

Course Outline

8th Grade Social Studies

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The following is adapted from the Curriculum Guide used by the Northside Middle School Social Studies Department. This provides a loose guideline for how the course will progress.

Unit Name	Time	Essential Question(s)	Essential Vocabulary
Introduction/Review –Historical Thinking and Geography Skills	2 Weeks	1.) How do primary and secondary sources help determine the reliability of events in American History? 2.) How can geography help in the understanding of the growth of the United States?	culture, cultural characteristics physical characteristic climate region, agricultural region, erosion, absolute and relative location geography
Impact of European Exploration and Colonization on Native Americans	4 Weeks	1.) How did early contact between European explorers, colonists, and Native Americans set the stage for their future relations? 2.) What roles did geography and economic splay in the growth of the three region of British colonies?	surplus, culture, conquistador, irrigation navigation, indigenous, civilization, economy, encounter, rivalry, indentured servant, slave, colony, plantation, cash crop, Triangular Trade, Middle Passage

Causes of the American Revolution	3 Weeks	1.) When do people have a right to rebel against their government? 2.) When is war justified?	allies, boycott, blockade, neutral, treaty, revolution, proclamation, act, tariff, treason, massacre, independence, minutemen, boycott, revolution
The American Revolution	3 Weeks	1.) What were the immediate and long term effects of the American Revolution? 2.) What is the impact of war on society? 3.) Was the American War for Independence inevitable?	allies, boycott, blockade, neutral, treaty, revolution, proclamation, act, tariff, treason, massacre, independence, minutemen, boycott,
Confederation Era and the Constitutional Convention	3 Weeks	1.) What characteristics of the Articles of Confederation resulted in its demise and subsequent creation of a new Constitution? 2.) How did compromise help shape our country?	executive branch, legislative branch, judicial branch, republican government, confederation government, constitution, preamble,

Government and Citizenship	3 Weeks	1.) How does the United State government derive its power from the people? 2.) Does the federal or state government have a greater impact on our lives? 3.) Is a strong federal government the most effective government for the United States?	amend, veto, delegate, ratification, convention, suffrage, federalism, Federalist, Anti-Federalist, compromise, (federal, national, central government), sovereign
Early Presidents and U.S. Policies	4 Weeks	1.) How did early US Presidential policies influenced the early growth of the United States of America?	inauguration, POTUS, domestic affairs, foreign affairs, executive order, sedition, judicial review, Federalists, Republicans (Democratic-Republicans), precedent, policy, political parties, cabinet, nullification, spoils system, national bank, doctrine, isolationism, neutrality
Westward Expansion and Territorial Acquisitions	5 Weeks	1.) How did the idea of Manifest Destiny lead to the growth and territorial expansion of the US?	frontier, boomer, sooner, homesteader, pathfinders, Manifest Destiny, annex, territory, acquisition, forty-niners, pioneer, migration, immigration,

Causes of The Civil War	3 Weeks	1.) Which were the most important social, political, and economic issues that divided Americans prior to the Civil War? 2.) How could social, political, and economic issues that divided Americans prior to the Civil War have been circumvented?	industrialism, secede, sectionalism, abolitionist, plantation system, proclamation, manufacturing, slave state, free state, fugitive,
Civil War	3 Weeks	1.) Was the Civil War inevitable? 2.) Was the Civil War worth its cost?	border state, confederacy, Confederate Army, Union Army, Civil War, emancipation, states' rights, plantation, free state, slave state, abolitionist
Reconstruction	2 Weeks	1.) What roles did political events play in the successes and failures of Reconstructions?	black codes, Reconstruction, carpetbaggers, scalawags, freedmen
Economics	1 Week	1.) What characteristics of different economies are most effective?	traditional, command, market, mixed, entrepreneurs, domestic interdependence, international interdependence, economy, capitalist