



STRAND 1: GEOGRAPHY

Unit Title: How Geographers Look at the World

Enduring Understandings:

- Maps are a representation of a place and can change over time.
- Applying geographic knowledge helps us understand the past, interpret the present, and plan for the future.
- There are many ways to describe the location of a place.
- Geographic tools are used to collect, analyze, and interpret data.

Lessons:

- What Is a Map?
- Describing Your Location
- Finding Latitude and Longitude
- Exploring Maps: Political and Population
- Locating States and Capitals
- Exploring Maps: Physical and Climate
- Using a Globe
- Maps and Technology

Unit Title: Earth's Features

Enduring Understandings:

- Each place has distinctive characteristics that distinguish it from other places.
- Geographic characteristics are divided into two categories: physical characteristics and human characteristics.
- The United States is a large country with a wide variety of different landmasses, important bodies of water, natural resources, and varied climates.
- The economic development of the United States continues to influence and be influenced by agriculture, industry and natural resources.

Lessons:

- Describing a Place
- Physical Features of Earth
- Continents and Oceans
- Human Characteristics of a Place
- Landforms and People
- Geography and Settlement
- Geography and Businesses

Unit Title: Humans and the Environment

Enduring Understandings:

- Over time, humans modify their environment.
- Human activity has both positive and negative effects on a place.
- Land use and human activity can shape and change a community.
- Geography and natural resources shape where and how urban, suburban, and rural communities develop and sustain themselves.
- Colonization and European settlement drastically changed the way land was used in the United States.

Lessons:

- What Is Human Activity?
- Colonization of the U.S. Changes the Land
- Communities Change over Time
- Urban, Suburban, and Rural Communities
- Climate Change and Natural Resources in the United States
- Pollution
- Protecting the Land

Unit Title: Regions of the United States

Enduring Understandings:

- The United States is composed of five regions that are defined by their unique history, topography, cultural traditions, and customs.
- Maps are a tool to analyze the cultural, economic, and physical environment of a region and how this environment affects the development and sustainability of the United States.
- A region is an area with common features that set it apart from other areas.
- A region is defined by its location, physical and natural characteristics, human-environmental interaction, and movement of goods, ideas, and people.

Lessons:

- Regions of the United States
- Regions of the United States: The Northeast
- Regions of the United States: The Southeast
- Regions of the United States: The Midwest
- Regions of the United States: The West
- Regions of the United States: The Southwest
- States Have Regions, Too

STRAND 2: ECONOMICS

Unit Title: The Economy in Early America

Enduring Understandings:

- Prior to European colonization American Indians developed and operated vast trade networks throughout the Western Hemisphere.
- American Indians traded, exchanged, gifted, and negotiated the purchase of goods, foods, technologies, and domestic animals. They also exchanged ideas and cultural practices with one another.
- American Indians were influential in trade and exchange economies with partners in Europe during the colonial period, which supported the development and growth of the United States.
- The raw materials and climate of the area influenced the economic systems of the colonies.
- The colonists faced economic challenges that led to the creation of commercial banks.

Lessons:

- Indigenous Trade Networks
- Trade Between Colonies and American Indians
- The Fur Trade in North America
- Development of Colonial Trade and Economy
- Money in Colonial Times
- Creation of Banks
- Mercantilism vs. Free Enterprise System
- Entrepreneurial Spirit in a Young Nation

Unit Title: Meeting the Needs of a Community

Enduring Understandings:

- Scarcity impacts the production, distribution, and consumption of goods.
- Scarcity in both natural and human resources leads to trade.
- Because people cannot have everything they want, they have to make choices.
- Entrepreneurs are essential to the U.S. economy, taking risks to build the economy.

Lessons:

- What Is an Economy?
- Types of Economies
- What Are Needs and Wants in an Economy?
- What Is Scarcity?
- Trade in Our Economy
- What Are Taxes?
- Exchange of Goods and Services
- Entrepreneurs

Unit Title: Personal Financial Literacy

Enduring Understandings:

- Effective money management is essential to financial stability.
- Spending and saving money has both benefits and costs.
- Personal budgeting means making decisions about benefits and costs.

Lessons:

- What Is Financial Literacy?
- Earning, Saving, and Spending Money
- Saving and Investing Money
- Income and the Minimum Wage
- Exploring Interest and Credit
- Setting Personal Finance Goals

STRAND 3: CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT

Unit Title: Doing Your Part: Civic Participation

Enduring Understandings:

- Citizens have rights, duties, and responsibilities.
- Democratic societies rely on civic participation.
- Throughout history, there have been a number of civic heroes who have positively impacted their community.
- Civic participation involves being informed, participating in positive discourse and contacting elected officials.

Lessons:

- What Is Citizenship?
- Civic Duties and Responsibilities
- Voting and Elections
- Citizens Take Action
- Helping the Community
- Volunteers in Action

Unit Title: The Role of Government

Enduring Understandings:

- People develop political systems (governments) to protect individual rights and provide services that promote the common good.
- Constitutions are written plans for governments. The U.S. has a constitution, and each state has a constitution as well.
- The United States government is based on the principle of “consent of the governed.”

Lessons:

- What Is Government?
- Representative Government
- Creating the American Government
- What Is the Constitution of the United States?
- Three Branches of Government
- How Laws Are Made
- State and Federal Governments
- State and Local Governments
- Political Participation from Colonies to Today

Unit Title: Native Nations and Sovereignty

Enduring Understandings:

- Native people continue to fight to maintain the integrity and viability of Indigenous societies.
- The imposition of international, state, reservation, and other borders on Native lands changes relationships between people and their environments, affects how people live, and sometimes isolates tribal citizens and family members from one another.
- American Indian governments uphold tribal sovereignty and promote tribal culture and well-being.

Lessons:

- Native American Sovereignty
- Sovereignty at Risk
- Treaties and the Loss of Land
- Native American Constitutions
- Treaties Still Matter: Native Nations Today

STRAND 4: HISTORY

Unit Title: Patriotic Symbols and Traditions

Enduring Understandings:

- National symbols, landmarks, songs, and documents help unite citizens and uphold ideals.
- Celebrations unite us and remind us of what is important.
- Symbols and traditions emphasize what makes us unique as a people and help us forge a bond through shared experiences.

Lessons:

- The National Anthem of the United States
- National Landmarks
- National Symbols
- State Symbols
- Holidays in the United States
- Developing a National Identity

Unit Title: Immigration, Diversity, and Culture in the United States

Enduring Understandings:

- The culture of the United States has been influenced by the people who have immigrated to the United States.
- There is no single American culture, language, or narrative.
- Family relationships, community connections, and geographical factors have always been essential in shaping the cultures of individuals living in the United States.

Lessons:

- What Is Culture?
- Cultures Around the World
- Cultures of North America
- Indigenous Culture Today
- History of Immigration in the United States
- Immigration to the United States (1789–1850)
- Patterns of Settlement
- Appreciating Differences

Unit Title: American Heroes

Enduring Understandings:

- Qualities considered heroic can change over time.
- Cultural values can influence what is considered heroic.
- A hero's values and beliefs can influence others.

Lessons:

- What Are American Heroes?
- Honoring American Heroes
- Who Is Fred Korematsu?
- Who Was Abraham Lincoln?
- Who Was Frederick Douglass?
- Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad

Unit Title: Early American Civilizations (Beginning to 1600)

Enduring Understandings:

- Thousands of years ago, small groups of hunters crossed a bridge of land that connected Siberia and Alaska. Eventually, they spread throughout North and South America.
- Early Native American civilizations existed in the Western Hemisphere prior to the arrival of Europeans. These civilizations had developed unique governments, social structures, religions, technologies, and agricultural practices.
- These first peoples influenced later cultures of the region.

Lessons:

- The First Americans
- Peoples of the Far North: The Inuit
- The Ancient Olmec and Maya
- The Ancient Aztec and Inca
- Ancestral Pueblo and Mound Builders
- American Indian Nations of the Southwest
- American Indian Nations of the Plains
- American Indian Nations of the Southeast
- American Indian Nations of the Great Basin
- American Indian Nations of California
- American Indian Nations of the Northwest Coast
- American Indian Nations of the Plateau

Unit Title: European Exploration and the Americas

Enduring Understandings:

- Trade and money motivated European explorers in the 15th and 16th centuries.
- European exploration launched a period of interaction and exchange, which had both positive and negative effects
- New technologies can encourage new explorations, which create opportunities and challenges.

Lessons:

- The Age of Exploration
- Inventions That Shaped European Exploration
- Columbus and Magellan
- Portugal and the Age of Exploration
- Spanish Exploration in the Americas
- The Founding of St. Augustine, Florida
- British Explorers and the Beginning of the Colonies
- French Exploration in America
- Dutch Explorers and the Founding of New York
- European Competition for North America

Unit Title: Colonial America

Enduring Understandings:

- The colonies were divided into three distinct regions each with their own economics, values, and government.
- Various religious values and the search for religious freedom helped shape America.
- People took risks to come to America in search of religious freedom, cheap land, and profit.
- Raw materials and climate influenced the economic systems of the colonies.

Lessons:

- The Thirteen Colonies
- Leaders and Founders of North American Colonies
- Colonial Governments
- Jamestown
- Plymouth Colony and the Mayflower Compact
- Lost Colony of Roanoke
- Maryland Colony and the Maryland Toleration Acts
- Daily Life in the American Colonies
- Colonial Trade

Unit Title: Slavery in the United States

Enduring Understandings:

- Slavery was an American cultural, political, and economic issue.
- Slavery divided America both regionally and philosophically.
- Slave trade and industries related to slavery represented a significant part of a colony or state's economy.
- Many African Americans worked to assist slaves and spoke out against slavery.

Lessons:

- Africans Before Slavery
- What Was the Columbian Exchange?
- Origins of Slavery in America
- What Was the Triangular Trade?
- The Middle Passage and the North American Colonies
- Slavery in the Colonies
- Slavery in the New Nation
- Slavery and Westward Expansion
- Nat Turner and Slave Rebellions
- Who Was Frederick Douglass?
- Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad
- What Was the Civil War?
- What Was the Reconstruction Era?
- Abolition
- The Lasting Impacts of Slavery

Unit Title: American Revolution

Enduring Understandings:

- The events of the American Revolution were influenced by several events that came before it.
- Revolutions can lead to change.
- Conflicts can stem from multiple causes and have multiple results.

Lessons:

- What Was the American Revolution?
- Causes of the American Revolution
- French and Indian War
- Loyalists and Patriots
- What Is the Declaration of Independence?
- George vs. George
- American Revolution: Battles and Outcomes
- Women and the American Revolution
- The War and American Indian Nations

Unit Title: Creating a New Nation

Enduring Understandings:

- In the early years, the United States had difficulties with other nations.
- Internal economic problems plagued the new nation.
- Problems faced by the young nation made it clear that a new constitution was needed.

Lessons:

- Threats to a Young Nation
- What Are the Articles of Confederation?
- The First and Second Continental Congresses
- Northwest Ordinance and Shays's Rebellion
- Founders of the United States
- Founding Documents of the United States
- What Is the Constitution of the United States?
- What Is the Bill of Rights?
- Washington's Presidency
- What Was the War of 1812?

Unit Title: Westward Expansion Before the Civil War

Enduring Understandings:

- Throughout the 1800s, Americans moved West, settling lands previously occupied by Native Americans.
- A variety of people helped to open up the West to settlement. They were attracted by the opportunities available and the possibility of a better way of life.
- Settlement in the West resulted in a series of broken treaties with Native Americans and much bloodshed.
- Manifest Destiny was used to justify acquisitions of territory.

Lessons:

- What Was Westward Expansion in the United States?
- What Was the Louisiana Purchase?
- What Was the Lewis and Clark Expedition?
- Westward Expansion and American Indian Nations
- Erie Canal
- Transportation in the 19th Century
- Manifest Destiny
- Native American Resistance
- Annexation of Texas
- Oregon and the Oregon Trail
- Mexican American War
- Settling the Far West

Unit Title: Tools of the Trade

Enduring Understandings:

- A historian is a person who studies and writes about people and places in the past.
- Events in local history can be shown on timelines organized by years, decades, and centuries.
- Primary and secondary sources can be used to show change over time.

Lessons:

- Digging Up the Past
- Measuring and Organizing Time
- Using Timelines
- What Are Primary and Secondary Sources?
- Historians and Geography
- Thinking Like a Historian