



Social Studies 6

Semester A Summary:

This first semester course examines social, economic, and historical change in the United States from the early 1800's through the Progressive Era. Students will explore key events and figures that shaped American history and culture. Readings and activities will assist students in analyzing events and in developing historical reasoning and critical thinking skills. Through this course, students will gain a broader understanding of the relevance of American history to their lives as well as develop a better understanding of the impact of key events on American culture and society.

Semester A Outline

1. Social Studies 6 A Course Overview

1. Getting Started in Middle School American History

2. Constitution Day

1. Constitution Day
 - Understand the importance and meaning of the Declaration of Independence
 - Understand and recite the beginning of the Declaration of Independence
 - Understand the importance and meaning of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights

3. Society and Culture Before the Civil War

1. The Industrial Revolution and Life in the North
 - Explain the impact of technology and the Industrial Revolution on the economy
 - Analyze the impact that the Industrial Revolution had on daily life
 - Describe the impact of immigration and attitudes toward immigrants and African Americans in the North
2. King Cotton and Life in the South
 - Analyze the economic, social, and political conditions of free and enslaved African Americans
 - Explain the impact of slavery and how it shaped Southern life
 - Describe the agricultural economy of the South and how the cotton gin affected both the Northern and Southern economy
3. Reform Movements
 - Analyze how political issues and religious influences, including the Second Great Awakening, inspired reform movements
 - Describe the impact of social reform movements on American society in the 1800s
4. Abolitionism
 - Analyze the effectiveness of the abolitionist movement including the Underground Railroad and its impact on African Americans
 - Identify key people who fought for the abolitionist movement

5. Women's Rights
 - Describe the origins and effectiveness of the women's rights movement
 - Describe the impact of the women's rights movement on opportunities for women
 - Explain the impact of the Seneca Falls Convention, including the roles of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony
6. Arts and Literature
 - Describe and analyze the emergence of art, literature, and music in the early to mid-1800s and its impact on American culture and society
 - Explain how transcendentalism reflected American society
7. Society & Culture Before the Civil War Unit Review
 - Analyze the impact that new technology had on the culture and economy of the United States
 - Identify the various social movements that began in the early 1800s and describe their impact on the culture of the United States
 - Compare and contrast the economies of the Northern and Southern states
8. Society & Culture Before the Civil War Unit Test

4. The Civil War

1. Conflicts and Compromises
 - Analyze conflicts over the issue of slavery
 - Explain the impact of the Fugitive Slave Act
 - Describe how Uncle Tom's Cabin shifted attitudes about slavery
 - Analyze the impact the Compromise of 1850 and the Missouri Compromise on the issue of slavery
2. Growing Tensions
 - Analyze the impact of the Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - Explain how the issue of slavery continued to lead the nation toward civil war
 - Summarize the impact of the Dred Scott case
 - Analyze the influence of third parties on the emergence and growth of the Republican Party
3. Division and the Outbreak of War
 - Describe the issue of states' rights relative to the cause of the Civil War
 - Explain the impact of the election of 1860
 - Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the North and South leading up to and during the outbreak of the war
 - Compare and contrast Davis's and Lincoln's ideals and leadership qualities
 - Describe the significance of the attack on Fort Sumter
4. The Course of War
 - Identify the roles of key military people during the Civil War
 - Analyze the strategies used by both the North and South
 - Identify battles and the victories of both Confederates and the Union in the early years of the war
5. Emancipation and Life in Wartime
 - Explain the contributions of African Americans and women to the Civil War effort
 - Describe the conditions endured by soldiers during the Civil War
 - Analyze how the war impacted both Northern and Southern economies
 - Explain the purpose and effects of the Emancipation Proclamation, and

describe Lincoln's timing for its release

6. The War's End

- Identify ways in which Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg became turning points in the war
- Analyze Lincoln's ideas as stated in the Gettysburg Address
- Describe Grant's plan for ending the war
- Describe the terms of surrender of the Confederacy

7. The Civil War Unit Review

- Analyze the impact that slavery played on American politics between 1820–1861
- Identify the major political parties that existed in the years prior to the Civil War and describe their stance on various issues
- Describe political events leading up to and during the Civil War, and identify key battles, people, and turning points
- Describe the impact that the expansion of slavery and the Civil War itself had on the culture of the United States before, during, and just after the war

8. The Civil War Unit Test

5. Reconstruction and Economic Growth

1. Early Reconstruction

- Compare and contrast the political, economic, and social problems in the North and South following the Civil War
- Analyze the causes and effects of Reconstruction after the Civil War
- Explain the events surrounding and effects of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln
- Describe how President Johnson's Reconstruction Plan was received by the nation

2. Radical Reconstruction

- Compare and contrast the plans for reconstruction of Lincoln and the Radical Republicans
- Analyze the reasons for and reactions to the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments
- Describe the reasons for and outcome of the impeachment of President Johnson
- Evaluate the effects of legislation on the life of African Americans after the Civil War
- Analyze the portrayal of President Johnson in a political cartoon

3. Reconstruction and Southern Society

- Identify new forces in Southern politics
- Describe how southern conservatives resisted Reconstruction
- Analyze the economic, political, and social challenges facing Reconstruction governments
- Explain why sharecropping led to a cycle of poverty

4. The Aftermath of Reconstruction

- Describe the political and social effects of the Civil War
- Describe the events surrounding the end of Reconstruction
- Analyze how new legislation at the end of Reconstruction affected the lives of African Americans
- Compare and contrast the decision in Plessy v. Ferguson with the real state of life for African Americans

5. Mining, Railroads, and the Economy

- Describe how the boom in gold and silver changed the West
- Identify problems that arose on the mining frontier
- Explain how railroads helped the West develop
- Analyze how railroad services became more efficient over time
- Describe how railroads encouraged economic growth
- 6. Western Agriculture
 - Describe settlement patterns and life on the plains for various groups in America, including Anglos, Mexicanos, and women
 - Explain the development of the Populist Party
 - Analyze the development and effects of the Cattle Kingdom and the rise of ranching
 - Analyze the effects of the Homestead and Morrill Acts
- 7. Hardship for Native Americans
 - Describe the life of the Plains Indians and their uses of buffalo
 - Summarize promises made to Native Americans
 - Explain why the Plains Indian way of life ended
 - Identify why reforms in favor of Native Americans failed
- 8. Industry and Corporations
 - Describe how the steel and oil industries grew
 - Analyze arguments surrounding trusts and monopolies
 - Analyze the rise of corporations and banks
 - Explain Rockefeller's and Carnegie's achievements as titans of industry
- 9. The Labor Movement
 - Describe the problems associated with the use of child labor in industry
 - Analyze the rise of labor unions and support for workers' rights
 - Evaluate the efforts of labor organizations
- 10. New Technologies
 - Describe new technologies of the late 1800s
 - Describe the role of patents in innovation
 - Analyze the effects of technology on American lives
- 11. Reconstruction and Economic Growth Unit Review
 - Compare and contrast the various plans for reconstruction
 - Evaluate the ways people or groups tried to help or hinder the integration of former slaves into society as a whole
 - Describe life for various groups of people in different regions of the U.S., including midwestern farmers, industrial titans and their workers, and Native Americans
 - Evaluate the impact of new technologies and industrial innovations on the American landscape, culture, and economy
- 12. Reconstruction and Economic Growth Unit Test

6. The Progressive Era

1. A New Wave of Immigration
 - Analyze reasons for immigration to the United States between 1865 and 1915
 - Describe the immigrant experience in America
 - Explain causes and effects of nativist opposition to immigration
2. Urbanization
 - Explain how immigration and domestic migration contributed to changes in cities

- Compare and contrast the lives of the poor, the middle class, and the wealthy
 - Analyze the effects of rapid urbanization and interventions
 - Describe the settlement house movement
3. The Rise of Progressivism
 - Describe politics during the Gilded Age and efforts at political reform
 - Identify efforts to regulate big business
 - Explain how the muckrakers inspired reform
 - Identify the Progressives and explain their reforms
 4. The Progressive Presidents
 - Analyze the efforts of the Progressive presidents
 - Describe the role of the Bull Moose party
 - Analyze the impact of the Square Deal
 5. Progress and Setbacks for Social Justice
 - Analyze efforts to gain women's suffrage and other rights
 - Describe the temperance movement and prohibition
 - Explain discrimination against various groups during the Progressive Era
 - Synthesize information from primary sources into a portfolio project that explains how immigration affected immigrants and Americans in the early 20th century
 6. A Changing American Culture
 - Describe how city life changed during the Progressive Era
 - Identify forms of entertainment that Americans enjoyed during this period
 - Describe how public education grew during the Progressive Era
 - Identify changes in reading habits
 - Explain the interest of Progressive Era writers and painters in subjects from everyday life
 7. The Progressive Era Unit Review
 - Explain the causes and effects of urbanization and mass immigration on society and government around the turn of the century
 - Describe the goals of the Progressive movement in the United States, and identify some of the ways in which key people worked toward those goals
 - Identify specific victories for the Progressive movement and describe how those victories improved the lives of Americans
 8. The Progressive Era Unit Test

Semester B Summary:

This second semester course examines social, economic, historical and political change in the United States from World War I to recent events. Students will explore key events and figures that shaped American history and culture. The course will also investigate the changing relationship of the United States to the rest of the world. Readings and activities will assist students in analyzing events and in developing historical reasoning and critical thinking skills. Through this course, students will gain a broader understanding of the relevance of American history to their lives as well as develop a better understanding of the impact of key events on American culture and society

Semester B Outline

1. **Social Studies 6 B Course Overview**

1. Getting Started in Middle School American History

2. **Imperialism and World War I**

1. Expansion in the Pacific

- Analyze the development of U.S. relationships in the Pacific
- Explain the reasons for imperialism
- Describe U.S. influence in the Pacific
- Outline the events and attitudes leading to the Boxer Rebellion

2. War and Empire

- Summarize the events leading to America's war with Spain
- Analyze the reasons for the quick American victory in the Spanish-American War
- Describe America's role as a colonial power

3. U.S. Power in Latin America

- Identify why and how the United States built the Panama Canal
- Explain Theodore Roosevelt's "big stick" policy in Latin America
- Summarize the crisis that erupted between the United States and Mexico

4. A European War

- Describe the causes of World War I
- Analyze the use and effects of trench warfare
- Explain the challenges to U.S. attempts to stay neutral
- Evaluate issues surrounding annexation of Hawaii

5. Entering the War

- Summarize how President Wilson tried to bring about peace
- Explain why the United States chose to declare war
- Describe how the government prepared for and managed the war effort
- Identify the impact of the war on the home front

6. Winning the War

- Identify the setbacks the Allies suffered in 1917 and early 1918
- Explain how the American Expeditionary Force helped the Allies win the war
- Describe the toll on human life caused by the war

7. Wilson and Isolationism

- Analyze Wilson's peace plan
- Describe the outcome of the Paris Peace Conference
- Analyze American reactions to the Versailles Treaty and League of Nations

8. Imperialism and World War I Unit Review

- Explain arguments made for and against the creation of an American empire
- Explain the causes and effects of the Spanish-American War and World War I
- Compare and contrast the attitudes of Americans prior to and during World War I
- Compare and contrast Wilson's plan for peace with the actual terms of the Treaty of Versailles

9. Imperialism and World War I Unit Test

3. **Prosperity, Depression, and World War II**

1. Harding and Coolidge

- Describe the corruption that characterized Harding's presidency
- Explain how the economy grew during Coolidge's presidency
- Analyze America's return to isolationism

2. Social Change

- Explain the reasons for Prohibition and its failure
- Analyze the impact of the automobile on American life

- Describe the rise of mass culture
- Compare women's lives in the 1920s to their pre-World War I lives
- 3. Roaring Twenties Culture
 - Identify cultural trends during the 1920s
 - Explain new kinds of writing and music developed during the 1920s
- 4. Division and Inequality
 - Analyze cultural clashes during the 1920s
 - Describe the losses faced by farmers and the labor unions after World War I
 - Describe attitudes toward communism and anarchism
 - Analyze racial tension in the 1920s
 - Describe factors contributing to nativism
- 5. Entering the Great Depression
 - Identify the causes of the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression
 - Explain how hard times affected Americans
 - Describe and evaluate Hoover's response to the Great Depression
- 6. Roosevelt's New Deal
 - Explain why Roosevelt won the election in 1932
 - Describe the impact of the New Deal, including the Hundred Days, jobless relief, labor reforms, Social Security, and other programs
 - Explain why critics objected to the New Deal
 - Describe Roosevelt's conflict with the Supreme Court
 - Evaluate the effects of the New Deal
- 7. Life During the Depression
 - Identify the causes and effects of the Dust Bowl
 - Explain how the arts reflected life during the Great Depression
 - Describe the Great Depression's impact on African Americans and other groups
 - Explain how the Great Depression affected women
 - Examine the art of Georgia O'Keeffe
- 8. Aggression Overseas and Isolation at Home
 - Compare and contrast democracy and fascism
 - Analyze political changes in Italy and Germany
 - Describe the changes in rule in the Soviet Union and Japan
 - Explain the American adoption of isolationism in the face of war in Europe and Asia
- 9. Entering World War II
 - Explain how aggression led to war in Asia and Europe
 - Describe how the United States responded to the outbreak of World War II
 - Explain why the United States finally entered the war
- 10. The Home Front
 - Describe how Americans mobilized the economy to provide materials and funds for World War II
 - Summarize how women in the workplace helped the war effort
 - Describe the impact the war had on African Americans
 - Explain how and why Japanese Americans and other groups faced wartime restrictions
- 11. Winning a Deadly War
 - Describe the early defeats and strategy development of the Allies
 - Describe the persecution and murder of European Jews and other groups by the Nazis

- Explain how World War II ended
 - Analyze the actions of key leaders on both sides of World War II
 - Analyze the immediate effects of World War II
 - Compare and contrast the defeats of Germany and Japan
12. Prosperity, Depression, & World War II Unit Review
- Describe the cultural changes and economic boom that defined the Roaring Twenties
 - Identify the causes of the Great Depression, and the effects it had on people, business, and politics
 - Compare and contrast the leadership styles of Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt, and describe steps that each took to slow the Depression
 - Identify and describe the causes and effects of World War II
 - Describe the events that pulled the United States into the war and the ways in which Americans supported the war effort
13. Prosperity, Depression, & World War II Unit Test

4. **Postwar America**

1. The Beginning of the Cold War
 - Explain why the United States took a leadership role in the world after World War II
 - Summarize how the Cold War began
 - Describe the U.S. response to Soviet expansion
 - Analyze how the crisis over Berlin led to new Cold War alliances
 - Identify the events during 1949 that increased Cold War tensions
2. Korea and Other Postwar Conflicts
 - Analyze how concern over communism led to conflict with Korea and China
 - Describe the events of the Korean War
 - Explain conflicts over communism around the world
 - Describe hunts for communists on American soil
3. Eisenhower and Postwar Conflicts
 - Discuss postwar problems in America
 - Explain how American lifestyles changed in the 1950s
 - Identify the factors that contributed to the economic and baby booms of the 1950s
4. Civil Rights
 - Explain how discrimination affected the lives of minorities in the United States
 - Describe the role of Martin Luther King, Jr., in the civil rights movement
 - Compare how different groups tried to achieve equal rights
 - Summarize how the courts, protests, and boycotts helped minority groups achieve greater rights
5. Kennedy, Johnson, and Vietnam
 - Explain the events leading to and surrounding the Cuban missile crisis
 - Analyze U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War
 - Describe American responses to the Vietnam War
 - Describe Johnson's Great Society program
6. The Nixon Years
 - Evaluate President Nixon's accomplishments
 - Describe the end and effects of the Vietnam War
 - Analyze how tensions of the Cold War were calmed
 - Explain the Watergate scandal
7. Postwar America Unit Review

- Evaluate the extent to which the Cold War dictated foreign and domestic policies in the United States
- Compare and contrast the lives of white Americans and African Americans under segregation, and evaluate the efforts taken to end segregation
- Identify the causes and effects of the wars in Korea and Vietnam
- Analyze the lack of support for the Vietnam War compared to other recent conflicts, especially among groups such as young people and minorities

8. Postwar America Unit Test

5. Meeting New Challenges

1. The Conservative Revolution

- Describe the effects of the Iranian revolution and hostage crisis
- Analyze the Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton presidencies
- Explain the effects of NAFTA
- Describe the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act

2. The End of the Cold War

- Describe the new Cold War tensions that developed after 1979
- Explain why communism fell in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union
- Identify Americans' reactions to the end of the Cold War

3. Regional Conflicts

- Describe how the end of the Cold War changed America's role in the world
- Explain why nuclear arms remained a threat
- Describe how the United States helped promote democracy
- Explain the role of the United States in conflicts in Russia and Eastern Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and elsewhere.

4. Terrorism and Wars Overseas

- Describe the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and their impact on the United States
- Explain why the United States went to war in Afghanistan and describe the course of that war
- Assess the impact of the U.S. intervention in Iraq
- Reflect on the treatment of prisoners following the September 11 attacks
- Identify the continuing challenges posed by jihadism

5. Global Challenges

- Analyze efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons
- Describe unrest in Southwest Asia and North Africa
- Explain the Arab Spring
- Analyze U.S. efforts to support other countries

6. A Global Economy

- Analyze the relationship between the U.S. and the global economy
- Explain the European Union
- Describe the factors that led to recession in the early 21st century
- Analyze the U.S. economy's post-recession recovery

7. Advances in Science and Technology

- Explain new discoveries made by NASA
- Analyze environmental challenges including climate change
- Describe technological advancements in biology and medicine
- Evaluate the changes brought on by a networked world
- Describe the contributions of technological pioneers

8. Challenges at Home

- Analyze the presidencies of George W. Bush and Barack Obama
- Analyze the social changes America experienced in the 2000s

9. Meeting New Challenges Unit Review

- Describe the presidency of Ronald Reagan, both in terms of his policies and his personality
- Identify the events that signaled the end of the Cold War
- Evaluate threats that are currently facing the United States
- Identify new technologies and entrepreneurs that helped the United States to become a global superpower in the latter half of the 20th century

10. Meeting New Challenges Unit Test