

Using Guiding Questions from California's HSS Framework

Grade Eight: United States History and Geography: Growth and Conflict

Course Questions: What did freedom mean to the nation's founders and how did it change over time? How and why did the United States expand? Who is considered an American?

Standard / Topic	Framework Unit Questions	Resources / Sources / Activities	CCSS / ELD Alignment
The Development of American Constitutional Democracy (8.1-8.3)	Why was there an American Revolution?		
	How did the American Revolution develop the concept of natural rights?		
	What were the legacies of the American Revolution?		
	How and why did Indians participate in the American Revolution? How did the alliances and treaties made by American Indians affect their relationships with both the Patriots and the British?		
	How did American calls for independence inspire other nations, such as France and the French colony of Haiti?		
	Why were slave-holding provisions so important to southern delegates?		
	How could the nation's ideals of freedom, liberty, and democracy be adopted alongside slavery?		
	What were the long-term costs of slavery, both to people of African descent and to the nation at large?		
Aspirations of a New Nation (8.4-8.5)	How much power should the federal government have and what should it do?		
	What was life like in the Early Republic?		

	Was the Louisiana Purchase Constitutional?			
The Divergent Paths of the American People (8.6-8.8)	How did the government change during the Early Republic?			
	How did individual regions of the United States become both more similar and more different?			
	What was family life like in each region?			
	How did work change between 1800 and 1850?			
	What was the impact of slavery on American politics, regional economies, family life, and culture?			
	What did the frontier mean to the nation in the first half of the nineteenth century?			
	How did Americans help people in need? What did freedom mean and how did it change over time?			
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	Why do periods of reform arise at certain historical moments?			
	How did the country become more connected in the first half of the nineteenth century?			
	How did Andrew Jackson change the country?			
	How did Manifest Destiny contribute to American expansion? How did leading American thinkers justify America's westward expansion in the nineteenth century (from classroom example)?			
	What were the consequences of the Mexican American War? How did family life change during the first half of the nineteenth century?			
Abolitionism (8.9)	What were slaves' lives like?			
	How did slave families live in ways that were similar to and different from non-slave families?			

	How did people work to end slavery and what opposition did they face?			
	Why did Frederick Douglass believe the United States should abolish slavery (from classroom example)?			
The Causes, Key Events, and Consequences of the Civil War (8.10)	Why was there a Civil War?			
	How did the United States transform during the Civil War?			
	How was the Civil War conducted militarily, politically, economically, and culturally?			
	How was slavery abolished through the Civil War?			
	How did individual battles affect the course of the war? How did these battles reflect broader patterns or struggles in the war?			
	How and why did the war become a war to end slavery?			
	How did the Civil War change the United States?			
Reconstruction (8.11)	How did Reconstruction redefine what it meant to be an American?			
Economic Development and the Industrial Revolution (8.12)	How did America's economy, industries, and population grow after the Civil War?			
	How did the federal government affect the country's growth in the years following the Civil War?			
	Who came to the United States at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century? Why did they come?			
	What was their experience like when they arrived?			

