



Social Studies

Grade 8

1st Nine Weeks



This academic overview can be used to monitor and support your child's at-home learning progress.

Unit 1: Exploration & Colonization

Student Learning Targets

- I can identify the reasons for European exploration and the establishment of colonies in North America.
- I can compare the political, economic, religious, and social reasons for the establishment of each of the 13 colonies.
- I can explain the reasons for the growth of representative and self government in the colonies.
- I can compare physical characteristics, natural resources, climate, and population centers of the three colonial regions.
- I can analyze how population centers and growth are impacted by rivers, natural harbors and mountains.
- I can identify the groups that came to the 13 British Colonies and their reasons for immigration.

Questions to Check for Unit Understanding

- Why did European nations colonize the Americas?
- Why do people migrate?
- How do physical geography and climate affect economic activities and settlement patterns?
- Why the plantation system and the transatlantic slave trade develop?
- Why did representative government develop in the thirteen English colonies?

Key Academic Vocabulary

- Colony- an area of land under the control of another country
- Region- an area of land that shares a common characteristic
- Representative Government- a type of democracy in which the citizens elect officials to govern

Unit 2: The American Revolution

Student Learning Targets

- I can explain the causes of the American Revolution
- I can identify the specific grievances in the Declaration of Independence.
- I can define and give examples of unalienable rights
- I can explain the major issues and events of the American Revolution.
- I can explain the roles of significant individuals in the American Revolution.

Questions to Check for Unit Understanding

- How can civil disobedience be used to protest injustice?
- How does the Declaration of Independence state the virtues that would define America and the grievances of the colonists?
- How did various individuals contribute to the movement for American independence?
- How did women and people of color contribute to the American independence movement?

Key Academic Vocabulary

- Grievance- a formal complaint
- Unalienable rights- rights that all individuals are born with