

Young Scholars of Western Pennsylvania Charter School

8th Grade - U.S. History YSWPCS

- Unit

Unit 1: Our Colonial Heritage

Topic

Chapter 1: The World before the Opening of the Atlantic

Big Idea(s)

Native American societies developed across Mesoamerica and South America. Many diverse Native American cultures developed across the different geographic regions of North America. Using trade to gain wealth, Ghana, Mali, and Songhai were West Africa's most powerful kingdoms. New ideas and trade changed Europeans' lives.

Essential Question(s)

How did the earliest Americans survive?

PA Standard(s)

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Common Core Standard(s)

CC.8.5.6-8.A. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

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CC.8.6.6-8.A. Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.

CC.8.6.6-8.I. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Vocabulary

Bering Land Bridge, Paleo-Indians, migration, hunter-gatherers, environments, culture, pueblos, kivas, totems, teepees, matrilineal, Iroquois League, Berbers, Mansa Musa, haji, mosques, Askia the Great,

Duration

Approximately 1 week (combined with Chapter 2)

- Unit

Unit 1: Our Colonial Heritage

Topic

Chapter 2: New Empires in the Americas

Big Idea(s)

Europeans explored the world, searching for new lands and new trade routes. Christopher Columbus's voyages led to new exchanges between Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Spain established a large empire in the Americas. Other European nations challenged Spain in the Americas. Europeans forced millions of African slaves to work in their colonies.

Essential Question(s)

How did Europeans explore and colonize North America? What lasting effects did colonization have on the Native Americans and present day United States?

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Vocabulary

Leif Eriksson, Henry the Navigator, astrolabe, Christopher Columbus, Line of Demarcation, Treaty of Tordesillas, Ferdinand Magellan, Columbian Exchange, conquistadors, encomienda system, Protestant Reformation, Protestants, Spanish Armada, Northwest Passage, charter, immune, Middle Passage, African Diaspora

Duration

Approximately 1 week (combined with Chapter 1)

- Unit

Unit 1: Our Colonial Heritage

Topic

Chapter 3: The English Colonies

Big Idea(s)

Despite a difficult beginning, the southern colonies soon flourished. English colonists traveled to New England to gain religious freedom. People from many nations settled in the middle colonies. The English colonies continued to grow despite many challenges. Tensions developed as the British government placed tax after tax on the colonies.

Essential Question(s)

What role did slavery play in the southern plantation economy? Why was education important to the New England colonies? On what were the economies of the middle colonies based? Why did George III issue the Proclamation of 1763?

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Vocabulary

Jamestown, indentured servants, Bacon's Rebellion, Toleration Act of 1649, slave code, Puritans, Pilgrims, immigrants, Mayflower Compact, Squanto, Quakers, William Penn, staple crops, town meeting, English Bill of Rights, triangular trade, Great Awakening, Enlightenment, Committees of Correspondence, Stamp Act of 1765, Boston Massacre, Tea Act, Boston Tea Party, Intolerable Acts

Duration

Approximately 1 week

- Unit

Unit 1: Our Colonial Heritage

Topic

Chapter 4: The American Revolution

Big Idea(s)

The tensions between the colonies and Great Britain led to armed conflict in 1775. The colonies formally declared their independence from Great Britain. Patriot forces faced many obstacles in

the war against Britain. The war spread to the southern colonies, where the British were finally defeated.

Essential Question(s)

Why was the geography of the Boston area important in forming a battle plan? What groups were unrepresented in the Declaration of Independence? How did Jones and Clark help the Patriot's war effort? How did the War for Independence finally come to an end?

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Vocabulary

First Continental Congress, Patriots, minutemen, Redcoats, Second Continental Congress, Continental Army, George Washington, Battle of Bunker Hill, Common Sense, Thomas Paine, Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, Loyalist, mercenaries, Battle of Trenton, Battle of Saratoga, Battle of Yorktown, Treaty of Paris of 1783

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

- Unit

Unit 2: A New Nation

Topic

Chapter 5: Forming a Government

Big Idea(s)

The Articles of Confederation provided a framework for a national government. Problems faced by the young nation made it clear that a new constitution was needed. A new constitution provided a framework for a stronger national government. Americans carried on a vigorous debate before ratifying the Constitution.

Essential Question(s)

How did the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 affect the United States? Why did some people believe the national government needed to change? What are the differences between monarchies, federal systems, and confederal systems? Why is being able to amend the Constitution important?

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Vocabulary

Magna Carta, constitution, suffrage, Articles of Confederation, ratification, Northwest Territory, Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, tariffs, interstate commerce, inflation, depression, Shay's Rebellion, Constitutional Convention, Virginia Plan, New Jersey Plan, Great Compromise, Three-Fifths Compromise, popular sovereignty, federalism, legislative branch, executive branch, judicial branch, checks and balances, Antifederalists, Federalists, Federalist Papers, amendments, Bill of Rights,

Duration

Approximately 1 week

- Unit

Unit 2: A New Nation

Topic

Chapter 6: Citizenship and the Constitution

Big Idea(s)

The U.S. Constitution balances the powers of the federal government among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution to define clearly the rights and freedoms of citizens. American citizenship involves great privileges and serious responsibilities.

Essential Question(s)

What is the structure of each branch of government? How do the amendments protect the rights of citizens? What are the main responsibilities and rights of U.S. citizens?

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Vocabulary

federal system, impeach, veto, executive orders, pardons, majority rule, petition, search warrant, due process, indict, double jeopardy, eminent domain, naturalized citizens, deport, draft, political action committees, interest groups

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

- Unit

Unit 2: A New Nation

Topic

Chapter 7: Launching the Nation

Big Idea(s)

President Washington and members of Congress established a new national government. Treasury secretary, Alexander Hamilton, developed a financial plan for the national government. The United States faced significant foreign and domestic challenges under Washington. The development of political parties in the United States contributed to differing ideas about the role of the federal government.

Essential Question(s)

Why was New York City chosen as the first capital of the United States? Why did Congress and the president agree to create a national bank? What issues did Washington believe were most dangerous to the future of the new nation? How did the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions support the rights of states?

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Vocabulary

electoral college, precedent, Judiciary Act of 1789, Alexander Hamilton, national debt, bonds, speculators, loose construction, strict construction, Bank of the United States, French Revolution, Neutrality Proclamation, privateers, Jay's Treaty, Pinckney's Treaty, Whiskey Rebellion, political parties, Democratic-Republican Party, XYZ affair, Alien and Sedition Acts, Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

Unit

Unit 3: The New Republic

Topic

Chapter 8: The Jefferson Era

Big Idea(s)

Thomas Jefferson's election began a new era in American government. Under President Jefferson's leadership, the United States added the Louisiana Territory. Challenges at home and abroad led the United States to declare war on Great Britain. Great Britain and the United States went to battle in the War of 1812.

Essential Question(s)

Why was Marbury vs. Madison an important ruling? How did the Louisiana Purchase impact the country as a whole? Why did the United States declare war on 1812? What were the main effects of the War of 1812?

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Vocabulary

John Marshall, Marbury vs. Madison, judicial review, Louisiana Purchase, Meriweather Lewis, William Clark, Sacagawea, Zebulon Pike, USS Constitution, impressment, embargo, Embargo Act, Tecumseh, Battle of Tippecanoe, War Hawks, James Madison, Battle of Lake Erie, Andrew Jackson, Treaty of Fort Jackson, Battle of New Orleans, Treaty of Ghent

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

- Unit

Unit 3: The New Republic

Topic

Chapter 9: A New National Identity

Big Idea(s)

The United States peacefully settled disputes with foreign powers. A rising sense of national unity allowed some regional differences to be set aside and national interests to be served. As the United States grew, developments in many cultural areas contributed to the creation of a new American identity.

Essential Question(s)

What effect did the revolutions in Latin America have on U.S. foreign policy? Why did Adams have weak support during his presidency? Why did some Americans call for new architectural styles and more education after the American Revolution?

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Vocabulary

Convention of 1818, James Monroe, Monroe Doctrine, nationalism, Henry Clay, American System, Erie Canal, Era of Good Feelings, sectionalism, Missouri Compromise, John Quincy Adams, Washington Irving, Hudson River School

Duration

Approximately 1 week

- Unit

Unit 3: The New Republic

Topic

Chapter 10: The Age of Jackson

Big Idea(s)

The expansion of voting rights and the election of Andrew Jackson signaled the growing power of the American people. Andrew Jackson's presidency was marked by political conflicts. President Jackson supported a policy of Indian removal.

Essential Question(s)

Why might some people consider Andrew Jackson to be a controversial president? How did his decisions as president impact the nation?

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Vocabulary

Jacksonian Democracy, spoils system, Democratic Party, Tariff of Abominations, nullification crisis, Whig Party, Panic of 1837, Indian Removal Act, Indian Territory, Bureau of Indian, Trail of Tears

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

- Unit

Unit 3: The New Republic

Topic

Chapter 11: Expanding West

Big Idea(s)

The American West attracted a variety of settlers. In 1836, Texas gained its independence from Mexico. The ideals of manifest destiny and the outcome of the Mexican-American War led U.S. expansion to the Pacific Ocean. The California gold rush changed the future of the West.

Essential Question(s)

How could you describe the journey out West? What were the outcomes of the Texas Revolution and the Mexican-American War? How did the California Gold Rush impact the United States?

PA Standard(s)

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Vocabulary

mountain men, Oregon Trail, Mormons, empresarios, Alamo, Battle of San Jacinto, manifest destiny, Vaqueros, Californios, Bear Flag Revolt, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, forty-niners, prospect, placer miners

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

- Unit

Unit 4: The Nation Expands

Topic

Chapter 12: The North

Big Idea(s)

The Industrial Revolution transformed the way goods were produced in the United States. The introduction of factories changed working life for many Americans. New forms of transportation improved business, travel, and communication in the United States. Advances in technology led to new inventions that continued to change daily life and work.

Essential Question(s)

How did the Industrial Revolution affect daily and working life in the United States in the 1700s-1800s? What changed in the United States because of the Transportation Revolution? Which technological advances changed the way people communicated, worked, or lived their lives?

PA Standard(s)

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Vocabulary

Industrial Revolution, textiles, technology, Eli Whitney, mass production, trade union, strikes, Transportation Revolution, Robert Fulton, telegraph, Morse code, John Deere

Duration

Approximately 1 week

- Unit

Unit 4: The Nation Expands

Topic

Chapter 13: The South

Big Idea(s)

The invention of the cotton gin made the South the one-crop economy and increased the need for slave labor. Southern society centered around agriculture. The slave system in the South produced harsh living conditions and occasional rebellions.

Essential Question(s)

How did the cotton industry impact the economy of the South? How did the slave system allow the southern economy to expand? What was life like for slaves in the South?

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Vocabulary

cotton gin, planters, cotton belt, factors, yeomen, folktales, spirituals, Nat Turner

Duration

Approximately 1 week

- Unit

Unit 4: The Nation Expands

Topic

Chapter 14: New Movements in America

Big Idea(s)

The population of the United States grew rapidly in the early 1800s with the arrival of millions of immigrants. New movements in art and literature influenced many Americans in the early 1800s. Reform movements in the early 1800s affected religion, education, and society. In the mid-1800s, debate over slavery increased as abolitionists organized to challenge slavery in the United States. Reformers sought to improve women's rights in American society.

Essential Question(s)

What were the causes for the increase in population in the United States in the mid-1800s? How did social reforms improve the quality of life for various groups in the United States in the 1800s? How did people fight to end slavery?

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CC.8.6.6-8.I. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Vocabulary

nativists, Know-Nothing Party, middle class, tenements, transcendentalism, utopian communities, romanticism, Second Great Awakening, temperance movement, common-school movement, abolition, American Anti-Slavery Society, Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

Unit

Unit 4: The Nation Expands

Topic

Chapter 15: A Divided Nation

Big Idea(s)

Antislavery literature and the annexation of new lands intensified the debate over slavery. The Kansas-Nebraska Act heightened tensions in the conflict over slavery. The split over the issue of slavery intensified due to political division and judicial decisions. The United States broke apart due to the growing conflict over slavery.

Essential Question(s)

How did the debate over slavery impact U.S. politics in the 1840s? How did southern states react to Lincoln's presidency?

PA Standard(s)

8.3.7.A: Classify the social, political, cultural, and economic contributions of individuals and groups throughout United States history. 8.3.7.B. Examine the importance of significant historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to United States history. 8.3.7.C: Compare how continuity and change have impacted U.S. history. Belief systems and religions Commerce and industry Technology Politics and government Physical and human geography Social organizations 8.3.7.D: Examine conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations in U.S. history. Ethnicity and race Working conditions Immigration Military conflict Economic stability

Common Core Standard(s)

CC.8.5.6-8.A. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

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CC.8.5.6-8.G. Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

CC.8.5.6-8.H. Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text.

CC.8.6.6-8.A. Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.

CC.8.6.6-8.I. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Vocabulary

popular sovereignty, sectionalism, secede, Compromise of 1850, Fugitive Slave Act, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Kansas-Nebraska Act, Pottawatomie Massacre, Republican Party, Dred Scott, Lincoln-Douglas debates, Constitutional Union Party, Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis

Duration

Approximately 1 week

- Unit

Unit 5: The Nation Breaks Apart

Topic

Chapter 16: The Civil War

Big Idea(s)

Civil war broke out between the North and the South in 1861. Confederate and Union forces faced off in Virginia and at sea. Fighting in the Civil War spread to the western United States. The lives of many Americans were affected by the Civil War. Union victories in 1863, 1864, and 1865 ended the Civil War.

Essential Question(s)

What event started the Civil War? What strategies did each side use and how did the impact the outcome of the Civil War?

PA Standard(s)

8.3.7.A: Classify the social, political, cultural, and economic contributions of individuals and groups throughout United States history. 8.3.7.B. Examine the importance of significant historical

documents, artifacts, and places critical to United States history. 8.3.7.C: Compare how continuity and change have impacted U.S. history. Belief systems and religions Commerce and industry Technology Politics and government Physical and human geography Social organizations 8.3.7.D: Examine conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations in U.S. history. Ethnicity and race Working conditions Immigration Military conflict Economic stability

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Vocabulary

Fort Sumter, border states,, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, emancipation, Emancipation Proclamation, contrabands, Copperheads, habeas corpus, Clara Barton, Battle of Gettysburg, Gettysburg Address, total war

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

- Unit

Unit 5: The Nation Breaks Apart

Topic

Chapter 17: Reconstruction

Big Idea(s)

The nation faced many problems in rebuilding the Union. The return to power of the pre-war southern leadership led Republicans in Congress to take control of Reconstruction. As Reconstruction ended, African Americans faced new hurdles and the South attempted to rebuild.

Essential Question(s)

What were the problems that the Union faced after the end of the Civil War? What challenges did African Americans experience after the Civil War?

PA Standard(s)

8.3.7.A: Classify the social, political, cultural, and economic contributions of individuals and groups throughout United States history. 8.3.7.B. Examine the importance of significant historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to United States history. 8.3.7.C: Compare how continuity and change have impacted U.S. history. Belief systems and religions Commerce and industry Technology Politics and government Physical and human geography Social organizations 8.3.7.D: Examine conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations in U.S. history. Ethnicity and race Working conditions Immigration Military conflict Economic stability

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Vocabulary

Reconstruction, Thirteenth Amendment, Black Codes, Civil Rights Act of 1866, Reconstruction Acts, impeachment, Fifteenth Amendment, Ku Klux Klan, segregation, Jim Crow laws, Plessy vs. Ferguson, sharecropping

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

- Unit

Unit 6: A Growing America

Topic

Chapter 18: Americans Move West

Big Idea(s)

As more settlers moved West, mining, ranching, and railroads soon transformed the western landscape. Native Americans and the U.S. government came into conflict over land in the West. Settlers on the Great Plains created new communities and unique political groups.

Essential Question(s)

How did settlements in the West change the landscape in the 1800s?

PA Standard(s)

8.3.7.A: Classify the social, political, cultural, and economic contributions of individuals and groups throughout United States history. 8.3.7.B. Examine the importance of significant historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to United States history. 8.3.7.C: Compare how continuity and change have impacted U.S. history. Belief systems and religions Commerce and industry Technology Politics and government Physical and human geography Social organizations 8.3.7.D: Examine conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations in U.S. history. Ethnicity and race Working conditions Immigration Military conflict Economic stability

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Vocabulary

frontier, boomtowns, cattle drive, transcontinental railroad, Pony Express, reservations, buffalo soldiers, Sitting Bull, Geronimo, Battle of the Little Bighorn, Ghost Dance, Homestead Act, Exodusters, sodbusters, dry farming, deflation, Populist Party

Duration

Approximately 1 week

- Unit

Unit 6: A Growing America

Topic

Chapter 19: The Industrial Age

Big Idea(s)

The Second Industrial Revolution led to new sources of power and advances in transportation and communication. The growth of big business in the late 1800s led to the creation of monopolies. Changes in the workplace led to a rise in labor unions and workers' strikes.

Essential Question(s)

How did the Second Industrial Revolution lead to changes in business and the workplace?

PA Standard(s)

8.3.7.A: Classify the social, political, cultural, and economic contributions of individuals and groups throughout United States history. 8.3.7.B. Examine the importance of significant historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to United States history. 8.3.7.C: Compare how continuity and change have impacted U.S. history. Belief systems and religions Commerce and industry Technology Politics and government Physical and human geography Social organizations 8.3.7.D: Examine conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations in U.S. history. Ethnicity and race Working conditions Immigration Military conflict Economic stability

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Vocabulary

Second Industrial Revolution, patents, corporations, vertical integration, horizontal integration, trust, social Darwinism, monopoly, Sherman Antitrust Act, Knights of Labor, American Federation

of Labor, collective bargaining, Haymarket Riot, Homestead strike, Pullman strike

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

Unit

Unit 6: A Changing America

Topic

Chapter 20: Immigrants and Urban Life

Big Idea(s)

A new wave of immigration in the late 1800s brought large numbers of immigrants to the United States. American cities experienced dramatic expansion and change in the late 1800s. The rapid growth of cities in the late 1800s created both challenges and opportunities.

Essential Question(s)

Why did many Europeans immigrate to the United States through Ellis Island and what was their experience like when they arrived? How did the increase in urban population impact daily life and the economy?

PA Standard(s)

8.3.7.A: Classify the social, political, cultural, and economic contributions of individuals and groups throughout United States history. 8.3.7.B. Examine the importance of significant historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to United States history. 8.3.7.C: Compare how continuity and change have impacted U.S. history. Belief systems and religions Commerce and industry Technology Politics and government Physical and human geography Social organizations 8.3.7.D: Examine conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations in U.S. history. Ethnicity and race Working conditions Immigration Military conflict Economic stability

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CC.8.6.6-8.I. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Vocabulary

old immigrants, new immigrants, steerage, benevolent societies, tenements, sweatshops, Chinese Exclusion Act, mass transit, suburbs, mass culture, department stores, settlement houses, Hull House

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

- Unit

Unit 7: The Beginning of Modern America

Topic

Chapter 21: The Progressive Spirit of Reform

Big Idea(s)

From the late 1800s through the early 1900s, the Progressive movement addressed problems in American society. In the early 1900s, Progressives and other reformers focused on improving conditions for American workers. The Progressive movement made advances for the rights of women and some minorities. American presidents in the early 1900s did a great deal to promote progressive reforms.

Essential Question(s)

What were the impacts of the Progressive Movement on minorities and women? What changes were made to improve workers' safety and improve the lives of children in the early 1900s?

PA Standard(s)

8.3.7.A: Classify the social, political, cultural, and economic contributions of individuals and groups throughout United States history. 8.3.7.B. Examine the importance of significant historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to United States history. 8.3.7.C: Compare how continuity and change have impacted U.S. history. Belief systems and religions Commerce and industry Technology Politics and government Physical and human geography Social organizations 8.3.7.D: Examine conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations in U.S. history. Ethnicity and race Working conditions Immigration Military conflict Economic stability

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Vocabulary

political machines, Progressives, muckrakers, recall, initiative, referendum, workers' compensation laws, capitalism, socialism, Industrial Workers of the World, National American Woman Suffrage Association, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Pure Food and Drug Act, conservation, Progressive Party

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks

- Unit

Unit 7: The Beginning of Modern America

Topic

Chapter 22: America as a World Power

Big Idea(s)

In the last half of the 1800s, the United States joined the race for control of overseas territories. The United States expanded into new parts of the world as a result of the Spanish-American War. The United States expanded its role in Latin America in the early 1900s.

Essential Question(s)

How did the United States become a global power?

PA Standard(s)

8.3.7.A: Classify the social, political, cultural, and economic contributions of individuals and

groups throughout United States history. 8.3.7.B. Examine the importance of significant historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to United States history. 8.3.7.C: Compare how continuity and change have impacted U.S. history. Belief systems and religions Commerce and industry Technology Politics and government Physical and human geography Social organizations 8.3.7.D: Examine conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations in U.S. history. Ethnicity and race Working conditions Immigration Military conflict Economic stability.

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Vocabulary

imperialism, isolationism, spheres of influence, Open Door Policy, yellow journalism, Teller Amendment, Anti-Imperialist League, Panama Canal, dollar diplomacy, Mexican Revolution

Duration

Approximately 2 weeks