

FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS - 8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES 2025-2026

August 2025					Unit 1: Colonization & Revolution Compelling Question 1: Was America really the land of opportunity? Supporting Questions: - How did social and economic factors lead to early English migration to the Americas? - What governments did colonies establish? - How did each colonial region develop its own unique identity? - How did women, Native Americans, and enslaved Africans experience life in the colonies? Compelling Question 2: When should one question authority? Supporting Questions: - What actions did the British take to control the colonists? - How did colonial responses inflame tensions? - What efforts were made to avoid war? - How did the Declaration of Independence reflect colonists' dissatisfaction with their government?	Essential Standards: 8.I.U.1 Use multiple sources to develop claims in response to compelling and supporting questions. 8.G.MM.1 Interpret how political, environmental, social and economic factors led to both forced and voluntary migration in the United States from the Colonial Era to Reconstruction from 1600-1877. 8.C.CP.1 Analyze the origin and purposes of rule of law, popular sovereignty, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances. 8.E.MA.2 Assess how regions of the United States specialized based on supply and demand due to their geographic locations. 8.H.CH.1 Explain the role changing political, social, and economic perspectives had on the lives of diverse groups of people in the Colonial Era. 8.E.MA.3 Analyze the purpose of taxation and its impact on government spending. 8.H.CO.1 Explain how colonial resistance to British control led to the Revolutionary War. 8.C.CV.1 Analyze the impact of the democratic principles of equality before the law, inalienable rights, consent of the governed and the right to alter or abolish the government in the United States from the Colonial Era to Reconstruction from 1600- 1877.
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September 2025						
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October 2025						
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November 2025					Unit 2: Foundations of Government Compelling Question: How does the Constitution distribute power in the United States government? Supporting Questions: What were the strengths and	Essential Standards: 8.I.CC.3 Evaluate how individuals and groups address local, regional, and global problems concerning the development of the United States. 8.C.CP.2 Explain the origins, functions and structure of government, with reference to the Declaration of Independence, Articles of
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10	11	12	13	14	weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation? - What compromises helped create the Constitution? - What are the goals of the Constitution? - How does the Constitution structure the government? - How is the Constitution intended to prevent the concentration of power in the U.S. government? - How is the Constitution “a living document?” - Does the Constitution protect everyone’s rights?	Confederation, U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights and other founding documents, and their impacts on citizens. 8.C.CP.1 Analyze the origin and purposes of rule of law, popular sovereignty, federalism, separation of powers and checks and balances 8.C.CP.3 Explain how a system of checks and balances is intended to prevent a concentration of power in one branch. 8.C.PR.2 Explain how the U.S. Constitution was interpreted and amended through the amendment process, legislative processes, judicial review, executive actions and Supreme Court Cases between 1789 - 1877. 8.C.RR.2 Analyze expansion of and restriction on citizenship and voting rights on diverse groups in the United States from the Colonial Era to Reconstruction from 1600-1877.
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December 2025						
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January 2026						
5	6	7	8	9	Unit 3: Growth & Expansion <u>Compelling Question 1:</u> Can conflict be constructive? <u>Supporting Questions:</u> - What precedents did Washington set? - How did political parties develop in the early republic and what is the lasting impact of them? - How were constitutional powers among the branches challenged and defined in the early years of the United States? - What was the impact of the Industrial Revolution on different regions during the 1820s? - What were the impacts of early westward expansion efforts?	<u>Essential Standards:</u> 8.I.CC.2 Construct arguments by drawing on multiple disciplinary lenses to analyze how multiple perspectives, diversity and conflict and compromise impacted the development of the United States. 8.C.PR.2 Explain how the U.S. Constitution was interpreted and amended through the amendment process, legislative processes, judicial review, executive actions and Supreme Court Cases between 1789 - 1877. 8.H.CO.2 Describe the conflicts and compromises that shaped the development of the U.S. government between 1783-1877. 8.G.HE.1 Analyze how cultural and technological changes influenced how people interacted with their environments in the United States from the Colonial
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23	24	25	26	27	<u>Compelling Question 2:</u> Was going west worth it? <u>Supporting Questions:</u> - How did the Market Revolution lead to both increased sectionalism and technological innovations? - What were the similarities and differences in the movements of diverse groups westward? - What economic opportunities drove diverse groups of people to California? - Why was the annexation of Texas controversial?	Era to Reconstruction from 1600-1877. 8.G.MM.1 Interpret how political, environmental, social and economic factors led to both forced and voluntary migration in the United States from the Colonial Era to Reconstruction from 1600-1877. 8.H.CE.2 Analyze the cause and effect of Westward Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction on the diverse populations of the United States. 8.E.MA.2 Assess how regions of the United States specialized based on supply and demand due to their geographic locations 8.H.CH.4 Evaluate the impact technological innovations made on agriculture, trade and commerce in the years leading up to the Civil War between 1840-1860.
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23	24	25	26	27	Unit 4: Civil War & Reconstruction <u>Compelling Question 1:</u> Was the Civil War inevitable? <u>Supporting Questions:</u> - What issues did the major reform movements address? - How did the different branches of the government attempt to compromise and address the issue of slavery? - What reasons did Southern states give to justify secession? - How did Lincoln exercise executive powers in the midst of the Civil War? <u>Compelling Question 2:</u> Did the Civil War really change anything?	<u>Essential Standards:</u> 8.I.CC.2 Construct arguments by drawing on multiple disciplinary lenses to analyze how multiple perspectives, diversity and conflict and compromise impacted the development of the United States. 8.H.CO.3 Analyze how economic, social, ideological and political changes led to sectional and national tensions, inspiring reform movements between 1840-1860. 8.H.CO.4 Explain how sectionalism and slavery within the United States led to conflicts between 1820-1877. 8.C.RR.3 Analyze how groups in the United States have challenged Constitutional provisions, laws and court rulings denying them the rights of citizens. 8.C.PR.2 Explain how the U.S. Constitution was interpreted and amended through the amendment process, legislative processes, judicial review, executive actions and Supreme Court Cases between 1789 - 1877. 8.H.CH.5 Explain examples of political, geographic,
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18	19	20	21	22	<u>Supporting Questions:</u> • What efforts did the government make to reintegrate the South into the Union? • What efforts were made to limit the newfound freedoms of the Freedmen? • How did the Compromise of 1877 end Reconstruction?	social and economic changes and consistencies in the different regions of the United States between 1860-1877. 8.C.RR.2 Analyze expansion of and restriction on citizenship and voting rights on diverse groups in the United States from the Colonial Era to Reconstruction from 1600-1877. 8.H.CO.2 Describe the conflicts and compromises that shaped the development of the U.S. government between 1783-1877.
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