Middle School United States History Framework

Eighth grade United States History focuses on developing students’ understanding of American History from Colonization until the dawn of the 20th Century. In United States History students interpret historical evidence and identify significant trends and major turning points that define the first 300 years of the American experience. The study of United States History will enable students to understand the development and expansion of a market economy and the economic forces that drove the growth of a continental power. In addition, students will examine the foundational documents and democratic practices that define the growth of the American Republic. Students will analyze the processes and mechanisms that increased the body politic and the impact of different cultures on the development of an American identity. By considering events from multiple perspectives students will understand that women, African Americans, Native Americans and other minorities possess historical agency. Awareness of these processes assist student comprehension of the complicated nature of the American story. To assist students in acquiring these understandings, the content of the framework is structured by the following six state social studies standards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard 1.0 Civics</th>
<th>Students will understand the historical development and current status of the fundamental concepts and processes of authority, power, and influence, with particular emphasis on the democratic skills and attitudes necessary to become responsible citizens.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard 2.0 Peoples of the Nations and World</td>
<td>Students will understand the diversity and commonality, human interdependence, and global cooperation of the people of Maryland, the United States, and the World through both a multicultural and historic perspective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 3.0 Geography</td>
<td>Students will use geographic concepts and processes to examine the role of culture, technology, and the environment in the location and distribution of human activities and spatial connections throughout time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 4.0 Economic</td>
<td>Students will develop economic reasoning to understand the historical development and current status of economic principles, institutions, and processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, and workers participating in local communities, the nation, and the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 5.0 History</td>
<td>Students will examine specific ideas, beliefs, and themes; organize patterns and events; and analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time in Maryland, the United States, and around the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes</td>
<td>Students shall use reading, writing, and thinking processes and skills to gain knowledge and understanding of political, historical, and current events using disciplinary and inquiry literacies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Throughout the course, students should employ the social studies skills and processes delineated in the 6.0 Skills and Processes standard. Organizing these skills is the Inquiry Arc which provides a structure to facilitate effective instruction in social studies.

The Inquiry Arc

- **Questions**
- **Disciplinary Tools**
- **Evaluate Sources**
- **Share Conclusions**

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Middle School United States History Framework

Within the Inquiry Arc outlined in the 6.0 Skills and Processes document, students will be specifically assessed on the following skills:

**Dimension 3:**
- The student will evaluate the credibility of the sources by considering the authority, origin, type, context, and corroborative value of each source.
- Identify credible, relevant information contained in the sources.

**Dimension 4**
- Construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources.

**Structure of the Exam**

Via multiple-choice and short and extended written responses, the Middle School Assessment will measure both students’ understanding of the core content and the skills and processes outlined in the assessment limits. The exam will include four types of items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question Type</th>
<th>Multiple Choice Items</th>
<th>Brief Constructed Response Items</th>
<th>Technology-aided Items</th>
<th>Performance-based, Criterion referenced Primary Source Cluster Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Students will select their response to the question from four answer options.</td>
<td>Students must develop the answer to a question using information that can be found in a particular text or other stimulus material (map, political cartoon, and quote) as well as background information that they bring to the question.</td>
<td>These items will require students to manipulate information on the computer screen in order to display their answer selection. This could involve highlighting text, moving statements into one of two categories, or listening to a speech and then answering a question.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Example       | During the debate over ratification of the United States Constitution, Antifederalists argued that a bill of rights should be added to:  
   a. Preserve the interests of slaveholders  
   b. List the responsibilities of citizens  
   c. Protect individual liberties  
   d. Ensure federal supremacy | To be announced | To be announced | To be announced |
### Using this document

#### 1. What is an enduring understanding?
An enduring understanding is the overarching, conceptual guideline for the unit. Enduring understandings explain why this unit is important and connect important concepts and processes to history and the world today.

#### 2. What is a unit question?
A unit question connects the big ideas in the enduring understandings and essential questions to the time period of study. Everything in the unit contributes to answering this question.

#### 3. What is an assessment limit?
Assessment limits designate the topics that can have questions written to measure student understanding. If topics do not appear in the assessment limits, then students cannot be held accountable for knowing that information.

#### 4. What is a content topic?
The content topic indicates the umbrella under which several common topics are organized for study.

#### 5. What is an Essential Question?
Essential questions help students unpack the big ideas in the enduring understandings and social studies thinking skills. These are questions that can be asked and answered in different times and places.

#### 6. What is an Indicator?
Indicator statements assist teachers in determining how to link specific content to be studied to the essential question.

#### 7. What is an Objective?
Objectives provide teachers with detailed information regarding what specific learning should occur.

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**The American Revolution (1754-1776)**

**Unit Enduring Understanding:** There are numerous factors that compel an individual or a group of citizens to change or abolish the current system/government.

**Unit Question:** Why did American Colonists justify rebellion against British authority?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Content Topic</th>
<th>Essential Question</th>
<th>Indicator and Objectives</th>
<th>Assessment Limits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French and Indian Wars</td>
<td>How can contact change the relationship between a government and its citizens?</td>
<td>Students will analyze population growth, economic and settlement patterns in the United States prior to 1776 by exploring why Americans migrated west of the Appalachian Mountains in the 18th century. Students will analyze how the Indian Wars impacted British colonial policies, and the push for American independence.</td>
<td>Causes and consequences of the French &amp; Indian War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Acts and Colonial Acts of Resistance</td>
<td>Can citizens effectively protect government actions?</td>
<td>Students will define the importance of civic participation as a citizen of the United States by evaluating the methods used by American colonists to resist British policies before 1775. Students will analyze the effectiveness of colonial protests to British colonial policies.</td>
<td>Laws and acts passed by Parliament that affected 13 colonies. Colonial Resistance to British Acts. Perspectives of various groups regarding British laws and colonial protests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaring Independence</td>
<td>When are citizens justified in changing their government?</td>
<td>Students will analyze the impact of historic documents and practices that became the foundations of the American political system during the early national period by analyzing the principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the intellectual origins.</td>
<td>Colonial justification for declaring independence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Colonization (1607-1754)

<table>
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</table>
| Interactions in the New World | How did European exploration and colonization result in cultural and economic interactions among previously unconnected peoples? | Students will evaluate the interaction of European, African, and Native cultures in colonial America by:  
- Describing the varied cultures and geographic distribution of Native populations in North America prior to European arrival.  
- Assessing the range of reactions of Native populations to the colonization of North America.  
- Analyzing the factors causing European migration to North America.  
- Identifying the causes and impacts of slavery in colonial North America. | This unit serves as a bridge unit with grade 5 United States History and **will not** be assessed on the middle school exam. |
| Colonial North America        | What fostered the development of distinct regions in colonial North America?        | Students will analyze how geography and economics influenced the location and development of Colonial North American regions by:  
- Comparing the economic, political, social, religious and ethnic composition of colonial regions of New England, the mid-Atlantic, the Chesapeake, and the South.  
- Evaluating the impact of mercantilism on the political and economic relationship between the North American colonies and Great Britain. | This unit serves as a bridge unit with grade 5 United States History and **will not** be assessed on the middle school exam. |

**Unit Enduring Understandings:** When diverse cultures interact, it can lead to conflict, change, and cooperation.

**Unit Question:** How did the interaction of European, African, and Native cultures lead to conflict, change, and/or cooperation?
Middle School United States History Framework
The American Revolution (1754-1783)

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<td>Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Unit Enduring Understanding: Numerous factors compel people to change or abolish a government.

Unit Question: To what extent were American Colonists justified in rebelling against British authority?

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<tr>
<td>French and Indian War</td>
<td>How did the French and Indian War alter the relationship between natives, colonists, and foreign nations?</td>
<td>Students will analyze the causes and consequences of the conflict among and between Native Americans and European colonies by: • Explaining the sources of conflict among and between Native Americans, European powers, and Americans’ migrating west of the Appalachian Mountains. • Assessing how the French and Indian War impacted Native American alliances, British colonial policies, and American colonists.</td>
<td>➢ Sources of conflict: Land, trade, migration. ➢ Impacts of the French and Indian War: Proclamation of 1763, taxation, Pontiac’s Rebellion. ➢ Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| The American Revolution| What were the military and social factors that impacted the outcome of the American Revolution? | Students will evaluate the relative importance of key factors that led to an American victory in the Revolutionary War by:  
  ● Analyzing the domestic, military, geographic, and diplomatic factors that led to the American defeat of the British.  
  ● Assessing how free and enslaved African Americans, women and Native Americans, contributed to and were impacted by the American Revolution.                                                                 | ➢ Factors that influenced American victory: Domestic (Tories and Loyalists), Military (George Washington’s leadership), Diplomatic (French intervention), geographic (knowledge of land).  
  ➢ Contributions to/Impacted by the American Revolution: Breakdown of native confederacy, manumission, treatment of Loyalists.  
  ➢ Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.                                                                                                      |
Middle School United States History Framework
Founding of the New Government (1776-1791)

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**Unit Enduring Understandings:** Nations are constructed and governed through compromise and conflict.

**Unit Question:** How does the Constitution reflect compromise and conflict?

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</table>
| The Articles of Confederation | How effective were the Articles of Confederation at governing the new nation? | Students will evaluate the historical significance of the Articles of Confederation by:  
- Explaining the structure and the powers of the Articles of Confederation.  
- Analyzing the success and failures of the Articles of Confederation. | ➢ Structure/Powers of Articles of Confederation: No national court system, no national army, weak national executive, lack of national currency, inability to raise taxes.  
➢ Success and failures: Northwest Ordinance, rise of sectionalism, Shays Rebellion.  
➢ Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided. |

| Constitutional Convention | What challenges to upholding the ideals of the Declaration of Independence existed after the Constitutional Convention? | Students will evaluate the reasons for the development of the United States Constitution by:  
- Describing the purpose of the Constitutional Convention.  
- Analyzing how the Great Compromise addressed regional interests and differences.  
- Describing the sectional debate over slavery and how the Constitution addressed slavery and freedom. | ➢ Purpose of the Convention: Amending the Articles, stronger central government.  
➢ Great Compromise: Bicameral structure of Congress, impact on representation. |
### United States Constitution

**Content Topic:** United States Constitution

**Essential Question:** How and why is power distributed in the United States Constitution?

**Indicator and Objectives:** Students will evaluate the impact of the Constitution on the structure of the United States government by:
- Identifying the goals of the Constitution as stated in the Preamble.
- Explaining how the Constitution embeds key principles of checks and balances, separation of powers, federalism, popular sovereignty, individual rights, and limited government.
- Identifying the powers enumerated and denied to each branch of government as outlined in the Constitution.

**Assessment Limits:**
- Sectional Debate: Three-Fifths Compromise, fugitive slave law, slave importation.
- Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.

- Goals of Constitution in Preamble: More perfect Union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, promote the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty.
- The principles of government: checks and balances, separation of powers, federalism, popular sovereignty, individual rights, and limited government.
- Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.

### Ratification and the Bill of Rights

**Content Topic:** Ratification and the Bill of Rights

**Essential Question:** How does the Bill of Rights reflect compromise and conflict between the government and its people?

**Indicator and Objectives:** Students will analyze how the Bill of Rights resolved the issues over the ratification of the Constitution by:
- Analyzing the Federalist and Anti-Federalist arguments for and against the ratification of the Constitution.
- Evaluating the impact of the Bill of Rights on the ratification of the Constitution.

**Assessment Limits:**
- Federalists/Anti-Federalist: Federalists strong central government, anti-Federalists strong state government and Bill of Rights.
- Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.
Middle School United States History Framework
A New Nation (1787-1825)

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**Unit Enduring Understanding:** New nations experience success and failure in foreign and domestic affairs which shape their growth and development.

**Unit Question:** How did the successes and failures in foreign and domestic affairs shape the development of the United States?

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</table>
| The Early Republic | How effectively did the federal government respond to domestic and foreign challenges? | Students will evaluate the short and long term impact of government decisions made during Federalist administrations by:  
  • Identifying the impact President George Washington had on setting precedents for the office of the President.  
  • Evaluating the evolution and impact of the Federalist and Democratic-Republican parties on domestic and foreign policy.  
  • Explaining the impact of *Marbury v Madison* (1803) on the power of the Supreme Court.  
  Students will evaluate the historical significance of the Louisiana Purchase on the United States by:  
  • Analyzing the diplomatic and constitutional challenges involved in the Louisiana Purchase.  
  • Assessing the political and economic impact of the Louisiana Purchase and its impact on the United States relations with native populations. | Precedents Set: Two terms, peaceful transition of power, development of a cabinet, strict and loose interpretation of the Constitution.  
  Outcomes of the debates over the Whiskey Tax, national bank, and Alien and Sedition Act of 1798.  
  Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.  
  Louisiana Purchase: French and Spanish interests, and arguments for and against the purchase.  
  Impacts of the Louisiana Purchase: Nation’s geographic size, economic growth, relationship with Native American tribes and foreign countries.  
  Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided. |
### Middle School United States History Framework

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</table>
| The Second War of Independence | How did the war of 1812 shape national identity? | Students will analyze the emerging foreign policy of the United States by:  
  - Identifying the domestic and foreign causes of the War of 1812.  
  - Explaining the political, geographic, and military factors that led to the American defeat of the British.  
 Factors leading to defeat of the British: Political (Burning of the Capitol), geographic, (control of the Great Lakes), military (leadership of Andrew Jackson).  
 Impacts of the war: Demise of the Federalist Party, nationalism, growth of American industry, Monroe Doctrine, reduction of tribal territory.  
 Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided. |
**Middle School United States History Framework**  
**Geographic Expansion and Political Division (1820-1860)**

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</table>

**Unit Enduring Understanding:** National unity can be challenged by political, social, and economic change.

**Unit Question:** How did geographic and economic growth, political shifts, and changing social structures lead to divisions within the United States?

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</table>
| Sectional Growth | How did regional tensions challenge national unity? | Students will analyze the influence of industrialization, technological, and demographic changes on society by:  
- Assessing the impact of technological developments in communication and transportation.  
- Evaluating the growth of the factory system and its impacts on labor, women, and migration.  
- Assessing the impact of the Supreme Court of John Marshall on national power and economic growth.  
- Identifying the push and pull factors driving antebellum immigration.  
Students will examine the institution, conditions, and expansion of slavery while analyzing methods of social and political resistance by:  
- Evaluating the impact of technology on the geographic expansion of the institution of slavery.  
- Analyzing the conditions that defined life for the enslaved.  
- Contrasting the various ways in which enslaved African Americans and free blacks resisted enslavement, oppression, and institutionalized racism.  
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the Missouri Compromise in resolving the influence of slavery on politics and sectionalism. |  
- Technological developments: Telegraph, canals, railroads.  
- Impacts of technological change: economic growth, national unity, migration.  
- Supreme Court: McCulloch v. Maryland (1819).  
- Immigration: Origins of immigrants, nativism.  
- Expansion of slavery: Cotton Gin, cotton belt.  
- Conditions of slavery: marriage, punishments, family separation.  
- Resistance to slavery: Rebellion, destruction of property, running away, sabotage. |
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</table>
| Jacksonian Era        | How can shifts in executive power impact the social, economic, and political life of a nation?                                                                                                                                                                      | Students will evaluate the political, economic, and social impact of Jacksonian Democracy by:  
  - Explaining the impact of President Andrew Jackson’s presidency on sectional politics, democracy, electoral processes, and the economy.  
  - Contrasting the Native and American arguments surrounding the issue of Native American rights and land ownership.                                                                                                                                                                         |  
  - Andrew Jackson: Nullification crisis, national bank, expansion of the franchise.  
  - Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Social Reform Movements | How can individuals and groups affect social change?                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Students will analyze the impact of antebellum reform movements on American politics and society by:  
  - Evaluating the impact of social reform movements on temperance, prison, and educational reform.  
  - Tracing the evolution, arguments, and impacts of the antebellum women’s movement.  
  - Identifying the methods, arguments, and impacts of the abolitionist movement.                                                                                                                                                                                               |  
  - Social reform: Temperance, prison reform.  
  - Women’s Movement: Laws affecting women, Declaration of Rights and Sentiments, Elizabeth Cady Stanton.  
  - Abolitionist movement: Underground Railroad, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, moral suasion/literature and propaganda.  
  - Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| Westward Expansion   | Do the benefits of territorial expansion outweigh the costs?                         | Students will evaluate the political, social, and economic impact of westward expansion on individuals and groups by: | ➢ Manifest Destiny: Key components of the concept, views of Native Americans, Mexicans, and Anglos.  
➢ Rapid Settlement: Territorial growth of the United States, impact on slave-free state balance.  
➢ Mexican War: Territorial growth of the United States.  
➢ Compromise of 1850: Fugitive Slave Law, impact on slave and free-state balance. |
|                      |                                                                                     | • Assessing multiple perspectives on Manifest Destiny and its impacts on territorial possession.  
• Analyzing the consequences of the rapid settlement of California, Oregon, and Texas.  
• Explaining the causes, course, and consequences of the Mexican-American War.  
• Assessing the impacts of the Compromise of 1850. |                                                                                   |
| Path to Disunion     | What factors lead a country to civil war?                                           | Students will evaluate the causes of the Civil War by:                                 | ➢ Sectional polarization: Kansas-Nebraska Act, popular sovereignty,  
➢ Election of 1860: Abraham Lincoln, Secession.  
➢ Causes of the Civil War: Slavery, economic differences, westward expansion, political parties, states’ rights.  
➢ Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided. |
|                      |                                                                                     | • Evaluating the impact of territorial expansion, the Supreme Court, and individual action on sectional polarization.  
• Assessing the impact of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican Party and the election of 1860 on the secession of the southern states.  
• Explaining the causes of the Civil War and evaluate the importance of slavery as a central cause of the conflict. |                                                                                   |
Middle School United States History Framework
Civil War and Reunion (1860-1896)

Unit Enduring Understanding: Societies efforts to resolve deep political, economic, and social divisions and efforts to rebuild society after conflict are met with both acceptance and resistance.

Unit Question: How effective was the United States in resolving the political, economic, and social issues that led to, and stemmed from, the Civil War?

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<tr>
<td>The Civil War</td>
<td>How does war impact and change society?</td>
<td>Students will analyze factors affecting the outcome of the Civil War by:</td>
<td>➢ Goals, resources, strategies, and technology: Contrast resources available to the Union and Confederacy at outset of the war, naval blockade, King Cotton Diplomacy, conscription.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Contrasting the goals, resources, military technology, and strategies of the Union and Confederacy.</td>
<td>➢ Significance of the Emancipation Proclamation: African American troops, emancipation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Evaluating how Union and Confederate political, military, and diplomatic leadership affected the outcome of the conflict.</td>
<td>➢ Evaluating Civil Liberties: Ex Parte Merryman (1861).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Students will evaluate the effectiveness of the United States Government in protecting the rights of individuals and groups during the Civil War by:</td>
<td>➢ Economic opportunities/obstacles: Draft Riots, Bread riots, inflation, increase in industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>• Evaluating the military and historic significance of the Emancipation Proclamation.</td>
<td>➢ Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Evaluating the efficacy and constitutionality of President Abraham Lincoln’s suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus.</td>
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<td>• Describing economic opportunities and obstacles faced by soldiers, civilians, free and enslaved populations during the Civil War.</td>
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</table>
| Reconstruction      | How does a nation reconcile past injustices?                | Students will analyze the political, economic, and social goals of Reconstruction by:  
- Contrasting the goals and policies of the Congressional and Presidential Reconstruction plans.  
- Identifying the legal and illegal actions used to deny political, social, and economic freedoms to African Americans.  
- Examining the ways in which African American communities fought to protect and expand their rights.  

Students will explain how the United States government protected or failed to protect the rights of individuals and groups by:  
- Assessing the factors that influenced the end of Reconstruction.  
- Evaluating the impact of the Supreme Court, debt peonage, Jim Crow Laws and disenfranchisement on the enforceability of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.  
Actions taken to deny freedoms: Black Codes, First Ku Klux Klan, share cropping.  
Protecting and expanding rights: Role of the church, education, and voting.  
Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.  
Election of 1876/ Bargain of 1877  
Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), Jim Crow Laws, convict labor lease system, grandfather clause, literacy test, poll tax.  
Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided. |
**Middle School United States History Framework**  
**Growth of Industrial America (1877-1890)**

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<th>Standard 4.0 Economic</th>
<th>Standard 5.0 History</th>
<th>Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes</th>
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**Unit Enduring Understanding:** Economic growth destroys old means of production and replaces them with new ones.

**Unit Question:** How did economic change alter political and social relationships in the United States?

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| Industrialization | Did the benefits of post-Civil War industrialization outweigh the costs? | Students will analyze the causes and consequences of Industrialization in the late 19th century United States by:  
  - Evaluating how improved use of resources, new technology and inventions, and transportation networks influenced the growth of industrialization and urbanization.  
  - Describing the impact of business leaders, laissez-faire capitalism, and the use of trusts/monopolies on the American economy.  
  - Evaluating the impact of industrialization and laissez-faire policies on labor.  
  - Identifying responses to post-Civil War immigration. | This unit serves as a bridge unit with the high school United States History course and will not be assessed on the middle school exam. |
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| Westward Movement           | Did American Westward Expansion challenge and promote national unity?               | Students will analyze the causes and consequences of westward expansion by:  
  - Describing the impact of geography and technology on the settlement of the west.  
  - Evaluating the Native Americans responses to western migration.  
  - Evaluating the impact of government actions on patterns of immigration.  
  - Describing the impact of geographic expansion on rights for African Americans, Chinese immigrants, and the political and legal rights to women. | This unit serves as a bridge unit with the high school United States History course and will not be assessed on the middle school exam.                                                                                       |