

Neshaminy Eighth Grade American History Course Framework

Penna., National Social Studies, U. S. History, and Neshaminy Standards

State and National Standards

Government/Civics (PA Standards)

1. Explain the principles and ideals that shape government.
2. Interpret the basic documents shaping the government of the U.S.
3. Describe the rights, responsibilities, and participatory role of citizens in America.

History (NCSS)

4. Identify and use key concepts such as chronology, causality, change, conflict, and complexity to explain, analyze, and show connections among patterns of historical change and continuity.

Geography (NCSS)

5. Examine, interpret, and analyze physical and cultural patterns and their interactions, such as land use, settlement patterns, cultural transmission of customs and ideas.

Economics (NCSS)

6. Explain and illustrate how values and beliefs influence different economic decisions in history.

Overarching Understanding
The students will understand that...

1. The republican principles of equality, liberty, and citizenship have historically been compromised when applied to various social groups in the United States.
2. As individuals attempt to exercise/demand their rights of equality, liberty, and citizenship conflict arises.
3. The rule of law controls the social, political, and economic conflicts arising from individuals seeking the promises of equality, liberty, and citizenship.

Overarching Essential Questions

1. How have the concepts of citizenship, equality and liberty evolved in American history?
2. How have important, long-standing conflicts shaped American history?
3. How does one develop and express well informed positions?
4. What does it mean to be free?
5. Why is conflict the price of exercising ones rights?
6. How do people live together and honor each other's civil rights?

Essential Content Includes:

Application of the principles of citizenship, equality, liberty, and conflict to the seven social groups in America between 1775 and 1880 (Free Blacks, Slaves, Women, Rich and Poor Whites, Native Americans, Immigrants); trace the evolution of liberty and equality among the same social groups in all units of study.

Review the economic and political causes of the American Revolution; develop the principles of republicanism found in the Declaration of Independence; establish the economic, political and social realities of the seven social groups in Post Revolutionary America; how the application of the principles of citizenship, equality, and liberty cause conflicts among the social groups...

Strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation; The Constitutional convention of 1787; compromises and conflicts created by long-standing historical complexities; Federalist/Antifederalist views of gov't; the Constitution as framework for U.S. gov't; federalism; Constitutional compromises and regional political, social, and economic realities; separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review, limited government, passing laws as means of limiting power of gov't and managing conflict; the Bill of Rights and its impact on the evolution of liberty and equality...

Five themes of geography applied to westward expansion; geographic acquisitions of US between 1790-1860; six major land acquisitions (Trans-Appalachia, Louisiana Purchase, Florida, Texas Annexation, Oregon Cession, and Mexican Cession); long-standing conflicts over expansion; social, economic, and political impact of Manifest Destiny on the seven social groups...

Causes and effects of sectionalism on social, political, and economic life of America; Industrial Revolution and King Cotton; social, political, and economic impact of slavery on South and North; Abolitionism and the rise of the women's movement; compromises and conflicts that mark the regional period...

Causes and effects of the Civil War; Reconstruction and the evolution of equality and liberty for the seven social groups; Black Codes; Amendments 13,14, and 15; civil rights then and now.

Neshaminy Standards

Neshaminy students will:

1. React to the statement, "All men are created equal" as it applies to the post revolutionary period.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how the Constitution manages conflicts among citizens on issues of liberty and equality.
3. Explain how each geographic area of the United States came to be part of the country, what were the conditions of its acquisition and what social, political and economic conflicts were created by that acquisition.
4. Explain how the conflicts which resulted from the industrial revolution, increasing immigration, the rapid expansion of slavery and the westward movement led to regional tensions and civil war.
5. Explain how the Civil War and Reconstruction shaped the American concepts of Equality and Liberty.

Neshaminy District Performance Assessment for 8th Grade American History
Students will present a portfolio of their writings and notes that will assist them in responding to a contemporary problem reflecting the evolution of equality in America. This will act as the students' final examination.