

Brandywine Heights Area School District
200 West Weis Street, Tipton, PA

Course Syllabus for 8th Grade Social Studies

Overview: *Students will interact with history and geography by engaging and exploring topics from Colonial America through the Civil War. They will engage in learning about the foundations of American democracy, citizenship, economics, and Pennsylvania history. Skills including reading maps, interpreting graphs and charts, recognizing bias, fact and opinion, and locating and organizing research will be taught.*

Textbooks Used: American History: Beginnings Through Reconstruction, by McDougal Littell, 2008

Outline of Content:

Content listed below is subject to change based on the needs of the students.

I. First Quarter

- A. Geography of the United States
 - 1. Themes of Geography
 - 2. Map Skills
- B. Three Worlds Meet
 - 1. The World Before 1500(overview) - Ch. 1
 - 2. European Exploration of America (overview) - Ch. 2
- C. The English Colonies
 - 1. The English Establish 13 Colonies - Ch. 3
 - 2. The Colonies Develop - Ch. 4
 - 3. Beginnings of an American Identity - Ch. 5
- D. Assessments
 - 1. Class assignments and projects
 - 2. Chapter tests and quizzes
 - 3. Map tests on regions of the United States, state names, and abbreviations

II. Second Quarter

- A. Creating a New Nation
 - 1. The Road to the Revolution - Ch. 6
 - 2. The American Revolution - Ch. 7
 - 3. Confederation to Constitution - Ch. 8
- B. Constitution Handbook
 - 1. Principles of the Constitution and Government
 - 2. Citizenship Handbook
- C. Assessments
 - 1. Class assignments and projects
 - 2. Chapter tests, mid-term exam, and quizzes
 - 3. Map tests on skills of location, regions, colonies and the developing nation

III. Third Quarter

- A. The Early Republic
 - 1. Launching a New Republic - Ch. 9
 - 2. The Jefferson Era - Ch. 10
 - 3. National and Regional Growth - Ch. 11
- B. A Changing Nation
 - 1. The Age of Jackson - Ch. 12
 - 2. Manifest Destiny - Ch. 13
 - 3. A New Spirit of Change - Ch. 14

- C. Assessments
 - 1. Class assignments and projects
 - 2. Chapter tests and quizzes
 - 3. Map tests on Pennsylvania counties and civil war locations
- IV. Forth Quarter
 - A. A Nation Divided and Rebuilt
 - 1. The Nation Breaking Apart - Ch. 15
 - 2. The Civil War Begins - Ch. 16
 - 3. The Tide of War Turns - Ch. 17
 - 4. Reconstruction - Ch. 18
 - B. Pennsylvania History / Government
 - 1. Our Commonwealth
 - 2. PA's Role in the Civil War
 - 3. Industrial Growth and Development
 - D. Assessments
 - 1. Class assignments and projects
 - 2. Chapter tests, final exam, and quizzes

Grading Policy / Procedure / Framework: Grades are based on school district's policy.