

8th Grade: Origins of American Democracy Unit 4: Building a Nation (1800 – 1860)

Big Ideas:

1. Creating a unique governmental system involves conflict and compromise.
2. The narrative of American history varies depending on the perspective from which it is experienced.
3. The study of primary sources is important in understanding history authentically.
4. Events following creating of America such as the western expansion.

Essential Student Questions:

1. Did the Constitution start the American Civil War?
2. Why do societies require rules?
3. What is the purpose of government?
4. What makes a nation?
5. Examine key documents that have influenced the writing of the Constitution and distinguish their origins.
6. Is conflict inevitable as nations continue to expand (H.B1.e)
7. How do economic factors motivate events following the establishment of American? (GC.A.2)
8. How did the American government and society deal with social, political and economic conflicts?

Literacy Standards	Content Standards
R.KI.6-8.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.	H-A5 understand that history is a narrative told in many voices and expresses various perspectives of historical experience.
R.KI.6-8.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.	H-C2 use historical data from a variety of primary resources, including letters, diaries, oral accounts, archeological sites and artifacts, art, maps, photos, historical sites, documents, and secondary research materials, including almanacs, books, indices, and newspapers.
R.IK.6-8.7 Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).	GC.A.1 Understand the necessity and purpose of government.
R.RR.6-8.10 Read and comprehend science/technical texts in the grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.	GC.B.1 Understand the ideals of this nation as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

Literacy Standards	Content Standards
	<p><i>Supporting Standards</i></p> <p>H.A.8 Know that history is a bridge to understanding groups of people and an individual's relationship to society.</p> <p>H.B1.e. Comprehend the forces of change and continuity that shape human history through the following persistent organizing themes: e. major developments in societies as well as changing patterns related to class, ethnicity, race, and gender.</p> <p>GC.A.2 Understand the meaning of fundamental ideas, including equality, authority, power, freedom, justice, privacy, property, responsibility, and sovereignty.</p> <p>GC.B2.4 Recognize American heritage and culture, including the republican form of government, capitalism, free enterprise system, patriotism, strong family units, and freedom of religion. Understand the United States Constitution, including separation of powers, the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, majority rule, and minority rights.</p> <p>Know how power is shared in the United States' constitutional government at the federal, state, and local levels.</p>
<p>W.PD.6-8.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.</p>	
<p>W.RW.6-8.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter timeframes (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.</p>	
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Vocabulary: Amend, Annexation, capitalism, Checks and balances, civil disobedience, civil rights, constitution, discrimination (oppression, persecution,, racism), dissent, executive system, industrialization, judicial system, legislative system, liberty, limited government, migration (immigration/emigration) Native American displacement, politics, precedent, Puritanism, Slavery, Taxes/tariff, treaty.