

7th Grade United States Studies (1800 to Today) ²⁰¹⁶

Mr. Wood, Lake Harriet Community School

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What is United States Studies?

United States Studies is the integrated study of the culture, geography, government, economics, and history, of the United States. Students in the United States Studies course will also participate in History Day, working with primary and secondary sources to create projects that present and defend a thesis around the theme of "Taking a Stand in History."

Why Study History?

History helps us understand other people and other societies and history helps us understand ourselves. History helps us understand causation and change and how the society we live in came to be. The study of history contributes to moral understanding. History allows us to apply the relevant histories to the problems of today. The study of history helps to develop critical thinking skills. Studying history is essential for good citizenship. Citizens make important decisions. Good decisions are ones made with a critical consideration of the past and an analytic eye on the future.

Quarter One Unit 1: Introduction to History Day Unit 2: Constitution, Civics, and the 2016 Elections Unit 3: U.S. Geography, Expansion, and Change Q1 Homework Project: History Day Biography and Topic Pitch Presentation	Quarter Three Unit 8: Creating a History Day Project Unit 9: Imperialism, The Great War, and the Rise of Communism Unit 10: Boom, Crash, and the New Deal Q3 Homework Project: History Day Final Project
Quarter Two Unit 4: History Day Thesis and Primary Evidence Unit 5: Conflict, Civil War, and Reconstruction Unit 6: Industrialization, Immigration, Child Labor, and Reform Q2 Homework Project: Present History Day Thesis and Primary Evidence	Quarter Four Unit 11: The Movie Project Unit 12: World War II and Post War Culture Unit 13: Cold War, Space, and Vietnam Unit 14: Rights Movements to Today Q4 Homework Project: Group Movie Project

Skills - Students will develop their abilities to:

- read effectively and critically for information and to build understanding,
- think critically and to assess ideas with information and evidence,
- understand the differences between and use of primary sources and secondary sources,
- communicate clearly in a variety of styles, making appropriate use of vocabulary, justifying assertions with evidence, developing conclusions and decisions, and formulating persuasive recommendations,
- use maps and tables of data effectively, and
- work productively and collaboratively with others.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed through individual assignments, individual tests, individual essays, and through group and individual presentations and projects.

Homework:

- Make-up Work
- Home Study for Unit Tests
- One Homework Project Each Quarter

Late Work Policy

Ten percent (10%) from the earned grade will be deducted if a homework assignment is 1 day late. After that, late work will not be accepted. One extra day per absence will be given to complete homework if you are sick or away for a family emergency. NOTE: In very rare cases, exceptions to these guidelines can be made. Speak with Mr. Wood to discuss your situation.