitution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - precedent - cabinet - term - Federalists - Democratic - Republicans - Rebellion - political parties - Marbury v. Madison - Louisiana Purchase - Monroe Doctrine - Alien and Sedition Acts 	7.5 THE CONSTITUTION IN PRACTICE: The United States Constitution serves as the foundation of the United States government and outlines the rights of citizens. The Constitution is considered a living document that can respond to political and social changes. The New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contextualization - Interpreting political cartoons 	As each president took office, they continued to define the position and powers of the president.	Project: Political Cartoon

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				York State Constitution also has been changed over time.			
A Changing America	April	Students will explore how the United States in the early 19th century developed into a modern country, which led to divisions between the North and South, as well as reform movements to correct problems that develop due to industrialization and urbanization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Industrial - Immigrant - capitalism - Spinning Jenny - Factory - interchangeable parts - cotton gin - steam engine - urbanization 	7.8 A NATION DIVIDED: Westward expansion, the industrialization of the North, and the increase of slavery in the South contributed to the growth of sectionalism. Constitutional conflicts between advocates of states' rights and supporters of federal power increased tensions in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research - Communication -Presentations 	Political and economic motives coupled with new technology enabled Americans to make economic and political progress.	Project: Industrial Revolution Shark Tank

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				the nation; attempts to compromise ultimately failed to keep the nation together, leading to the Civil War.			
Westward Movement	May-June	Students will explore the movement of Americans westward for opportunities and resources. Students will examine the impact on the environment and the Native Americans living there.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manifest Destiny - Nationalism - Acquisition - Territory - pioneer - Gold Rush 	7.6 WESTWARD EXPANSION: Driven by political and economic motives, the United States expanded its physical boundaries to the Pacific Ocean between 1800 and 1860. This settlement displaced Native Americans as the frontier was pushed westward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research -Communication 	The desire for new resources and wealth drove Americans westward, providing opportunities for some, while harming others.	-Project: Manifest Destiny Advertisement

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