

11th-Grade U.S. History Calendar First Semester Calendar of Lessons

1. Orientation: How can I do well in this class?
- 2/3. What are the “BIG” questions? (See Essay 2, Chapter 2)

Unit 1: British America: From Settlement to Revolution (12 lessons)

3. When does American history begin? (See Essay 1, Chapter 2)
4. Mercantilism and Empire: Why did Great Britain want new world colonies?
5. What was life like in the British colonies?
6. How did Enlightenment ideas change America?
7. Why did Great Britain redefine its relationship with its American colonies?
8. How did the colonists respond to changes in British colonial policy?
9. Why did Thomas Paine call independence “Common Sense?”
10. What is the “promise” of the Declaration of Independence?
11. Social Conflict in the Colonies: Were all people “created equal?”
12. Global War: How did the British colonies win independence?
13. Unit Review: Was the revolutionary war “inevitable?”
14. Unit Test: British America: From Settlement to Revolution

Unit 2: Creating a Government (10 lessons)

15. Why did national leaders write a new constitution?
16. Original Intent: Why is the U.S. Constitution a bundle of compromises?
17. How are checks and balances structured into the American government?
18. How was the constitution ratified?
19. Why was a Bill of Rights added to the U.S. Constitution?
20. What problems did a new government have to solve?
21. How did the Supreme Court emerge as a constitutional “umpire?”
- 22/23. (2 days). Trial of the Founding Fathers: Did the U.S. Constitution violate principles established in the Declaration of Independence? (See Essay 3, Chapter 6)
24. Unit Test: Creating a Government

Unit 3: Building a New Nation (12 lessons)

25. How did the American people become a nation?
26. How did the U.S. role in world affairs change?
27. Why did Congress try to retain sectional balance?
28. How did the expansion of the right to vote change American society?
29. Why did women demand rights?
30. How did sectional conflict threaten union?
31. Manifest Destiny: Why did the new nation expand westward?
32. How did U.S. expansion affect native peoples?
33. Texas: How should we remember the Alamo?
34. What were the consequences of war with Mexico?
35. Unit Test: New Nation
36. Review previous unit tests

Unit 4: Sectionalism, Slavery, and War (12 lessons)

37. How did the industrial revolution change the United States?
38. How did changes in transportation connect the North and West?
39. Why did cotton production lead to the expansion of slavery in the South?
40. How did the South justify slavery?
41. What was life like for enslaved Africans?
42. How did enslaved Africans resist slavery?

43. Why did balance and compromise fail to settle sectional differences?
44. Why did abolitionists battle against slavery?
45. Why was the Supreme Court unable to resolve the controversy over slavery?
46. Why did the election of 1860 lead to the Civil War?
47. Unit Review: What were the principle causes of the Civil War?
48. Unit Test: Sectionalism, Slavery, and War

Unit 5: Civil War and Reconstruction (9 lessons)

49. Why did the South try to leave the union?
50. How did the North win?
51. What role did women, immigrants, and African Americans play in the war effort?
52. What were the goals of conflicting Reconstruction plans?
53. Could the wounds of war be healed?
54. How did the Reconstruction Amendments rewrite the U.S. Constitution?
55. Was Reconstruction a “dawn without noon?”
56. What was the cost of the “failure” of Reconstruction?
57. Document-based Essay Unit Test: Civil War and Reconstruction

Unit 6: Industrialization Reshapes the United States (17 lessons)

58. How did technology change the United States? (See p. student projects)
59. What was the impact of industrial growth on native peoples?
60. How did industry change the way Americans did business?
61. Why was government corrupted?
62. How did workers respond to industrialization?
63. Why did farmers demand reforms?
64. What was the Populist vision for the United States?
65. Why did a new wave of immigrants come to the United States?
66. What was life like in urban America?
67. Why did conflicts between workers and corporations sometimes lead to violence?
68. Why did muckrakers and progressives demand reform?
69. Why did women emerge as champions of reform?
70. How did Progressive reforms change the United States?
71. Why did some Americans demand radical change?
72. How did women achieve political rights?
- 73/74. Presentation of Student Projects on the Impact of Industrialization and Reform
75. Unit Test: Industrialization and Progressive Reform

Unit 7: The United States Emerges as a World Power (13 lessons)

76. Why did the United States look overseas?
77. What was the ideology of imperialism?
78. Was U.S. policy in Asia imperialistic?
79. Why did the United States go to war with Spain?
80. Should the United States intervene in Latin America and the Caribbean?
81. Panama: Does the end justify the means?
82. What were the origins of the “Great War?”
83. Why did the United States enter the World War?
84. What were Woodrow Wilson’s goals?
85. What was the U.S. role in the World War?
86. How did participation in the World War change life in the United States?
87. Should the United States have joined the League of Nations?
88. Unit Test: The United States Emerges as a World Power (or Mid-Term)

2nd semester 11th-Grade U.S. History Calendar Second Semester Calendar of Lessons

1. What are the “BIG” questions? (Review students defined essential questions.)
2. Organizing the 20th-Century America Oral History Project (See Essay 1, Chapter 8).
3. Researching and writing oral histories.

Unit 1: Prosperity and Depression (15 lessons)

4. Could America return to “normalcy” at the end of World War I?
5. Why were immigrants targeted by the Palmer Raids?
6. Who were Sacco and Vanzetti?
7. Why did the Scopes trial create so much controversy?
8. How did African Americans create culture and community in the northern cities?
9. What was happening to the U.S. economy and workforce during the 1920s?
10. Why did the economy collapse?
11. What was the Republican concept of the role of government?
12. What was the impact of the Great Depression on life in the United States?
13. What was the promise of the New Deal?
14. How did the Great Depression and New Deal affect life in New York (or any locality)?
15. How did the New Deal change American government?
16. Unit Review: Did the New Deal solve the Great Depression?
17. Unit Test: Prosperity and Depression
18. Review Unit Test

Unit 2: World War II (13 lessons)

19. Organize student dialogue teams on the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (see chap. 8).
20. What were the underlying causes of World War II?
21. Why did many Americans demand isolation during the 1930s?
22. What were the underlying causes of U.S. entry into the war?
23. What were the immediate causes of the U.S. entry into the war?
24. How did the allies win in Europe?
25. How did the allies win in the Pacific?
26. Was total war justified?
27. Rosie the Riveter and Civil Rights: How did the war change life in the United States?
28. The internment of the Japanese: How could it happen here?
29. Cold War or United Nations: What will the postwar world look like?
30. Unit Review (Dialogue): Should the United States have dropped the atomic bomb on Japan?
31. Unit Test: World War II

Unit 3: Post-War America - A Changing Society (15 lessons)

32. Student teams read and edit oral histories for presentation in class.
33. How did life in the United States change after World War II?
34. How did highways and suburbs transform life in the United States?
35. Was the United States becoming a consumer society?
36. How did science and technology change life in the United States?
37. Were internal communists a threat to the “American way of life?”
38. Should the New Deal grow or be reined in?
39. What was the promise of the Kennedy era?
40. Could the United States be a “Great Society”?
41. Was Watergate a threat to democracy in the United States?
42. How did conservative forces reshape government and society?
43. Presentation of Oral Histories on life in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s
44. Presentation of Oral Histories on life in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s
45. Document-based Essay: Post-War America- A Changing Society
46. Introduce Web-based Research Reports

Unit 4: The African American Struggle for Civil Rights (14 lessons)

47. Organize student dialogue on the Civil Rights Movement.
48. What was life like for African Americans at the end of World War II?
49. How did African Americans respond to these conditions?
50. What were the responses of Southern whites and state and local governments?
51. How did the federal government respond to the Civil Rights movement?
52. What were the ideas of the Civil Rights movement?
53. What were strategies of the Civil Rights movement?
54. What was Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision for U.S. society?
55. Did the Civil Rights movement significantly change the laws of the U.S.?
56. Why did African-American communities explode?
57. Why did a new generation of African-American activists challenge the ideas and strategies of the Civil Rights movement?
58. Who was Malcolm X and what did he teach?
59. Unit Review (Dialogue): Did the Civil Rights movement succeed?
60. Unit Test: The African American Struggle for Civil Rights

Unit 5: Vietnam and the Cold War (15 lessons)

61. Why did wartime allies fight a "cold war"?
62. Why did "hot spots" emerge in Berlin, Korea, and Cuba?
63. How did the nuclear and space races shape the world?
64. How did the United States respond to anti-colonial movements in the Third World?
65. Did events in the Middle East threaten U.S. security?
66. Why did East Asia play a central role in U.S. foreign policy?
67. Why was the United States in Vietnam?
68. What happened to American troops in Vietnam?
69. What was the impact of U.S. involvement in Vietnam on the American people?
70. Did U.S. policy in Vietnam "fail"?
71. How did Middle Eastern conflicts affect life in the United States?
72. What happened to the Russian "Evil Empire"?
73. Can the United States establish a "New World Order"?
74. Document-based Essay: The Vietnam War
75. Unit Test: Cold War and Vietnam

Unit 6: Life in the Contemporary United States (10 lessons)

76. How did the women's rights movement change the United States?
77. Why did Supreme Court decisions spark controversy?
78. What is life like for the United States' newest immigrants?
79. How has computer technology changed the way we live?
80. Can the United States become a more equal society?
81. What is the responsibility of government in an economically developed society?
82. Can nuclear weapons be eliminated?
83. Should the United States be the police force for the world?
84. What are the "BIG" Questions for the 21st Century?
85. Unit Test: Document-based Essay on life in the contemporary United States

Standardized Test Preparation (3 lessons)

86. Regents Review: examine essay format/practice essays
87. Regents Review: discuss short answer strategies/review prior exams
88. Regents Review: student study teams complete prior exams