

History of the United States B

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 – World War I to the Great Depression

- The Progressive Party and the Early 20th Century
- World War I
- The United States Enters the World War I
- The United States at War
- Wilson’s Fourteen Points and the Treaty of Versailles
- A Return to *Normalcy* and Economic Boom
- Reform and the Age of Intolerance
- The Roaring Twenties – A New National Culture Emerges
- From Boom Times to Hard Times – The Beginning of the Great Depression
- The End of Laissez Faire: the Government Tries to Help
- The New Deal – More Than a Temporary Solution
- Pros and Cons of the New Deal
- Essay on New Deal Programs

UNIT 2 – World War II and the Cold War

- The Rise of Dictatorships in the 1930s
- Another World War
- World War II: The Home Front
- Fighting World War II
- The Defeat of the Japanese – World War II Ends
- The Holocaust and Other War Crimes
- The Cold War
- Fighting the Cold War Around the World
- The Cold War’s Effect on American Society
- Postwar Policies: 1945 – 1960
- American Society in the 1950s
- The Civil Rights Movement Begins
- The Cold War Essay

UNIT 3 – The 1960s – 1980s: Social Turmoil & Cold War Changes

- The 1960s Begin
- The Cold War Continues/The End of Camelot
- Lyndon Baines Johnson – the Great Society Years
- The Civil Rights Movement Continues
- Other Minorities Fight for Their Rights
- The War in Vietnam
- The Nixon Years
- Watergate
- The Ford Presidency
- Jimmy Carter
- Conservatives Take Charge
- Foreign Policy Under Ronald Reagan
- The 1960s vs. the 1980s

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UNIT 4 – The Current Era

- At the End of the Cold War
- The Gulf War
- The Clinton Years: Foreign Policy – America’s New Role
- Terrorism
- Domestic Issues and Policies
- George W. Bush
- 9/11
- Responses to 9/11
- The Bush Presidency after 9/11
- Barack Obama – Economic Programs
- President Obama’s Foreign and Domestic Policies
- The Decades Project
- Preparing Your Report and Presentation

UNIT 5 – Being American in the 21st Century

- The U.S. as a Global Power
- The U.S. Economy – a Global View
- Globalization
- Effects of Globalization – Beyond the Economics
- Immigration
- Migrant Workers
- Modern American Society
- The Business of America is Business
- Modern Entrepreneurs
- Personal Finance
- The Technology Explosion
- The Future of the Planet and Your Role in it
- Education and You