

Unit I Essential Questions

- How can a timeline be used to understand history?
- What skills are needed to interpret primary and secondary sources?
- What is the difference between historical facts and historical interpretations?
- Why is it important to use multiple perspectives when interpreting the past?

Unit II Essential Questions

- What were the changes and conflicts that occurred when the diverse worlds of Europe, Africa, and the America's collided after 1492?
- What were the factors that led the Europeans to begin their voyages of discovery?
- What were the factors that caused the English to start colonization later than other European powers?
- What are the differences between the northern, middle, and southern colonies?
- How did the Puritans' beliefs shape the governmental and religious structure of the Massachusetts Bay Colony?
- How did conflict with religious dissenters, among other forces, lead to the expansion of New England?
- How did the problems of indentured servitude lead to political unrest and the growth of African slavery?
- What was the slave trade and the nature of early slavery in the American colonies?
- What was the basic social life of seventeenth century colonists?
- What were the causes and effects of the Great Awakening?

Unit III Essential Questions

- What are the causes of the American Revolution?
- What consequences resulted due to the American Revolution?
- Why was winning the French and Indian War the beginning of conflict for the British and the colonists?
- How did the Age of Enlightenment play a role in independence?
- How were the colonists able to defeat the British, a much stronger adversary?
- How is the American Revolution similar and different to other wars fought in United States?
- To what extent is the American government a product of the Enlightenment?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?
- Why was the political system created at the Constitutional Convention viewed as "a bold experiment?"
- How was America designed to have a system of "checks and balances?"
- What was the importance of the election of 1800?

Unit IV Essential Questions

- How was George Washington's leadership "indispensable" in successfully launching the new Federal government?
- What is the description of the original Cabinet created by George Washington?
- What was the extent to which President Washington was able to exercise authority over his cabinet?
- Does American culture today resemble the culture described by Alexis de Tocqueville?

- How did Hamilton's and Jefferson's views of government and of the people and human nature differ?
- What were the components of Hamilton's financial plan for addressing the public debt?
- What was the opposition to each point of Hamilton's financial plan and how was resolution eventually achieved?
- Why was the Whiskey Rebellion important for the federal government?
- Why did the United States want to maintain its neutrality in foreign policy at the beginning of the 1790s?
- Who was Edward Genet? What was his impact on the growing tensions between Federalists and Republicans?
- How did the Alien and Sedition Acts threaten political freedom?
- How was the Kentucky Resolution a preview of continued political conflicts?
- How were nationalism and sectionalism reflected in economic and social issues of the era?
- Why did opposing views of the Constitution lead to the rise of political parties in the United States?
- Why did the Louisiana Purchase force Thomas Jefferson to change his view of the Constitution?
- How did Marbury v. Madison change the role of the Supreme Court of the United States?
- How did the War of 1812 influence nationalism in the United States?
- How did the U.S. confront internal and international conflicts during this era?
- How does a nation's involvement in international conflicts affect its identity?
- Should a nation form trade agreements with nations it disagrees with politically?

Unit V Essential Questions

- Was the Monroe Doctrine a policy of expansion or self-defense?
- How did nationalism unite America in the 1800s?
- Did Andrew Jackson advance or hinder the cause of democracy?
- How does the United States Bank reflect the Constitution's flexibility?
- What tactics can citizens use to influence government?
- How did the art, literature, and language of 1801-1850 reflect a collective sense of nationalism and sectionalism?
- How did the United States develop and express its unique style through the arts during the early 1800s?
- Are art and literature effective formats for communicating political and social discontent?
- How were nationalism and sectionalism reflected in economic and social issues of the era?
- How do economic and social conditions and issues contribute to the differences in sectionalism and nationalism?
- How do economic and social conditions effect innovation and change?
- In what ways were nationalism and sectionalism reflected in the politics and issues of the time period?
- How was the issue of slavery affected by territorial expansion?
- How did the politics of industrialization lead to conflict and change?
- To what extent were the leadership and personalities of the early 1800s responsible for the changes that occurred?
- What characteristics define a perfect society?
- How is change influenced by the actions of citizens?

- To what extent was the debate over slavery essential to the reform movements?
- How did both sides of the abolitionist movement use religion to support their viewpoint?
- How did differing religious beliefs contribute to an increase in the sectional divisiveness of the country?
- In what ways did religious influence impact the effectiveness of social movements in the first part of the 19th century?

Unit VI Essential Questions

- How did the issues of sectionalism lead to the Civil War?
- How did political, economic, and social differences develop into the sectionalism that split the North and the South?
- To what extent did differing opinions on slavery as well as the institution's expansion become a deciding factor in instituting a Civil War?
- To what extent was slavery the primary cause of the Civil War?
- What did a federal union of states mean politically and socially before and after the Civil War?
- Why are the Battle of Gettysburg and the Siege of Vicksburg considered the military turning points of the Civil War?
- How did the political actions of President Lincoln affect the outcome of the Civil War?
- Was Sherman's March to the Sea a just method of warfare?
- What social, economic, and political problems did African Americans face during Reconstruction?
- What were the successes and failures of Reconstruction?
- Was it inevitable that the North would win the war?
- How are civil liberties challenged during times of conflict and change?
- How have changes during Reconstruction made a lasting impact on America?
- To what extent did the Civil War and Reconstruction positively impact the lives of former slaves, women, and landless tenants in the US?
- To what extent did the federal government wield its power over the states during and after the Civil War?
- Which changes of the Civil War and Reconstruction era were short-lived and which have had a lasting impact?
- To what extent did the Civil War and Reconstruction establish the supremacy of the national government?
- To what extent have the issues surrounding the Civil War yet to be resolved?

Unit VII Essential Questions

- How does the settlement of the West in the late 1800's compare with other settlement patterns in American History?
- After the Civil War, why did Americans feel the need to further expand and settle new territories?
- Who migrated West and what problems did they experience?
- How did the environment of the West impact the success of the settlers?
- How did the migration of people bring about change in the West?