

DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM
GRADE 7

United States History: Pre-Columbia to 1877

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA STANDARDS	BIG IDEAS	COMPETENCIES	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How does Geography help us understand the migration and development of North America?	7.1.8.A 7.1.8.B	Geographic representations are essential to explain the spatial organization of people, places, and environments.	5 Themes/6 essential elements		
			Read a map key to interpret information.		
			Use latitude and longitude to determine the exact location of a site.		
			Use a compass rose to distinguish cardinal and intermediate directions.		
			Compare and contrast the types of information found on globes and maps.		
			Recognize and interpret different kinds of specialized maps.		

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Why are extreme physical events a liability for settlement?	7.1.7	Historical interpretation involves an analysis of cause and effect.	Explain how and why the first natives traveled to the Americas.		
			Tell how climatic factors influenced location of early settlements.		
			Explain Native Americans reliance on hunting and gathering.		
	7.2.7	Spatial distribution of resources affects patterns of human settlement.	Discuss how first Americans adapted to and modified their environment.		
			Identify agricultural products raised by the native Americans.		
			Explain how Native American lifestyle changed with the introduction of agriculture.		

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How did geography influence the development of cultures in North America?	7.3.7.A	Characteristics, distribution, and migration of Native American populations impact culture, economic interdependence, and settlement patterns.	Distinguish native cultural groups of North America including Indians of the Desert Southwest, Eastern Woodlands, Great Plains, and Pacific Northwest.		
			Identify and describe regional homelands of Native American cultural groups.		
			Identify cultural features which distinguished Native American tribes.		
			Explain how environment influences lifestyle.		
			Describe how Native Americans of North America adapted to and modified their environment.		
			Identify the natural resources which shaped the economy and lifestyle of Native American groups.		
			Compare the social organization and economic systems of the Native American culture groups.		
			Explain the impact of technology on the lifestyle of Native Americans.		
			Analyze the relationships among Native American tribes.		

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What were the causes and effects of European exploration of the Americas?	8.3.7.A	Characteristics, distribution, and migration of European populations impact culture, economic interdependence, and settlement patterns.	Discuss economic and cultural changes in European lifestyle of the late Middle Ages.		
			Explain how the growth of trade led to European exploration.		
			Tell how improved technology spurred the expansion of trade and exploration.		
			Trace the routes of early European explorers searching for a water route to the East.		
			Discuss the role of European explorers in the search for a Northwest Passage.		
			Summarize the role of French and English explorers in North America.		
			List the accomplishments of Dutch explorers.		
			Explain the impact that the voyages of Columbus had on Europe and the Americas.		
			Summarize the results of the conquests of Pizarro and Cortes.		
			Discuss the relationship of French explorers and Native Americans in New France.		

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How did the European colonies develop in North America?	8.3.7 8.2.7.B	The Spanish, French, British & Dutch developed colonies in North America.	Discuss the work of the Spanish in settling the South and Southwest.		
			Summarize the role of the English in the settlement of Roanoke, Jamestown, and Plymouth.		
			Describe the patterns of French settlement in North America.		
			Locate areas of Dutch interest and settlement in North America.		
What are the consequences when cultures interact?	8.3.5.A	Different groups of people in the colonies borrowed and learned from each other.	Analyze the effects of European settlement on the Native Americans.		
			Explain the economic impact of colonization on the mother country and the colony.		
			Discuss the relationship between the Native Americans and the settlers at Plymouth.		
			Explain the role of the French fur traders and their interactions with the Native Americans.		
			Describe how European settlers relied on the Native Americans for survival during the early years.		

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What factors contributed to the growth of the different colonies?	8.3.4.A 8.3.7.A	Religious freedom and economic opportunities were motives for settlement of the 13 colonies.	Name the thirteen original colonies and locate each on a map.		
			Trace the settlement pattern of the original colonies.		
			Tell the primary reason for the settlement of each colony.		
			Describe the political organization and trace the growth of each colony.		
			Discuss factors which promoted the success of the first colonies.		
			Describe the land, climate and vegetation of New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.		
			Compare the lifestyle of each region including religious beliefs and social customs.		
			Distinguish the economic basis of each region.		

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How did the economic activity of the three regions reflect their geography?	8.3.4.A 8.3.4.B 8.3.7.B	The environment affected the growth of the economy in the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.	Identify major industries of Colonial America.		
			Analyze the impact of physical geography on the growth of industries.		
			Compare the agricultural development of the New England, Middle and Southern colonies.		
Why were the enslaved Africans brought to southern colonies, and how did they affect the economy of those colonies?	8.3.7.D	The growth of the economy in the Southern colonies affected the development of slavery.	Distinguish between indentured servants and slaves.		
			Discuss how the plantation system led to widespread slavery in the South.		

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How does conflict develop and what motivates people to act?	8.3.7.D	The tensions between the colonies and Great Britain led to armed conflicts.	Discuss the significance of the Albany Plan of the Union to the colonists.		
			Identify causes of unrest in the colonies.		
			Analyze the impact of British regulations including the Stamp Act, Tea Act, and the Intolerable Acts.		
			Discuss the significance of the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party.		
			Describe the role of the Continental Congress and contributions of its members.		
			Explain the importance of the Declaration of Independence.		
How has conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations impacted the history of the world?	8.3.7.D	Individuals and events impact efforts for independence.	Explain the significance of the battles at Lexington and Concord.		
			Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the opposing armies.		
			Identify the contributions of leading generals of the British and Continental armies.		
			Summarize the contributions of women, significant individuals, and other nations to the outcome of the war.		

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How has conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations impacted the history of the world? (continued)	8.3.7.D	Individuals and events impact efforts for independence. (continued)	Discuss the significance of the victory at Yorktown.		
			Summarize the results of the Revolution.		
			Explain the establishment of the Articles of Confederation.		
How are governments created, structured, maintained, and changed?	7.3.7.A	The U.S. political system has developed around democratic values which aim to ensure people’s rights and voice in government.	Identify and analyze the roles and responsibilities of each branch of government.		
			Explain Hamilton’s financial plan for the national government.		
			Describe the significant foreign and domestic challenges under the new government.		
			Analyze the development of political parties and the differing views about the role of national government		

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What qualities make an effective leader?	7.3.7.A	Thomas Jefferson's policies affected the economic development of the United States and helped the United States gain a respected role in world affairs.	Analyze the first peaceful transition in power from one political party to another.		
			Describe the increase in power of the Judicial branch of government.		
			Evaluate the impact of the Louisiana Purchase		
			Summarize events that led to the Constitutional Convention.		
			Identify the contributions of leading statesmen to the drafting of the Constitution.		
			Explain the "Great Compromise" and its relation to the structure of the Constitution.		

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In what ways can change/progress/growth have both a positive and negative impact?	7.3.7.A	Westward Expansion was a factor in the growth of American Economic power and the expansion of democracy.	Explain the achievements of trailblazers including Daniel Boone and Zebulon Pike.		
			Discuss the role of Lewis and Clark in opening the west.		
			Summarize the contributions of pioneer families who built homes and farms in the west.		
			Analyze the impact of the Pony Express and the telegraph on communication.		
			Explain how industry and technology changed the American way of life.		

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How did the Age of Jackson change America?	8.4.7.A	Andrew Jackson's Presidency was marked by political and economic conflicts.	Describe why democracy expanded as more Americans held the right to vote.		
			Explain how Jackson's presidency was marked by political conflicts including states rights.		
			Discuss how Jackson's presidency was marked by economic conflict including his attack on bank of United States, and the Panic of 1837.		

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How did the expansion of the United States create challenges and tensions?	8.4.7.D	Characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations impact culture, economic interdependence, settlement patterns and control of the Earth's surface.	Explain the Native American response to settlement beyond the Appalachians.		
			Discuss the causes and outcome of the War of 1812.		
			Evaluate the impact of the Indian Removal Act.		
			Explain why Americans believed that the nation had a manifest destiny to claim new lands in the west.		
			Analyze how American settlement in the southwest led to the Mexican-American War resulting in added territory in the southwest.		
			Describe how the discovery of gold brought settlers, known as the Forty-Niners, to California and changed the future of the west.		

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What political compromises were made because of slavery?	8.4.7.D 8.4.8.D	Complicated issues faced by the North and South led to the Civil War.	Explain how the expansion of slavery and the slave trade divided the nation.		
			Discuss how the issue of states' rights led to conflict within the U.S.		
			Analyze the significance of key legislation and rulings regarding slavery and slave trade including the Missouri Compromise, Kansas-Nebraska Act, and Dred Scott decision.		
What were the goals and strategies of the North and South?	8.4.8.D	Conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations have impacted the history of the United States.	Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the opposing armies.		
			Identify the contributions of leading commanders of the Union and Confederate troops.		
			Discuss economic factors and technological innovations which affected the outcome of the war.		
			Summarize the contributions of African American soldiers, and the role of women in the Civil War.		
			Analyze the significance of battles at Vicksburg and Gettysburg and Sherman's march to the sea.		
			Describe the role of abolitionists and Underground Railroad.		

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When it comes to understanding complex issues like slavery, why is it important to look at the issue from different viewpoints?	8.4.8.A	The Emancipation Proclamation was a key event in America's Civil War and had a major impact on American History.	Explain the impact of emancipation on the lifestyle of former slaves.		
			Discuss the effect of emancipation on the plantation system.		
How did the events of the Civil War and reconstruction have a lasting impact on current events?	8.4.8.B 8.4.8.C	Change creates turmoil and opportunities.	Explain the successes and failures of Reconstruction.		