

# 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

# History of the United States A

## Middle School Level

### 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

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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

# History of the United States B

## Middle School Level

### SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

#### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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