

**Shenendehowa Central Schools**  
**Grade 7 and 8 Social Studies**  
**Curriculum Map with Essential Content and Competencies**

Social studies content in grades 7 and 8 focuses on a chronologically organized study of the United States and New York State history. Course content traces the human experience in the United States from pre-Columbian times to the present, and tying political, economic, and social trends in United States history to parallel trends and time frames in New York State history.

The grade 7-8 course builds on, and seeks to reinforce, skills, concepts, and content understandings introduced in the K-6 program. It is, therefore, a vital link in the overall goals of the K-12 social studies program, and provides a solid content base in American history, allowing the grade 11 course to do a greater justice to the study of the United States as a developing and fully developed industrial nation. By including hemispheric links to Canada and Mexico where appropriate, teachers will provide students a model for the global connections they will discover in the grades 9 and 10 social studies program.

Standards Key: 1. U.S. History 2. World History 3. Geography 4. Economics 5. Citizenship & Government

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**Grade 7**

**Quarter 1:**      **Unit 1: The Global Heritage of the American People Prior to 1500**  
                         **Unit 2: European Exploration and Colonization of the Americas**

<b>Unit / SubUnit</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Essential Content and Competencies</b>
1.1. History and Social Sciences: The Study of People	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social sciences</li> </ul>
1.2. Geographic Factors Influence Culture	2,3,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 5 Themes of Geography</li> <li>• Cultural development</li> </ul>
1.3. Iroquoian and Algonquian Culture on the Atlantic Coast of North America	1,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Components of culture</li> <li>• Human interaction</li> <li>• Iroquois Confederacy</li> </ul>
1.4. European Conceptions of the World in 1500	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Columbian exploration</li> <li>• European misconceptions</li> </ul>
2.1. European Exploration and Settlement	2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technological advances</li> <li>• Rise of maritime nations</li> <li>• New trade routes</li> <li>• Mercantilism</li> </ul>

**Quarter 2:**      **Unit 2: European Exploration and Colonization of the Americas**  
                         **Unit 3: A Nation Is Created**

<b>Unit/SubUnit</b>	<b>Standards</b>	<b>Essential Content and Competencies</b>
2.2. Colonial Settlement: Geographic, Political and Economic Factors	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political systems</li> <li>• Economic development</li> <li>• Mercantilism</li> <li>• Regional differences</li> </ul>
2.3. Life in Colonial Communities	1,2,3,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities, churches, and families</li> <li>• Importance of the individual</li> <li>• Geographic impact</li> <li>• Slavery</li> </ul>
3.1 Background Causes of the American Revolution	1,3,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic and Political Factors</li> <li>• Development of colonial identities</li> <li>• French and Indian War</li> </ul>
3.2 The Shift From Protest to Separation	1,2,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British policies</li> <li>• Wide variety of viewpoints</li> </ul>
3.3. Early Attempts to Govern the Newly Independent States	1,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political organizations and leaders</li> <li>• Declaration of Independence</li> </ul>
3.4. Military and Political Aspects of the Revolution	1,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major strategies and battles</li> <li>• Loyalists vs. Patriots</li> </ul>
3.5. Economic, Political, and Social Changes Brought About by the American Revolution	1,2,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independence</li> </ul>

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**Quarter 3:      Unit 4: Experiments in Government**  
**Unit 5: Life in the New Nation**

<b>Unit/SubUnit</b>	<b>Standards</b>	<b>Essential Content and Competencies</b>
4.1. The Articles of Confederation and the Critical Period	1,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confederacy (Strengths and Weaknesses)</li> </ul>
4.2 The New York State Constitution of 1777	1,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As model for US Constitution</li> </ul>
4.3. The Writing, Structure, and Adoption of the United States Constitution	1,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitutional Convention and compromise</li> <li>• Federalism</li> <li>• Separation of Powers</li> <li>• Checks and Balances</li> <li>• Living Document</li> <li>• Bill of Rights</li> </ul>
5.1. New Government in Operation	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precedents</li> <li>• Foreign and Domestic Challenges</li> <li>• Political Parties</li> <li>• Tariffs</li> <li>• War of 1812</li> <li>• Monroe Doctrine</li> <li>• Era of Good Feelings</li> </ul>
5.2. Age of Jackson	1,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age of “Common Man”</li> <li>• Spoils system</li> <li>• Native American Policies</li> <li>• Sectional differences</li> </ul>
5.3. Preindustrial Age: 1790-1860s.	1,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agrarianism</li> <li>• Technological advances</li> <li>• Expansion of Slavery</li> <li>• Social reform</li> <li>• Factory system and Urbanization</li> <li>• Sectionalism</li> </ul>

**Quarter 4      Unit 6: Division and Reunion**

<b>Unit/SubUnit</b>	<b>Standards</b>	<b>Essential Content and Competencies</b>
6.1. Underlying Causes of the War	1,2,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion</li> <li>• Failure of Compromise</li> <li>• Slavery</li> </ul>
6.2. The Civil War Break Out	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secession</li> <li>• Military and Political leadership</li> <li>• Readiness for war</li> <li>• Major strategies and battles</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Home front</li> </ul>
6.3. Results of the War	1,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation of Union</li> <li>• National supremacy</li> <li>• Abolition of Slavery</li> <li>• Destruction in South</li> <li>• Reconstruction plans and Amendments</li> <li>• Freedmen experience</li> <li>• Failures of reconstruction</li> </ul>

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**Grade 8**

**Quarter 1: Unit 7: An Industrial Society**

<b>Unit / Sub Unit</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Essential Content and Competencies</b>
7.1. The Maturing of an Industrial Society in the second half of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century	1,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrialization</li> <li>• Modernization</li> <li>• Urbanization</li> <li>• Mobilization</li> <li>• Mass Production</li> <li>• Mass Consumption</li> <li>• Reform</li> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Transportation</li> </ul>
7.2. Changes in Social Structure alter the American scene	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immigration</li> <li>• Mobilization</li> <li>• Citizenship</li> <li>• Cultural Diversity</li> <li>• Cultural Diffusion</li> <li>• Religious Beliefs</li> </ul>
7.3. The Progressive Movement, 1900- 1920: Efforts to Reform the New Society	1,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform</li> <li>• Progressives</li> <li>• Suffrage</li> <li>• Government Systems</li> </ul>

**Quarter 2: Unit 8: U.S. as an Independent Nation in an increasingly Interdependent World**

<b>Unit / Sub Unit</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Essential Content and Competencies</b>
8.1. The United States Expands its Territories and Builds an Overseas Empire	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manifest Destiny</li> <li>• Ethnocentrism</li> <li>• Nationalism</li> <li>• Imperialism</li> <li>• Scarcity</li> </ul>
8.2 The United States Begins to take a Role in Global Politics	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationalism</li> <li>• Isolationism</li> <li>• Scarcity</li> <li>• Interdependence</li> <li>• Decision Making</li> <li>• Factors of Production</li> </ul>

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**Quarter 3:       Unit 9: The United States Between the Wars  
                      Unit 10: The United States Assumes World Wide Responsibilities**

<b>Unit/ Sub Unit</b>	<b>Standards</b>	<b>Essential Content and Competencies</b>
9.1. The Roaring 20's Reflected the Spirit of the Post War Period	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass Consumption</li> <li>• Over Production</li> <li>• Factors of Production</li> <li>• Justice and Discrimination</li> <li>• Urbanization</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Class structure</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• Economic Aftermath of WWI</li> </ul>
9.2. The Great Depression	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scarcity</li> <li>• Government</li> <li>• Economic Systems</li> <li>• Interdependence</li> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• Nationalism</li> <li>• Environment</li> </ul>
10.1. World War II	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationalism</li> <li>• Scarcity</li> <li>• Interdependence</li> <li>• Decision Making</li> <li>• Human Rights (Holocaust)</li> <li>• Science and Technology</li> <li>• Factors of Production</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Effects of WWII on Environments and Societies</li> <li>• Political Systems</li> </ul>

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**Quarter 4:**      **Unit 10: The United States Assumes World Wide Responsibilities**  
                         **Unit 11: The Changing Nature of the American People from World War II**  
   **to the Present**

<b>Unit/ Sub Unit</b>	<b>Standards</b>	<b>Essential Content and Competencies</b>
10.2. The United States as Leader of the Free World	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Rights</li> <li>• Interdependence</li> <li>• Economic Systems</li> <li>• Political Systems</li> <li>• Decision Making</li> <li>• Nationalism</li> <li>• Geography</li> </ul>
10.3. The United States in the Post Cold War World	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interdependence</li> <li>• Global Economy</li> <li>• Political Systems</li> <li>• Geography</li> </ul>
11.1. Post War Society Characterized by Prosperity and Optimism	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic Values</li> <li>• Citizenship</li> <li>• Discrimination (Civil Rights)</li> <li>• Justice</li> <li>• Cultural Diversity</li> <li>• Cultural Diffusion</li> <li>• Environment</li> <li>• Reform</li> <li>• Science and Technology</li> <li>• Sub - Urbanization</li> </ul>
11.2. The United States Begins a New Century	1,2,3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science and Technology</li> <li>• Interdependence</li> <li>• Environment</li> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• Decision Making</li> <li>• Cultural Diffusion</li> <li>• Cultural Diversity</li> <li>• Role of Government</li> </ul>

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