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MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

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BEVERLY HILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**CURRICULUM OVERVIEW
MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES
GRADES 6-8**

*Standards are a bold initiative.
Standards describe what to teach, not how to teach it.
Standards are an enduring commitment.
Standards are our commitment to excellence.*

The State of California has created and adopted specific content standards in all curricular content areas. In 2002-03, the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education adopted similar standards that are equal to or exceed the rigor of the state content standards.

This overview has been developed to provide students and parents with an outline of the Middle School Social Studies curriculum. Through identified goals, students are encouraged to perform to their maximum potential. Individual student achievement may vary from child to child. Emphasis is placed on helping the students achieve according to the best of their ability. Individualized work or enrichment activities are assigned to meet students' unique talents and abilities.

The standards listed have been prioritized to insure a more consistent instructional program and to provide guidance to parents and teachers when developing a course of instruction to effectively meet the individual needs of the students. The standards have been identified in the following manner:

Enduring (E) – These standards are to be mastered by all students at a 75% proficiency level as determined by the Beverly Hills Unified School District reading and mathematics assessment program

Important (I) – These standards will be mastered by most of the students at a 75% proficiency level as determined by the Beverly Hills Unified School District reading and mathematics assessment program.

Familiar – All students will receive an exposure level to these standards that will be reinforced and mastered at a future grade level.

This overview reflects the most recent curriculum for students in grades 6-8; however, the format remains flexible so that change can evolve using the established criteria identified above and will be adapted along with the state standards and curriculum revisions and district requirements

MISSION STATEMENT

This mission statement expresses the purpose for which our school district exists and the specific functions it performs as an organization.

The mission of the Beverly Hills Unified School District, the heart of our city's tradition of pride and excellence, is to ensure that our students are humane, thinking, productive citizens through an educational system characterized by state-of-the-art technology; a dynamic interdisciplinary curriculum; an exemplary instructional and support team; student-centered, active learning; respect for diversity; strong parent and community involvement; and a nurturing environment where all share a common purpose and a joy for learning.

“THE BEVERLY HILLS WAY” Student Responsibility and Character Development

Character education is a national movement to create schools that foster ethical, responsible and caring young people by modeling and teaching good character. The emphasis is on common values such as respect, responsibility, integrity, caring and citizenship. The goal is to help students develop socially, ethically and academically by infusing character development into every aspect of the school culture and curriculum.

RESPECT

Respect is an attitude of holding people in high regard and treating them with dignity.

*

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility is being reliable, self-disciplined and accountable for my actions.

*

INTEGRITY

Integrity is strength of character and action

*

CARING

Caring is showing empathy, compassion, kindness, appreciation and helpfulness.

*

CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship is doing my share to make my school and community better.

HOMEWORK

The Governing Board recognizes that homework contributes to building responsibility, self-discipline and life-long learning habits, and that time spent on homework directly influences a student's ability to meet the district's academic standards. The Board expects students, parents/guardians and staff to view homework as a routine and important part of the student's daily life.

Homework at the Middle School level will be assigned according to the established Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education Policy and Administrative Regulations. The policy regarding middle school homework follows.

Students at the Middle School (grades 6-8) can be expected to assigned homework 5 days per week using the following suggested time guidelines:

6 th Grade	90 minutes per night =	450 minutes per week
7 th Grade	120 minutes per night =	600 minutes per week
8 th Grade	120 minutes per night =	600 minutes per week

- If a student is in Honors English or Mathematics an additional 30 minutes per subject area may be added per night.
- If long-term assignments are assigned, they will be figured into the weekly allotment of homework time.
- All homework will be checked and evaluated.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES ANALYSIS SKILLS

The intellectual skills noted below are to be learned through, and applied to, the content standards for grades six through eight. They are to be assessed *only in conjunction with* the content standards in grades six through eight.

In addition to the standards for grades six through eight, students demonstrate the following intellectual reasoning, reflection and research skills:

Chronological and Spatial Thinking

1. Students explain how major events are related to one another in time.
2. Students construct various time lines of key events, people and periods of historical era they are studying.
3. Students use a variety of maps and documents to identify physical and cultural features of neighborhoods, cities, states and countries to explain the historical migration of people, expansion and disintegration of empires and growth of economic systems.

Research, Evidence and Point of View

1. Students frame questions that can be answered by historical study and research.
2. Students distinguish fact from opinion in historical narratives and stories.
3. Students distinguish relevant from unverifiable information, essential from incidental information and verifiable from unverifiable information in historical narratives and stories.
4. Students assess the credibility of primary and secondary sources and draw sound conclusions from them.
5. Students detect the different historical points of view on historical events and determine the context in which the historical statements were made (the questions asked, sources used, author's perspectives).

Historical Interpretation

1. Students explain the central issues and problems from the past, placing people and events in a matrix of time and place.
2. Students understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence and correlation in historical events, including the long- and short-term casual relations.
3. Students explain the sources of historical continuity and how the combination of ideas and events explains the emergence of new patterns.
4. Students recognize the role of chance, oversight and error in history.
5. Students recognize that interpretations of history are subject to change as new information is uncovered.
6. Students interpret basic indicators of economic performance and conduct cost-benefit analyses of economic and political issues.

6th GRADE
WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

Students in grade six expand their understanding of history by studying the people and events that ushered in the dawn of the major Western and non-Western ancient civilizations. Geography is of special significance in the development of the human story. Continued emphasis is placed on the everyday lives, problems, and accomplishments of people, their role in developing social, economic, and political structures, as well as in establishing and spreading ideas that helped transform the world forever. Students develop higher levels of critical thinking by considering why civilizations developed where and when they did, why they became dominant, and why they declined. Students analyze the interactions among the various cultures, emphasizing their enduring contributions and the link, despite time, between the contemporary and ancient worlds.

Core Instructional Materials

A Message of Ancient Days
Publisher, Houghton Mifflin

6.1 Students describe what is known through archaeological studies of the early physical and cultural development of humankind from the Paleolithic era to the agricultural revolution.

1. Describe the hunter-gatherer societies, including the development of tools and the use of fire. **(I)**
2. Identify the locations of human communities that populated the major regions of the world and describe how humans adapted to a variety of environments.
3. *Discuss the climatic changes and human modifications of the physical environment that gave rise to the domestication of plants and animals and new sources of clothing and shelter. (E)*

6.2 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Kush.

1. *Locate and describe the major river systems and discuss the physical settings that supported permanent settlement and early civilizations. (E)*
2. *Trace the development of agricultural techniques that permitted the production of economic surplus and the emergence of cities as centers of culture and power. (E)*
3. Understand the relationship between religion and the social and political order in Mesopotamia and Egypt. **(I)**
4. Know the significance of Hammurabi's Code. **(I)**
5. Discuss the main features of Egyptian art and architecture.
6. Describe the role of Egyptian trade in the eastern Mediterranean and Nile valley.
7. Understand the significance of Queen Hatshepsut and Ramses the Great. **(I)**
8. Identify the location of the Kush civilization and describe its political, commercial, and cultural relations with Egypt.
9. Trace the evolution of language and its written forms.

6.3 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Ancient Hebrews.

1. *Describe the origins and significance of Judaism as the first monotheistic religion based on the concept of one God who sets down moral laws for humanity. (E)*
2. Identify the sources of the ethical teachings and central beliefs of Judaism (the Hebrew Bible, the Commentaries): belief in God, observance of law, practice of the concepts of righteousness and justice, and importance of study; and describe how the ideas of the Hebrew traditions are reflected in the moral and ethical traditions of Western civilization.
3. Explain the significance of Abraham, Moses, Naomi, Ruth, David, and Yohanan ben Zaccai in the development of the Jewish religion.
4. Discuss the locations of the settlements and movements of Hebrew peoples, including the Exodus and their movement to and from Egypt, and outline the significance of the Exodus to the Jewish and other people. **(I)**
5. *Discuss how Judaism survived and developed despite the continuing dispersion of much of the Jewish population from Jerusalem and the rest of Israel after the destruction of the second Temple in A.D. 70. (E)*

6.4 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of Ancient Greece.

1. *Discuss the connections between geography and the development of city-states in the region of the Aegean Sea, including patterns of trade and commerce among Greek city-states and within the wider Mediterranean region. (E)*
2. *Trace the transition from tyranny and oligarchy to early democratic forms of government and back to dictatorship in ancient Greece, including the significance of the invention of the idea of citizenship (e.g., from Pericles' Funeral Oration). (E)*
3. *State the key differences between Athenian, or direct, democracy and representative democracy. (E)*
4. Explain the significance of Greek mythology to the everyday life of people in the region and how Greek literature continues to permeate our literature and language today, drawing from Greek mythology and epics, such as Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, and from *Aesop's Fables*. **(I)**
5. Outline the founding, expansion, and political organization of the Persian Empire.
6. Compare and contrast life in Athens and Sparta, with emphasis on their roles in the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars. **(I)**
7. Trace the rise of Alexander the Great and the spread of Greek culture eastward and into Egypt. **(I)**
8. Describe the enduring contributions of important Greek figures in the arts and sciences (e.g., Hypatia, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Euclid, Thucydides).

6.5 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of India.

1. *Locate and describe the major river system and discuss the physical setting that supported the rise of this civilization. (E)*
2. Discuss the significance of the Aryan invasions. **(I)**

6.5 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of India. (continued)

3. *Explain the major beliefs and practices of Brahmanism in India and how they evolved into early Hinduism. (E)*
4. Outline the social structure of the caste system. *(I)*
5. *Know the life and moral teachings of Buddha and how Buddhism spread in India, Ceylon, and Central Asia. (E)*
6. Describe the growth of the Maurya empire and the political and moral achievements of the emperor Asoka.
7. Discuss important aesthetic and intellectual traditions (e.g., Sanskrit literature, including the *Bhagavad Gita*; medicine; metallurgy; and mathematics, including Hindu-Arabic numerals and the zero).

6.6 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of China.

1. Locate and describe the origins of Chinese civilization in the Huang-He Valley during the Shang Dynasty. *(I)*
2. *Explain the geographic features of China that made governance and the spread of ideas and goods difficult and served to isolate the country from the rest of the world. (E)*
3. *Know about the life of Confucius and the fundamental teachings of Confucianism and Taoism. (E)*
4. Identify the political and cultural problems prevalent in the time of Confucius and how he sought to solve them.
5. List the policies and achievements of the emperor Shi Huangdi in unifying northern China under the Qin Dynasty. *(I)*
6. Detail the political contributions of the Han Dynasty to the development of the imperial bureaucratic state and the expansion of the empire. *(I)*
7. Cite the significance of the trans-Eurasian “silk roads” in the period of the Han Dynasty and Roman Empire and their locations.
8. Describe the diffusion of Buddhism northward to China during the Han Dynasty.

6.7 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures during the development of Rome.

1. *Identify the location and describe the rise of the Roman Republic, including the importance of such mythical and historical figures as Aeneas, Romulus and Remus, Cincinnatus, Julius Caesar, and Cicero. (E)*
2. Describe the government of the Roman Republic and its significance (e.g. written constitution and tripartite government, checks and balances, civic duty). *(I)*
3. Identify the location of and the political and geographic reasons for the growth of Roman territories and expansion of the empire, including how the empire fostered economic growth through the use of currency and trade routes.
4. Discuss the influence of Julius Caesar and Augustus in Rome’s transition from republic to empire.
5. Trace the migration of Jews around the Mediterranean region and the effects of their conflict with the Romans, including the Romans’ restrictions on their right to live in Jerusalem.

6.7 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures during the development of Rome. (continued)

6. Note the origins of Christianity in the Jewish Messianic prophecies, the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as described in the New Testament, and the contribution of St. Paul the Apostle to the definition and spread of Christian beliefs (e.g., belief in the Trinity, resurrection, salvation). *(I)*
7. Describe the circumstances that led to the spread of Christianity in Europe and other Roman territories.
8. Discuss the legacies of Roman art and architecture, technology and science, literature, language, and law.

7TH GRADE
WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY:
MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES

Students in grade seven study the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia in the years A.D. 500–1789. After reviewing the ancient world and the ways in which archaeologists and historians uncover the past, students study the history and geography of great civilizations that were developing concurrently throughout the world during medieval and early modern times. They examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. They learn about the resulting growth of Enlightenment philosophy and the new examination of the concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings and the divine right of kings, experimentalism in science, and the dogma of belief. Finally, students assess the political forces let loose by the Enlightenment, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, and they learn about the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today.

Core Instructional Materials
Across The Centuries
Publisher, Houghton Mifflin

7.1 Students analyze the causes and effects of the vast expansion and ultimate disintegration of the Roman Empire.

1. *Study the early strengths and lasting contributions of Rome (e.g., significance of Roman citizenship; rights under Roman law; Roman art, architecture, engineering, and philosophy; preservation and transmission of Christianity) and its ultimate internal weaknesses (e.g., rise of autonomous military powers within the empire, undermining of citizenship by the growth of corruption and slavery, lack of education, and distribution of news). (E)*
2. Discuss the geographic borders of the empire at its height and the factors that threatened its territorial cohesion.
3. *Describe the establishment by Constantine of the new capital in Constantinople and the development of the Byzantine Empire, with an emphasis on the consequences of the development of two distinct European civilizations, Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic, and their two distinct views on church-state relations. (E)*

7.2 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Islam in the Middle Ages.

1. Identify the physical features and describe the climate of the Arabian peninsula, its relationship to surrounding bodies of land and water, and nomadic and sedentary ways of life. *(I)*
2. *Trace the origins of Islam and the life and teachings of Muhammad, including Islamic teachings on the connection with Judaism and Christianity. (E)*
3. *Explain the significance of the Qur'an and the Sunnah as the primary sources of Islamic beliefs, practice, and law, and their influence in Muslims' daily life. (E)*

7.2 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Islam in the Middle Ages. (continued)

4. Discuss the expansion of Muslim rule through military conquests and treaties, emphasizing the cultural blending within Muslim civilization and the spread and acceptance of Islam and the Arabic language. *(I)*
5. Describe the growth of cities and the establishment of trade routes among Asia, Africa, and Europe, the products and inventions that traveled along these routes (e.g., spices, textiles, paper, steel, new crops), and the role of merchants in Arab society. *(I)*
6. Understand the intellectual exchanges among Muslim scholars of Eurasia and Africa and the contributions Muslim scholars made to later civilizations in the areas of science, geography, mathematics, philosophy, medicine, art, and literature. *(I)*

7.3 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of China in the Middle Ages.

1. Describe the reunification of China under the Tang Dynasty and reasons for the spread of Buddhism in Tang China, Korea, and Japan.
2. Describe agricultural, technological, and commercial developments during the Tang and Sung periods. *(I)*
3. Analyze the influences of Confucianism and changes in Confucian thought during the Sung and Mongol periods. *(I)*
4. *Understand the importance of both overland trade and maritime expeditions between China and other civilizations in the Mongol Ascendancy and Ming Dynasty. (E)*
5. *Trace the historic influence of such discoveries as tea, the manufacture of paper, woodblock printing, the compass, and gunpowder. (E)*
6. Describe the development of the imperial state and the scholar-official class. *(I)*

7.4 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the sub-Saharan civilizations of Ghana and Mali in Medieval Africa.

1. Study the Niger River and the relationship of vegetation zones of forest, savannah, and desert to trade in gold, salt, food, and slaves; and the growth of the Ghana and Mali empires. *(I)*
2. Analyze the importance of family, labor specialization, and regional commerce in the development of states and cities in West Africa.
3. *Describe the role of the trans-Saharan caravan trade in the changing religious and cultural characteristics of West Africa and the influence of Islamic beliefs, ethics, and law. (E)*
4. Trace the growth of the Arabic language in government, trade, and Islamic scholarship in West Africa.
5. Describe the importance of written and oral traditions in the transmission of African history and culture.

7.5 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Japan.

1. Describe the significance of Japan's proximity to China and Korea and the intellectual, linguistic, religious, and philosophical influence of those countries on Japan. *(I)*
2. Discuss the reign of Prince Shotoku of Japan and the characteristics of Japanese society and family life during his reign.
3. *Describe the values, social customs, and traditions prescribed by the lord-vassal system consisting of shogun, daimyo, and samurai and the lasting influence of the warrior code in the twentieth century. (E)*
4. Trace the development of distinctive forms of Japanese Buddhism.
5. Study the ninth and tenth centuries' golden age of literature, art, and drama and its lasting effects on culture today, including Murasaki Shikibu's *Tale of Genji*.
6. Analyze the rise of a military society in the late twelfth century and the role of the samurai in that society.

7.6 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Europe.

1. *Study the geography of the Europe and the Eurasian landmass, including its location, topography, waterways, vegetation, and climate and their relationship to ways of life in Medieval Europe. (E)*
2. *Describe the spread of Christianity north of the Alps and the roles played by the early church and by monasteries in its diffusion after the fall of the western half of the Roman Empire. (E)*
3. *Understand the development of feudalism, its role in the medieval European economy, the way in which it was influenced by physical geography (the role of the manor and the growth of towns), and how feudal relationships provided the foundation of political order. (E)*
4. *Demonstrate an understanding of the conflict and cooperation between the Papacy and European monarchs (e.g., Charlemagne, Gregory VII, Emperor Henry IV). (E)*
5. *Know the significance of developments in medieval English legal and constitutional practices and their importance in the rise of modern democratic thought and representative institutions (e.g., Magna Carta, parliament, development of habeas corpus, an independent judiciary in England). (E)*
6. *Discuss the causes and course of the religious Crusades and their effects on the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish populations in Europe, with emphasis on the increasing contact by Europeans with cultures of the Eastern Mediterranean world. (E)*
7. Map the spread of the bubonic plague from Central Asia to China, the Middle East, and Europe and describe its impact on global population. *(I)*
8. *Understand the importance of the Catholic Church as a political, intellectual, and aesthetic institution (e.g., founding of universities, political and spiritual roles of the clergy, creation of monastic and mendicant religious orders, preservation of the Latin language and religious texts, St. Thomas Aquinas's synthesis of classical philosophy with Christian theology, and the concept of "natural law"). (E)*

7.6 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Medieval Europe. (continued)

9. Know the history of the decline of Muslim rule in the Iberian Peninsula that culminated in the Reconquista and the rise of Spanish and Portuguese kingdoms. *(I)*

7.7 Students compare and contrast the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Meso-American and Andean civilizations.

1. Study the locations, landforms, and climates of Mexico, Central America, and South America and their effects on Mayan, Aztec, and Incan economies, trade, and development of urban societies. *(I)*
2. Study the roles of people in each society, including class structures, family life, warfare, religious beliefs and practices, and slavery. *(I)*
3. *Explain how and where each empire arose and how the Aztec and Incan empires were defeated by the Spanish. (E)*
4. Describe the artistic and oral traditions and architecture in the three civilizations.
5. Describe the Meso-American achievements in astronomy and mathematics, including the development of the calendar and the Meso-American knowledge of seasonal changes to the civilizations' agricultural systems. *(I)*

7.8 Students analyze the origins, accomplishments, and geographic diffusion of the Renaissance.

1. *Describe the way in which the revival of classical learning and the arts fostered a new interest in humanism (i.e., a balance between intellect and religious faith). (E)*
2. Explain the importance of Florence in the early stages of the Renaissance and the growth of independent trading cities (e.g., Venice), with emphasis on the cities' importance in the spread of Renaissance ideas. *(I)*
3. Understand the effects of the reopening of the ancient "Silk Road" between Europe and China, including Marco Polo's travels and the location of his routes. *(I)*
4. *Describe the growth and effects of new ways of disseminating information (e.g., the ability to manufacture paper, translation of the Bible into the vernacular, printing). (E)*
5. Detail advances made in literature, the arts, science, mathematics, cartography, engineering, and the understanding of human anatomy and astronomy (e.g., by Dante Alighieri, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo di Buonarroti Simoni, Johann Gutenberg, William Shakespeare). *(I)*

7.9 Students analyze the historical developments of the Reformation.

1. *List the causes for the internal turmoil in and weakening of the Catholic church (e.g., tax policies, selling of indulgences). (E)*
2. *Describe the theological, political, and economic ideas of the major figures during the Reformation (e.g., Desiderius Erasmus, Martin Luther, John Calvin, William Tyndale). (E)*

7.9 Students analyze the historical developments of the Reformation. (continued)

3. Explain Protestants' new practices of church self-government and the influence of those practices on the development of democratic practices and ideas of federalism. **(I)**
4. Identify and locate the European regions that remained Catholic and those that became Protestant and explain how the division affected the distribution of religions in the New World. **(I)**
5. *Analyze how the Counter-Reformation revitalized the Catholic Church and the forces that fostered the movement (e.g., St. Ignatius of Loyola and the Jesuits, the Council of Trent).* **(E)**
6. Understand the institution and impact of missionaries on Christianity and the diffusion of Christianity from Europe to other parts of the world in the medieval and early modern periods; locate missions on a world map. **(I)**
7. Describe the Golden Age of cooperation between Jews and Muslims in medieval Spain that promoted creativity in art, literature, and science, including how that cooperation was terminated by the religious persecution of individuals and groups (e.g., the Spanish Inquisition and the expulsion of Jews and Muslims from Spain in 1492). **(I)**

7.10 Students analyze the historical developments of the Scientific Revolution and its lasting effect on religious, political, and cultural institutions.

1. Discuss the roots of the Scientific Revolution (e.g., Greek rationalism; Jewish, Christian, and Muslim science; Renaissance humanism; new knowledge from global exploration). **(I)**
2. *Understand the significance of the new scientific theories (e.g., those of Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Newton) and the significance of new inventions (e.g., the telescope, microscope, thermometer, barometer).* **(E)**
3. Understand the scientific method advanced by Bacon and Descartes, the influence of new scientific rationalism on the growth of democratic ideas, and the coexistence of science with traditional religious beliefs.

7.11 Students analyze political and economic change in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries (the Age of Exploration, the Enlightenment, and the Age of Reason).

1. Know the great voyages of discovery, the locations of the routes, and the influence of cartography in the development of a new European worldview. **(I)**
2. *Discuss the exchanges of plants, animals, technology, culture, and ideas among Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and the major economic and social effects on each continent.* **(E)**
3. *Examine the origins of modern capitalism; the influence of mercantilism and cottage industry; the elements and importance of a market economy in seventeenth-century Europe; the changing international trading and marketing patterns, including their locations on a world map; and the influence of explorers and mapmakers.* **(E)**

7.11 Students analyze political and economic change in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries (the Age of Exploration, the Enlightenment, and the Age of Reason). (continued)

- 4. *Explain how the main ideas of the Enlightenment can be traced back to such movements as the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution and to the Greeks, Romans, and Christianity. (E)***
- 5. *Describe how democratic thought and institutions were influenced by Enlightenment thinkers (e.g., John Locke, Charles-Louis Montesquieu, American founders). (E)***
- 6. *Discuss how the principles in the Magna Carta were embodied in such documents as the English Bill of Rights and the American Declaration of Independence. (E)***

8th GRADE

UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY: GROWTH AND CONFLICT

Students in grade eight study the ideas, issues and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I, with an emphasis on America's role in the war. After reviewing the development of America's democratic institutions founded on the Judeo-Christian heritage and English parliamentary traditions, particularly the shaping of the Constitution, students trace the development of American politics, society, culture, and economy and relate them to the emergence of major regional differences. They learn about the challenges facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. They make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions.

Core Instructional Materials

A More Perfect Union

Publisher, Houghton Mifflin

8.1 Students understand the major events preceding the founding of the nation and relate their significance to the development of American constitutional democracy.

1. Describe the relationship between the moral and political ideas of the Great Awakening and the development of revolutionary fervor.
2. *Analyze the philosophy of government expressed in the Declaration of Independence, with an emphasis on government as a means of securing individual rights (e.g., key phrases such as "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights"). (E)*
3. Analyze how the American Revolution affected other nations, especially France. *(I)*
4. Describe the nation's blend of civic republicanism, classical liberal principles, and English parliamentary traditions.

8.2 Students analyze the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and compare the enumerated and implied powers of the federal government.

1. Discuss the significance of the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights, and the Mayflower Compact.
2. *Analyze the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution and the success of each in implementing the ideals of the Declaration of Independence. (E)*
3. *Evaluate the major debates that occurred during the development of the Constitution and their ultimate resolutions in such areas as shared power among institutions, divided state-federal power, slavery, the rights of individuals and states (later addressed by the addition of the Bill of Rights), and the status of American Indian nations under the commerce clause. (E)*
4. Describe the political philosophy underpinning the Constitution as specified in the *Federalist Papers* (authored by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay) and the role of such leaders as Madison, George Washington, Roger Sherman, Gouverneur Morris, and James Wilson in the writing and ratification of the Constitution. *(I)*

8.2 Students analyze the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and compare the enumerated and implied powers of the federal government. (continued)

5. Understand the significance of Jefferson's Statute for Religious Freedom as a forerunner of the First Amendment and the origins, purpose, and differing views of the founding fathers on the issue of the separation of church and state.
6. *Enumerate the powers of government set forth in the Constitution and the fundamental liberties ensured by the Bill of Rights. (E)*
7. *Describe the principles of federalism, dual sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, the nature and purpose of majority rule, and the ways in which the American idea of constitutionalism preserves individual rights. (E)*

8.3 Students understand the foundation of the American political system and the ways in which citizens participate in it.

1. Analyze the principles and concepts codified in state constitutions between 1777 and 1781 that created the context out of which American political institutions and ideas developed.
2. Explain how the ordinances of 1785 and 1787 privatized national resources and transferred federally owned lands into private holdings, townships, and states.
3. Enumerate the advantages of a common market among the states as foreseen in and protected by the Constitution's clauses on interstate commerce, common coinage, and full-faith and credit.
4. *Understand how the conflicts between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton resulted in the emergence of two political parties (e.g., view of foreign policy, Alien and Sedition Acts, economic policy, National Bank, funding and assumption of the revolutionary debt). (E)*
5. *Know the significance of domestic resistance movements and ways in which the central government responded to such movements (e.g., Shays' Rebellion, the Whiskey Rebellion). (E)*
6. *Describe the basic law-making process and how the Constitution provides numerous opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process and to monitor and influence government (e.g., function of elections, political parties, interest groups). (E)*
7. *Understand the functions and responsibilities of a free press. (E)*

8.4 Students analyze the aspirations and ideals of the people of the new nation.

1. *Describe the country's physical landscapes, political divisions, and territorial expansion during the terms of the first four presidents. (E)*
2. Explain the policy significance of famous speeches (e.g., Washington's Farewell Address, Jefferson's 1801 Inaugural Address, John Q. Adams's Fourth of July 1821 Address).
3. Analyze the rise of capitalism and the economic problems and conflicts that accompanied it (e.g., Jackson's opposition to the National Bank; early decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court that reinforced the sanctity of contracts and a capitalist economic system of law).

**8.4 Students analyze the aspirations and ideals of the people of the new nation.
(continued)**

4. Discuss daily life, including traditions in art, music, and literature, of early national America (e.g., through writings by Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper).

8.5 Students analyze U.S. foreign policy in the early Republic.

1. *Understand the political and economic causes and consequences of the War of 1812 and know the major battles, leaders, and events that led to a final peace. (E)*
2. *Know the changing boundaries of the United States and describe the relationships the country had with its neighbors (current Mexico and Canada) and Europe, including the influence of the Monroe Doctrine, and how those relationships influenced westward expansion and the Mexican-American War. (E)*
3. Outline the major treaties with American Indian nations during the administrations of the first four presidents and the varying outcomes of those treaties.

8.6 Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced, with emphasis on the Northeast.

1. *Discuss the influence of industrialization and technological developments on the region, including human modification of the landscape and how physical geography shaped human actions (e.g., growth of cities, deforestation, farming, mineral extraction). (E)*
2. Outline the physical obstacles to and the economic and political factors involved in building a network of roads, canals, and railroads (e.g., Henry Clay's American System). *(I)*
3. *List the reasons for the wave of immigration from Northern Europe to the United States and describe the growth in the number, size, and spatial arrangements of cities (e.g., Irish immigrants and the Great Irish Famine). (E)*
4. Study the lives of black Americans who gained freedom in the North and founded schools and churches to advance their rights and communities.
5. Trace the development of the American education system from its earliest roots, including the roles of religious and private schools and Horace Mann's campaign for free public education and its assimilating role in American culture.
6. Examine the women's suffrage movement (e.g., biographies, writings, and speeches of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Margaret Fuller, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony). *(I)*
7. Identify common themes in American art as well as transcendentalism and individualism

8.7 Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people in the South from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced.

1. *Describe the development of the agrarian economy in the South, identify the locations of the cotton-producing states, and discuss the significance of cotton and the cotton gin. (E)*

8.7 Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people in the South from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced. (continued)

- 2. Trace the origins and development of slavery; its effects on black Americans and on the region's political, social, religious, economic, and cultural development; and identify the strategies that were tried to both overturn and preserve it (e.g., through the writings and historical documents on Nat Turner, Denmark Vesey). (E)*
- 3. Examine the characteristics of white Southern society and how the physical environment influenced events and conditions prior to the Civil War. (E)*
- 4. Compare the lives of and opportunities for free blacks in the North with those of free blacks in the South. (I)*

8.8 Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people in the West from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced.

- 1. Discuss the election of Andrew Jackson as president in 1828, the importance of Jacksonian democracy, and his actions as president (e.g., the spoils system, veto of the National Bank, policy of Indian removal, opposition to the Supreme Court). (E)*
- 2. Describe the purpose, challenges, and economic incentives associated with westward expansion, including the concept of Manifest Destiny (e.g., the Lewis and Clark expedition, accounts of the removal of Indians, the Cherokees' "Trail of Tears," settlement of the Great Plains) and the territorial acquisitions that spanned numerous decades. (E)*
- 3. Describe the role of pioneer women and the new status that western women achieved (e.g., Laura Ingalls Wilder, Annie Bidwell; slave women gaining freedom in the West; Wyoming granting suffrage to women in 1869). (I)*
- 4. Examine the importance of the great rivers and the struggle over water rights.*
- 5. Discuss Mexican settlements and their locations, cultural traditions, attitudes toward slavery, land-grant system, and economies. (I)*
- 6. Describe the Texas War for Independence and the Mexican-American War, including territorial settlements, the aftermath of the wars, and the effects the wars had on the lives of Americans, including Mexican Americans today. (E)*

8.9 Students analyze the early and steady attempts to abolish slavery and to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.

- 1. Describe the leaders of the movement (e.g., John Quincy Adams and his proposed constitutional amendment, John Brown and the armed resistance, Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, Benjamin Franklin, Theodore Weld, William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass). (E)*
- 2. Discuss the abolition of slavery in early state constitutions.*
- 3. Describe the significance of the Northwest Ordinance in education and in the banning of slavery in new states north of the Ohio River. (I)*
- 4. Discuss the importance of the slavery issue as raised by the annexation of Texas and California's admission to the union as a free state under the Compromise of 1850. (E)*

8.9 Students analyze the early and steady attempts to abolish slavery and to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence. (continued)

- 5. Analyze the significance of the States' Rights Doctrine, the Missouri Compromise (1820), the Wilmot Proviso (1846), the Compromise of 1850, Henry Clay's role in the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854), the Dred Scott v. Sandford decision (1857), and the Lincoln-Douglas debates (1858). (E)*
- 6. Describe the lives of free blacks and the laws that limited their freedom and economic opportunities. (I)*

8.10 Students analyze the multiple causes, key events, and complex consequences of the Civil War.

- 1. Compare the conflicting interpretations of state and federal authority as emphasized in the speeches and writings of statesmen such as Daniel Webster and John C. Calhoun. (E)*
- 2. Trace the boundaries constituting the North and the South, the geographical differences between the two regions, and the differences between agrarians and industrialists. (E)*
- 3. Identify the constitutional issues posed by the doctrine of nullification and secession and the earliest origins of that doctrine. (E)*
- 4. Discuss Abraham Lincoln's presidency and his significant writings and speeches and their relationship to the Declaration of Independence, such as his "House Divided" speech (1858), Gettysburg Address (1863), Emancipation Proclamation (1863), and inaugural addresses (1861 and 1865). (E)*
- 5. Study the views and lives of leaders (e.g., Ulysses S. Grant, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee) and soldiers on both sides of the war, including those of black soldiers and regiments. (E)*
- 6. Describe critical developments and events in the war, including the major battles, geographical advantages and obstacles, technological advances, and General Lee's surrender at Appomattox. (E)*
- 7. Explain how the war affected combatants, civilians, the physical environment, and future warfare. (E)*

8.11 Students analyze the character and lasting consequences of Reconstruction.

- 1. List the original aims of Reconstruction and describe its effects on the political and social structures of different regions. (E)*
- 2. Identify the push-pull factors in the movement of former slaves to the cities in the North and to the West and their differing experiences in those regions (e.g., the experiences of Buffalo Soldiers). (I)*
- 3. Understand the effects of the Freedmen's Bureau and the restrictions placed on the rights and opportunities of freedmen, including racial segregation and "Jim Crow" laws. (E)*
- 4. Trace the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and describe the Klan's effects. (I)*
- 5. Understand the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution and analyze their connection to Reconstruction. (E)*

8.12 Students analyze the transformation of the American economy and the changing social and political conditions in the United States in response to the Industrial Revolution.

1. Trace patterns of agricultural and industrial development as they relate to climate, use of natural resources, markets, and trade and locate such development on a map.
2. Identify the reasons for the development of federal Indian policy and the wars with American Indians and their relationship to agricultural development and industrialization.
3. Explain how states and the federal government encouraged business expansion through tariffs, banking, land grants, and subsidies.
4. Discuss entrepreneurs, industrialists, and bankers in politics, commerce, and industry (e.g., Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Leland Stanford).
5. Examine the location and effects of urbanization, renewed immigration, and industrialization (e.g., the effects on social fabric of cities, wealth and economic opportunity, the conservation movement). **(I)**
6. Discuss child labor, working conditions, and laissez-faire policies toward big business and examine the labor movement, including its leaders (e.g., Samuel Gompers), its demand for collective bargaining, and its strikes and protests over labor conditions. **(I)**
7. Identify the new sources of large-scale immigration and the contributions of immigrants to the building of cities and the economy; explain the ways in which new social and economic patterns encouraged assimilation of newcomers into the mainstream amidst growing cultural diversity; and discuss the new wave of nativism. **(I)**
8. Identify the characteristics and impact of Grangerism and Populism.
9. Name the significant inventors and their inventions and identify how they improved the quality of life (e.g., Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Orville and Wilbur Wright). **(I)**