

Teaching Unit: *Basic Geography Skills*

Essential Understandings

It is important to study the cultural and physical characteristics of the world.

Americans come from different backgrounds, but they are united in the belief in freedom and equality.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Map Skills:

Students will name and locate the seven continents on a map or globe.

Students will name and locate the four oceans on a map or globe.

Students will name and locate the equator and prime meridian on a map or globe.

Students will differentiate between lines of latitude and longitude on a map or globe.

Students will show cardinal and intermediate directions on a map or globe.

Students will use the scale on a map or globe.

Students will use a key or legend on a map or globe.

There are different maps for different purposes

Students will differentiate between a continent, country, state and city on a map.

Teaching Unit: *Exploration*

Essential Understandings

The arrival of European explorers (late 1400s) changed North America and the world.

Sub Topic: *Europeans come to America*

Knowledge and Skills

Students will explain how and why explorers reached the Americas.

Students will learn how goods were traded.

Teaching Unit: *Mock Election*

Essential Understandings

The Constitution of the United States allows for citizens to participate in the election of our local, state and national leaders.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Students will participate in a mock election.

Teaching Unit: ***Early Settlement and Conflict***

Essential Understandings

Different peoples of the Americas had diverse cultures long before the Europeans arrived.

The coming of the Europeans would forever change the way of life for these native peoples.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Students will learn Native Americans were the first Americans.

Students will learn how and why the Europeans came to be in the New World.

Students will understand the Seeds of Change (Columbian Exchange).

Students will study the explorers who tried to discover the Northwest Passage.

Students will study the early English colonies, Jamestown and Plymouth.

Students will identify and label the Thirteen Colonies.

Students will identify the difference between slaves and indentured servants.

Students will study how the fur trade affected the relationship between England and France.

Students will study the French and Indian War.

Teaching Unit: *Independence and Expansion*

Essential Understandings

The birth of the United States and its growth across the continent brought conflict to many of the people who lived in North America.

The acquisition of Louisiana and other parcels of land enabled Americans to move west.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Students will learn how and why the thirteen British colonies became the United States of America.

Students will learn the purpose of the Declaration of Independence.

Students will be introduced to the Articles of Confederation.

Students will be introduced to the Constitution, including amendments to the Constitution.

Students will learn what effect the Louisiana Purchase had on the growth of the United States of America.

Students will learn who fought in the War of 1812.

Students will learn that the Mexican War completes the basic 48 states.

Teaching Unit: ***Settling the West***

Essential Understandings

With the building of the transcontinental railroad, people, goods and information could be transported east and west faster than ever before.

The Native Americans of the Plains, whose lives were built around the buffalo, lost their way of life forever.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Students will learn that building the Transcontinental Railroad speeded up the settlement of the West.

Students will learn about the sacrifices made when building the Transcontinental Railroad.

Students will learn that growing population in the North led to a great demand for Texas beef leading to the era of cattle drives and cowboys.

Students will learn that railheads and cowtowns grew as a result of cattle drives.

Students will learn how the Homestead Act of 1862 helped to relocate people.

Students will identify why farming on the Plains was difficult.

Students will learn that Native Americans struggled in vain against settlers and miners who took their land.

Students will learn how homesteaders and the railroads changed the way of live for the Native American.

Teaching Unit: ***The Economy***

Essential Understandings

Our economy is based on free enterprise. People are free to produce and buy goods and services they want.

Geography influences the economy of a region

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Students will learn how the free enterprise system guides our local and regional economies.

Students will describe the businesses in our local economy and how our geography affects what we have for businesses.

Students will be introduced to the concept that new products and new industries can change the economy.

Students will learn that free trade and advances in communication has helped to create a global economy.
