

Hamilton Heights School Corporation

US History 8 Curriculum Map

Course Title: 8th Grade Social Studies American History Early Beginnings through Civil War	Quarter 1: August - October	Academic Year: 2025–2026
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Essential Questions: How did European economic goals influence colonization of the New World? How did European interaction with Native populations impact both Europe and the New World? How did the environment of the New World influence the economy and settlement of the English colonies?						
Unit Name	Total Days	Standards Number	Knowledge Objectives	Skills Objectives	Specific Assessments	Specific Resources
1 - European Exploration	15-20	8.H.1 8.H.2	- What groups colonized the New World? - Why were the reasons for European colonization? - How did Europeans interact with Native populations? - Which groups were enslaved by different European countries, and what was their experience?	- Comparing and Contrasting explorers and conquistadors New World Interactions - Compare & Contrast French, Spanish, and English New World interactions - Describe the impact of Europeans on Native Populations.	- Lesson Mastery Checks - Unit 1 Test - Articles of the Week (AOWs) - Q1 Canvas Comprehensive Exam	- Pearson Textbook - Kahoot.com - Edpuzzle.com
Q1 Special Topic	1	-	September 11th, 2001	How did people respond to the events of September 11th, how did they show courage and unity?		- Boatlift Mini - Documentary - The Man in Red Bandanna Mini-Documentary - Lisa Jefferson

						interview on her conversation with Todd Beamer
2 - Establishing the 13 Colonies	15-20	8.H.2 8.G.1 8.G.2 8.G.3 8.G.6 8.G.7	- What were the different reasons for English colonization in the New World? - What are major geographic features of the Northern, Middle, & Southern Colonies? - What are the main natural resources of N/M/S colonies? - How does each region make their money?	- Explain how the geography of a region influences its economic activity. - Compare and contrast the geography, economy, and other cultural influences of the N/M/S colonies.	- Lesson Mastery Checks - Unit 2 Adapted Textbook Quest Project - Articles of the Week (AOWs) - Q1 Comprehensive Test - S1 Final Exam	- Pearson Textbook - Kahoot.com - Edpuzzle.com

Course Title: 8th Grade Social Studies American History Early Beginnings through Civil War	Quarter 2: Oct. - December	
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Essential Questions: What decisions and factors lead to increased tension between Britain and her colonists in the 1750s-60s? How do these tensions influence the creation and design of the Declaration of Independence?						
Unit Name	Total Days	Standards Number	Knowledge Objectives	Skills Objectives	Specific Assessments	Specific Resources
Unit 3 - The Revolutionary Era (1754-1783)	Pt 1 - 10-15 P2 - 10-15	8.H.3 8.H.4 8.H.5 8.G.1	What were Britain's reasons for increased taxation and military presence	Compare & Contrast factors influencing colonists' decisions to be patriots or loyalists.	- Lesson Mastery Checks/Formative Quizzes - Articles of the Week (AOWs)	- Pearson Textbook - Kahoot.com - Edpuzzle.com

Part 1 - Causes of the War Part 2 - The War			- in the colonies? - How were different groups of colonists affected by, and respond to British actions in this period? - What factors and military strategies led to patriot victory over the British?	- Explain how various British and colonial actions contributed to the war. - Differentiate between the different perspectives of different social groups affected by war.	- Loyalist vs Patriot Argumentative Writing Project - Mercy Otis Warren Constructed Response Writing - S1 Final Exam	
Unit 4 - "Chains" novel (Co-Taught with English Department)	15-20	8.H.4 8.H.5	- How did the military campaign in the Summer of 1776 influence African American participation in the War? - How did the war impact everyday life of civilians?	- Define historical fiction, and differentiate between the historical and fictional aspects of the book. - Explaining the African American perspective on both sides of the war.	- Daily Reading Quizzes - Creative Book Project - Final Book Test	"Chains" by Laurie Halse Anderson
Q2 Special Topic: US & Indiana Election Processes	5	8.C.4 8.C.6 Indiana Code 20-30-5-4	- Party Structures - Campaign/Party Processes - Methods of voting & election laws - Civic responsibilities of individuals in election processes		Elections Mini-Module (4 lessons and 4 KCs)	Indiana and US Election Resources purchased from Teachers Pay Teachers

Course Title: 8th Grade Social Studies American History Early Beginnings through Civil War	Quarter 3: Jan. - Early March	
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Essential Questions: What key factors influenced the development of our Constitution? How did key individuals develop the powers of the Executive Branch? What factors influenced Westward expansion and social change in this time?

Unit Name	Total Days	Standards Number	Knowledge Objectives	Skills Objectives	Specific Assessments	Specific Resources
Unit 5 - Forming a New Government	20-25	8.H.6 8.C.1 8.C.2 8.C.3 8.C.6 Indiana Code 20-30-5-1	- What challenges did Congress face in the early stages of America? How did compromise resolve some of those challenges? - What are the basic tenants of the US and Indiana Constitution? - Why was the Bill of Rights such a vital addition to the Constitution? - Why are the Bill of Rights still important in our present lives?	- Identify the significance of major events in the creation of the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights - Differentiate between the purposes of the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederations, Constitution, Bill of Right. - Explain the impact of Bill of Rights Amendments using historical and modern day evidence.	- Lesson Mastery Checks - Constructed Response - Argumentative Writing on Bill of Rights - Articles of the Week (AOWs) - Q3 Comprehensive Test - S2 Final Exam	- Pearson Textbook - Kahoot.com - Edpuzzle.com - Original Bill of Rights
Unit 6 - The Early Republic: Washington Through Jefferson	10-15	8.H.7 8.H.8 8.H.9 8.H.12 8.H.13 8.E.2	- How did the Federalists and anti-Federalists differ in their views on the functions of government? - What did the Washington administration accomplish to establish a stable and lasting national government? - In what ways did the Louisiana Purchase	- Compare and contrast how the difference of people like Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton caused the development of political parties - Compare & contrast how each of the first three presidents left their mark on the presidency. - Describe the Lewis and Clark expedition in	- Lesson Mastery Checks - Articles of the Week (AOWs) - Presidential Podium Project - Q3 Comprehensive Test - S2 Final Exam	- Pearson Textbook - Kahoot.com - Edpuzzle.com - Lewis & Clark Simulation purchased from Teachers Pay Teachers - Indiana and US Election Constitution resources purchased from Teachers Pay

			change the course of America?	regards to its accomplishments.		Teachers
Unit 7 - The Age of Jackson, Westward Expansion, & Social Reform	10-15	8.H.14 8.H.16 8.H.17 8.H.18 8.H.21 8.H.22 8.G.1 8.G.4 8.G.7 8.E.3	• How did Jackson's Administration demonstrate use of executive powers? • What are the lasting impacts of the 1830 Indian Removal Act? • What role did Manifest Destiny play in creating the geographical United States that we know today? • How did the reform movements change America for the better? • What fueled the beginning of the Abolitionist Movement in the early 1800s? • Why did the Underground Railroad emphasize its final destination in places like Canada, instead of Northern free states?	• Identify how Andrew Jackson's Native American policy created conflict between the American settlers and the tribes living on the frontier • List the causes, compromises, and consequences associated with westward expansion and the idea of Manifest Destiny • Identify sources of expansion of the size of the United States. • Analyze the influence of early social reformers and movements and their effects on schools, prisons, and women's rights • Describe the the abolitionist movement and identify key figures and organizations involved in the debate of slavery and the creation of the Underground Railroad	• Lesson Mastery Checks • Articles of the Week (AOWs) • Trail of Tears Constructed Response Writing • Q3 Comprehensive Test • S2 Final Exam	• Pearson Textbook • Kahoot.com • Edpuzzle.com
Special Topics: Martin Luther	1 - Will be covered		• What lesson can we take as citizens from the example of	• Examine excerpts from "Letters from Birmingham Jail" to		• Article of the Week - Excerpts from "A Letter

King Jr.	d in context t of Bill of Rights Mini-U nit		Martin Luther King when it comes to affecting positive change? How did he demonstrate 1st Amendment rights in an impactful way?	look at his beliefs, methods, and influences.		From a Birmingham Jail”
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Course Title:8th Grade Social Studies American History Early Beginnings through Civil War	Quarter 4: Late March - May	
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Essential Questions: What were the key causes of the Civil War? Explain the role of slavery and contributions of African Americans to the war effort. What factors ultimately led to Union victory?						
Unit Name	Total Days	Standards Number	Knowledge Objectives	Skills Objectives	Specific Assessments	Specific Resources
Unit 7 - Causes of the American Civil War	20-25	8.H.19 8.H.20 8.H.21 8.H.22 8.H.23 8.G.1 8.G.4	- How did the Abolitionist Movement affect the division between the North and South? - In what ways did the Compromise of 1850 and the Fugitive Slave Act influence abolitionist support in the North? - According to Confederate State documentation, why did Southern states secede?	- Evaluate the impact issues such as slavery and states' rights had in developing America's sectional conflict? - Identify the documents, factors, and individuals which influenced increased sectionalism and explain the significance of each.	- Lesson Mastery Checks/Formative Quizzes - Article of the Week (AOW) - Semester 2 Final Exam	- Pearson Textbook - Kahoot.com - Edpuzzle.com
Unit 8 - The American Civil War	15-20	8.H.23 8.H.24 8.H.25 8.H.26	How did the advantages that both the North and the South have affect the direction of the Civil	Describe the various hardships of Civil War soldiers, as well	- Lesson Mastery Checks/Formative Quizzes - Article of the	- Pearson Textbook - Kahoot.com - Edpuzzle.com

		8.G.1 8.G.4	War? • Why did Lincoln not see saving the Union as a bigger priority than abolishing slavery? • What were some of the factors that caused both the North and the South to require draft laws late in the Civil War?	as the invention of the camera, that led many to begin to pressure the Civil War to end. • Identify the turning points of the Civil War that led to eventual surrender of the Confederates. • Analyze how the Civil War is still influencing US culture today.	Week (AOW) • Semester 2 Final Exam	
Slavery and Resstance in US History Performance Task Project	5	6-8.LH.2.1 6-8.LH.5.1 6-8.LH.6.1 6-8.LH.7.2 6-8.LH.7.3	• What attributes do we at HHMS see as most beneficial for success as a quality citizen?	• Analyze the different forms of Slave Resistance throughout early US History	• Full 5-paragraph argumentative writing performance task	• Class Notes from previous units • Previous AOWs (non-fiction text) • Thinking Nation Resource Articles