

Introduction to United States History Curriculum Map – Grade 8

Exploration & Colonization (September to November)

GEOGRAPHY

1. Review basic geography skills (5 themes, types & parts of a map)
2. On map of the world, chart explorations of 15th & 16th century explorers. Possible Choices:
 - Dias, daGama, Vespucci, Columbus, Magellan, Cortes, Pizarro, Hudson, Cabot

CONTENT

1. Causes leading to the period of exploration in 15th & 16th centuries
 - *Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution*
2. Colonial America: on map of U.S. identify colonial settlements in the New World (*French, English, Spanish*)
3. Compare & Contrast colonial regions (*resources, climate, people, economic development*)
4. Causes and effects of settlement of the New World (*King Phillips War, Triangular Trade, Columbian Exchange, religious differences*)

ANALYZE PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS

1. *Magna Carta* (1215)
2. *Mayflower Compact* (1620)

Describe life in the colonies and reasons for prosperity

Recommended Field Trip: Plymouth Plantation

Common Assessment #1: Exploration/Colonization – (November/December)

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The American Revolution (December to March)

CAUSES LEADING TO THE REVOLUTION

1. Analyze the causes leading to the Revolution.
2. Compare and contrast:
 - Patriots v. Loyalists
 - British v. Colonists
3. Analyze the role of Massachusetts during the War.
4. Analyze Primary Source Documents
 - Declaration of Independence
 - Correspondence of the Adams'
5. Recommended Field Trips
 - Adams House, Quincy, MA.
 - Freedom Trail, Boston, MA.
 - Fort Tabor, New Bedford, MA.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1. Analyze the formation of Continental Army and problems that occurred.
2. Role of George Washington as general of Continental Army
3. Analyze the major battles of the American Revolution
 - ie. Lexington, Concord, Saratoga, Yorktown
4. Geography Skills
 - Historical maps of the war
 - Geography as a cause and how it affected the outcome

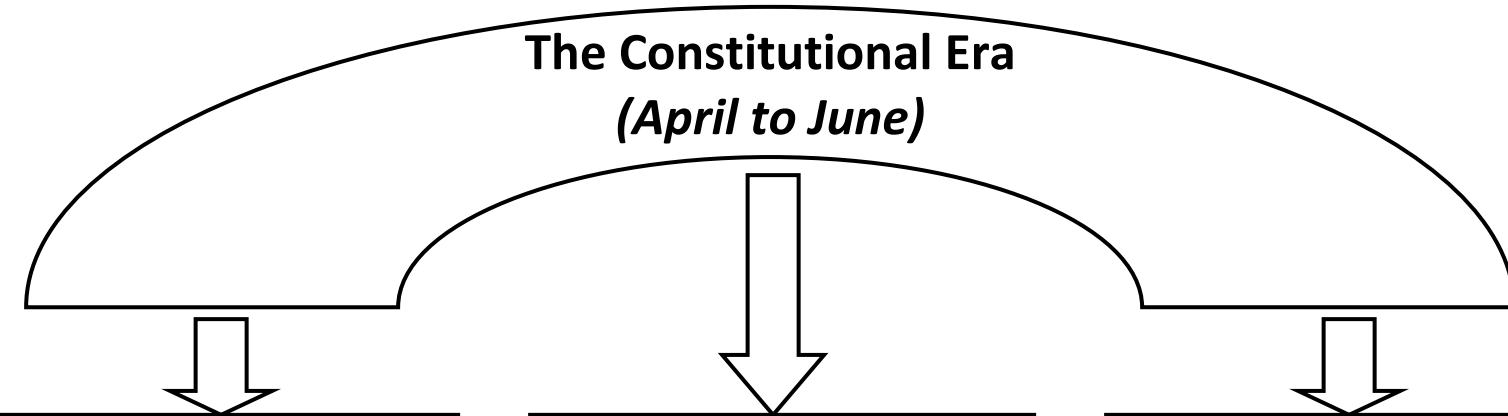
LEGACY OF THE WAR

1. Analyze the effects of the war.
2. Focus on why the Americans won and the Treaty of Paris (1783).
3. Geography Skills:
 - Maps of the United States in 1783 and the new boundaries after the war.

Common Assessment #2: The American Revolution – (March/April)

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The Constitutional Era (April to June)



ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

1. Strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
 - Evaluate why the weaknesses led to Shay's Rebellion.
2. Land Ordinance and Northwest Ordinance
 - Analyze primary sources (both documents)
 - Geography – map skills
 - Evaluate why a success of government under the Articles of Confederation.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

1. Why was the convention called?
2. Research the key delegates who attended the convention.
3. Compare and contrast:
 - Virginia Plan v. New Jersey Plan
 - Explain how resulted in the Great Compromise
 - Federalists v. Anti-Federalists
4. 3/5's Compromise
5. Ratification of the Constitution

CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS

1. Introduce the three branches of government
 - Role of executive, legislative, judicial
2. Analyze Primary Sources
 - Constitution
 - Bill of Rights (*analyze 5 freedoms*)
3. Apply current events the Constitution and Bill of Rights
 - How a bill becomes a law
 - Checks and balances
 - Electoral College

Common Assessment #3: Summative Assessment – Focus on the Constitution (June)