

Welcome to 8th grade Social Studies!

The word *history* comes from the Greek word “*historia*”, which means “to learn or know by inquiry.” In the work that follows this year, I encourage students to probe, dispute, and dig deeper – inquire.

The best history has at its foundation a story. A printer challenges a King and so the first steps to the birth of a new kind of nation is taken; a New Jersey miner finds gold in California and sets off a torrent of movement westward; a woman going home from work does not relinquish her seat and a Civil Rights movement explodes.

Curriculum

This year, we will study US and NC history, focusing on the following topics:

* Natives, explorers, and colonizers – the diversity of pre-Columbian native cultures, the drive of individual explorers and the nations that sponsored them and the pattern of European colonization
* The 13 colonies, tea parties, and minutemen – the life, religion, economy, and governing of the American colonies – from the founding of the colonies through the Revolutionary War
* Building a nation from scratch – the growing pains of the Confederation, the vision of a new United States and its development, the writing of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the growth of American foreign policy and the rise of “King” Andrew
* A house divided – Manifest Destiny, Westward Expansion, and the growing strain between the North and the South; failure to compromise and the question of state’s rights and slavery; Civil War
* Rebuilding the house – Reconstruction all the way to WWI, with a visit to the robber barons along the way
* A new deal and a new war – women can vote, America gives up drink and the stock market goes crazy; the world is in a Depression, America tries Roosevelt’s New Deal, Fascists rise across the Atlantic and Pacific, and America fights for freedom
* Cold War and Civil Rights – Modern America – America in the post war era, fear of Socialism, the race to the moon, the movement from segregation to integration



Grading

Classwork/Homework --------- 40%

Tests/Projects ---------------- 30%

Quiz ---------------------------- 20%

Notebooks --------------------- 10%



Supplies

Notebook

Pen/Pencil

Colored Pencils



Contact

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Remind: Please have your parents (and you too!) sign up for the Remind app. Text the message **@78gh68** to the number **81010** to sign up.