



# Southmoreland School District

## U.S History/Civil War-1939

### Curriculum Overview

#### **U.S. History/Civil War-1939 Overview:**

This year-long U.S. History course offers an introduction to the social, political, economic, and cultural history of the United States by examining the major events, turning points and influential figures from the beginning of the American Civil War to 1939. As students progress through each era of U.S. history they will study the impact of dynamic leadership and economic and political change on the rise of the United States to global prominence, the influence of social and political movements on societal change, and the importance of cultural and political developments. Over the course of the year students will examine secondary historical accounts and primary source documents in order to better understand the major transformations that led to the development of modern America. Major current event topics and governmental processes and procedures will be incorporated into the course when applicable. The course emphasizes the development of historical analysis skills such as comparing and contrasting, considering multiple perspectives, and analyzing cause-and-effect relationships. These skills are applied to text interpretation and in written and oral assignments that guide learners step-by-step through problem-solving activities.

#### **Module Titles:**

**Module 1: Civil War/Reconstruction**

**Module 2: Westward Expansion**

**Module 3: Industrialization**

**Module 4: Immigration/Urbanization/Gilded Age**

**Module 5: Becoming a World Power**

**Module 6: Progressive Movement**

**Module 7: WWI and Its Aftermath**

**Module 8: Roaring Twenties**

**Module 9: Great Depression/Roosevelt and the New Deal**

#### **Module Overviews:**

**Module 1: Civil War/Reconstruction**

This module surveys the origins, conflicts and outcomes of the Civil War by not only exploring how the war altered the United States but understanding the Civil War and its aftermath in a broader context. Students will examine the causes and consequences of the conflict by looking backwards to the roots of sectionalism and secession and forwards into the postwar period, known as Reconstruction. In this module, students will



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learn about the efforts of the United States government to rebuild and restructure the South and heal the nation after the Civil War.

#### **Module 2: Westward Expansion**

This module is designed to help students understand westward expansion and its effects on the political, economic and social development of the nation. Students will analyze the causes and effects of Manifest Destiny and how the expansion West played a role in the United States becoming a world power and an empire. Students will apply what they learn to analyze how Western Expansion affected the growth of our country and the nation's identity.

#### **Module 3: Industrialization**

In this module, students focus on the Industrial Revolution in the United States and how the economic and demographic changes from the rapid growth of industrialization transformed American's daily lives. Students will analyze how these changes and advancements affected the nation's identity and led to the development of modern America.

#### **Module 4: Immigration/Urbanization/Gilded Age**

In this module, students explore immigration, rapid urbanization and politics in the Gilded Age in the late 19th/early 20th century.

#### **Module 5: Becoming a World Power**

In this module, students will explore the factors that caused the United States to expand and become more involved in world affairs. Students will evaluate the significance of the United States becoming an imperialist power and how that new role in world affairs led to the U.S. involvement in WWI.

#### **Module 6: Progressive Movement**

In this module, students will examine the political, economic, and social changes in late 19th century America that led to broad progressive reforms and how Progressives achieved those goals to address the issues that emerged at the beginning of the 20th century.

#### **Module 7: WWI and Its Aftermath**

In this module, students will examine one of the most consequential events of the twentieth century – World War I. This unit will focus on the causes and effects of WWI and the American involvement in the Great War at home and abroad.



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#### **Module 8: Roaring Twenties**

In this module, students will examine the post-WWI decade, known as the Roaring Twenties. Students will use information gained in this module to understand how this decade fundamentally changed the United States socially, politically and economically and the legacy of this decade of postwar recovery on our nation's identity.

#### **Module 9: Great Depression/Roosevelt and the New Deal**

In this module, students use what they learned about the prosperity and social change following World War I to understand the subsequent economic downturn of the Great Depression and the economic recovery through the New Deal. Students will use information gained in this module to understand how the role of the federal government was greatly expanded with the New Deal programs and how the Great Depression came to an end with the commencement of World War II.