

This course traces the nation's history from the pre-colonial period to the end of post-Civil War Reconstruction. It emphasizes the colonial period and the creation of a new nation and examines the beliefs and philosophies that informed the American Revolution and the subsequent formation of the government and political system.

Students first explore the earliest points of contact between individuals from Europe, Africa, and North America. They then probe the economic, cultural, and social motives for the nation's expansion, as well as the conflicting notions of liberty that eventually resulted in the Civil War and Reconstruction. Woven throughout this narrative history is a strong focus on the changing conditions of women, African Americans, and other minority groups. The ways in which Americans lived, ate, dressed, and interacted are also highlighted.

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. **Note: Second semester outline coming soon.**

Length: One Semester

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)

- 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
