



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview United States History 1865 to the Present Grade 6

Course Description:

The objectives of the sixth grade enable students to explore the historical development of people, places, and patterns of life from 1865 to the present day. Through this study the students will learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography in the context of U.S. History. Students will complete performance assessments in this class.

Essential Skills/Processes:

- Students will gain a better understanding of U.S. history by exploring the relationship between the past, present, and future.
- Using primary and secondary sources, maps, and a variety of chronological and inquiry/research, skills to develop competence in chronological thinking, historical comprehension, and historical analysis.
- Analyze and interpret geographic information to determine patterns and trends in U.S. history.
- Comparing and contrasting historical, cultural, and political perspectives in U.S. history.
- Determining relationships with multiple causes and effects.
- Investigating and researching to develop products orally and in writing through performance assessments.

Essential Knowledge:

1. The student will use maps, globes, photographs, pictures or tables.
 - Physical features and climate which effected westward expansion.
 - Relationship between natural resources, transportation and industrialization after 1860.
 - Locate the fifty states, regions, and major cities.
2. The student will explain how Reconstruction policies affected the South and Nation, including
 - the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.
 - former enslaved African Americans, and
 - lasting impacts of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and Frederick Douglass
3. The student will explain how life changed after the Civil War.
 - Western settlement and changing federal policy toward Native Americans.
 - Why various immigrant groups came to America, some of the obstacles they faced, and the important contributions they made.
 - The growth of American cities, including the impact of racial and ethnic conflict and the role of political machines.
 - Segregation and the rise of “Jim Crow”.

4. The student will analyze and explain Americans' responses to industrialization and urbanization.
 - Muckraking literature and the rise of the Progressive Movement.
 - Women's suffrage and temperance movements, and their impact on society.
 - Child labor, working conditions, and the rise of organized labor.
 - Growth of industry and inventions.

6. The student will describe and analyze the changing role of the United States in world affairs between 1898 and 1930.
 - Spanish American War.
 - Roosevelt Corollary
 - World War I and Fourteen Points

7. The student will explain the social economic and technological changes of the early 20th century.
 - Impact of the automobile and other invention.
 - Prohibition.
 - The Great Migration and the Harlem Renaissance.
 - The Great Depression and the New Deal.

8. The student will analyze and explain the major causes and effects of WWII and become familiar with the events and individuals involved with the major elements of the war.
 - The rise of Fascism and Nazism.
 - Aggression in Europe and the Pacific.
 - The Holocaust.
 - The Homefront.

9. The students will describe the economic, social, and political transformation of the United States since WWII, with emphasis on:
 - The Cold War and the conversion from wartime to peacetime economy.
 - The United Nations, NATO and the confrontations with the Soviet Union.
 - Military conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and the Middle East.
 - The Civil Rights Movement, American with Disabilities Act, and the changing role of women.
 - Changing patterns in society including educational and economic opportunities for military veterans, women and minorities.
 - Advancements in technologies in communication, entertainment, and business.
 - Impact of international trade and globalization on American life.

Resources:

- Virginia Standards of Learning for All Subject and Grade Levels:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/index.shtml
- History and Social Science Curriculum Framework:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/history_socialscience/index.shtml