

# HSS Framework Guiding Questions

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### United States History and Geography: Growth and Conflict

- ❖ 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?

#### The Development of American Constitutional Democracy

- 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?

#### Envisioning a New America

- How much power should the federal government have, and what should the government do?
- How did the government change during the Early Republic?
- Was the Louisiana Purchase constitutional?
- What was life like in the Early Republic?

#### The Divergent Paths of the American People: 1800–1850

- 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?

#### The Causes, Course, and Consequences of the Civil War

- Why was there a Civil War?
- How was the United States transformed during the Civil War?
- How was the Civil War conducted militarily, politically, economically, and culturally?
- How was slavery abolished through the Civil War?

#### The Rise of Industrial America: 1877–1914

- How did America's economy, industries, and population grow after 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?
- How did the federal government affect the country's growth in the years following the Civil War?