

**Unit 1: The U.S. Constitution & Government**

*How is the U.S. Constitution influenced by the political concepts of Representative Democracy, Federalism, Bicameralism, Separation of Powers, and Checks & Balances?*

*How does the U.S. Constitution protect the rights of its' citizens?*

*What are the steps involved in the law-making process?*

*What are some of the basic responsibilities of all citizens of the United States and how are these responsibilities related to citizens' rights guaranteed in the Constitution?*

**Unit 2: Colonization To Independence**

*Why did European countries want to establish overseas colonies & settlements?"*

*What were the similarities and differences of the North American colonies of Spain, Britain, The Netherlands & France and why did those similarities & differences exist?*

*How did the European colonization of North America affect people & countries around the world?*

*How did the varying characteristics of the thirteen English colonies affect their settlement patterns? Explain why a European emigrant would choose to settle in one colony over another.*

*Examine how the early experiences of the English colonists led to the development of democratic practices in America.*

*What role did the use of indentured servitude and slavery play in the political, economic, geographic, and cultural developments of the thirteen British North American colonies?*

**Unit 3: Causes of the American Revolution**

*How did the events of the French & Indian War change the political, economic, & cultural landscape of North America in the 18th Century?*

*Who were the "Patriots" and the "Loyalists," and how did the Patriots, Loyalists, along with Neutral colonists & the British feel about the idea of colonial independence?*

*How did the actions of both the American colonists and the British lead to the eventual outbreak of the American Revolutionary War?*

**Unit 4: The American Revolutionary War**

*Who were the "Patriots" and the "Loyalists," and how did the Patriots, Loyalists, along with Neutral colonists & the British feel about the idea of colonial independence?*

*How did the fighting in the North during the early years of the war differ from the fighting in the Southern colonies in the later years of the war?*

*What role did the principles of self government and democratic ideas play during the American Revolutionary War, including Thomas Jefferson's drafting of the American Declaration of Independence, the formation of state constitutions, and the impact of the war on women, African Americans, & Native Americans.*

**Unit 5: The Critical Period**

*What political and economic problems threatened the newly independent American states and what attempts were made to solve them?*

*How did political compromise produce the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights?*

*How did the ratification of the U.S. Constitution lead to the development of the first American political parties?*

## **Unit 6: The New Republic**

*How did the actions of George Washington and his government establish precedents and resolve many of the issues and problems in the early years of the New Republic?*

*How did the political and economic developments of late 18th- and early 19th centuries help bring about the formation of the first political parties in the United States?*

*How did the ideas and principles of "Jacksonian Democracy" lead to increased opportunities for civic participation in the first half of the 19th century?*

## **Unit 7: Westward Expansion**

*How did the United States grow in total land area from the original "13 states" to the nation's present-day boundaries?*

*How did the territorial growth of the U.S. in the first half of the 19th Century impact the physical, cultural, and economic landscape of the nation?*

*What was the relationship like between the United States Government and the Native Americans between the years 1790 and 1877?*

## **Unit 8: Reform Movements**

*What were some of the social and cultural problems facing the United States during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and how did people go about bringing reform to these issues?*

## **Unit 9: Events That Led To The U.S. Civil War**

*What were the POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, GEOGRAPHIC, & CULTURAL factors that led to the United States Civil War?*

*What was the Abolitionist Movement & how did those people who supported the movement work to bring about and to slavery?*

## **Unit 10: The U.S. Civil War**

*How did the actions of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and Ulysses S. Grant affect the course and consequences of the Civil War?*

*Why did President Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation?*

*Why was the Battle of Gettysburg considered to be the turning point of the American Civil War?*

## **Unit 11 : Reconstruction**

*What were the different types of Reconstruction plans that were introduced after the Civil War and what were the "motivations" behind each plan?*

*What was purpose of the 13th, 14th, & 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution?*

*What were some ways in which the former Confederate states tried to limit the rights and freedoms of former slaves in the years following the Civil War?*

## **Unit 12: Economics & Personal Financial Literacy**

*What is Scarcity and how does it influence Supply and Demand?*

*What is "opportunity cost?"*

*What are some of the different types of bank accounts available to individuals?*

*What is "Credit" and what are some of the potential positive and negative effects of using credit?*