

Mount Pleasant Central School District

8th 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 we reach this point in modern history? This course is a continuation of the 7th grade study of the development of the United States through modern times. This course builds on 6th and 7th grade Social Studies skills, exploring the interconnectedness of the world, as well as the skills to analyze artifacts, fossils, primary and secondary sources, writing; and preparation for high school.

Unit Title	Month	Content	Vocabulary	Standards	Skills	Big Ideas	Assessments
Unit 1: Slavery & Civil War	September - October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life in the North and South - Causes of the Civil War -Technology - Anaconda Plan - Emancipation Proclamation - NYC Draft Riots - Total War 	Plantation Missouri Compromise Compromise of 1850 Fugitive slave law Abolitionist John Brown Dredd Scott Sectionalism Fort Sumter Emancipation Proclamation Gettysburg Abraham Lincoln Robert E Lee US Grant	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 the nation; attempts to compromise ultimately failed to keep the nation together, leading to the Civil War.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary and Secondary Source analysis 	How did geography, strategic leaders, and technology influence the outcome of the Civil War?	Project: Civil War and Its Causes Museum Exhibition

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Unit 2: Reconstruction	October - November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments - Dred Scott Decision - Black Codes - Jim Crow Laws - Plessy v. Ferguson 	Sharecroppers 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments Jim Crow laws Reconstruction Acts	8.1 RECONSTRUCTION: Regional tensions following the Civil War complicated efforts to heal the nation and to redefine the status of African Americans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Primary/Secondary Source Analysis - Perspectives 	Was Reconstruction a success? How do you know?	
Unit 3: Urbanization & Immigration	November - December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dawes Act - Transcontinental Railroad - Homestead Act - Tenement Housing - Chinese Exclusion Act - Compare Ellis Island / Angel Island 	Transcontinental RR Thomas Edison Dawes Act Homestead Act Chinese Exclusion Act Ellis Island Angel Island	8.2 A CHANGING SOCIETY: Industrialization and immigration contributed to the urbanization of America. Problems resulting from these changes sparked the Progressive movement and increased calls for reform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Communication: Presentation -Research 	What factors led to Westward expansion in the United States, and how did Immigration contribute ?	Project: Immigration Research (Socratic Seminar)

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Unit 4: Gilded Age & Progressive Era	December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rise of industry - Rise of Labor Unions - Progressive Reforms - Theodore Roosevelt & the Square Deal - Anti-Trust Laws 	Gilded Age Robber Barrons Jacob Riis Philanthropy Muckraker Upton Sinclair Monopoly 18th Amendment 19th Amendment	8.2 A CHANGING SOCIETY: Industrialization and immigration contributed to the urbanization of America. Problems resulting from these changes sparked the Progressive movement and increased calls for reform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contextualization -Causality 	How did the <i>Gilded Age</i> and the Progressive movement affect the American economy?	
Unit 5: Imperialism & WWI	January - February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - African Colonization - Chinese Imperialism - Boxer Rebellion - Spanish-American War - Annexation of Hawaii and Alaska - Panama Canal 	Yellow Journalism Monroe Doctrine USS Maine Isolationism Open Door policy Roosevelt Corollary Panama Canal Militarism	8.3 EXPANSION AND IMPERIALISM: Beginning in the second half of the 19th century, economic, political, and cultural factors contributed to a push for westward expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying Perspective - Communication: Writing 	How does a country become a world power? Is there a need for world powers?	Writing: WWI Perspectives Diary Entries Trench warfare exhibit with artifacts.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M.A.I.N. Causes of WWI - European Motivations for War -Armenian Genocide - Trench warfare and technology - Sinking of Lusitania - League of Nations 	Alliance system Imperialism Nationalism Archduke Franz Ferdinand Lusitania Zimmerman telegram	and more aggressive United States foreign policy.		What were the MAIN causes of World War One? Why did the United States enter World War One?	
Unit 6: Great Migration & Roaring 20s	February - March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18th, 19th, 21th Amendments - Prohibition - Women's Rights - Bootleggers - Great Migration - Boom Times 	Jazz Age Harlem Renaissance Prohibition 18th Amendment Buying on Credit Stock market	8.4 WORLD WAR I AND THE ROARING TWENTIES: Various diplomatic, economic, and ideological factors contributed to the United States decision	- Critical Thinking: Causality	How does the success of the early 1920's lead to the Great Depression?	Project: Shark Tank - Cultural Changes of the 1920s

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		- 1920s Economy		to enter World War I. Involvement in the war significantly altered the lives of Americans. Postwar America was characterized by economic prosperity, technological innovations, and changes in the workplace.			
Unit 7: Great Depression	March	- Stock Market Crash of 1929 - Hoover Dam - FDR & The New Deal	New Deal programs Franklin Roosevelt Black Tuesday Dust Bowl Grapes of Wrath	8.5 GREAT DEPRESSION: Economic and environmental disasters in the 1930s created hardships for many Americans. Amidst	- Critical Thinking: Causality -Communication	What were the main causes of the Stock market crash of 1929? How did this event along with	DBQ Essay :New Deal programs and the impact they had on getting America out of the Great Depression.

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				much debate about the appropriate role of government, President Franklin D. Roosevelt helped to create intensive government interventions in the United States economy and society.		other factors lead to the Great Depression?	
Unit 8: WWII	March - April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Causes of WWII - Holocaust - Bombing of Pearl Harbor - Japanese Internment - Atomic Bombs 	Final Solution Treaty of Versailles Adolf Hitler Nazi party Anit-Semitism Pearl Harbor Home Front Rosie the riveter	8.6 WORLD WAR II: The aggression of the Axis powers threatened United States security and led to its entry into World War II. The nature and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Critical Thinking: Perspectives - Political Cartoon Analysis 	What led the world back into a World War? How did the United States get involved in World	Interdisciplinary w/ ELA: Historical IRB Project

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			Island hopping Manhattan project	consequences of warfare during World War II transformed the United States and the global community. The damage from total warfare and atrocities such as the Holocaust led to a call for international efforts to protect human rights and prevent future wars.		War Two?	
Unit 9: Post-WWII & Cold War	April - May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Containment Policy - Korean War - Vietnam War - Space Race - Cuban Missile Crisis 	Iron curtain Joseph Stalin NASA Fidel Castro JFK Berlin wall Sputnik Marshall plan	8.7 FOREIGN POLICY: The period after World War II has been characterized by an ideological and political struggle, first between the United States and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Critical Thinking: Causality & -Contextualization - Research 	What were the causes of the Cold War	Project: News Report, Broadcast, or Podcast

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			Truman doctrine	communism during the Cold War, then between the United States and forces of instability in the Middle East. Increased economic interdependence and competition, as well as environmental concerns, are challenges faced by the United States.			
Unit 10: Civil Rights Movement	May - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Martin Luther King Jr. - Segregation - Civil Rights Act of 1964 - Brown v. Board of Ed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Klu Klux Klan Malcolm X Martin Luther King Civil Rights Act Desegregation 	8.9 DOMESTIC POLITICS AND REFORM: The civil rights movement and the Great Society were attempts by people and the government to address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Causality - Contextualization - Communication 	How did American society shift after World War Two?	DBQ on Civil Rights movement and the leaders involved

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				major social, legal, economic, and environmental problems. Subsequent economic recession called for a new economic program.			
Final Project	June	-			-		