

Brunswick School Department
Social Studies
Grade 7 Revolutionary Era 1754-1783

Unit Overview

During this unit, students will be studying United States history from 1754-1783. Using primary and secondary sources, students will reflect the enduring themes, turning points, and major characters during this time period. Students will also study the democratic ideals that informed this period. The multiple effects of the geography of the colonies will be stressed.

Essential Understandings

- The geography and natural resources of the thirteen colonies shaped their culture.
- The colonists fought for democratic ideals in the form of independence and self-government

Priority Standards and Performance Indicators

(as based on the Maine Learning Results)

P.S. SS -1 Conduct and present original research that utilizes primary and secondary sources in order to analyze, interpret and explain historical (and/or) contemporary social studies topics.

- a. Locate relevant information that includes multiple perspectives from varied sources.
- b. Demonstrate facility with notetaking, organizing information, and creating bibliographies.
- c. Distinguish between primary and secondary sources.
- d. Use information ethically and legally.

P.S. SS-4 Utilize concepts and processes from geography to understand issues involving people, places, and environments in the United States and the world.

- d. Describe the dynamic relationship between geographic features and various cultures, including the cultures of Maine Native Americans, various historical groups in the United States, and other cultures in the world.

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P.S.SS-5 Draw on concepts and processes from history to develop historical perspective and understand issues of continuity and change in the community, Maine, the United States, and world.

- a. Explain that history is the study of the written record of the past, based on available evidence from a variety of sources.
- b. Trace and explain the history of democratic ideals and constitutional principles and their importance in the history of the United States and the world.
- c. Identify and analyze major historical eras, major enduring themes, turning points, events, consequences, and people in the history of Maine, the United States and various regions of the world.

Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments

- Debate: “Were the colonists justified in declaring independence from Britain?”
- Analyze and interpret primary sources, such the Declaration of Independence, political cartoons and the Olive Branch Petition
- Describe how geographic features of the Colonies impacted the relationship the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies
- Dramatic reenactment of the Boston “ Massacre”
- Compare and contrast the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War

Sample Texts and Materials/Resources

- Davidson, James West. America: History of Our Nation. New Jersey, published in 2007 by Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Hakim, Joy. A History of Us: From Colonies to Country 1710-1791. published in 1999 by Oxford University Press.
 - John Adams. 2008 by HBO Films.
- The Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History. “American Revolution, 1763-1783.” 2009-2014.
<<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/collections/groupings/american-revolution-1763-1783>>
- U.S. History: The American Revolution.
<<http://www.ushistory.org/us/11.asp>>
- The Declaration of Independence,
- The political cartoon “Join or Die,”
- The political cartoon “The Fatal Stamp