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:

Standard 1.0 Civics	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.
Standard 2.0 Peoples of the Nations and World	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.
Standard 3.0 Geography	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.
Standard 4.0 Economic	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.
Standard 5.0 History	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.
Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes	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.

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.





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:

Question Type	Multiple Choice Items	Brief Constructed Response Items	Technology-aided Items	Performance-based, Criterion referenced Primary Source Cluster Items
Description	Students will select their response to the question from four answer options.	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.	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.	
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.

The American Revolution (1754-1776)

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

Unit Question: We American Colonists justified in rebelling against British authority?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
French and Indian War	w can conflict change the elationship between a government and its citizens?	Students will analyze population growth, migratic stand settlement patterns in the United States prior to 1877 by: Explaining My Americans migrated west of the Ap. alachian Mountains in the 16th Century. Assessing how the French and Indian War impacted British colonial policies, and the push for American independence.	> Causes and consequences of the French & Indian War
British Acts and Colonial Acts of Resistance	Can citizens effectively protest government actions?	Students will defend 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 Evaluating the effectiveness of colonial protests to British colonial policies.	Laws and sets passed by Parliament that affected the solonies. Colonial Response to settigh Acts Perspectives of various group regarding British laws and colonial protests.
Declaring Independence	When are citizens justified in changing their government?	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 their intellectual oxidins.	> Colonists' justification for declaring independence

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.

4. What is a content topic?

The content topic indicates the umbrella under which several common topics are organized for study.

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.



Middle School United States History Framework Colonization (1607-1754)

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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?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
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.



Middle School United States History Framework The American Revolution (1754-1783)

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Standard 1.0 Civics	
Standard 2.0 Peoples of the Nations and World	
Standard 3.0 Geography	
Standard 4.0 Economic	
Standard 5.0 History	
Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes	
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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?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
French and Indian War	How did the French and Indian War alter the relationship between natives, colonists, and foreign nations?	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.	 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.
British Acts and Colonial Acts of Resistance	Why and how did Americans resist the British?	Students will evaluate the significance of the end of salutary neglect as a turning point in American History by: • Analyzing the effect of British policies on the American colonies. • Evaluating the effectiveness of the methods of colonial resistance to British policies. • Identifying the principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence.	 British Colonial policies: Sugar Act, Townsend Acts, Intolerable Acts. Methods of resistance: Boycotts (Homespun Movement), Organizations (Sons and Daughters of Liberty), protest (Boston Tea Party). Principles in the Declaration: Natural Rights, consent of the governed, right of people to alter or abolish government.

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
			Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.
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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Standard 1.0 Civics	
Standard 2.0 Peoples of the Nations and World	
Standard 3.0 Geography	
Standard 4.0 Economic	
Standard 5.0 History	
Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes	

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

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

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
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.

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
			 Sectional Debate: Three-Fifths Compromise, fugitive slave law, slave importation. Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.
United States Constitution	How and why is power distributed in the United States Constitution?	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.	 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	How does the Bill of Rights reflect compromise and conflict between the government and its people?	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.	 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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Standard 1.0 Civics	
Standard 2.0 Peoples of the Nations and World	
Standard 3.0 Geography	
Standard 4.0 Economic	
Standard 5.0 History	
Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes	

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?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
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.	 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. Impact of Marbury v. Madison: Judicial review. Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.
		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.	 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.

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
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. Analyzing how the War of 1812 impacted Native tribes, American political parties, and American nationalism. 	 Causes of the War: The Embargo Act of 1807, impressment, War Hawks, Tecumseh. 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.

Geographic Expansion and Political Division (1820-1860)

Standard 1.0 Civics
Standard 2.0 Peoples of the Nations and World
Standard 3.0 Geography
Standard 4.0 Economic
Standard 5.0 History
Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes

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?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
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. Factory System: Interchangeable parts, Lowell Mills. 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.

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
			 Effectiveness of the Missouri Compromise: Impact on slave-free state balance. Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.
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. Native American Removal: Characteristics of Native life, Indian Removal Act, Worcester v. Georgia (1832), Trail of Tears. 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.



Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
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: 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. 	 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.
Path to Disunion	What factors lead a country to civil war?	 Students will evaluate the causes of the Civil War by: 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. 	 Sectional polarization: Kansas-Nebraska Act, popular sovereignty, Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857), John Brown. 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.



Middle School United States History Framework Civil War and Reunion (1860-1896)

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Standard 1.0 Civics
Standard 2.0 Peoples of the Nations and World
Standard 3.0 Geography
Standard 4.0 Economic
Standard 5.0 History
Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes

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?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
The Civil War	How does war impact and change society?	 Students will analyze factors affecting the outcome of the Civil War by: Contrasting the goals, resources, military technology, and strategies of the Union and Confederacy. Evaluating how Union and Confederate political, military, and diplomatic leadership affected the outcome of the conflict. Students will evaluate the effectiveness of the United States Government in protecting the rights of individuals and groups during the Civil War by:	 Goals, resources, strategies, and technology: Contrast resources available to the Union and Confederacy at outset of the war, naval blockade, King Cotton Diplomacy, conscription. Significance of the Emancipation Proclamation: African American troops, emancipation. Evaluating Civil Liberties: Ex Parte Merryman (1861). Economic opportunities/obstacles: Draft Riots, Bread riots, inflation, increase in industry. Other topics may be assessed but information will be provided.

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
Reconstruction and Reunion	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.	 Goals and Policies: 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, Freedmen's Bureau, Military Reconstruction Act. 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.
		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 13 th , 14 th , and 15 th Amendments.	 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.



Growth of Industrial America (1877-1890)

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Standard 1.0 Civics
Standard 2.0 Peoples of the Nations and World
Standard 3.0 Geography
Standard 4.0 Economic
Standard 5.0 History
Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes

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?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
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.



Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives	Assessment Limits
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.