

Bedford School District Curriculum Overview

Course: Social Studies

Grade Level: 7

Last Updated: 11/20/16

Course Summary:

After a brief overview of Social Studies concepts, students study the American Revolution and the emergence of the United States government, including an in-depth look at the Constitution. Students then proceed through a study of the first Industrial Revolution, Westward Expansion, and the Civil War.

By the end of the year, students should be able to answer the following questions and cite evidence to support their ideas based on the content studied.

Unit 1: America's Beginnings – The American Revolution

Essential Question(s):

- a) How did the relationship between Britain and the colonies change?
- b) How did the American colonies gain their independence?

Unit 2: Law of the Land – The Constitution

Essential Question(s):

- a) Why does a nation need rules?
- b) How did the United States Constitution provide for the organization of the new government?

Unit 3: Launching a New Nation – The President's

Essential Question(s):

- a) How did the nation respond to internal and external challenges?
- b) How did the nation reflect a growing sense of national pride and identity?

Unit 4: A Changing Nation - Industrial Revolution & Westward Expansion

Essential Question(s):

- a) Why did Americans take different paths in the early 1800s?
- b) How did the desire to reach "Manifest Destiny" change the geography of the nation?

Unit 5: A Nation Divides – The American Civil War

Essential Question(s):

- a) How did the nation try to deal with growing sectional differences?
- b) How did people, places and ideals affect the outcome of the Civil War?

Primary Text: *America, History of Our Nation*, Survey Edition. Copyright 2014, Pearson