

History of the United States A

Middle School Level

SCOPE OF COURSE

History of the United States, A and B, is a two-semester, middle level course. Part A covers the history of the Western Hemisphere, from pre-Colombian civilizations to the beginning of the 20th century. Part B begins with the early 1900s and continues to the present day. Each half of the course addresses academic learning standards in social studies (history, geography, economics, and civics), English-Language Arts (reading and writing), and mathematics (creating and interpreting statistics, charts and graphs).

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 1 – Prehistory to Colonization of the Western Hemisphere

- Geography of the Western Hemisphere
- Ice Age Migrations and Early Civilizations
- The Empire Builders
- The Science of Studying History
- Native Peoples of North America: the Arctic, Pacific Northwest, Basin, and Plateau Regions
- The Southwest and Great Plains Regions
- The Mound Builders, Eastern Woodlands, and Southeastern Regions
- The Age of Discovery – First Contact
- Cultures in Contrast: the Columbian Exchange
- The Colonization of the New World: the Spanish and French Create Empires
- The English Come to North America
- The Thirteen English Colonies
- Comparing the European Colonies in North America

UNIT 2 – The French and Indian War to the Constitutional Convention

- The French and Indian War
- Relations with Great Britain Change
- The Road to the Revolutionary War
- The Revolutionary War
- Independence
- The Revolutionary War Continues to Its End
- A Look Back at the Revolutionary War
- Founding Fathers of a New Nation
- The New Nation: the Critical Period
- Making a New Plan of Government
- The U.S. Constitution: A Bundle of Compromises
- The Road to Ratification
- The Bill of Rights

UNIT 3 – The Constitution

- Overview of the U.S. Constitution
- Article I: The Legislative Branch
- Article II: The Executive Branch
- Article III: The Judicial Branch
- Articles IV – VI
- Check and Balances: The Federal System
- State Governments and Constitutions
- Local Government
- How a Bill Becomes a Law
- The Legal Process
- Constitutional Rights in Action
- National Symbols
- Citizenship in the United States

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SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

UNIT 4 – The New Nation: 1789 – 1865

- The New Government Begins
- Solving Financial Problems and Interpreting the Constitution
- George Washington’s Precedents and Legacy
- The Federalists and Democratic Republicans
- The Age of Jefferson
- Domestic and Foreign Conflicts
- The Industrial Revolution in America
- Growth and Expansion under the Republicans
- The Age of Jackson
- “From Sea to Shining Sea”
- Sectionalism Grows into Conflict
- Sectional Differences Lead to War
- The Civil War

UNIT 5 – The United States Comes of Age: 1866 – 1910

- Reconstruction
- The Realities of Reconstruction in the South
- The Rapid Growth of the West
- The Native American Way of Life Ends
- The End of the Frontier
- The United States Becomes an Industrial Giant
- Big Business – the Empire Builders
- The Rise of Labor Unions
- Immigration
- Reform Movements
- The New Manifest Destiny
- Theodore Roosevelt and Relations with Latin America
- The United States at the Turn of the Century