U.S. History traces the nation's history from the pre-colonial period to the present. Students learn about the Native American, European, and African people who lived in America before it became the United States. They examine the beliefs and philosophies that informed the American Revolution and the subsequent formation of the government and political system. Students investigate the economic, cultural, and social motives for the nation's expansion, as well as the conflicting notions of liberty that eventually resulted in civil war. The course describes the emergence of the United States as an industrial nation and then focuses on its role in modern world affairs.

Moving into the 20th and 21st centuries, students probe the economic and diplomatic interactions between the United States and other world players while investigating how the world wars, the Cold War, and the “information revolution” affected the lives of ordinary Americans. Woven through this chronological sequence is a strong focus on the changing conditions of women, African Americans, and other minority groups.

The course emphasizes the development of historical analysis skills such as comparing and contrasting, differentiating between facts and interpretations, considering multiple perspectives, and analyzing cause-and-effect relationships. These skills are applied to text interpretation and in written assignments that guide learners step-by-step through problem-solving activities.

This course is built to state standards and informed by the National Council for History Education, the National Center for History in the Schools, and the National Council for Social Studies.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Peopling North America (Prehistory – 1763)

- Skills for U.S. History
- Indigenous Civilizations in America
- European Colonization
- British Colonization of North America
- Wrap-Up: Peopling North America

Unit 2: The Founding of the United States (1763 – 1824)

- The American Revolution
- Creating a Government
- The Emerging Nation
- Wrap-Up: The Founding of the United States

Unit 3: Growth and Division of the United States (1824 – 1860)

Copyright© Edmentum Inc. All Rights Reserved.

- The Age of Jackson
- Conflicts and Cultural Growth
- Increasing Divisions
- Wrap-Up: Growth and Division of the United States

Unit 4: Civil War and Reconstruction (1860 – 1877)

- The Civil War Begins
- Restoring the Union
- Reconstruction
- Wrap-Up: Civil War and Reconstruction

Unit 5: The Gilded Age (1877 – 1900)

- Conflicts after Reconstruction
- Immigration and Domestic Developments
- A Growing Empire
- Wrap-Up: The Gilded Age

Unit 6: Semester 1 Review and Exam

Unit 7: The Progressive Era Through the Roaring '20s (1900 – 1929)

- Skills for U.S. History II
- The Progressive Age
- World War I
- The Roaring '20s
- Wrap-Up: The Progressive Era Through the Roaring '20s

Unit 8: The Great Depression and World War II (1929 – 1945)

- The Great Depression
- World War II
- Defeating the Axis Powers
- The Great Depression and World War II

Unit 9: The Postwar Years to the Cold War (1945 – 1969)

- The Postwar Years
- Fighting for Equality
- The Cold War and Societal Developments
- Wrap-Up: The Postwar Years to the Cold War

Unit 10: The End of the Cold War (1969 – 1991)

- U.S. Politics and Changes in the Cold War
- The United States in the 1980s
- Ending the Cold War
- Wrap-Up: The End of the Cold War

Unit 11: The United States in the Contemporary Age (1991 – Present)

- The United States after the Cold War
- The United States Enters the New Millennium

Copyright© Edmentum Inc. All Rights Reserved.

- The Contemporary United States
- Wrap-Up: The United States in the Contemporary Age

Unit 12: Semester 2 Review and Exam

Copyright© Edmentum Inc. All Rights Reserved.