

Year-Long U.S. History Curriculum Map: Cold War to Present

Overview

This curriculum map outlines a year-long course in U.S. History focused on the period from the Cold War to the present. The course aligns with Pennsylvania State Content Standards for Social Studies, specifically targeting high school students in grades 9-12. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking, analysis, and historical inquiry skills.

Units and Key Concepts

Unit 1: Introduction to the Cold War (4 weeks)

- **Key Concepts:** Origins of the Cold War, Ideological Conflict, Iron Curtain, Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan.
- **Standards:**
 - 8.4.12.A: Evaluate the role groups and individuals played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development throughout world history.
 - 8.1.12.B: Evaluate the significance of historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to United States history.
- **Skills:** Analyzing primary sources, understanding ideological differences, mapping geopolitical changes.

Unit 2: The Korean War and 1950s America (4 weeks)

- **Key Concepts:** Korean Conflict, McCarthyism, Domestic Policies, Cultural Shifts.
- **Standards:**
 - 8.3.12.B: Evaluate the impact of historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to United States history.
 - 8.3.12.D: Evaluate how conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations have influenced the growth and development of the United States.
- **Skills:** Evaluating the impact of war on domestic policies, analyzing cultural trends.

Unit 3: Civil Rights Movement (5 weeks)

- **Key Concepts:** Segregation, Civil Rights Legislation, Key Figures (e.g., Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X).
- **Standards:**
 - 8.3.12.C: Evaluate how continuity and change throughout United States history has impacted individual and group identity.
 - 8.1.12.C: Analyze the interaction of cultural, economic, geographic, political, and social relations.

- **Skills:** Analyzing speeches, understanding legislative impacts, evaluating historical progress.

Unit 4: The Vietnam War and 1960s America (4 weeks)

- **Key Concepts:** Vietnam Conflict, Anti-War Movement, Political and Social Change.
- **Standards:**
 - 8.3.12.A: Evaluate the role groups and individuals played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development of the United States.
 - 8.4.12.C: Evaluate how continuity and change have impacted world history.
- **Skills:** Debating war policies, analyzing protest movements, mapping geopolitical impacts.

Unit 5: The 1970s: A Time of Transition (4 weeks)

- **Key Concepts:** Watergate, Economic Challenges, Environmental Movement.
- **Standards:**
 - 8.3.12.D: Evaluate how conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations have influenced the growth and development of the United States.
 - 8.1.12.D: Synthesize historical research.
- **Skills:** Evaluating political scandals, analyzing economic trends, understanding environmental policies.

Unit 6: The End of the Cold War (4 weeks)

- **Key Concepts:** Reagan Administration, Fall of the Berlin Wall, Soviet Union Collapse.
- **Standards:**
 - 8.3.12.B: Evaluate the impact of historical documents, artifacts, and places critical to United States history.
 - 8.4.12.A: Evaluate the role groups and individuals played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development throughout world history.
- **Skills:** Analyzing speeches, understanding diplomatic strategies, evaluating global impacts.

Unit 7: The 1990s and the New Millennium (5 weeks)

- **Key Concepts:** Gulf War, Technological Advances, Globalization.
- **Standards:**
 - 8.4.12.D: Evaluate how conflict and cooperation among social groups and organizations affected world history.
 - 8.3.12.C: Evaluate how continuity and change throughout United States history has impacted individual and group identity.
- **Skills:** Researching technological impacts, analyzing global interactions, evaluating economic policies.

Unit 8: Contemporary America (6 weeks)

- **Key Concepts:** 9/11 and the War on Terror, Economic Crises, Social Changes.
- **Standards:**
 - 8.3.12.A: Evaluate the role groups and individuals played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development of the United States.
 - 8.1.12.C: Analyze the interaction of cultural, economic, geographic, political, and social relations.
- **Skills:** Evaluating policy responses, analyzing contemporary social issues, understanding economic recovery efforts.

Assessment Methods

- **Formative Assessments:** Quizzes, Primary Source Analyses, Class Discussions
- **Summative Assessments:** Unit Exams, Research Papers, Presentations
- **Project-Based Assessments:** Group Projects, Debates, Historical Simulations

Resources

- **Primary Sources:** Speeches, Letters, Government Documents
- **Secondary Sources:** Textbooks, Scholarly Articles, Documentaries
- **Technology:** Online Databases, Interactive Maps, Educational Videos

This curriculum map provides a comprehensive framework for teaching U.S. History from the Cold War to present, ensuring alignment with Pennsylvania State Content Standards while promoting critical thinking and historical analysis skills.