

Teaching Unit: **Colonial History**

Essential Understandings

Environment influences culture (Theme)

American Diversity (Theme)

Early encounters between American Indians and European colonists led to a variety of relationships among the different cultures.

Geography was the primary factor in shaping the development of the British colonies in North America.

Most major religious movements reflect significant shifts in religious beliefs and produce important social changes.

Throughout its history, the United States has been a land of refuge and opportunity for immigrants.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Distinguish among the thirteen colonies; Identify regional characteristics of the 13 colonies

Identify characteristics of early American societies

Analyze the impact of environment on culture

How to write a DBQ (Document Based Question Essay)

Teaching Unit: ***American Revolution & Independence***

Essential Understandings

Development of an American identity (Theme)

Culture (Theme)

War and Diplomacy (Theme)

The American Revolution had its roots in politics, economics and other areas of American life.

In the two decades before the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War, a profound shift occurred in the way many Americans thought and felt about the British government and their colonial governments.

The American Revolution represented a radical alteration in American political ideas and institutions.

Teaching Unit: ***The Republican Experiment***

Essential Understandings

Politics and Citizenship (Theme)

American Diversity (Theme)

The power of the national government increased during the early republic.

The basic principles of the Constitution were firmly grounded in the political and religious experience of America's colonial and revolutionary periods.

Between 1783 and 1800 the new government of the United States faced the same political, economic, and constitutional issues that troubled the British government's relations with the colonies prior to the Revolution.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Identify the chain of events leading to the start of the American Revolution

Interpret and analyze political cartoons, pieces of artwork, and other historical resources relevant to the time period

Differentiate the positions and arguments between the Loyalists and the Patriots during the American Revolution

Identify the strengths and weaknesses of Great Britain and the colonies during the Revolutionary War

Identify the role of women during the American Revolution

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Understand the political foundations and basic principles of the United States Constitution.

Identify the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

Differentiate between the beliefs of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.

Teaching Unit: *The Federalist Era*

Essential Understandings

Demographic Changes (Theme)

Religion (Theme)

Culture (Theme)

Economic Transformations (Theme)

Between 1776 and 1823 a young and weak United States achieved considerable success in foreign policy when confronted with the two principle European powers, Great Britain and France.

Although historically represented as distinct parties, the Federalists and the Whigs in fact shared a common political ideology, represented many of the same interest groups, and proposed similar programs and policies.

Throughout our history, the Supreme Court has acted as a partisan political body rather than a neutral arbiter of constitutional principles.

Early United States foreign policy was primarily a defensive reaction to perceived or actual threats from Europe.

At various times between 1789 and 1861, Americans changed their positions on the constitutional question of loose construction or strict construction as best suited their economic or political interest.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

The details of the Washington Presidency

Distinguish between national, foreign, and financial concerns of the new nation

Interpret and analyze political cartoons relevant to the time period

Interpret and analyze a the diary of Martha Ballard and make judgments about the perspective of the author, identify limitations of the source, bias of the author, how historians use such documents

Understand the difference between primary and secondary sources

Interpret and Analyze the Marbury v. Madison Supreme Court Case

Teaching Unit: *The Age of Jackson*

Essential Understandings

(THEMES: CULTURE, AMERICAN DIVERSITY, POLITICS & CITIZENSHIP)

Various moral, political, and practical concerns shaped national Indian policy between 1789 and the mid 1830s.

Jacksonian Democrats viewed themselves as the guardians of the United States Constitution, political democracy, individual liberty, and equality of economic opportunity.

American social reform movements from 1820 to 1860 were characterized by unyielding perfectionism, impatience with compromise, and distrust of established social institutions. These qualities explain the degree of success or failure of these movements in achieving their objectives.

American reform movements between 1820 and 1860 reflected both optimism and pessimistic views of human nature and society.

From the 1840s through the 1890s, women's activities in the intellectual, social, economic, and political spheres effectively challenged traditional attitudes about women's place in society.

Slavery was the dominating reality of all Southern life.

Reform movements in the United States sought to expand democratic ideals.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Analyze the impact of the market revolution on the economics of various regions in the United States, including the Northeast, the Midwest, and the South.

Analyze Supreme Court cases/decisions

Analyze the ways in which supporters of slavery in the 19th Century used legal, religious, and economic arguments to defend the institution of slavery.

Assess the validity of various historical statements:

Example: The decision of the Jackson administration to remove the Cherokee Indians to lands west of the Mississippi River in the 1830s was more a reformulation of the national policy that had been in effect since the 1790s than a change in that policy.

Teaching Unit: ***Reform & Moving West***

Essential Understandings

(THEMES: DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES, REFORM, RELIGION, SLAVERY, POLITICS & CITIZENSHIP, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS)

Although Americans perceived Manifest Destiny as a benevolent movement, it was in fact, an aggressive imperialism pursued at the expense of others.

Both the Mexican War and the Spanish-American War were premeditated affairs resulting from deliberately calculated schemes of robbery on the part of a superior power against weak and defenseless neighbors.

Throughout its history, the United States has been a land of refuge and opportunity for immigrants.

Territorial expansion dominated American diplomacy and politics in the 1840s.

“Our Manifest Destiny is to overspread the continent allotted by providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions.”

Teaching Unit: ***The Union in Peril***

Essential Understandings

(THEMES: SLAVERY, AMERICAN DIVERSITY, WAR & DIPLOMACY, ENVIRONMENT)

By the 1850s the Constitution, originally framed as an instrument of national unity, had become a source of sectional discord and tension and ultimately contributed to the failure of the union it had created.

Throughout our history, the Supreme Court has acted as a partisan political body rather than a neutral arbiter of constitutional principles.

In American politics, the most significant battles have occurred within the major political parties rather than between them.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Identify early 19th Century reform movements.

Identify the major territorial acquisitions and explain their impact on the slavery question.

Identify the causes and results of the Mexican War.

Explain the concept of Manifest Destiny.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Transcribe a primary source document from 1860.

Evaluate the predictions contained in a letter written in 1860.

Evaluate the information contained in a primary source document.

Identify the causes of the Civil War.

Evaluate the constitutional conflicts during the antebellum period.

Teaching Unit: *The Civil War & Reconstruction*

Essential Understandings

(THEMES: SLAVERY, WAR & DIPLOMACY, CULTURE, AMERICAN IDENTITY, DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES)

There is historical disagreement as to the centrality of slavery as a cause of the Civil War.

The South seceded after Lincoln's election in 1860 because Southerners perceived a threat to the survival of their institutions, including slavery.

Americans disagreed about the sovereignty of states and the supremacy of the national government.

There were fundamental economic differences between the North and the South.

The secession of the Southern States triggered the Civil War.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Identify the causes of the Civil War

Analyze the effects of the Civil War on various groups of people.

Analyze important information in a primary source document, create a thesis and write an essay evaluating the historical significance and accuracy of the information.

Identify the significance of the major Civil War conflicts including; Battle of Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg.

Identify the strengths and weaknesses of both the North and South during the Civil War.

Explain the major conflicts during Reconstruction.

Teaching Unit: *The Gilded Age*

Essential Understandings

(THEME: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS, AMERICAN DIVERSITY, DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES)

From the 1840s to the 1890s women's activities in the intellectual, social, economic, and political spheres effectively challenged traditional attitudes about women's place in society.

The reorganization and consolidation of business structures was more responsible for late 19th Century American industrialization than was the development of new technologies.

The size, character, and effectiveness of the organized labor movement changed significantly during the late 19th Century and the first half of the 20th Century.

During the period 1865-1914 there was a growing gap between wealth and poverty in the United States.

Population with the cowboy, and the pioneer during this period reflected Americans' uneasiness over the transition from an agrarian to an industrial society.

Throughout its history, the United States has been a land of refuge and opportunity for immigrants.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Analyze the impact of government actions, immigration, labor unions, and technological changes on American industrial workers between 1865 and 1900.

Evaluate the impact of the Civil War on political and economic developments in the South, the North, and the West.

Analyze the ways in which farmers and industrial workers responded to industrialization in the Gilded Age.

Identify and analyze the factors that changed the American city in the second half of the 19th Century.

Analyze the primary causes of the population shift from a rural to an urban environment in the United States between 1875 and 1925.

Compare and contrast the patterns of immigration and the responses of Americans to immigrations between the following two periods: (1820 to 1860), (1880 to 1920).

Analyze the decisions of the Supreme Court in cases involving the expansion of the power of the federal government over the states, and the protection (or lack thereof) of individual rights.

Analyze political cartoons

Teaching Unit: *Progressive Era*

Essential Understandings

(THEME: REFORM)

The Progressive movement of 1901 to 1917 was a triumph of conservatism rather than a victory for liberalism.

Reform movements of the 20th Century have shown continuity in their goals and strategies.

In American politics the most significant battles have occurred within the major parties rather than between them.

Shifts in party control of the presidency during the twentieth century have typically not brought major shifts in domestic policy.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Analyze the ways in which state and federal legislation and judicial decisions, including those of the Supreme Court, affected the efforts of African Americans, farmers and workers to improve their position in society between 1880 and 1920.

Assess the validity of various statements regarding US history.

Describe and account for the rise of nativism in American society from 1900 to 1930.

Evaluate the effectiveness of Progressive Era reformers and the federal government in bringing about reform at the national level.

Analyze the primary causes of the population shift from a rural to an urban environment in the United States between 1875 and 1925.
