

US HISTORY, SEMESTER A

COURSE OVERVIEW

U.S. History traces the nation's history from the pre-colonial period to the present. Students learn about the Native American, European, and African people who lived in America before it became the United States. They examine the beliefs and philosophies that informed the American Revolution and the subsequent formation of the government and political system. Students investigate the economic, cultural, and social motives for the nation's expansion, as well as the conflicting notions of liberty that eventually resulted in civil war. The course describes the emergence of the United States as an industrial nation and then focuses on its role in modern world affairs.

Moving into the 20th and 21st centuries, students probe the economic and diplomatic interactions between the United States and other world players while investigating how the world wars, the Cold War, and the “information revolution” affected the lives of ordinary Americans. Woven through this chronological sequence is a strong focus on the changing conditions of women, African Americans, and other minority groups.

The course emphasizes the development of historical analysis skills such as comparing and contrasting, differentiating between facts and interpretations, considering multiple perspectives, and analyzing cause-and-effect relationships. These skills are applied to text interpretation and in written assignments that guide learners step-by-step through problem-solving activities.

This course is built to state standards and informed by the National Council for History Education, the National Center for History in the Schools, and the National Council for the Social Studies.

COURSE COMPONENTS AND GRADING RUBRIC

The table gives a breakdown of the weight for each component in the course. Weight represents the percentage of the total score coming from each activity.

Course Components	Count	Weight
Pretest. <i>A pretest is an optional assessment, typically designed for credit recovery. If a student shows mastery of a lesson objective, the student may be automatically exempted from the upcoming activities associated with the mastered objective. Each passing pretest grade is entered into the gradebook.</i>	5	0%
Practice. <i>A practice activity provides instruction similar to that found in a study so that students can practice or review skills necessary to complete their assignment with mastery.</i>	6	10%

Course Components	Count	Weight
Discussion. A discussion activity is an opportunity for students to collaborate with their peers. This activity gives students the opportunity to practice speaking and listening in a clear and logical manner and to receive feedback from peers.	2	5%
Journal. A journal is a short reflective writing exercise that encourages students to connect historical events and ideas to their own lives and circumstances.	3	5%
Mastery Test. A mastery test is a computer-scored lesson-level summative assessment.	37	40%
Posttest. A posttest appears at the end of each unit.	5	15%
End-of-Semester Test. An end-of-semester test (EOS) appears at the end of each course.	1	5%
Teacher-Graded Posttest. A posttest that prompts students for written responses appears at the end of each unit.	5	15%
Teacher-Graded End-of-Semester Test. An end-of-semester test (EOS) that prompts students for written responses appears at the end of each course.	1	5%
Total	60	100%

*Teachers may manually adjust these weights if desired, per district grading requirements.

UNIT 1: PEOPLING NORTH AMERICA (PREHISTORY - 1763)

Lesson and Duration	Description
Pretest: Peopling North America (Prehistory - 1763) 40 minutes	Complete the pretest (optional).
Peopling North America (Prehistory - 1763): Unit Overview 1 minute	Read the unit overview.
LESSON 1 Skills for U.S. History: Lesson Overview 5 minutes	Read the lesson objectives.
Welcome to U.S. History: Checkup 30 minutes	Learn eight important strategies for reading social studies texts.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Reading Historical Evidence in U.S. History: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Explore strategies for reading and interpreting historical evidence.
Reading Historical Evidence in U.S. History: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Understanding Context and Bias in U.S. History: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine how context and bias shape views on U.S. history.
Understanding Context and Bias in U.S. History: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 2	
Indigenous Civilizations in America: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Indigenous Civilizations Develop the Continent: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the Indigenous groups that established civilizations in the Americas.
Indigenous Civilizations Develop the Continent: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Civilizations in Eastern North America: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about Indigenous groups that built civilizations in eastern North America.
Civilizations in Eastern North America: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Civilizations in Western North America: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about Indigenous groups that built civilizations in western North America.
Civilizations in Western North America: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Practice: Regional Indigenous Cultures <i>1 hour</i>	Research an Indigenous civilization that developed in a region near you.
LESSON 3 European Colonization: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
European Arrival and Colonization: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about how European civilizations began colonizing the Americas.
European Arrival and Colonization: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
European and Indigenous Contacts and Conflicts: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine the conflicts that arose between European colonizers and Indigenous groups.
European and Indigenous Contacts and Conflicts: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Practice: Exploring European Colonization <i>1 hour</i>	Map European claims to land in the Americas.
LESSON 4 British Colonization of North America: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the regional English colonies in North America.
The New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Continuing Conflicts: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine the conflicts that continued to develop between English colonists and Indigenous groups.
Continuing Conflicts: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The Beginning of the Slave Trade: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine the development of the slave trade.
The Beginning of the Slave Trade: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Journal: The Middle Passage <i>30 minutes</i>	Study the experiences of people forced into slavery through the Middle Passage.
UNIT 1 WRAP-UP Peopling North America (Prehistory - 1763): Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Posttest: Peopling North America (Prehistory - 1763) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Teacher-Graded Posttest: Peopling North America (Prehistory - 1763) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

UNIT 2: THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES (1763 - 1824)

Lesson and Duration	Description
Pretest: The Founding of the United States (1763 - 1824) <i>40 minutes</i>	Complete the pretest (optional).

Lesson and Duration	Description
The Founding of the United States (1763 - 1824): Unit Overview <i>1 minute</i>	Read the unit overview.
LESSON 1 The American Revolution: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The Lead-Up to Independence: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine conditions in the British colonies in North America that led to the American Revolution.
The Lead-Up to Independence: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Prepare to Discuss: The Declaration of Independence <i>5 minutes</i>	Prepare for a discussion.
Discuss: The Declaration of Independence <i>30 minutes</i>	Discuss the major themes in the Declaration of Independence.
The Revolutionary War: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Explore the course and outcome of the Revolutionary War.
The Revolutionary War: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 2 Creating a Government: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Creating a Government: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine how the United States created a new plan of government under the Constitution.
Creating a Government: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Lesson and Duration	Description
The Ratification Debate: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about how the Constitution was accepted as the governing set of laws for the United States.
The Ratification Debate: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights: Read <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine the Constitution.
Prepare to Discuss: Arguments over Ratification <i>5 minutes</i>	Prepare for a discussion.
Discuss: Arguments over Ratification <i>30 minutes</i>	Discuss the major arguments that developed during the ratification debate.
LESSON 3 The Emerging Nation: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The Federalist Presidents: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the presidencies of George Washington and John Adams.
The Federalist Presidents: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Jeffersonian Democracy: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the presidency of Thomas Jefferson.
Jeffersonian Democracy: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The War of 1812 and the Era of Good Feelings: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine events in the United States from the War of 1812 through the Era of Good Feelings.

Lesson and Duration	Description
The War of 1812 and the Era of Good Feelings: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Practice: The Founding Leaders and Slavery <i>1 hour</i>	Research the U.S. Founders' thoughts about and connections with the practice of slavery.
UNIT 2 WRAP-UP The Founding of the United States (1763 - 1824): Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Posttest: The Founding of the United States (1763 - 1824) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Teacher-Graded Posttest: The Founding of the United States (1763 - 1824) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

UNIT 3: GROWTH AND DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES (1824 - 1860)

Lesson and Duration	Description
Pretest: Growth and Division of the United States (1824 - 1860) <i>40 minutes</i>	Complete the pretest (optional).
Growth and Division of the United States (1824 - 1860): Unit Overview <i>1 minute</i>	Read the unit overview.
LESSON 1 The Age of Jackson: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Jacksonian Democracy: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the rise of Andrew Jackson and examine his policies as president.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Jacksonian Democracy: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Resisting Removal and the Trail of Tears: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Explore how Indigenous groups resisted the policy of removal.
Resisting Removal and the Trail of Tears: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Journal: Arguments Around Removal <i>30 minutes</i>	Research the debates that occurred around the policy of Indigenous removal.
The Expansion of and Resistance to Slavery: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine how the expansion of slavery became a major political issue.
The Expansion of and Resistance to Slavery: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 2	
Conflicts and Cultural Growth: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Political Conflicts and War: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about political divisions and the course of the Mexican-American War.
Political Conflicts and War: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Cultural Growth and Public Life: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Explore cultural developments and changes in public life in the United States prior to 1860.
Cultural Growth and Public Life: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Practice: The Seneca Falls Convention <i>1 hour</i>	Examine the work of activists at the Seneca Falls Convention.
LESSON 3 Increasing Divisions: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Expansion and Compromise: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the political conflicts and compromises that developed around the practice and spread of slavery.
Expansion and Compromise: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Journal: The Lincoln-Douglas Debates <i>30 minutes</i>	Research the arguments that were made between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas during their 1858 debates.
Working Against Slavery: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the work of abolitionists and other people who opposed slavery in the United States.
Working Against Slavery: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
UNIT 3 WRAP-UP Growth and Division of the United States (1824 - 1860): Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Posttest: Growth and Division of the United States (1824 - 1860) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Teacher-Graded Posttest: Growth and Division of the United States (1824 - 1860) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

UNIT 4: CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION (1860 - 1877)

Lesson and Duration	Description
Pretest: Civil War and Reconstruction (1860 - 1877) <i>40 minutes</i>	Complete the pretest (optional).
Civil War and Reconstruction (1860 - 1877): Unit Overview <i>1 minute</i>	Read the unit overview.
LESSON 1 The Civil War Begins: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Lincoln's Election and Southern Secession: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the 1860 presidential election and the outbreak of the Civil War.
Lincoln's Election and Southern Secession: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The Fighting Begins: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the course of the Civil War through 1862 and the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation.
The Fighting Begins: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 2 Restoring the Union: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Fighting to End Slavery: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine the course of the Civil War through the Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.
Fighting to End Slavery: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The Gettysburg Address: Read <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine the themes of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Life During the Civil War: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about how the Civil War affected the lives of all Americans.
Life During the Civil War: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The Union Victory: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine the end of the Civil War and the Union victory.
The Union Victory: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 3	
Reconstruction: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Reconstruction Begins: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine how the United States looked to rebuild after the Civil War.
Reconstruction Begins: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Practice: Women's Rights and Reconstruction <i>1 hour</i>	Explore the debate around women's rights that developed during Reconstruction.
Black American Enfranchisement: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine the work and influence of Black Americans during Reconstruction.
Black American Enfranchisement: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The End of Reconstruction: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about how the period of Reconstruction came to an end in 1877.
The End of Reconstruction: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Lesson and Duration	Description
UNIT 4 WRAP-UP Civil War and Reconstruction (1860 - 1877): Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Posttest: Civil War and Reconstruction (1860 - 1877) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Teacher-Graded Posttest: Civil War and Reconstruction (1860 - 1877) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

UNIT 5: THE GILDED AGE (1877 - 1900)

Lesson and Duration	Description
Pretest: The Gilded Age (1877 - 1900) <i>40 minutes</i>	Complete the pretest (optional).
The Gilded Age (1877 - 1900): Unit Overview <i>1 minute</i>	Read the unit overview.
LESSON 1 Conflicts after Reconstruction: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The Erosion of Civil Rights: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine how Black Americans lost their hard-fought civil rights after Reconstruction.
The Erosion of Civil Rights: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Closing the Frontier: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about how Indigenous groups were affected by continuing U.S. developments.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Closing the Frontier: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 2 Immigration and Domestic Developments: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Immigration: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the wave of immigration that occurred in the United States during the Gilded Age.
Immigration: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Protesting Chinese Exclusion: Read <i>45 minutes</i>	Read a letter by Saum Song Bo that protested the U.S. policy of Chinese exclusion.
Domestic Developments: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine the industrial and political developments that occurred during the Gilded Age.
Domestic Developments: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 3 A Growing Empire: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
U.S. Imperialism: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine how the United States developed into an imperial power.
U.S. Imperialism: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Practice: The Debate over Imperialism <i>1 hour</i>	Examine arguments that imperialists and anti-imperialists posed during the Gilded Age.

Lesson and Duration	Description
UNIT 5 WRAP-UP The Gilded Age (1877 - 1900): Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Posttest: The Gilded Age (1877 - 1900) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Teacher-Graded Posttest: The Gilded Age (1877 - 1900) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

SEMESTER WRAP-UP

Lesson and Duration	Description
Semester Review: Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the final exam by reviewing key concepts and skills you have learned in this course.
End-of-Semester Test: Semester Exam <i>50 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored exam to assess what you have learned in this course.
Teacher-Graded End-of-Semester Test: Semester Exam <i>50 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored exam to assess what you have learned in this course.