

Middle School U.S. History and Geography delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build middle school students' knowledge of U.S. history, from the peopling of North America through the era of Reconstruction. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content. By constantly honing their ability to analyze history, students build the depth of knowledge and higher-order thinking skills required to demonstrate their mastery when put to the test.

The two-semester course is arranged in themed units, each with three to five lessons. In each unit, activities make complex ideas about U.S. history accessible through focused content, guided analysis, multi-modal representations, and personalized feedback. Each lesson includes a variety of activities such as direct instruction, application of skills, performance tasks, and formative and summative assessments. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored assignments.

Middle School U.S. History and Geography is built to state standards and informed by the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Introduction to U.S. History

- Reading Historical Evidence
- Understanding Context and Bias in U.S. History
- Understanding Causation and Argumentation in History
- The First Peoples of North America
- Colonizing North America
- Wrap-Up: Introduction to U.S. History

Unit 2: From Colonies to Independence

- The New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies
- Life in the British Colonies
- The Buildup to Independence
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Revolutionary War
- Wrap-Up: From Colonies to Independence

Unit 3: Building the Federal Government

- The Articles of Confederation
- The Constitutional Convention
- The U.S. Constitution
- Ratifying and Amending the Constitution
- Wrap-Up: Building the Federal Government

Unit 4: Early U.S. Governments

- The Federalist Era
- The Age of Jefferson
- Westward Expansion
- The Era of Good Feelings
- The Age of Jackson
- Conflicts with American Indians
- Wrap-Up: Early U.S. Governments

Unit 5: Semester Wrap-Up**Unit 6: Early U.S. Culture and Expansion**

- Thinking Geographically
- The Geography of the United States
- Cultural Developments Through the Early 1800s
- African American Life Through the Early 1800s
- The Early American Economy
- Settling the West
- Wrap-Up: Early U.S. Culture and Expansion

Unit 7: Industrialization and Reform

- Industrial Developments
- Immigration and Urbanization in America
- Cultural Developments in the Mid-1800s
- The Abolition Movement
- The Fight for Women's Rights
- Wrap-Up: Industrialization and Reform

Unit 8: Regional Conflicts

- Regional Economies of the United States
- Compromises for Free and Slave States
- Conflicts with Mexico
- Wrap-Up: Regional Conflicts

Unit 9: The Civil War and Reconstruction

- The Path to Civil War
- The Divided Nation at War
- The Union Victory
- Reconstructing the South
- The Effects of Reconstruction
- Wrap-Up: The Civil War and Reconstruction

Unit 10: Semester Wrap-Up