

U.S. History Part I – Diocese of Fall River Middle School Social Studies Learning Outcomes

Pre-Columbian Civilizations
1. Interpret timeline of events studied.
2. Identify the three major Pre-Columbian civilizations that existed in Central and South America as the Maya, Aztec, and Inca.
3. Describe the political structures, religious practices and use of slaves for each civilization.
4. Locate each civilization on a map.
5. Explain reasons for the decline of the Aztec and Inca civilizations in the 16 th century.
6. Describe how geography and climate influenced the way these nations lived and adjusted to the natural environment, including locations of the villages, the distinct structures they built, and how they obtained food, clothing, tools and utensils.
7. Compare and contrast the varied customs and folklore traditions of these nations.
Explorers
1. Examine the explorers and identify their accomplishments, and the obstacles they faced (Vasco Da Gama, Vasco Nunez De Balboa, Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci, Etc.).
2. Describe the entrepreneurial characteristics of early explorers.
3. Explore the technological developments that made sea exploration by latitude and longitude possible.
4. Trace the routes of major explorers including the distances traveled and the Atlantic routes that linked Africa, the West Indies, the British colonies and Europe.
5. Locate on maps of North and South America land claimed by Spain, France, England, Portugal, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Russia.
6. Describe what each explorer sought when his journey began, what he found, and how the discoveries changed the image of the world.
7. Interpret maps used by explorers.
8. Use maps and globes to identify absolute locations (latitude and longitude).
9. Identify the location of the North and South Poles, the equator, the Prime Meridian and the Hemispheres.
10. Compare maps of the modern world with historical maps of the world before the Age of Exploration and describe the changes in the 16 th and 17 th century maps.
11. Describe the goals and extent of the Dutch settlement in New York, the French settlement in Canada, the Spanish settlements in Florida, the Southwest, and the missions in California.
12. Compare and contrast the early relationships of the English settlers to the Indigenous peoples in North America, including the differing views on ownership, the use of land, and the conflicts between them.
13. Describe the hardships of the Pilgrims during their first winter.
14. Appraise the lasting effects of the Mayflower Compact.
15. Recall the traditions of the First Thanksgiving.

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16. Identify major leaders and groups responsible for the founding of the original colonies in North America.
17. Identify the thirteen colonies and their location on a map and describe how regional differences in climate, types of farming, populations, and sources of labor shaped their economies and societies through the 18 th century.
18. Discuss the importance of maritime commerce and the development of the economy of Colonial Massachusetts, using services of historical societies and museums as needed.
19. Identify the founders of and the reasons for the establishment of educational institutions in the colonies.
20. Explain the development of colonial governments and describe how these developments contributed to the Revolution.
21. Describe the religious aspect of the earliest colonies.
22. Analyze the early democratic ideas and practices that emerged during the Colonial Period, including the significance of representative assemblies and town meetings.
23. Define what an entrepreneur is and give examples from Colonial History of an entrepreneur (Peter Faneuil and Benjamin Franklin).
The American Revolution
1. Discuss the reasons for the French and Indian War, how it led to an overhaul of British Imperial policy and the colonial response to these policies (Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, Tea Act, and Intolerable Acts).
2. Identify the causes of the Boston Massacre and explain the events of the Boston Tea Party.
3. Identify the Declaration of Independence and explain the meaning and key ideas on equality, natural rights, the rule of law, and the purpose of government.
4. Compare and contrast the life and achievements of important leaders during the Revolution (George Washington, John Adams, and John Hancock).
5. Describe the roles of the Sons of Liberty and the 1773 Tea Party.
6. Identify the major battles of the Revolution and explain the facts leading to American victory and British defeat.
7. Explain the significance of the First and Second Continental Congresses.
8. Map the major military battles, campaigns, and turning points of the Revolutionary War.
9. Analyze the contributions of France, other nations, and individuals to the outcome of the Revolution.
10. Identify the different roles women played during the Revolution.
11. Identify different ways of dating historical narratives.
12. Observe and identify details in cartoons, photographs, charts, and graphs relating to historical narratives.
The Constitution
1. Identify the major leaders of the Constitutional Convention and describe the major issues they debated.
2. Identify the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including the date, its primary author, and the basic rights it affords the citizens of the Commonwealth.

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3. Describe Shay's rebellion of 1786-87 and explain why it was one of the crucial events leading to the Constitutional Convention.
4. Explain the reasons for the adoption of the Articles of confederation and its later failure.
5. Describe the responsibilities of the government at the federal, state, and local levels.
6. Describe the basic principles of American Democracy and explain how the Constitution and the Bill of Rights reflect and preserve these principles.
7. Identify the three branches of the U.S. government as outlined by the Constitution, their functions, and what features were unique to that time.
8. Interpret the Bill of Rights and describe their reasons for their inclusion in the constitution in 1791.
9. Discuss how the Constitution is designed to secure our liberty by both empowering and limiting central government and compare the powers granted to citizens, Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court.
The Changing West
1. Identify and explain the reasons why people moved West.
2. Analyze the events leading up to and the significance of the Louisiana Purchase in the territorial expansion of the United States.
3. Identify and describe the challenges the Native Americans faced as the settlement in the West expanded.
4. Describe the expedition of the Lewis and Clark from 1803-06.
5. Analyze the causes of the War of 1812 and how events during the war contributed to a sense of American nationalism.
6. Discuss the waves of immigrants from Europe between 1789-1850 and their modes of transportation into the Ohio and Mississippi valleys and through the Cumberland Gap.
7. Identify the explorations of the Trans-Mississippi West following the Louisiana Purchase.
8. Distinguish between political and topographical maps and identify specialized maps that show information such as population, income, or climate change.
9. Give examples of the way people saved their money and explain the advantages and disadvantages of each.
10. Define profit and describe how it is an incentive for entrepreneurs.