



Social Studies Grade 8

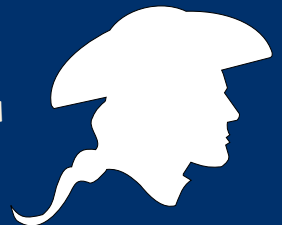
The HCPS Office of Social Studies will build empowered and informed citizens who think critically, advocate locally, impact globally, and innovate by examining the lessons of the past and applying them to today.

Course Overview

This course focuses on developing students' understanding of American History from Colonization until the dawn of the 20th Century. In United States History, students interpret historical evidence and identify significant trends and major turning points that define the first 300 years of the American experience. The study of United States History will enable students to understand the development and expansion of a market economy and the economic forces that drove the growth of a continental power. In addition, students will examine the foundational documents and democratic practices that define the growth of the American Republic. Students will analyze the processes and mechanisms that increased the body politic and the impact of different cultures on the development of an American identity. By considering events from multiple perspectives students will understand that women, African Americans, Native Americans and other minorities possess historical agency. Awareness of these processes assist student comprehension of the complicated nature of the American story.

The American Revolution

This unit focuses on the events and actions leading up to the American Revolutionary War, including the French and Indian War, the British colonial policies, and the colonial acts of resistance. Students will also examine the military and social factors that impacted the outcome of the American Revolution.



Founding of the New Government



In this unit, students will explore how the new nation established its government. Students will examine the effectiveness of the first attempt at government under the Articles of Confederation and evaluate the need to create a new government, including the debates and compromises around representation and slavery. Lastly, students will focus on how the Constitution structures the United States government and how the Bill of Rights resolved issues over the ratification of the Constitution.

A New Nation

This unit will focus on the domestic and foreign challenges that shaped the growth and development of the United States. Students will explore how the presidency of George Washington established precedents for those that followed, the development of political parties, and the case that defined the power of the Supreme Court. Students will evaluate the arguments for and against the Louisiana Purchase and its impact on US relations with native populations. Causes, factors that led to American defeat of the British, and the impact of the War of 1812 will be analyzed.



Expansion

In this unit, students will analyze the how industrialization, technology, and demographic changes brought about by immigration changes American society. Students will also examine the institutions, conditions, and expansion of slavery while also examining the social and political resistance to slavery. Students will evaluate whether the benefits of territorial expansion outweigh the costs by examining Manifest Destiny, the settlement of the Pacific coast and Texas, the Mexican-American War and the Compromise of 1850.

Political Division

In this unit, students will examine the political, economic, and social impact of the presidency of Andrew Jackson, which includes the policies on Native American rights and land ownership. Students examine the social reform movements of the time which include temperance, prison and education reform, the women's movement, and the abolitionist movement. Lastly, students evaluate the causes of the Civil War and evaluate the importance of slavery as a central cause of the conflict.



Civil War & Reunion



Students examine the Civil War by analyzing factors of the outcome, such as the goals, resources, military strategies, and leadership of the Union & the Confederacy. Students will also explore the impact on individuals & groups and examine the economic opportunities and obstacles faced by soldiers, civilians, and free and enslaved populations during the war. The unit concludes with an analysis of the political, social and economic goals of Reconstruction and how the government protected or failed to protect the rights of individuals and groups during this time.

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The American Revolution

This unit focuses on the events and actions leading up to the American Revolutionary War, including the French and Indian War, the British colonial policies, and the colonial acts of resistance. Students will also examine the military and social factors that impacted the outcome of the American Revolution.

Enduring Understanding:

- Numerous factors compel people to change or abolish a government.

Essential Question:

- To what extent were American Colonists justified in rebelling against British authority?

Acquisition:

- Analyze the causes and consequences of the French & Indian War among and between Native Americans and European colonies.
- Explain the sources of conflict among and between Native Americans, European powers, and Americans migrating west.
- Assess how the French & Indian War impacted Native American alliances, British colonial policies, and American colonists.
- Evaluate the significance of the end of salutary neglect as a turning point in American History.
- Analyze the effects of British policies on the American colonies.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the methods of colonial resistance to British policies.
- Identify the principles expressed in the Declaration of independence.
- Evaluate the relative importance of key factors that led to an American victory in the Revolutionary War.
- Analyze the domestic, military, geographic, and diplomatic factors that led to the American defeat of the British.
- Assess how free and enslaved African Americans, women and Native Americans, contributed to and were impacted by the American Revolution.

Experience 1: French and Indian War

- Essential Question:
 - How did the French and Indian War alter the relationship between natives, colonists, and foreign nations?
- Main Ideas:
 - Explain the sources of conflict such as land, trade, and migration that led to the French and Indian War.
 - Assess the impacts of the French and Indian War such as the Proclamation of 1763, taxation, and Pontiac's Rebellion.

Experience 2: British Acts and Colonial Acts of Resistance

- Essential Question:
 - Why and how did Americans resist the British?
- Main Ideas:
 - Analyze the British Colonial policies and the effect of the Sugar Act, Townsend Acts, and Intolerable Acts.
 - Evaluate the methods of colonial resistance which include boycotts, the formation of organizations such as the Sons and Daughters of Liberty, and protest, including the Boston Tea Party.
 - Identify the principles of Natural Rights, consent of the governed, and the right of people to alter or abolish government as outlined in the Declaration of Independence.

Experience 3: The American Revolution

- Essential Question:
 - What were the military and social factors that impacted the outcome of the American Revolution?
- Main Ideas:
 - Analyze the factors that influenced the American victory including domestic factors such as the Tories and Loyalists, George Washington's leadership, French intervention in the war, and the colonists' knowledge of the land.
 - Assessing the impact of the American Revolution by examining the breakdown of the Native confederacy, manumission of enslaved African Americans, and the treatment of Loyalists.

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Enduring Understanding:

- Nations are constructed and governed through compromise and conflict.

Essential Question:

- How does the Constitution reflect compromise and conflict?

Acquisition:

- Evaluate the historical significance of the Articles of Confederation.
- Explain the structure and the powers of the Articles of Confederation.
- Analyze the success and failures of the Articles of Confederation.
- Evaluate the reasons for the development of the United States Constitution.
- Describe the purpose of the Constitutional Convention.
- Analyze how the Great Compromise addressed regional interests and differences.
- Describe the sectional debate over slavery and how the Constitution addressed slavery and freedom.
- Evaluate the impact of the Constitution on the structure of the United States government.
- Identify the goals of the Constitution as stated in the Preamble.
- Explain how the Constitution embeds key principles of checks and balances, separation of powers, federalism, popular sovereignty, individual rights, and limited government.
- Identify the powers enumerated and denied to each branch of government as outlined in the Constitution.
- Analyze how the Bill of Rights resolved the issues over the ratification of the Constitution.
- Analyze the Federalist and Anti-Federalist arguments for and against the ratification of the Constitution.
- Evaluate the impact of the Bill of Rights on the ratification of the Constitution.

Experience 1: The Articles of Confederation

- Essential Question:
 - How effective were the Articles of Confederation at governing the new nation?
- Main Ideas:
 - Examine the structure and powers of the Articles of Confederation
 - Analyze the successes and failures of the Articles of Confederation such as the Northwest Ordinance, the rise of sectionalism, and Shays Rebellion.

Experience 2: Constitutional Convention

- Essential Question:
 - What challenges to upholding the ideals of the Declaration of Independence existed after the Constitutional Convention?
- Main Ideas:
 - Describe the purpose of the Constitutional Convention
 - Analyze how the Great Compromise addressed regional interests and differences through the creation of a bicameral Congress and its impact on representation.
 - Describe how the Constitution addresses slavery in terms of the Three-Fifths Compromise, the fugitive slave law, and slave importation.

Experience 3: United States Constitution

- Essential Question:
 - How and why is power distributed in the United States Constitution?
- Main Ideas:
 - Identify the goals of the Preamble
 - Explain the following principles of government: checks and balances, separation of powers, federalism, popular sovereignty, individual rights, and limited government.

Experience 4: Ratification and the Bill of Rights

- Essential Question:
 - How does the Bill of Rights reflect compromise and conflict between the government and its people?
- Main Ideas:
 - Analyze the arguments of the Federalists which focus on a strong central government and the arguments of the Anti-Federalists which focus on strong state government and Bill of Rights.

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A New Nation

This unit will focus on the domestic and foreign challenges that shaped the growth and development of the United States. Students will explore how the presidency of George Washington established precedents for those that followed, the development of political parties, and the case that defined the power of the Supreme Court. Students will evaluate the arguments for and against the Louisiana Purchase and its impact on US relations with native populations. Causes, factors that led to American defeat of the British, and the impact of the War of 1812 will be analyzed.

Enduring Understanding:

- New nations experience success and failure in foreign and domestic affairs which shape their growth and development.

Essential Question:

- How did the successes and failures in foreign and domestic affairs shape the development of the United States?

Acquisition:

- Evaluate the short and long term impact of government decisions made by Federalist administrations.
- Identify the impact President George Washington had on setting precedents for the office of the President.
- Examining the evolution and impact of the Federalist and Democratic–Republican parties on domestic and foreign policy.
- Explaining the impact of Marbury v. Madison (1803) on the power of the Supreme Court.
- Evaluate the historical significance of the Louisiana Purchase on the United States.
- Analyze the diplomatic and constitutional challenges involved in the Louisiana Purchase.
- Assess the political and economic impact of the Louisiana Purchase and its impact on the United States relations with native populations.
- Analyze the emerging foreign policy of the United States.
- Identify the domestic and foreign causes of the War of 1812.
- Explain the political, geographic, and military factors that led to the American defeat of the British.
- Analyze how the War of 1812 impacted Native tribes, American political parties, and American nationalism.

Experience 1: The Early Republic

- Essential Question:
 - How effectively did the federal government respond to domestic and foreign challenges.
- Main Ideas:
 - Examine the precedents set by President George Washington such as serving two terms, a peaceful transition of power, development of a cabinet, and strict and loose interpretation of the Constitution.
 - Evaluate the outcomes of the debates over the Whiskey Tax, the national bank, and the Alien and Sedition Act of 1798.
 - Explain how Marbury v. Madison (1803) established the Supreme Court power of judicial review.
 - Analyze the diplomatic challenges such as French and Spanish interests involved in the Louisiana Purchase.
 - Analyze the constitutional challenges involved in the Louisiana Purchase by examining the arguments for and against the purchase.
 - Assess the economic impact of the Louisiana Purchase by exploring the nation's change in geographic size and the economic growth brought about by the purchase.
 - Assess the political impact of the Louisiana Purchase particularly as it relates the nation's relationship with foreign countries and Native American tribes.

Experience 2: The Second War for Independence

- Essential Question:
 - How did the War of 1812 shape national identity?
- Main Ideas:
 - Identify and describe the practice of impressment, the Embargo Act of 1807, the influence of War Hawks, and the relationship with Tecumseh and the Battle of Tippecanoe as the domestic and foreign causes of the War of 1812.
 - Examine the major battles/events of the War of 1812 including the burning of Washington D.C. and the attack on Fort McHenry.
 - Analyze the impacts of the War of 1812 on the demise of the Federalist Party, the rise of nationalism, the growth of American industry, the reduction of tribal territory, and the establishment of the Monroe Doctrine.

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Enduring Understanding:

- National unity can be challenged by political, social, and economic change.

Essential Question:

- How did geographic and economic growth, political shifts, and changing social structures lead to divisions within the United States?

Acquisition:

- Analyze the influence of industrialization, technological, and demographic changes on society.
- Assess the impact of technological developments in communication and transportation.
- Evaluate the growth of the factory system and impacts on women, labor, and migration.
- Assess the impact of the Supreme Court of John Marshall on national power and economic growth.
- Identify the push and pull factors driving antebellum immigration.
- Examine the institution, conditions, and expansion of slavery while analyzing methods of social and political resistance.
- Evaluate the impact of technology on the geographic expansion of the institution of slavery.
- Analyze the conditions that defined life for the enslaved.
- Contrast the various ways enslaved African Americans and free blacks resisted enslavement, oppression, and institutionalized racism.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Missouri Compromise in resolving the influence of slavery on politics and sectionalism.
- Evaluate the political, social, and economic impact of westward expansion on individuals and groups.
- Assess multiple perspectives on Manifest Destiny and its impacts on territorial possession.
- Analyze the consequences of the rapid settlement of California, Oregon, and Texas.
- Explain the causes, course, and consequences of the Mexican–American War.
- Assess the impacts of the Missouri Compromise of 1850.

Experience 1: Sectional Growth

- Essential Question:
 - How did regional tensions challenge national unity?
- Main Ideas:
 - Examine the technological developments of the telegraph, canals, and railroads.
 - Assess how technological developments impacted economic growth, national unity, and migration.
 - Examine how the use of interchangeable parts led the growth of the factory system.
 - Examine the Lowell Mills as a means of evaluating the impact of the factory system on labor, women, and migration.
 - Assess the impact of the Supreme Court of John Marshall by examining the landmark case, *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819).
 - Identify the origins of immigrants and the push and pull factors driving antebellum immigration.
 - Examine nativism as a response to antebellum immigration.
 - Evaluate the impact of the cotton gin on the geographic expansion of the institution of slavery throughout the cotton belt.
 - Analyze the conditions the defined life for the enslaved including marriage, punishments, and family separation.
 - Contrast rebellion, destruction of property, running away, and sabotage as the various ways in which enslaved African Americans and free blacks resisted enslavement, oppression, and institutionalized racism.
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of the Missouri Compromise of 1850, particularly its impact on the slave–free state balance.

(Experience 2 on the following page)

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- Assess the impacts of the Missouri Compromise of 1850.

Experience 2: Westward Expansion

- Essential Question:
 - Do the benefits of territorial expansion outweigh the costs?
- Main Ideas:
 - Define and describe the key components of the concept, Manifest Destiny.
 - Assess the views of Native Americans, Mexicans, and Anglos regarding Manifest Destiny.
 - Examine the methods through which the United States acquired land that led to the rapid settlement of California, Oregon, and Texas.
 - Assess the impact of the rapid settlement in the west in terms of territorial growth of the United States and the impact on slave–free state balance.
 - Explain the causes, main events, and consequences of the Texas War for Independence and the Mexican–American War.
 - Explain how the wars in the west impact the territorial growth of the United States.
 - Assess the impact of the Missouri Compromise of 1850 on the slave and free–state balance and the creation of the Fugitive Slave Law.

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Political Division

In this unit, students will examine the political, economic, and social impact of the presidency of Andrew Jackson which includes the policies on Native American rights and land ownership. Students examine the social reform movements of the time which include temperance, prison and education reform, the women's movement, and the abolitionist movement. Lastly, students evaluate the causes of the Civil War and evaluate the importance of slavery as a central cause of the conflict.

Enduring Understanding:

- National unity can be challenged by political, social, and economic change.

Essential Question:

- How did geographic and economic growth, political shifts, and changing social structures lead to divisions within the United States?

Acquisition:

- Evaluate the political, economic, and social impact of Jacksonian Democracy.
- Explain the impact of President Andrew Jackson's presidency on sectional politics, democracy, electoral processes, and the economy.
- Contrast the Native and American arguments surrounding the issue of Native American rights and land ownership.
- Analyze the impact of antebellum reform movements on American politics and society.
- Evaluate the impact of social reform movements on temperance, prison, and educational reform.
- Tracing the evolution, arguments, and impacts of the antebellum women's movement.
- Identify the methods, arguments, and impacts of the abolitionist movement.
- Evaluate the causes of the Civil War.
- Evaluate the impact of territorial expansion, the Supreme Court, and individual action on sectional polarization.
- Assess the impact of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican Party and the election of 1860 on the secession of the southern states.
- Explain the causes of the Civil War and evaluate the importance of slavery as a central cause of the conflict.

Experience 1: Jacksonian Era

- Essential Question:
 - How can shifts in executive power impact the social, economic, and political life of a nation?
- Main Ideas:
 - Explain the impact of President Andrew Jackson's presidency in terms of the nullification crisis, the national bank, and the expansion of the right to vote.
 - Contrast the Native and American arguments surrounding the issue of Native American rights and land ownership by examining the characteristics of Native life, the Indian Removal Act, Worcester v. Georgia (1832), and the Trail of Tears.

Experience 2: Social Reform Movements

- Essential Question:
 - How can individuals and groups affect social change?
- Main Ideas:
 - Examine the need for, methods of, and impact of the temperance, prison, and education reform movements.
 - Identify the laws affecting women that led to the women's movement.
 - Describe the role of Elizabeth Cady Stanton as one of the founders of the women's movement and importance of the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments.
 - Examine the individuals involved in the abolitionist movement and the methods they used to end slavery including Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman (with a focus on the Underground Railroad).
 - Examine the use of moral suasion, literature, and propaganda as tools of the abolitionist movement.

Experience 3: Path to Disunion

- Essential Question:
 - What factors lead a country to civil war?
- Main Ideas:
 - Explain how the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the theory of popular sovereignty, the Supreme Court decision in Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857), and John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry increased sectional polarization.
 - Explain how the Election of 1860 impacted the secession of the southern states.
 - Explain the causes of the Civil War
 - Evaluate the importance of slavery as a central cause of the Civil War.

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Civil War & Reunion

Students examine the Civil War by analyzing the factors that impacted the outcome of the war such as the goals, resources, military strategies, and leadership of the Union and the Confederacy. Students will also explore the impact on individuals and groups during the war through an evaluation of the effectiveness of the United States government in protecting rights and examine the economic opportunities and obstacles faced by soldiers, civilians, and free and enslaved populations during the war. The unit concludes with an analysis of the political, social and economic goals of Reconstruction and how the government protected or failed to protect the rights of individuals and groups during this time.

Enduring Understanding:

- Societies efforts to resolve deep political, economic, and social divisions and efforts to rebuild society after conflict are met with both acceptance and resistance.

Essential Question:

- How effective was the United States in resolving the political, economic, and social issues that led to, and stemmed from, the Civil War?

Acquisition:

- Analyze the factors affecting the outcome of the Civil War.
- Contrast the goals, resources, military technology, and strategies of the Union and Confederacy.
- Evaluate how Union and Confederate political, military, and diplomatic leadership affected the outcome of the conflict.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the United States Government in protecting the rights of individuals and groups during the Civil War.
- Evaluate the military and historic significance of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- Evaluate the efficacy and constitutionality of President Abraham Lincoln's suspension of Writ of Habeas Corpus.
- Describe economic opportunities and obstacles faced by soldiers, civilians, free and enslaved populations during the Civil War.
- Analyze the political, economic, and social goals of Reconstruction.
- Contrast the goals and policies of the Congressional and Reconstruction plans.
- Identify the legal and illegal actions used to deny political, social, and economic freedoms to African Americans.
- Examine the ways in which African American communities fought to protect and expand their rights.
- Explain how the United States government protected or failed to protect the rights of individuals and groups.
- Assess the factors that influenced the end of Reconstruction.
- Evaluate the impact of the Supreme Court, debt peonage, Jim Crow Laws and disenfranchisement on the enforceability of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

Experience 1: The Civil War

- Essential Question:
 - How does war impact and change society?
- Main Ideas:
 - Contrast the resources available to the Union and the Confederacy at the start of the war and determine which side had the advantage.
 - Evaluate the use of conscription, naval blockades, and King Cotton Diplomacy as strategies that affected the outcome of the war.
 - Evaluate the importance of the Emancipation Proclamation as a step toward freedom for enslaved African Americans and how it led to African American troops fighting in the war.
 - Evaluate the impact of the Civil War on civil liberties by examining President Abraham Lincoln's suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus and Ex Parte Merryman (1861).
 - Describe the economic opportunities that came with the increase in industry during the Civil War and the economic obstacles in the form of Draft riots, Bread riots, and inflation.

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- Assess the factors that influenced the end of Reconstruction.
- Evaluate the impact of the Supreme Court, debt peonage, Jim Crow Laws and disenfranchisement on the enforceability of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

Experience 2: Reconstruction and Reunion

- Essential Question:
 - How does a nation reconcile past injustices?
- Main Ideas:
 - Contrast the goals and policies of the Congressional and Presidential Reconstruction plans including the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, the Military Reconstruction Act, and the Freedmen's Bureau.
 - Identify the legal and illegal actions taken to deny political, social, and economic freedoms to African Americans such as Black Codes, share cropping, and the first Ku Klux Klan.
 - Examine the ways in which African American communities fought to protect and expand their rights through the role of the church, education, and voting.
 - Explain how the Election of 1876 and the Bargain of 1877 ended Reconstruction.
 - Evaluate the impact of Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), Jim Crow Laws, the convict labor lease system, the grandfather clause, literacy tests, and poll taxes impacted the power of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

All HCPS Social Studies Frameworks are built to align with the Maryland State Social Studies Standards and MSDE State Frameworks. Information on the standards and frameworks can be found on the MSDE website (<https://marylandpublicschools.org>).