

# High School United States History Framework

## Overview

The high school United States History framework focuses on developing students' understanding of American History from the Progressive response to industrialization through the early 21st century. The framework builds on the grade 8 United States History experience and is designed to ensure that all students complete their study of United States History by examining the events, personalities, and ideas that defined life in the early 21st century. The “Bridge Unit from Middle School United States History: Growth of Industrial and Urban America” in the high school framework is the same as the final unit in the grade 8 United States History framework. The high school United States History framework is designed for instruction to begin at “Unit 1: Progressivism and Imperialism.”

In United States History, students interpret historical evidence, identify significant trends, and examine the major turning points that define the modern American experience. The study of United States History will enable students to understand the development and transition of the American economy from manufacturing to service based. Students will understand the multiple forces that drove the growth of a global power. In addition, students examine the foundational documents that provide continuity to the Democratic experience. Students will analyze the processes and mechanisms that increased the body politic and the impact of different cultures on the development of an American identity. By considering events from multiple perspectives, students will understand that women, African Americans, Native Americans, those with disabilities, those who identify as LGBTQ+, and other racial and religious minorities possess historical agency. Awareness of these perspectives assist student comprehension of the complicated nature of the American story. The story of American History is not one of inevitable progress but that of an ongoing struggle marked by improvement and regression as the nation moves toward the goal of perfecting the union.

## Maryland Social Studies Standards

To assist students in acquiring these understandings, the content of the framework is structured by the following six state social studies standards:

Standard	Description of Standard
<b>Standard 1.0 Civics</b>	Students shall inquire about the historical development of the fundamental concepts and processes of authority, power, and influence with particular emphasis on civic reasoning in order to become informed, responsible citizens, engage in the political process, and contribute to society.
<b>Standard 2.0 Peoples of the Nations and World</b>	Students shall inquire about the people of the United States and the world using a historically grounded, multidisciplinary approach in order to recognize multiple narratives and acknowledge the diversity and commonality of the human experience.
<b>Standard 3.0 Geography</b>	Students shall inquire about the role of culture, technology, and the environment in the location, distribution, and impact of human activities using geographic tools and spatial thinking in order to demonstrate a significance of place.
<b>Standard 4.0 Economics</b>	Students shall inquire about decisions made by individuals and groups using economic reasoning in order to understand the historical development and current status of economic principles, institutions, and processes needed to be effective citizens, consumers, and workers participating in local communities, the nation, and the world.
<b>Standard 5.0 History</b>	Students shall inquire about significant events, ideas, beliefs, and themes to identify patterns and trends and to analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time to make connections to the present in their communities, Maryland, the United States, and the world.
<b>Standard 6.0 Skills and Processes</b>	Students shall inquire about civics, geography, economics, history, and people and nations of the world using disciplinary literacy skills and processes to critically evaluate content through a variety of source materials across disciplines and use reading, writing, and other forms of communication to develop, defend, and critique arguments in order to take informed action.

Throughout the course, students should employ the social studies skills and processes delineated in the 6.0 Skills and Processes standard. Organizing these skills is the Inquiry Arc, which provides a structure to facilitate effective instruction in social studies.



## Using this document:

The organization of the framework is uniform throughout the entire document. On this page the key terms that are used are defined to support the use of the document.

### Sample Unit Template

**Unit Enduring Understanding:** An **enduring understanding** is the overarching, conceptual guideline for the unit. Enduring understandings explain why this unit is important and connect important concepts and processes to history and the world today.

**Unit Question:** A **unit question** connects the big ideas in the enduring understandings and essential questions to the period of study. Everything in the unit contributes to answering this question.

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
The <b>content topic</b> indicates the umbrella under which several common topics are organized for study.	<b>Essential questions</b> help students unpack the big ideas in the enduring understandings and social studies thinking skills. These are questions that can be asked and answered in different times and places.	<b>Indicator</b> statements assist teachers in determining how to link specific content to be studied to the essential question. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Objectives</b> provide teachers with detailed information regarding what specific learning should occur.</li></ul>

**Bridge Unit from Middle School United States History: Growth of Industrial and Urban America (1877-1890)**

**Unit Enduring Understanding:** Economic growth alters old means of production and replaces them with new ones.

**Unit Question:** How did economic change alter political and social relationships in the United States?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
Industrialization	Did the benefits of post-Civil War industrialization outweigh the costs?	<p>Students will analyze the causes and consequences of industrialization in the late 19th century United States by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluating how improved use of resources, new technology and inventions, and transportation networks influenced the growth of industrialization and urbanization.</li> <li>• Describing the impact of business leaders, laissez-faire capitalism, and the use of trusts/monopolies on the American economy.</li> <li>• Evaluating the impact of industrialization and laissez-faire policies on labor.</li> <li>• Identifying responses to post-Civil War immigration.</li> </ul>
Westward Movement	Did American Westward Expansion challenge and promote national unity?	<p>Students will analyze the causes and consequences of westward expansion by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describing the impact of geography and technology on the settlement of the west.</li> <li>• Evaluating Native Americans' responses to western migration.</li> <li>• Evaluating the impact of government actions on patterns of immigration.</li> <li>• Describing the impact of geographic expansion of rights for African Americans, Chinese immigrants, and the political and legal rights of women.</li> </ul>

## Unit 1: Progressivism and Imperialism (1890-1920)

**Unit Enduring Understanding:** Expansion and innovation challenge traditional social, political, and economic patterns.

**Unit Question:** How did the American people and government respond to the domestic and foreign challenges at the turn of the century?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
Social, Political, and Economic Reform	To what extent can individuals and groups change societies?	<p>Students will evaluate the effectiveness of the political, economic, and social reforms of the late 19th and early 20th centuries by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explaining the impact of labor unions and strikes on labor-management relations.</li> <li>● Assessing the effectiveness of the Populist Movement.</li> <li>● Evaluating the impact of Progressivism on regulation of trusts and the economy, political corruption, child labor, urbanization, and management of natural resources.</li> <li>● Describing the effectiveness of the NAACP's efforts to address African American inequality.</li> <li>● Evaluating the transformation of executive power to address domestic changes under the presidencies of Roosevelt and Wilson.</li> </ul>
Imperialism	Was American imperialistic growth consistent with democratic ideals?	<p>Students will evaluate the significance of the United States becoming an imperialist power by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evaluating the impact of racial, economic, political, and strategic motives for the United States becoming an imperialist power.</li> <li>● Analyzing the origins and the impacts of the Spanish American War.</li> <li>● Assessing the causes and consequences of American intervention/involvement in Latin America, Hawaii, the Philippines, China, and Japan.</li> </ul>

## Unit 2: World War One, Prosperity and Depression, World War Two (1915-1945)

**Unit Enduring Understanding:** Prosperity and conflict challenge accepted principles and practices.

**Unit Question:** How did progress and setbacks in foreign and domestic affairs shape the development of the modern United States, its people, and its role on the international stage?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
<p>The Great War at Home and Abroad</p>	<p>How did involvement in a global conflict change America?</p>	<p>Students will assess how World War One promoted continuity and change in American foreign and domestic policy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyzing the impact of German aggression on the high seas, the Zimmerman Note on American neutrality, and entry into World War One.</li> <li>• Evaluating the motivations and impacts of the restrictions on civil liberties during World War One.</li> <li>• Determining the impact of African American migration and government mobilization programs on American preparation for World War One.</li> <li>• Examining the impact of World War One on the passage of the 18th and 19th Amendments.</li> <li>• Assessing the influence of the American military on the outcome of World War One.</li> <li>• Examining how the arguments for and against the Treaty of Versailles reflected the continuous debate over the appropriate level of American involvement in foreign affairs.</li> <li>• Assessing the impact of post war demobilization on racial tension and the Red Scare.</li> </ul>

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
The 1920s	Did the 1920s preserve the past or invent the future?	<p>Students will analyze shifting cultural norms associated with rapid economic growth by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explaining how economic policy supported innovations in science and industry and transformed production and consumption.</li> <li>• Evaluating the progress and setbacks of the changing social and economic role of women.</li> <li>• Assessing the impact of the Harlem Renaissance, the Great Migration, and Garveyism on the African American freedom movement.</li> <li>• Analyzing how communities of color and immigrants resisted discrimination and racist policies through the formation of the League of United Latin American Citizens, decisions in <i>Ozawa v. U.S. (1922)</i>, <i>Thind v. U.S.(1923)</i>, and passage of the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act.</li> <li>• Assessing how the Immigration Act of 1924, the Ku Klux Klan, Tulsa Race Riot, Alien Land Laws, and Eugenics perpetuated racism and discrimination against racial, ethnic, and religious minorities, those with disabilities, and LGBTQ+.</li> <li>• Evaluating the effectiveness of Prohibition.</li> <li>• Assessing the tension between fundamentalism and changing social values.</li> </ul>
The Great Depression and New Deal	Was the New Deal a good deal for all Americans?	<p>Students will evaluate the impact of the Great Depression on the nation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the causes of the crash of 1929 and the Great Depression.</li> <li>• Analyzing the impact of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl on farmers, businesses, workers, Mexican immigrants, and other racial and ethnic minorities.</li> <li>• Measuring the effect of New Deal programs on the national economy, labor unions, federalism, laissez-faire economics, the development of the social safety net, and their uneven impact on racial and ethnic minorities.</li> <li>• Evaluating the short term and long-term legacy of the New Deal.</li> </ul>

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
World War Two	What is the role of the United States in world affairs in times of crisis?	<p>Students will assess the progression of the United States' involvement in world affairs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Examining how the rise of fascism and totalitarianism, as well as European and Japanese Imperialism, and appeasement led to World War Two.</li> <li>● Evaluating how the Neutrality Acts, the Lend-Lease Act, and the attack on Pearl Harbor impacted American neutrality.</li> <li>● Analyzing the origins of the Holocaust and the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped the American response.</li> <li>● Describing the strategies and turning points that shaped World War Two's outcomes and experiences.</li> <li>● Understanding the factors that influenced the decision to employ nuclear weapons against Japan.</li> <li>● Assessing the role of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and World Bank in accelerating global integration and promoting peace and stability.</li> </ul>
America's Home Front During World War Two	How did World War Two impact life at home?	<p>Students will evaluate domestic changes caused by World War Two by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Determining the impact of accelerated African American migration, the Bracero Program, and government policies that facilitated mobilization in preparation for World War Two.</li> <li>● Evaluating Supreme Court and executive decisions to limit civil liberties and to relocate American citizens to internment camps.</li> <li>● Analyzing the social and economic consequences of the war on women, African Americans, Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans.</li> </ul>



### Unit 3: Affluence, Cold War, and Social Revolutions (1945-1974)

**Unit Enduring Understanding:** The interplay between foreign and domestic issues influences choices made by government and citizens.

**Unit Question:** How did foreign and domestic concerns influence American government and society in the post-World War Two era?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
<p><b>Post-War Economics</b></p>	<p><b>To what extent did post-war economic growth distribute benefits equitably?</b></p>	<p><b>Students will analyze the factors that impacted the postwar economy by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring how the intensification of corporate farming, the GI Bill, consumer culture, and suburbanization contributed to postwar economic growth.</li> <li>• Analyzing how government-sponsored segregation in housing, redlining, and blockbusting contributed to unequal access to post-war prosperity.</li> <li>• Describing the impact of the Arms and Space Race, growth of the military industrial complex on postwar economic growth and the rise of the sunbelt.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Cold War</b></p>	<p><b>Did global concern, self-interest, or hysteria drive U.S. Cold War foreign and domestic policy?</b></p>	<p><b>Students will analyze the causes and consequences of the Cold War by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluating the political, economic, diplomatic, and ideological causes of US-Soviet conflicts.</li> <li>• Analyzing the role of alliances, military intervention, and covert action to implement containment in Europe, Asia, and Latin America.</li> <li>• Describing the causes, course, and consequences of the Korean War.</li> <li>• Examining the repercussions of the early Cold War on domestic politics.</li> <li>• Examining the effectiveness of the Interstate Highway Defense System and nuclear drills on preparedness for nuclear conflict.</li> <li>• Investigating the cause, course, and consequences of American relations with Communist Cuba.</li> </ul>

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
<p><b>Freedom Movements</b></p>	<p><b>Were the freedom movements successful in achieving equality for Americans?</b></p>	<p><b>Students will analyze how individuals and groups mobilized against inequalities in American society by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assessing the short term and long-term impacts of the decisions in <i>Mendez v. Westminster</i> (1947) and <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> (1954) in expanding educational opportunities.</li> <li>● Evaluating the tools, methods, and leadership utilized by the African American Civil Rights Movement to challenge unequal access to economic opportunity, public accommodations, and political participation.</li> <li>● Evaluating the impact of federal legislation, Supreme Court decisions, Constitutional Amendments, and executive orders on addressing unequal access to economic opportunity, public accommodations, and political participation.</li> <li>● Analyzing the effectiveness of the tools, methods, and leadership of the Black Power Movement.</li> <li>● Investigating the impact of Great Society legislation on poverty, the expansion of the New Deal, and immigration.</li> <li>● Understanding the significance of the Supreme Court decisions in <i>Engle v. Vitale</i> (1962), <i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> (1963), <i>Loving v. Virginia</i> (1967), and <i>Roe v. Wade</i> (1973).</li> <li>● Explaining the origins and consequences of the post-war movement for gender equality.</li> <li>● Assessing the success of the efforts of Latinx and American Indians to secure civil rights.</li> <li>● Examining the short- and long-term origins and impacts of the Gay Liberation Movement.</li> <li>● Examining the methods used by state and local governments to resist social justice reforms.</li> </ul>

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
<p>Vietnam</p>	<p>How significantly was the United States transformed by the Vietnam War?</p>	<p>Students will analyze the United States' involvement in Vietnam from 1954 to 1973 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Analyzing the evolution, strategies, and turning points of the United States' involvement in Vietnam.</li> <li>● Evaluating the origins, arguments, methods, and impacts of the anti-war movement.</li> <li>● Examining the causes and consequences of the constitutional crisis that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon.</li> <li>● Assessing the factors that contributed to American defeat in Vietnam.</li> <li>● Analyzing how Vietnam and Watergate reduced American faith in government and the military and led to significant political, constitutional, and legislative reforms.</li> </ul>

### Unit 4: Economic, Political, and Social Reorganization (1974-1992)

**Unit Enduring Understanding:** The United States’ political, social, and economic identity was reshaped by transformations in foreign and domestic affairs.

**Unit Question:** How did perceptions regarding the limits of American power lead to social, political, and economic restructuring?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
Deindustrialization	How significantly did the 1970s redefine the American economy?	<p>Students will analyze the consequences of economic shifts by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describing the impact of stagflation, deficit spending, and the energy crisis on the American economy.</li> <li>• Assessing the causes and impacts of deindustrialization, urban decline, and migration to the Sunbelt.</li> <li>• Evaluating the origins and governmental responses to environmental issues.</li> <li>• Evaluating the factors that led to a decrease in public confidence and trust in government’s ability to solve social and economic problems.</li> </ul>
Expansion of the Rights Revolution	How effective is the federal government in promoting equitable opportunities for all?	<p>Students will evaluate the progress made toward equality by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyzing how the post 1965 shifts in immigration patterns affected public policy.</li> <li>• Assessing the evolution of Supreme Court opinions on Affirmative Action policies in higher education, public school placement, and government hiring.</li> <li>• Understanding how <i>Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education</i> (1971), and <i>Milliken v. Bradley</i> (1974) affected the implementation of school integration.</li> <li>• Evaluating the motivations and strategies leaders used to achieve the extension of rights to those with disabilities, and the impact of the 1968 Architectural Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and 1975 Education for All Handicapped Children Act.</li> </ul>

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
<p><b>Shifting International Relationships</b></p>	<p><b>To what extent did the Cold War drive American Foreign Policy Actions?</b></p>	<p><b>Students will analyze how the United States prioritized key foreign policy goals during the Cold War by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assessing the role of covert action, military aid, and diplomacy in US-Latin American relations.</li> <li>● Explaining the influence of detente, arms reduction, espionage, and changing relations with China on Cold War tensions.</li> <li>● Analyzing how energy dependence, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the Iranian Revolution impacted United States foreign policy.</li> <li>● Evaluating the causes and consequences of the American response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Reagan Revolution</b></p>	<p><b>How did the rise of Conservatism and the New Right influence the American approach to domestic policy?</b></p>	<p><b>Students will analyze how the rise of conservatism influenced domestic policy by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evaluating how tax revolts, opposition to abortion and feminism, and the influence of religious leaders contributed to the rise of the New Right.</li> <li>● Measuring the influence of supply side economic policy on the national economy, deficit spending, federalism, economic inequality, labor unions, and public perceptions of the role of government.</li> <li>● Analyzing the origins and impact of the “War on Drugs” on policing and mass incarceration.</li> <li>● Evaluating the short and long-term impacts of the passage of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The End of the Cold War</b></p>	<p><b>To what extent did the end of the Cold War transform America’s role in the world?</b></p>	<p><b>Students will evaluate how the end of the Cold War altered the course of American foreign policy by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evaluating the relationship among American intervention in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala on the Iran-Contra Investigation.</li> <li>● Assessing how American diplomacy, treaties, and leadership contributed to the end of the Cold War.</li> <li>● Explaining the causes and consequences of the American response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.</li> </ul>

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Determining how the end of the Cold War changed the goals, frequency, and purpose of American foreign policy interventions.</li></ul>

## Unit 5: Globalization, Terrorism, and Political Polarization (1992–present)

**Unit Enduring Understanding:** Globalization, political polarization, and terrorism challenged the Cold War models of foreign and domestic policy.

**Unit Question:** How did shifts in domestic politics, international trade, communication, and security transform America?

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
Globalization	Is globalization good for the United States?	<p><b>Students will evaluate economic changes associated with globalization by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evaluating the impact of free trade agreements, deregulation of financial markets, and the computer revolution in the economic surge of the 1990s.</li> <li>● Assessing how income disparities, wage stagnation, outsourcing, robotic automation, and the rise of a service-based economy impact American workers.</li> <li>● Analyzing how advancements in communication technologies and the Internet transformed America’s economy, social behavior, and political behavior.</li> </ul>
Political Polarization	How do conflicting perspectives lead to polarization and alter the debates over public policy?	<p><b>Students will analyze how political polarization altered the debates over public policy by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assessing how the rise of alternative media, religious diversity, demographic changes, residential homogeneity, the increasing role of money in politics, and gerrymandering increased political polarization in the United States.</li> <li>● Examining American policy on global climate change.</li> <li>● Evaluating the progress of historically marginalized groups including women, African Americans, Muslim Americans, and immigrants.</li> <li>● Assessing the significant turning points and leaders in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights from the 1970s through the decision in <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i> (2015) and beyond.</li> </ul>

Content Topic	Essential Question	Indicator and Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Examining the impact of the attack at Columbine High School and the decision in <i>District of Columbia v. Heller</i> (2008) on the ongoing debate over the 2nd Amendment.</li> <li>● Assessing the impact of the Supreme Court decisions on balancing the level of government intervention: abortion - <i>Planned Parenthood v. Casey</i> (1992), federalism - <i>U.S. v. Lopez</i> (1995), and political speech - <i>Citizens United v. FEC</i> (2010).</li> <li>● Evaluating the impact of increasing political polarization on the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, the impeachment and trial of President Bill Clinton, and the 2000 presidential election.</li> <li>● Tracing efforts to develop a comprehensive immigration policy from the administrations of President Reagan, President George W. Bush, President Obama, and President Trump.</li> <li>● Assessing the domestic and foreign policy effectiveness of the War on Drugs and its impact on debates over legalization, decriminalization, and prison reform.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Domestic and Foreign Terrorism</b></p>	<p><b>How effective has the response of the United States been to Domestic and Foreign Terrorism?</b></p>	<p><b>Students will evaluate the political, social, and economic impacts of domestic and foreign terrorism on the United States by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identifying the motivations for, and assessing the federal response to, instances of domestic terrorism.</li> <li>● Tracing the origins, motivations, and instances of non-state aligned terrorism directed at the United States.</li> <li>● Evaluating how governmental reactions to attacks of September 11, 2001 challenged the balance between safety and freedom.</li> <li>● Evaluating the causes, course, and consequences of the War on Terror in Afghanistan and Iraq.</li> <li>● Critiquing how cyberwarfare has influenced American foreign policy, elections, and commerce.</li> </ul>