8th Grade Social Studies – Semester 1

I. European Exploration
   A. First American inhabitants
   B. First European explorers (pre 1400s)
   C. Portugal’s influence on navigation (post 1400s)
   D. Europe’s destination point
      i. Spread of Asian culture
      ii. Clash of Christianity and Islam
   E. Columbus’ role in history
   F. Spanish Conquistadors
      i. The fall of the Aztec and Incan Empires
      ii. The control of the Americas
   G. Columbian Exchange
      i. The impact on the Americas
      ii. The introduction to slavery

II. Colonial Development
   A. English land claims
      i. Lost colony at Roanoke Island
      ii. Jamestown
      iii. Plymouth Rock
   B. Other European land claims
      i. French, Dutch, German, Swiss, Scots, etc.
   C. Native American conflict
      i. Clash of cultures
      ii. Land ownership
   D. Early economic development
      i. Virginia joint-stock company
      ii. Tobacco as America’s 1st cash crop
   E. Early governmental development
      i. The House of Burgesses
      ii. Mayflower Compact
      iii. Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

III. Thirteen Original Colonies
   A. New England Colonies
      i. NH, RI, CT, and MA
      ii. Puritan way of life
      iii. Economic, political, social, and religious culture
   B. Middle Colonies
      i. NY, PA, NJ, and DE
      ii. Melting pot society
      iii. Economic, political, social, and religious culture
   C. Southern Colonies
      i. MD, VA, NC, SC, and GA
ii. Plantation culture
iii. Economic, political, social, and religious culture

D. Social and political movements
   i. Enlightenment, Great Awakening, formation of schools, Rights of Englishmen

E. French and Indian War
   i. French and English land claims in the Ohio Valley
   ii. Native American alliances (Iroquois League)
   iii. American leadership (George Washington)
   iv. Albany Plan of Union (Ben Franklin)
   v. Key Battles (Ft. Necessity, Ft. Duquense, and Quebec)
   vi. Pontiac’s Rebellion

IV. American Revolution
A. Causes of the Revolution
   i. Proclamation of 1763
   ii. Sugar Act
   iii. Stamp Act
   iv. Tea Act
   v. Coercive Acts
   vi. Boston Tea Party
   vii. Boston Massacre
   viii. Intolerable Acts
   ix. *Common Sense* – Thomas Paine
   x. Lexington and Concord

B. Declaration of Independence
   i. Ideas and fundamentals of the Declaration (Continental Congress)
   ii. The development of a new nation
   iii. Colonial leaders (Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston)
   iv. Ratification

C. Revolutionary War
   i. Strengths and weaknesses of the Continental and British Armies
   ii. George Washington’s leadership
   iii. American and British strategies
   iv. Key Battles (Princeton, Trenton, Saratoga, and Yorktown)
   v. Foreign assistance (French and German support)
   vi. Fighting on the Frontier (Ft. Vincennes/Sackville)
   vii. War at Sea
   viii. Guerrilla warfare and the Swamp Fox
   ix. Treaty of Paris
   x. Legacy of the Revolution – costs, casualties, and the birth of republicanism
V. The Constitution
A. Confederation Era
   i. Formation of state governments
   ii. Articles of Confederation
   iii. Land Ordinance of 1785
   iv. Northwest Ordinance of 1787

B. Articles of Confederation
   i. 1st attempt at Constitution
   ii. Weaknesses (taxes, trade, ratification process)
   iii. Shays’s Rebellion

C. Constitutional Convention
   i. Colonial delegates meet in Philadelphia.
   ii. Founding Fathers (demographics and diversity)
   iii. Virginia Plan
   iv. New Jersey Plan
   v. Great Compromise
   vi. Three-Fifths Compromise

D. Ratification of the Constitution
   i. Conflict between Federalists and Anti-Federalists
   ii. Bill of Rights

VI. The Constitutional Handbook (The Living Constitution)
A. The Seven Principles
   i. Popular sovereignty, republicanism, federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, limited government, and individual rights

B. Preamble (Goals of the Constitution)
C. Article I – Legislative Branch
   i. division between House of Reps and Senate
   ii. qualifications and requirements for Congressmen
   iii. duties of the House of Reps
   iv. duties of the Senate
   v. process of bill becoming a law

D. Article II – Executive Branch
   i. terms of office
   ii. Electoral College
   iii. Qualifications
   iv. Order of Succession
   v. Impeachment
E. Article III – Judicial Branch
   i. Federal courts and judges
   ii. Supreme Court duties and cases heard (Plessy v. Ferguson and Marbury v. Madison)

F. Article IV – Interstate Relations
   i. Rights of citizens
   ii. Rights of states
   iii. Extradition

G. Article V – Amending the Constitution
   i. Approval by 2/3 vote of Congress
   ii. Approval by State governments

H. Article VI – Supremacy of National Government
   i. Supreme law

I. Article VII – Ratification
   i. Nine states must ratify original
   ii. Signed September 17th, 1787
   iii. Signed by 39 delegates

J. Role of Citizens
   i. Citizens’ rights and the limits thereof
   ii. Citizens’ responsibilities

K. Study of the Amendments
   i. Bill of Rights 1-10
   ii. 12th Amendment – Election of Executives
   iii. 14th Amendment – Definition of a US Citizen
   iv. 18th Amendment – Prohibition
   v. 19th Amendment – Women’s Suffrage
   vi. 21st Amendment – Repeal of Prohibition
   vii. 22nd Amendment – Limit of Presidential Terms
   viii. 25th Amendment – Presidential Order of Succession
   ix. 26th Amendment – 18 year-olds Vote

8th Grade Social Studies – Semester 2

VII. The Early Republic
   A. Washington’s Presidency
      i. 1st President
      ii. Federal Judiciary Act
      iii. Economic Problems and Hamilton’s Financial Plan
      iv. Securing the Northwest Territory
      v. Battle of Fallen Timbers
vi. Whiskey Rebellion
vii. The French Revolution and Neutrality
viii. Washington’s Warning to the Nation

B. The Jefferson Era
i. Election of 1800
ii. Jefferson’s Philosophy
iii. Judiciary Act of 1801
iv. Louisiana Purchase
v. Lewis and Clark
vi. Problems with France and England at Sea
vii. Embargo Act of 1807

C. War of 1812
i. Battle of Tippecanoe and Tecumseh’s Confederation
ii. Fight over the Ohio River Valley and British Involvement
iii. Oliver Hazard Perry and the Great Lakes
iv. Washington D.C. Attacked and Spared
v. Battle of New Orleans
vi. Treaty of Ghent

D. Nationalism and Sectionalism
i. American Pride Swells after War of 1812
ii. Country Divides over Industrial Revolution and Slavery
iii. Era of Good Feelings
iv. Missouri Compromise of 1820

E. Monroe Doctrine
i. Warning to Europe
ii. Declaration as a World Power

F. Jackson’s Presidency
i. Election of 1824
ii. Jacksonian Democracy
iii. Spoils System
iv. Indian Removal Act of 1830
v. Trail of Tears
vi. Debate of States’ Rights
vii. South Carolina Threatens to Secede

VIII. Manifest Destiny
A. Trails West
i. Oregon Trail
ii. California Gold Rush
iii. Trail to Santa Fe
iv. Mormon Trail
B. Texas Revolution
   i. Alamo
   ii. Lone Star Republic

C. Mexican-American War
   i. Capturing New Mexico and California
   ii. Mexican Cession

IX. Cultural, Social, Economic, and Religious Changes in the 1800s
A. Immigration
   i. Push-Pull Factors
   ii. Scandinavian Influx
   iii. German’s Pursue Economic Opportunity
   iv. Irish Potato Famine
   v. Prejudicism Spreads in America

B. Industrial Revolution
   i. Beginning in Europe
   ii. Samuel Slater
   iii. New England Economic Boom
   iv. Population Shift to the City
   v. Labor Unions
   vi. Cotton Gin and Plantation Life

C. Romanticism and American Art and Literature
   i. James Fenimore Cooper – *The Last of the Mohicans*
   ii. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – *Paul Revere’s Ride*
   iii. Ralph Waldo Emerson
   iv. Henry David Thoreau
   v. Walt Whitman
   vi. Emily Dickinson
   vii. Transcendentalism

D. Second Great Awakening
   i. Temperance Movement
   ii. States outlaw alcohol

E. Abolition Leaders
   i. Frederick Douglass
   ii. Sojourner Truth
   iii. Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad
   iv. William Lloyd Garrison

F. Women’s Rights
   i. Dorrhea Dix
   ii. Susan B. Anthony
iii. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
iv. Seneca Falls Convention

X. The Nation Breaking Apart
   A. Tension between the North and South
      i. Northern economy and political power
      ii. Southern economy and slavery

   B. Slavery Legislation
      i. Wilmot Proviso
      ii. Compromise of 1850
      iii. Fugitive Slave Act
      iv. Kansas-Nebraska Act
      v. Dred Scott Case

   C. Slavery Divides Politics
      i. Free-Soil Party
      ii. Republican Party
      iii. Lincoln and Douglas Debates
      iv. Election of 1860

   D. Violence over Slavery
      i. Bleeding Kansas
      ii. Attack in Congress
      iii. Harper’s Ferry and John Brown

   E. Southern Secession
      i. South Carolina 1st to secede
      ii. Confederate Government and Jefferson Davis
      iii. The Crittenden Plan

XI. The Civil War
   A. War Erupts
      i. Ft. Sumter
      ii. Choosing Sides
      iii. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Union and Confederacy
      iv. Union and Confederate Strategies

   B. Key Battles and Events
      i. 1st Bull Run
      ii. Ft. Henry and Donelson
      iii. Fredericksburg
      iv. Shiloh
      v. Antietam
      vi. Emancipation Proclamation
      vii. Gettysburg
      viii. Vicksburg
ix. Spotsylvania
x. Cold Harbor

C. The Emergence of Ulysses S. Grant
   i. Shiloh
   ii. Vicksburg
   iii. Commanding General of Union Forces

D. The Surrender at Appomattox Courthouse
   i. Terms of surrender
   ii. Grant’s generosity and comments

E. Legacy of the Civil War and Societal Influence
   i. 54th Massachusetts
   ii. Women’s roles
   iii. Prison Camps
   iv. Costs of the War
   v. 13th Amendment
   vi. Lincoln’s Assassination
   vii. Ku Klux Klan

F. Reconstruction
   i. Freedmen’s Bureau and Schools
   ii. Civil Rights Act
   iii. 14th Amendment
   iv. Reconstruction Acts of 1867
   v. Republican Take Over of Southern States
   vi. President Johnson impeached
   vii. Ulysses S. Grant elected President
   viii. 15th Amendment
   ix. Compromise of 1877