

Syllabus

Middle School US History, Semester A

Course Overview

In Middle School US History, Semester A, you'll learn about major events that took place in American history. In the first unit, you'll evaluate historical data to develop your historical thinking skills. In the second unit, you'll learn about the major events and developments of colonial America. In the third unit, you'll analyze the causes and effects of the American Revolution. In the last unit, you'll explore developments in the new nation, including the creation of the US Constitution, the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, the administrations of George Washington and John Adams, and the importance of the election of 1800.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Assess primary and secondary sources.
- Analyze historical data and events to interpret the past.
- Understand the development of colonial America.
- Examine the causes and effects of the American Revolution.
- Explain the creation of the US Constitution.
- Analyze the views of Federalists and Anti-Federalists.
- Explain the administrations of George Washington and John Adams.
- Analyze the importance of the election of 1800.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Middle School US History, Semester A, is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- pencil or pen
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Some course readings may require a visit to your school library or public library.

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: Historical Thinking Skills

Summary

This unit focuses on developing your historical thinking skills. First, you'll interpret the content of primary and secondary sources. Next, you'll interpret information in maps, charts, graphs, and other visual representations of data. Then, you'll analyze major historical events chronologically.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Student Orientation <i>Review the Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
4 days: 2–5	Historical Sources <i>Evaluate primary and secondary sources.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 6–9	Using Visual Information <i>Analyze visual representations of historical data.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 10–13	Chronological Thinking <i>Analyze historical events using chronological thinking.</i>	Lesson

5 days: 14–18	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 19	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: Colonial America

Summary

This unit focuses on the development of colonial America. First, you'll identify the main American Indian groups of colonial America and describe their cultural, economic, and social characteristics. You will also assess their contributions to the growth of colonial America. Next, you'll analyze the exploration, settlement, and growth of colonial America. You will also explain the role of slavery in colonial America. Finally, you will analyze the causes and effects of the French and Indian War.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 20–23	American Indians <i>Describe the lives of American Indians during the colonial era.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 24–28	Exploration and Settlement of Colonial America <i>Describe the exploration and settlement of colonial America.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 29–32	The Development of Colonial America <i>Describe the development of colonial America.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 33–36	Slavery in Colonial America <i>Evaluate the role of slavery in colonial America.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 37–40	The French and Indian War <i>Analyze the causes and effects of the French and Indian War.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 41–45	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 46	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: The Revolution

Summary

This unit focuses on the American Revolution. You'll explore the causes, major events, and consequences of the American Revolution. You will also analyze the importance of the Articles of Confederation in the American Revolution.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
5 days: 47–51	Causes of the American Revolution <i>Analyze the events that contributed to the start of the American Revolution.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 52–55	The American Revolution <i>Analyze key events and consequences of the American Revolution.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 56–60	Articles of Confederation <i>Explain the role of the Articles of Confederation in the American Revolution.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 61–64	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 65	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment

Unit 4: The New Nation

Summary

This unit focuses on developments in the new nation after the American Revolution. You'll learn about the creation of the US Constitution. You'll also examine the ideas of Federalists and Anti-Federalists and analyze their impact on the writing and ratification of the Constitution. You'll assess the administrations of George Washington and John Adams. Finally, you'll evaluate the significance of the election of 1800.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 66–69	The Constitution <i>Explain the creation of the US Constitution.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 70–73	Ratification: The Federalists and Their Opponents <i>Compare the ideas of Federalism and Anti-Federalism and their effect on the ratification debate.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 74–78	The Administrations of Washington and Adams <i>Evaluate the administrations of George Washington and John Adams.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 79–82	The Election of 1800 <i>Define the importance of the election of 1800.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 83–87	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 4	Unit Activity/ Discussion
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 4	Assessment
1 day 89	Semester Review	
1 day 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment