Virginia and United States 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. **Note: Second semester outline coming soon.**

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: First Contacts

- Europeans in the New World
- First Connections
- The Atlantic World
- Free and Forced Labor in the Colonies
- First Contacts Wrap-Up

Unit 2: Becoming American

- European Colonies in North America
- British North America
- The Revolutionary War
- Examining the Constitution
- Becoming American Wrap-Up

Unit 3: America in the Age of Jackson

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- Liberty, Power, and Party Politics
- The First Industrial Revolution
- Forced and Voluntary Movement
- Building New Communities
- America in the Age of Jackson Wrap-Up

Unit 4: North-South Conflict

- Growth and Conflict
- Early Antislavery
- The Union in Crisis
- The Civil War
- North-South Conflict Wrap-Up

Unit 5: Post-Civil War America

- Reconstruction Amendments and Citizenship
- New Opportunities
- Lost Opportunities
- Looking West
- Post-Civil War America Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Industrial America

- The Second Industrial Revolution
- The New Immigrants
- Daily Life in the Industrial Age
- Challenges of Industrialization
- Industrial America Wrap-Up

Unit 7: Semester 1 Review and Exam

Unit 8: Populism and Progressivism

- Populists
- Improving Local Life
- Improving the Nation
- Progressive Race Relations
- Populism and Progressivism Wrap-Up

Unit 9: The Age of Imperialism

- Adding New Colonies
- Americans in Asia
- Big Stick Diplomacy
- World War I
- The United States in the Age of Imperialism Wrap-Up

Unit 10: Progress and Challenges

- Turning Away from the World
- Challenging Conventions

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- Economic Challenges
- World War II
- Progress and Challenges Wrap-Up

Unit 11: The Cold War Begins

- The Cold War Around the World
- The Cold War at Home
- Early Civil Rights
- Post-WWII Popular Culture
- The Cold War Begins Wrap-Up

Unit 12: Change Is in the Air

- The Politics of Change
- Power and the People
- America on the Move
- Détente and the End of the Cold War
- Change Is in the Air Wrap-Up

Unit 13: Contemporary Issues

- The Right and the Left
- The Third Industrial Revolution
- The United States and the World
- The Culture of Now
- Contemporary Issues Wrap-Up

Unit 14: Semester 2 Review and Exam

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