

8th Grade Curriculum Map- U.S. History, 2023-2024

First Trimester	Explorers and Fortune Seekers: This chapter introduces students to the exciting events of European discovery in America that changed history in significant ways.
	England Settles North America: This chapter tells the story of the settling of the original 13 colonies and how related events would affect the course of American history forever.
	Kindling the Spirit of Rebellion: This chapter will help students understand how the colonies' growing discontent with British governance builds and explodes into direct conflict, politically and in the theater of war.
	A New Nation: This chapter provides an overview of the course of the Revolutionary war as well as the new nation's first attempt at a unified government.
	A New Constitution: This chapter tells the story of how delegates to the Constitutional Convention debated and compromised their way through the ratification of a new Constitution.
	A Walk Through the United States Constitution: Having concluded an account of the Convention, this chapter reviews the specifics of the Constitution itself- both its purpose and structure.
Second Trimester	The New President and a Bill of Rights: This opens with the election and inauguration of the first president of the United States, George Washington. The ten amendments to the Constitution are examined in detail.
	The Making of the United States: We see the challenges the young nation faced: partisan politics, Supreme Court decisions and military conflicts.
	Democracy and the Republic: Students will study the cultural changes that took place during early 19th century America including the rejection of a "natural aristocracy" and a shift toward social mobility via individual achievement.
	"Manifest Destiny"- The Push to the West: This chapter focuses attention on the expansion of the United States westward including the regions of Alta California and the Southwest, Oregon Country and an emphasis on conflicts between Texas and Mexico.
	America, Old and New- This chapter explores the three major regions of the United States as they existed by 1850: the West, the North, and the South.
	The Last Days of the Union: Students will study the important players in the antislavery movement and reactions from the South. We will also look at the events leading up to the beginning of the Civil War.
Third Trimester	The Civil War: This chapter opens with Lincoln's stated goal for the war- preserving the union. This goal changes to include the fight for freedom against slavery.
	Post War America: Students study the achievements of the era of Reconstruction, especially the ratification of three amendments- 13th, 14th and 15th - enacted to rectify problems associated with slavery.