



Curriculum Overview

Subject: Social Studies

Grade: 7

By the end of the year, you can expect your child to:

- Identify problems the new nation faced under the Articles of Confederation and determine why a new Constitution was needed
- Describe the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention, the specifics of the Virginia and New Jersey Plans, and how the Great Compromise satisfied both large and small states
- Describe the disputes over slavery and evaluate the compromises that were reached, including the Three-Fifths Compromise
- Understand and analyze the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution
- Discuss the contradiction between American slavery and American freedom by examining issues related to slavery and the U.S. Constitution
- Identify the major parts of the Constitution (the system of checks and balances and separation of power, responsibilities of the three branches) and be able to explain how a bill becomes a law
- Describe the Bill of Rights and how the first Ten amendments protect the individual rights of the people
- Discuss how President George Washington set a lasting precedence on the presidential office and duties, and identify his strengths and weaknesses as the first President
- Analyze the effects of the Alien and Sedition Acts
- Design a U.S. postage stamp in honor of the leader of the Haitian Revolution in 1797, Toussaint L'Ouverture
- Describe the importance of the Louisiana Purchase and the exploration of the Louisiana Territory by Lewis, Clark and Sacajawea
- Explain the causes and effects of the War of 1812, including the effect of the actions taken by the Native American leader, Tecumseh
- Explain how foreign policy is created in America, and why the Monroe Doctrine is significant to America's national identity
- Describe how labor changed as a result of the early Market Revolution

- Compare and contrast modern immigration experiences with the experiences of immigrants from America's second wave of immigration during the early 1800's
- Use charts and graphs to interpret the relationship between cotton production and growth of slavery in the South, and use primary source documents to compare and contrast the experiences of African-Americans in the North
- Identify ways in which African-Americans enslaved in the South coped, resisted, and escaped slavery
- Analyze the relationship between westward expansion and slavery
- Evaluate the success of the Seneca Falls Convention
- Explain the experience of western pioneers on the Oregon Trail and Santa Fe Trail
- Evaluate how westward expansion led to conflict with Mexico
- Explain why conflict arose over the issue of slavery in the territories after the Mexican-American War
- Summarize the main points of the *Compromise of 1850*, and explain the effects of the Kansas-Nebraska Act
- Evaluate the effects of John Brown's actions and the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case, *Dred Scott v. Sanford*
- Identify Abraham Lincoln's early view on slavery through an analysis of the Lincoln-Douglas debates and the Election of 1860
- Analyze the role of technology on the outcome of the Civil War
- Analyze why President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation and identify the effect the Emancipation Proclamation had on the lives of African-American slaves
- Explore the contributions of women and African-Americans to the fighting in the U.S. Civil War
- Understand the effects of the U.S. Supreme Court Case, *Plessey v. Ferguson*
- Identify the effects of the Transcontinental Railroad, new state governments, and an increase in population in the West
- Analyze the struggles and conflicts, which faced Native Americans living in the West, and draw conclusions about the effectiveness of government policies such as the Dawes Act
- Describe the cattle ranching culture of the West, and compare and contrast the actual lives of American cowboys with the myth of the cattle ranching lifestyle
- Describe what life was like for Homesteaders and American farmers on the Great Plains, and describe the reasons for the creation of the Populist Party
- Examine the causes of the Industrial Revolution, compare the experiences of the factory owners with factory workers, and decide if

business tycoons like Andrew Carnegie or John D. Rockefeller were helpful or hurtful to America

- Analyze the experience of new immigrants as they came to America and describe the effects of industrialization and immigration on America's urban centers
- Investigate the causes of Progressive reforms, and create a Progressive report card for three Progressive Presidents (T. Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson)
- Document the actions taken by leading African-Americans and women during the Progressive Era and evaluate the debates that occurred regarding strategies for gaining equal rights