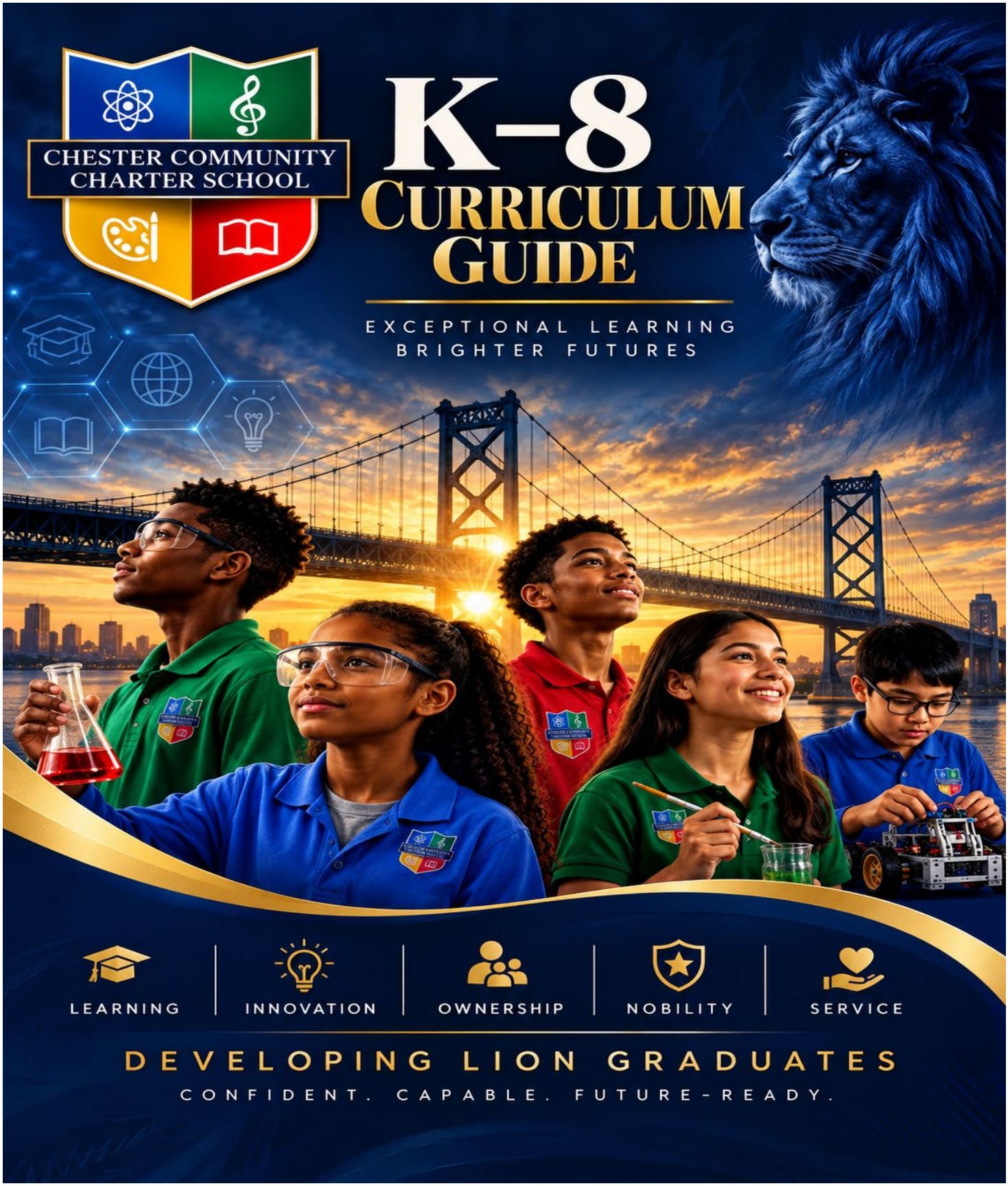

CHESTER COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL
K–8
CURRICULUM GUIDE
EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING
BRIGHTER FUTURES
LEARNING
INNOVATION
OWNERSHIP
NOBILITY
SERVICE
DEVELOPING LION GRADUATES
CONFIDENT. CAPABLE. FUTURE-READY.

CONTENTS

Explore the CCCS learning journey

A guide to the core instruction and learning experiences provided in Kindergarten through Grade 8.

01 Our curriculum at a glance
Four core subjects and a coherent K–8 pathway

02 Writing across the grades
Building confident communicators

03 Kindergarten – Grade 2
Foundations for reading, mathematics and discovery

04 Grades 3–5
Expanding knowledge, reasoning and expression

05 Grades 6–8
Preparing for high school and beyond

06 Grade-by-grade curriculum
Programs, units and learning experiences

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OUR CORE CURRICULUM

Every CCCS student in Kindergarten through Grade 8 learns from the same high-quality core programs in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These are our Tier 1 programs: the grade-level instruction all students receive every day, aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and the PSSA. Students who need extra support or challenge receive it in addition to, not instead of, this core.

Curriculum at a glance

Subject	Grades K–2	Grades 3–5	Grade 6	Grades 7–8
English Language Arts	UFLI Foundations (phonics); Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Knowledge read-alouds; Growing Writers	Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)	CCCS-designed ELA units built on rich novels, plays, poetry, and informational texts, aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Eligible Content (PSSA tested standards)	CCCS-designed ELA units built on rich novels, plays, poetry, and informational texts, aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Eligible Content (PSSA tested standards)
Mathematics	Illustrative Mathematics K–5	Illustrative Mathematics K–5	Illustrative Mathematics 6–8	Illustrative Mathematics 6–8
Science	OpenSciEd Elementary	OpenSciEd Elementary	OpenSciEd Middle School	OpenSciEd Middle School
Social Studies	Core Knowledge History and Geography	Core Knowledge History and Geography	Savvas myWorld Interactive + The DBQ Project	Core Knowledge History and Geography + The DBQ Project, with Savvas myWorld Interactive as a supplement

WRITING: A K–8 CONTINUUM

Writing across the grades. Writing is taught every year. In K–2, Growing Writers moves students from drawing and labeling to full sentences and genre pieces. In Grades 3–8, students write informational, narrative, and argument pieces plus Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) essays, using The Writing Revolution sentence strategies and Project Zero thinking routines.

Our curriculum supports the LION Graduate Profile by nurturing curious learners, effective communicators and innovative problem solvers.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergartners build the foundations of reading, counting, and curiosity about the world around them.

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Subject	Core program	What students study this year
ELA	UFLI Foundations; CKLA Knowledge; Growing Writers	Phonics (UFLI): letter sounds, blending, and early decoding. Read-aloud knowledge (CKLA): Nursery Rhymes and Fables; The Five Senses; Stories; Plants; Farms; Native Americans; Kings and Queens; Seasons and Weather; Columbus and the Pilgrims; Colonial Towns and Townspeople; Taking Care of the Earth; Presidents and American Symbols. Writing: drawing, labeling, and first sentences.
Math	Illustrative Mathematics K–5	Math in Our World; Numbers 1–10; Flat Shapes All Around Us; Understanding Addition and Subtraction; Composing and Decomposing Numbers to 10; Numbers 0–20; Solid Shapes All Around Us; Putting It All Together
Science	OpenSciEd Elementary	K.1 Energy: Sunlight; K.2 Weather; K.3 Forces and Motion; K.4 Plants, Animals, and Environments
Social Studies	Core Knowledge History and Geography	Let's Explore Our World!; Native Americans; Exploring and Moving to America; The Mount Rushmore Presidents

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GRADE 1

First graders become independent decoders and explore early civilizations, the sky, and the world of numbers to 120.

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Subject	Core program	What students study this year
ELA	UFLI Foundations; CKLA Knowledge; Growing Writers	Phonics (UFLI): short and long vowels, digraphs, and multisyllable words. Read-aloud knowledge (CKLA): Fables and Stories; The Human Body; Different Lands, Similar Stories; Early World Civilizations; Early American Civilizations; Astronomy; The History of the Earth; Animals and Habitats; Fairy Tales; A New Nation: American Independence; Frontier Explorers. Writing: sentences growing into short narrative, informational, and opinion pieces.
Math	Illustrative Mathematics K–5	Adding, Subtracting, and Working with Data; Addition and Subtraction Story Problems; Adding and Subtracting Within 20; Numbers to 99; Adding Within 100; Length Measurements Within 120 Units; Geometry and Time; Putting It All Together
Science	OpenSciEd Elementary	1.1 Waves: Light; 1.2 Waves: Sound; 1.3 Space: Sky Patterns; 1.4 Animal and Plant Traits
Social Studies	Core Knowledge History and Geography	Continents, Countries, and Maps; Mesopotamia; Ancient Egypt; Three World Religions; Early Civilizations of the Americas; The Culture of Mexico; Early Explorers and Settlers; From Colonies to Independence; Exploring the West; Lessons in Civics

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GRADE 2

Second graders read longer texts with confidence, work with numbers to 1,000, and travel from ancient Asia to the U.S. Civil War.

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Subject	Core program	What students study this year
ELA	UFLI Foundations; CKLA Knowledge; Growing Writers	Phonics (UFLI): vowel teams, r-controlled vowels, and prefixes and suffixes. Read-aloud knowledge (CKLA): Fairy Tales and Tall Tales; Early Asian Civilizations; The Ancient Greek Civilization; Greek Myths; The War of 1812; Cycles in Nature; Westward Expansion; Insects; The U.S. Civil War; The Human Body: Building Blocks and Nutrition; Immigration; Fighting for a Cause. Writing: full genre units in narrative, informational, and opinion writing.
Math	Illustrative Mathematics K–5	Adding, Subtracting, and Working with Data; Adding and Subtracting Within 100; Measuring Length; Addition and Subtraction on the Number Line; Numbers to 1,000; Geometry, Time, and Money; Adding and Subtracting Within 1,000; Equal Groups; Putting It All Together
Science	OpenSciEd Elementary	2.1 Earth: Land Changing Shape; 2.2 Structure and Properties of Matter; 2.3 Habitats and Biodiversity; 2.4 Plants
Social Studies	Core Knowledge History and Geography	Ancient India; Ancient China; The Culture of Japan; Ancient Greece; Geography of the Americas; Making the Constitution; The War of 1812; Americans Move West; The Civil War; Immigration and Citizenship; Civil Rights Leaders; Lessons in Economics

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GRADE 3

Third graders shift from learning to read to reading to learn, master multiplication and fractions, and take their first PSSA tests.

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Subject	Core program	What students study this year
ELA	Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)	Classic Tales: The Wind in the Willows; Animal Classification; The Human Body: Systems and Senses; The Ancient Roman Civilization; Light and Sound; The Viking Age; Astronomy: Our Solar System and Beyond; Native Americans: Regions and Cultures; Early Explorations of North America; Colonial America; Ecology. Writing: opinion, informational, and narrative paragraphs using the CCCS LION Writing Toolkit, with daily sentence-building and grammar practice.
Math	Illustrative Mathematics K–5	Introducing Multiplication; Area and Multiplication; Wrapping Up Addition and Subtraction Within 1,000; Relating Multiplication to Division; Fractions as Numbers; Measuring Length, Time, Liquid Volume, and Weight; Two-dimensional Shapes and Perimeter; Putting It All Together
Science	OpenSciEd Elementary	3.1 Forces and Interactions; 3.2 Weather and Hazards; 3.3 Trait Variations; 3.4 Ecosystem Change and Survival
Social Studies	Core Knowledge History and Geography	World Rivers; Ancient Rome; The Vikings; The Earliest Americans; Canada; Exploration of North America; The Thirteen Colonies

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GRADE 4

Fourth graders read memoir, legend, poetry, and adventure, extend their work with fractions and large numbers, and study the founding of the United States.

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Subject	Core program	What students study this year
ELA	Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)	Brown Girl Dreaming (memoir); The Middle Ages; King Arthur and the Round Table; Listen, My Children (poetry); Geology; The American Revolution; The United States Constitution; Treasure Island. Writing: memoir, opinion, narrative, informational, and poetry writing, with weekly Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) practice.
Math	Illustrative Mathematics K–5	Factors and Multiples; Fraction Equivalence and Comparison; Extending Operations to Fractions; From Hundredths to Hundred-thousands; Multiplicative Comparison and Measurement; Multiplying and Dividing Multi-digit Numbers; Angles and Angle Measurement; Properties of Two-dimensional Shapes; Putting It All Together
Science	OpenSciEd Elementary	4.1 Energy Transfer: Collisions; 4.2 Energy Transfer: Electricity; 4.3 Earth Processes; 4.4 Structure and Function
Social Studies	Core Knowledge History and Geography	Using Maps; World Mountains; Medieval Europe; Medieval Islamic Empires; Early and Medieval African Kingdoms; Dynasties of China; The American Revolution; The United States Constitution; Early Presidents; American Reformers; Understanding Civics

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GRADE 5

Fifth graders read classic and contemporary literature, operate with fractions and decimals, and trace history from the Maya to the Civil War.

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Subject	Core program	What students study this year
ELA	Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)	They Call Me Güero (contemporary fiction); Early American Civilizations; Adventures of Don Quixote; The Renaissance; A Midsummer Night's Dream (drama); The Reformation; Poetry; Native Americans; The Science of Breakable Things (novel study). Writing: informational, persuasive, narrative, and poetry writing, with weekly Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) practice.
Math	Illustrative Mathematics K–5	Finding Volume; Fractions as Quotients and Fraction Multiplication; Multiplying and Dividing Fractions; Wrapping Up Multiplication and Division with Multi-digit Numbers; Place Value Patterns and Decimal Operations; More Decimal and Fraction Operations; Shapes on the Coordinate Plane; Putting It All Together
Science	OpenSciEd Elementary	5.1 Ecosystems and Matter Cycling; 5.2 Matter Properties; 5.3 Earth Systems; 5.4 Sun, Moon, and Star Patterns
Social Studies	Core Knowledge History and Geography	World Lakes; Maya, Aztec, and Inca Civilizations; The Age of Exploration; The Renaissance; The Reformation; England in the Golden Age; Early Russia; Feudal Japan; The Geography of the United States; Westward Expansion Before the Civil War; The Civil War; Westward Expansion After the Civil War; Native Americans: Cultures and Conflicts; Understanding Economics

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GRADE 6

Sixth graders begin middle-grades work: whole novels and plays, ratios and equations, and history built from primary sources.

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Subject	Core program	What students study this year
ELA	CCCS-designed ELA units, aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Eligible Content (PSSA tested standards), and including some units from the CommonLit 360 curriculum	Unit 0: Now and Laters (reading strategies, routines, and goal-setting); Unit 1: Characters Who Change and Grow; Unit 2: Drama; Unit 3: Poetry; Unit 4: Black History Month (research and oratory); Unit 5: PSSA Readiness; Unit 6: The Skin I'm In (novel study). Writing: informational, narrative, and argument writing plus Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) in every unit.
Math	Illustrative Mathematics 6–8	Area and Surface Area; Introducing Ratios; Unit Rates and Percentages; Dividing Fractions; Arithmetic in Base Ten; Expressions and Equations; Rational Numbers; Data Sets and Distributions; Putting It All Together
Science	OpenSciEd Middle School	6.1 Light and Matter; 6.2 Thermal Energy; 6.3 Weather, Climate, and Water Cycling; 6.4 Plate Tectonics and Rock Cycling; 6.5 Natural Hazards; 6.6 Cells and Systems
Social Studies	Savvas myWorld Interactive; The DBQ Project	Topic 1: Introduction to Geography (geography basics, people and the environment, culture and society, economics); Topic 2: The United States and Canada; Topic 3: Middle America; Topic 4: South America; Topic 5: Europe Through Time; Topic 6: Europe Today. The DBQ Project: document-based questions where students analyze primary sources and write evidence-based essays.

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GRADE 7

Seventh graders analyze literature about growing up, master proportional reasoning, and study world history from ancient times to today.

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Subject	Core program	What students study this year
ELA	CCCS-designed ELA units, aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Eligible Content (PSSA tested standards), and including some units from the CommonLit 360 curriculum	Unit 0: Now and Laters (reading strategies, routines, and goal-setting); Unit 1: Adolescence; Unit 2: Drama (The Outsiders); Unit 3: Poetry; Unit 4: Black History Month (research and oratory); Unit 5: PSSA Readiness; Unit 6: The Giver (novel study). Writing: informational, narrative, and argument writing plus Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) in every unit.
Math	Illustrative Mathematics 6–8 (CCCS sequence)	Rational Number Arithmetic; Introducing Proportional Relationships; Proportional Relationships and Percentages; Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities; Probability and Sampling; Scale Drawings; Angles, Triangles, and Prisms; Measuring Circles. Units are taught in this CCCS order so PSSA-tested content comes first.
Science	OpenSciEd Middle School	7.1 Chemical Reactions and Matter; 7.2 Chemical Reactions and Energy; 7.3 Metabolic Reactions; 7.4 Matter Cycling and Photosynthesis; 7.5 Ecosystem Dynamics; 7.6 Earth's Resources and Human Impact
Social Studies	Core Knowledge History and Geography; The DBQ Project; Savvas myWorld Interactive World History (supplemental)	World History, Volume 1: The Ancient World to the Medieval Era; Volume 2: Renaissance to Modern Day; Civics and Economics in World History. The DBQ Project: document-based questions where students analyze primary sources and write evidence-based essays. Savvas myWorld Interactive supplements these units.

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GRADE 8

Eighth graders read suspense, drama, and vignettes, move into algebra and functions, and study the full sweep of U.S. history.

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Subject	Core program	What students study this year
ELA	CCCS-designed ELA units, aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Eligible Content (PSSA tested standards), and including some units from the CommonLit 360 curriculum	Unit 0: Now and Laters (reading strategies, routines, and goal-setting); Unit 1: The Art of Suspense; Unit 2: Drama (12 Angry Men or A Raisin in the Sun); Unit 3: Poetry; Unit 4: Black History Month (research and oratory); Unit 5: PSSA Readiness; Unit 6: The House on Mango Street (novel study). Writing: informational, narrative, and argument writing plus Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) in every unit.
Math	Illustrative Mathematics 6–8	Rigid Transformations and Congruence; Dilations, Similarity, and Introducing Slope; Linear Relationships; Linear Equations and Linear Systems; Functions and Volume; Associations in Data; Exponents and Scientific Notation; Pythagorean Theorem and Irrational Numbers; Putting It All Together
Science	OpenSciEd Middle School	8.1 Contact Forces; 8.2 Sound Waves; 8.3 Forces at a Distance; 8.4 Earth in Space; 8.5 Genetics; 8.6 Natural Selection and Common Ancestry
Social Studies	Core Knowledge History and Geography; The DBQ Project; Savvas myWorld Interactive American History (supplemental)	A History of the United States, Volume 1: Precolonial to the 1800s; Volume 2: Late 1800s to the 2000s; Civics and Economics in U.S. History. The DBQ Project: document-based questions where students analyze primary sources and write evidence-based essays. Savvas myWorld Interactive supplements these units.

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