

New York State Learning Standards for United States History

Standard 1: History of the United States and New York - Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States and New York

Standard 2: World History - Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning point in world history and examine the broad sweep of history from a variety of perspectives.

Standard 3: Geography- Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the geography of the interdependent world in which we live -- local, national, and global -- including the distribution of people, places, and environments over the Earth's surface.

Standard 4: Economics - Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of how the United States and other societies develop economic systems and associated institutions to allocate scarce resources, how major decision-making units function in the United States and other national economies, and how an economy solves the scarcity problem through market and nonmarket mechanisms.

Standard 5: Civics, Citizenship and Government - Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the necessity for establishing governments; the governmental system of the United States and other nations; the United States Constitution; the basic civic values of American constitutional democracy; and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship, including avenues of participation.

Standard 1: History of the United States and New York

Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States and New York.

Middle Level (Intermediate)

1. The study of New York State and United States history requires an analysis of the development of American culture, its diversity and multicultural context, and the ways people are unified by many values, practices and traditions.

- explore the meaning of American culture by identifying the key ideas, beliefs, and patterns of behavior, and traditions that help define it and unite all Americans
- interpret the ideas, values and beliefs contained in the Declaration of Independence and the New York State Constitution and United States Constitution, Bill of Rights and other important historical documents.

2. Important ideas, social and cultural values, beliefs and traditions from New York State and United States history illustrate the connections and interactions of people and events across time and from a variety of perspectives.

- describe the reasons for periodizing history in different ways
- investigate key turning points in New York State and United States history and explain why these events or developments are significant
- understand the relationship between the relative importance of United States domestic and foreign policies over time
- analyze the role played by the United States in international politics, past and present.

3. Study about the major social, political, economic, cultural and religious developments in New York State and United States history involves learning about the important roles and contributions of individuals and groups.

- complete well-documented and historically accurate case studies about individuals and groups who represent different ethnic, national and religious groups, including Native American Indians, in New York State and the United States at different times and in different locations
- gather and organize information about the important achievements and contributions of individuals and groups living in New York State and the United States
- describe how ordinary people and famous historic figures in the local community, State, and the United States have advanced the fundamental democratic values, beliefs and traditions expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the New York State and United States Constitutions, the Bill of Rights and other important historic documents
- classify major developments into categories such as social, political, economic, geographic, technological, scientific, cultural or religious.

4. The skills of historical analysis include the ability to: explain the significance of historical evidence; weigh the importance, reliability and validity of evidence; understand the importance of changing and competing interpretations of different historical developments.

- consider the sources of historic documents, narratives, or artifacts and evaluate their reliability
- understand how different experiences, beliefs, values, traditions and motives cause individuals and groups to interpret historic events and issues from different perspectives
- compare and contrast different interpretations of key events and issues in New York State and United States history and explain reasons for these different accounts
- describe historic events through the eyes and experience of those who were there. (Taken from National Standards for History for Grades K-4.).

High School (Commencement)

1. The study of New York State and United States history requires an analysis of the development of American culture, its diversity and multicultural context, and the ways people are unified by many values, practices and traditions.

- analyze the development of American culture, explain how ideas, values, beliefs and traditions have changed over time and how they unite all Americans
- describe the evolution of American democratic values and beliefs as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the New York State Constitution, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights and other important historical documents.

2. Important ideas, social and cultural values, beliefs and traditions from New York State and United States history illustrate the connections and interactions of people and events across time and from a variety of perspectives.

- discuss several schemes for periodizing the history of New York State and the United States
- develop and test hypotheses about important events, eras or issues in New York State and United States history, setting clear and valid criteria for judging the importance and significance of these events, eras or issues
- compare and contrast the experiences of different groups in the United States
- examine how the Constitution, United States law, and the rights of citizenship provide a major unifying factor in bringing together Americans from diverse roots and traditions
- analyze the United States involvement in foreign affairs and a willingness to engage in international politics, examining the ideas and traditions leading to these foreign policies
- compare and contrast the values exhibited and foreign policies implemented by the United States and other nations over time with those expressed in the United Nations Charter and international law.

3. Study about the major social, political, economic, cultural and religious developments in New York State and United States history involves learning about the important roles and contributions of individuals and groups.

- compare and contrast the experiences of different ethnic, national and religious groups, including Native American Indians, in the United States, explaining their contributions to American society and culture
- research and analyze the major themes and developments in New York State and United States history (e.g., colonization and settlement; Revolution and New National Period; immigration; expansion and reform era; Civil War and Reconstruction; The American labor movement; Great Depression; World Wars; contemporary United States)
- prepare essays and oral reports about the important social, political, economic, scientific, technological and cultural developments, issues and events from New York State and United States history
- understand the interrelationships between world events and developments in New York State and the United States (e.g., causes for immigration, economic opportunities, human rights abuses and tyranny versus freedom).

4. The skills of historical analysis include the ability to: explain the significance of historical evidence; weigh the importance, reliability and validity of evidence; understand the concept of multiple causation; understand the importance of changing and competing interpretations of different historical developments.

- analyze historical narratives about key events in New York State and United States history to identify the facts and evaluate the authors' perspectives
- consider different historians' analyses of the same event or development in the United States history to understand how different viewpoints and/or frames of reference influence historical interpretations
- evaluate the validity and credibility of historical interpretations of important events or issues in New York State or United States history, revising these interpretations as new information is learned and other interpretations are developed. (Adapted from National Standards for United States History.).