

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade PACE Syllabus

## US History from the Colonial Period through Reconstruction

### First Semester

8<sup>th</sup> Grade PACE Social Studies investigates the American story through the lens of historical facts and interpretation. The study of the Humanities (art, literature, architecture, music, poetry, film, etc.) will help students understand the multi-faceted aspects of America and the American identity.

---



#### Colonization

Students will compare the motives for exploration among European nations as well as individual motives for colonization. Students will analyze the interaction between the environment and the colonists and how it defined the 13 British Colonies. They will recognize and understand Colonial political, economic, and social/religious development. In addition, students will also recognize and understand that diverse groups of colonies contributed to representative government.

*Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...*

- Analyze the source of the American identity socially, economically, and politically
- Describe and evaluate the development of representative American Government

*Students will show that they really understand by evidence of...*

- The creation of a “mathematical equation” using adjectives to explain the American character for each Colonial region, and rationalize why the chosen words demonstrate the development of the American character.
- 



#### American Revolution

This unit helps students understand that when deprived of political and economic liberties, conflict may arise, and that political and economic change is at the core of most revolutions. They will also understand the key events and leaders, including the role they played, in the American Revolution and time period.

*Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...*

- Analyze the many facets of revolution and make connections to the concept of self-determination
- Evaluate the contributions and impact of individuals during revolutions

*Students will show that they really understand by evidence of...*

- A formally written free-response essay that states 2 events from each of the 3 early American historical eras studied this semester. Students will justify why and to what extent each event was most reflective of self-determination.
- 



#### Forging a New Government

Students will understand that a democratic society is based on individual rights, freedoms, and responsibilities. In addition to this, students need to know that the U.S. Constitution is an evolving document that protects the rights of individuals by limiting the power of the government.

*Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...*

- Analyze the origins of the Constitution
- Evaluate how the Constitution functions and its relevancy

*Students will show that they really understand by evidence of...*

- Analyzing a Supreme Court case from the viewpoint of a Supreme Court Justice. The students will be given a case to analyze and use the Constitution to make a ruling on it. They will justify their ruling in a well formulated written response.

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade PACE Syllabus

## US History from the Colonial Period through Reconstruction

### Second Semester



#### New Republic

Students will determine the correlation between leadership and the success of an emerging nation, and well as understand the impact the first five Presidents had on the nation.

*Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...*

- Determine the correlation between leadership and the success of an emerging nation
- Explain the impact the first five Presidents had on the nation

*Students will show that they really understand by evidence of...*

- A formally written document based essay explaining the impact the first 5 Presidents to the United States had on the New Republic.
- 



#### An Expanding Nation

Students will recognize and explain the challenge and impact of change, and its evolution to meet societal needs. The lessons allow students to understand how westward expansion both strengthened and divided the nation and that a democratic society is altered by social awareness and reform. Students will evaluate how the Industrial Revolution affected the emergence of contemporary America socially, politically, and economically. By the end of the unit, students will discover how the influence of the humanities impacted the emergence of the American Identity.

*Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...*

- Recognize and explain the challenge and impact of change, and its evolution to meet societal needs

*Students will show that they really understand by evidence of...*

- The creation of a political cartoon based on current events that demonstrates an understanding of Jacksonian democracy that is present in today's society.
- 



#### Civil War and Reconstruction

The lessons in this unit will help students identify and analyze issues of civil war and its effect on society. Through this unit, students will understand how the struggle for power was at the heart of the American Civil War, and that leadership shapes the outcome of conflict/crisis. To conclude the unit, students will research and discover how the effects of Reconstruction left unresolved the issue of true equality.

*Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...*

- Identify and analyze issues of civil war and its effect on society.

*Students will show that they really understand by evidence of...*

- Creating a group presentation in which self-selected topics of the American Civil War period and their effects on society over time are examined.
-