

Curriculum Guide

EIGHTH GRADE

AMERICAN HISTORY

Philosophy: History is really "His story." From the Creation to the Fall, to the Flood, to the dispersion throughout the earth, to the selection of Abraham and his descendents from which Christ came into the world, God has orchestrated His plan with a singular purpose: "Look unto me, and ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22). Mankind is fulfilling the creative mandates of establishing dominion and inhabiting the earth and reflects the characteristics of God as he seeks to gain knowledge and live within a social system.

Course Objective: The students will explore and experience the foundations of our great nation's history and events of today by reading, researching, discussing and analyzing.

Resources/Materials:

- *America: Land that I Love* (A Beka Book)
- Supplemental materials available in unit/chapter notebooks

Time Allotment:

- 45 minutes per day
- 1 hour and 20 minutes on block schedule days

Biblical Integration:

The Declaration of Independence declares that, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is the Christian belief in the *Imago Dei* from Genesis 1:27 that best supports the concept of unalienable rights. Secular worldviews are unable to support the intrinsic value of human beings upon which democracy is built.

Course Content and Objective:

Weeks 1-9

UNIT 1 Exploration and Settlement in a New Land

Chapter 1: A New World to Explore

- I can explain God's timing of founding America
- I can correlate the Crusades with rise of middle class and interest in trade route
- I can describe the Renaissance/Reformation role in New World settlement
- I can describe early native Americans
- I can recall early exploration of North and South America

Chapter 2: The First English Colonies/ Chapter 3: Founding of the New Colonies

- I can detail the settlement, success, failures for Roanoke, Jamestown, and Plymouth
- I can analyze the significance of the Mayflower Compact
- I can detail differences between each of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies

Chapter 4: Life in Colonial America

- I can categorize types of churches in the colonies
- I can recall colonial missionary effort
- I can discuss variety of people who migrated to America
- I can detail life on the frontier
- I can emphasize the significance of education in the colonies

Chapter 5: Preparations for Independence

- I can explain need for revival in the colonies and the key leaders of the Great Awakening
- I can detail the strain between France and England in America

- I can analyze the leadership of George Washington at the time of the French and Indian War
- I can explain the significance of the French and Indian War
- I can compare and contrast the differences between the Englishmen and the colonists
- I can identify and detail the growing conflict between England and the colonies

Weeks 10-18

UNIT 2 Birth of the United States

Chapter 6: Home of the Brave

- I can summarize the Continental Congress
- I can detail the purpose of the Declaration of Independence and England's reaction to it
- I can define why the colonists chose to fight in the War for Independence
- I can summarize the Second Continental Congress
- I can detail the Revolutionary War battles and leaders
- I can discuss the significance of the Revolutionary War

Chapter 7: Land of the Free

- I can compare and Contrast the Articles of Confederation and the US Constitution
- I can recall the first President
- I can discuss early political parties
- I can summarize the presidencies of George Washington, Adams, Jefferson
- Document Focus: The Constitution of the United States
 - I can analyze the Preamble and the Bill of Rights
 - I can explain the balance of governmental powers
 - I can define the checks and balances of government

UNIT 3 Building an American Dream

Chapter 8: From the Appalachians to the Rockies

- I can recall Daniel Boone's influence on westward expansion
- I can define the laws of the Northwest Ordinance
- I can summarize the acquisition and exploration of the Louisiana Purchase
- I can describe the causes and results of the War of 1812
- I can identify the key battles and leaders of the War of 1812
- I can explain the significance of the Missouri Compromise and Monroe Doctrine

Chapter 9: The Jacksonian Era

- I can detail the Jacksonian Era
- I can explain the events surrounding the conflict of states' rights and national unity
- I can detail the presidencies of Van Buren, Harrison, and Tyler

Chapter 10: Innovations and Inventions

- I can describe the advancements in transportation, industry, communication, and medicine

Chapter 11: The Second Great Awakening

- I can describe the events, people, and results of Great Awakening
- I can describe the women involved in reform
- I can detail the evangelizing of Indians and African-Americans
- I can discuss the rise of foreign missions
- I can identify the basic errors of false religion
- I can identify those who influenced education

Weeks 19-27

UNIT 3 (continued)

Chapter 12 Education and Culture

- I can detail the importance of education
- I can identify individuals who were influential in early American education
- I can discuss the beginning of public schools
- I can recall individuals who influenced higher education
- I can identify poets, short story writers, novelists, artists, musicians of the 1800s
- I can compare and contrast life on a farm, town, and city

Chapter 13 the Promise of the West

- I can explain the founding of the Texas colony

- I can summarize the events that led to the conflict between Texas and Mexico
- I can detail the cause and results of the Battle of the Alamo
- I can detail the key leaders at the Battle of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto
- I can identify key leaders in the western expansion
- I can identify individuals influential in settling Oregon
- I can identify key leaders in settling Oregon
- I can describe the path of the Oregon Trail
- I can summarize the events that led the US to westward expansion
- I can determine the significance of the Oregon Treaty
- I can discuss the events and results of the Mexican War
- I can recognize further westward expansion
- I can relate the events that led to the establishment of the Republic of California
- I can correlate the discovery of gold with the settling of California
- I can understand the significance of the Gadsden Purchase

UNIT 4 Times of Testing and Triumph

Chapter 13 The Civil War and Reconstruction

- I can summarize the events leading to the Compromise of 1850
- I can discuss the significance of the Compromise of 1850
- I can relate events of the 1850s to the issues of slavery
- I can compare and contrast the views of Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln
- I can distinguish the leaders of the North and south
- I can determine the reason for fighting the Civil War
- I can differentiate battles and leaders of the Civil War
- I can identify border, slave, and free states during the Civil War
- I can compare and contrast the Union and Confederacy (North and South)
- I can explain the significance of the Emancipation Proclamation
- I can detail the surrender of the Lee to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse
- I can analyze Lincoln's plan for reconstruction
- I can determine the significance of Lincoln
- I can contrast events that helped or hurt the Reconstruction of the South
- I can correlate the Compromise of 1877 to the end of the Reconstruction Era
- I can recognize the schools and people who influenced the New South and freedmen

Chapter 14 The Age of Industry

- I can explain the timeframe of the Age of Industry
- I can identify the inventions of Edison, Carver, and Bell
- I can discuss the significance of the Transcontinental Railroad
- I can recognize other inventors of the Age of Industry
- I can relate events to the rise of skyscrapers
- I can analyze the influence of medical advancements
- I can recognize the influence on Carnegie and Rockefeller
- I can recognize the advancements of the free enterprise system

Chapter 15 Growth in America

- I can discuss the growth of the US population
- I can explain the reasons for the settlement of the Great Plains
- I can understand the problems of inflation
- I can identify governmental attempts to regulate business
- I can analyze benefits and consequences of unions
- I can detail the rise of the Populist Party
- I can classify the events of each presidency during the Gilded Age
- I can identify leaders of evangelism in the cities and the frontier
- I can label art, literature, and music of the Gilded Age

Chapter 17 Growing in Greatness

- I can interpret the Monroe Doctrine
- I can discuss the Venezuelan Boundary Dispute
- I can relate causes and effects of the Spanish-American War
- I can recall the assassination of President McKinley

- I can correlate the popularization of the Progressive Movement with Theodore Roosevelt
- I can analyze Roosevelt's views on business and labor
- I can recognize the contributions of President Roosevelt
- I can detail the building of the Panama Canal
- I can summarize Wilson's foreign policy
- I can classify the false philosophies of the 19th century
- I can correlate failing spirituality in Europe to the rise of socialism and Communism
- I can relate the political turmoil in Europe to the beginning of the Great War
- I can describe the events leading to the US entering World War I
- I can recall the influence of the US in World War I
- I can explain the effect of the Russian Revolution
- I can identify the important battles of World War I

Weeks 28-36

Unit 5 Times of Challenge and Promise

Chapter 18 Into the Twentieth Century

- I can summarize Wilson's Fourteen Points
- I can analyze the results of German surrender and Conference of Versailles
- I can discuss Congress's rejection of the League of Nations
- I can describe the threat of Communism in the United States
- I can recognize the advancement of industry during the Roaring 20s
- I can conclude the influence of the automobile on the average citizen
- I can distinguish the traditional writers from the Lost Generation in American literature
- I can name Lindberg as the first man to make a transatlantic flight
- I can discuss the increase of social unrest
- I can contrast the followers of modernism
- I can identify the 18th and 19th Amendments
- I can analyze the Scopes trial

Chapter 19 Rise of Big Government

- I can analyze the cause and effect of the Great Depression
- I can compare and contrast Hoover's plan with the idea of governmental assistance
- I can discuss domestic policies under Roosevelt regarding the Great Depression
- I can identify the major events during the 1930s
- I can recognize problems with the New Deal

Chapter 20 World at War

- I can identify the leader of World War II
- I can summarize the influence of the US on the world during World War II
- I can relate the effects of World War II
- I can compare and contrast Communism and Americanism
- I can analyze the events of the Cold War
- I can discuss the founding of the United Nations and NATO
- I can summarize Truman's domestic policies
- I can analyze the Korean War and its results

Chapter 21 Time for Freedom and Responsibility

- I can describe spiritual and moral strength in the US
- I can relate American prosperity to a thriving economy
- I can summarize the contributions of Eisenhower
- I can analyze the McCarthy situation
- I can identify the contributions of Kennedy's administration and his assassination
- I can correlate the events in Cuba and Germany to the spreading of Communism
- I can distinguish the differences between conservatives and liberals
- I can discuss the beginning of the civil rights movement
- I can conclude that the increase of governmental programs led to false prosperity
- I can correlate spiritual decline with removal of godly values from education
- I can recognize the results of the Great Society
- I can identify the events and people of the Civil Rights Movement

Chapter 22 Troubled times for America

- I can analyze the events, people and result of the Vietnam Conflict
- I can recall the events surrounding Nixon's election
- I can discuss the environmental movement
- I can identify the accomplishment of the NASA program
- I can summarize the foreign affairs of Nixon and his resignation due to the Watergate Affair
- I can recall presidencies of Ford and Carter
- I can discuss the rise of franchises and chain stores
- I can identify the philosophy of Solzhenitsyn
- I can recognize the influence of the Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt
- I can correlate declining morality with humanism and rebellion

Chapter 23 Which way, America?

- I can recognize a desire to return to morality with Reagan
- I can identify the domestic/foreign affairs under Reagan
- I can detail Reaganomics
- I can relate the significance of the The Reagan Doctrine on Communism
- I can describe the fall of the Soviet Union
- I can recognize the rise of technology during the Information Age
- I can summarize the administration of George H W Bush
- I can detail the events surrounding the Persian Gulf War
- I can summarize Clinton's administration
- I can describe the rise of terrorism in the US
- I can analyze the moral decline in the US

Chapter 24 In Defense of Freedom

- I can analyze the purpose of the War on Terrorism
- I can recognize the concern of nuclear programs
- I can summarize the administration of George W Bush
- I can summarize the administration of Barack Obama
- I can recall Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina
- I can relate the US being a land of opportunity
- I can recognize that the US must be righteous to be blessed

Geography (Material - Seterra <https://online.seterra.com/>)

- United States - states and capitals
- Thirteen Colonies
- North America
- Central America
- Caribbean Countries
- US Major Cities
- Latitude and Longitude
- South America
- World Continents and Oceans
- World: 21 Major Cities
- Africa: North of the Equator
- Africa: South of the Equator
- Canada Provinces
- Oceania: Countries

Areas to Be Evaluated:

- Class Participation
- Homework
- Quizzes
- Tests
- Individual Projects (ie: Coming to America Journal)

Additional Activities:

- Field Trip
- Videos
- Timelines
- Dramatizations
- Graphic Organizers
- Various note taking activities