



SOCIAL STUDIES 8

SOC108 — 1.0 Credit

Middle School Course

Course Description

Eighth-grade students will build on their concepts of geography, civics, and political societies beginning with the world as it was in the 1500s, followed by the natural unfolding of events from the explorations, the establishment of the colonies, and the colonial era leading up to the French and Indian War and Revolutionary War. The development of American government from a confederation to a constitutional one, the launching of the republic, the War of 1812, the growth and development of the nation through the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark exploration, Manifest Destiny, and the Mexican War will follow. Students will explore the changes in the nation—from immigration and abolition issues to the Civil War and Reconstruction, and westward expansion to the development of the U.S. as a world power in World War I. They will explore the 1920s, the Great Depression, and World War II.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Use geographic tools such as thematic/interactive maps, graphs, charts, models, and databases to collect, analyze, interpret, and present data.
- Apply, examine, and develop timelines and chronology by sequencing events, people, technology, time periods, and people.
- Identify contributions of significant individuals including Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, King George III, Martin Luther, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, the Marquis de Lafayette, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Harriett Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and Desmond Tutu.
- Identify points of view from historical contexts and frames of reference surrounding an event that influenced the participants.
- Analyze political, economic, and social effects of war.
- Consider the obligation of society to individuals and the obligations of citizens to society.
- Organize/interpret information from outlines, reports, media, databases, and visuals including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps in order to apply generalizations about past, present, and future events in history from the 1500s to the present.
- Understand the effects of the interaction between humans and the environment.
- Compare types/uses of technology, past and present, by analyzing the effects of scientific discoveries or technological innovations.
- Apply critical thinking skills to organize/use information acquired from various sources including electronic technology.
- Analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions.
- Evaluate documents such as the Mayflower Compact, the Treaty of Paris, Articles of Confederation, the Constitution of the United States of America, the Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation.

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Course Length

Two semesters

Required Text

None

Course Outline

Exploration

- The World in 1500
- The European explorations

The Colonization of North America

- The English establish 13 colonies
- American identity develops
- Early culture of the colonies
- Representative government develops
- The French and Indian War

Revolution

- The road to revolution
- Taxation without representation
- The early battles
- The early years and expansion of the war
- Victory

Establishing a Republic

- The Confederation
- The Constitution
- The Bill of Rights

The Early Years

- Washington's presidency
- The Federalists
- Challenges to the new government

The Jefferson Years

- The Louisiana Purchase
- Problems from abroad
- The Lewis and Clark expedition
- The War of 1812