Wells Junior High School Course Summary Template

Name of Course: Social Studies 8

Course Overview:		
Summary: In grade 8 Social studies....		
Unit of Study	**Essential Question(s)**	**Content/Skill/Concept**
Unit One: How History is Made (Perspective and Primary Sources)	• How are perspective and primary/secondary sources used to "make" history?	Evaluate the role perspective and primary/secondary sources play in the development of history.
Unit Two:"Frenemies" Cold War Conflicts	■ What caused the tension between the Soviet Union and the United States after the war? • How did Korea become a divided nation after World War II? ■ What is containment and how did the USA implement it at the start of the Cold War?	Evaluate the "flawed peace" resulting from World War II and the effectiveness of the United Nations in reducing international tensions and conflicts. Explain the origins of the Cold War and the advent of nuclear politics. Analyze the causes of the Korean War and how a divided Korea remained a source of international tension. Explain the rationale, implementation, and effectiveness of the U.S. containment policy.
Unit Three: The Vietnam War Years (1954-1975)	• What were the foreign and domestic consequences of U.S. involvement in Vietnam.	Assess the Vietnam policy of the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations and the shifts of public opinion about the war. Evaluate how Vietnamese and Americans experienced the war and how the war continued to affect postwar politics and culture. Explain the provisions of the Paris Peace Accord of 1973 and evaluate the role of the

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		Nixon administration.
Unit Four: The Civil Rights Movement (1954-1969)	• What were the effects of the Supreme Court decision Plessy v. Ferguson? • What gains did the movement make in desegregating schools and public places in the mid-20th century? • What other goals did the civil rights movement strive for in the middle and late 1960s?	Explain the origins of the postwar civil rights movement and the role of the NAACP in the legal assault on segregation. Evaluate the Warren Court's reasoning in Brown v. Board of Education and its significance in advancing civil rights. Explain the resistance to civil rights in the South between 1954 and 1965. Analyze the leadership and ideology of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X in the civil rights movement and evaluate their legacies. Evaluate the agendas, strategies, and effectiveness of various African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans, as well as the disabled, in the quest for civil rights and equal opportunities.
Unit Five: An Age of Limits (1968-1980)	How did domestic politics change from Nixon to Carter? What were major foreign policy initiatives from the Nixon, Ford, and Carter presidencies?	Evaluate the effectiveness of the Nixon, Ford, and Carter administrations in addressing social and environmental issues. Explain the Nixon administration's involvement in Watergate and examine the role of the media in exposing the scandal. Assess U.S. policies toward arms limitation and explain improved relations with the Soviet Union. Assess Nixon's policy of detente with the USSR and the People's Republic of China.
Unit Six: The Conservative Tide (1980-1992)	What does domestic politics look like in a contemporary society?	Explain the conservative reaction to liberalism and evaluate supply-side economic strategies of the Reagan and Bush administrations. Examine the impact of the "Reagan Revolution" on federalism and public perceptions of the role of government.

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		Evaluate Reagan's efforts to reassert American military power and rebuild American prestige. Explain the reasons for the collapse of communist governments in Eastern Europe and the USSR.