

# AP/ECE United States History

## Grades 10 & 11

### Unit One: New World and Colonial America

#### Essential Question:

- How did English America develop from 1500 – 1733?
- How does the environment impact the way we live?
- What causes people to change how they live?
- What shapes American identity?

#### Objectives:

- Explore the European factors that led to an age of exploration and settlement of a new world.
- Differentiate between the purpose and function of various colonial settlements
- Recognize the diversities of Native American cultures.
- Understand the nature and variety of interchanges that occurred within the Atlantic World.
- Discuss the adaptation of British colonial policy to the American colonies.
- Describe social and economic structure of colonial society.

#### Themes Addressed:

- American Identity
- Globalization
- Religion

### Unit Two: Revolution and the Birth of a Nation

#### Essential Question:

- How and when did colonial society become to consider itself “American”?
- When is it time to create a new country and government?
- Why did the colonists rise up in rebellion against Great Britain when they for the most part enjoyed a life far better than they experienced in Great Britain?
- What forces shaped a uniquely American identity?
- What responsibility does government have to safeguard for people?

#### Objectives:

- Describe the social and economic structure of colonial society.
- Analyze the concept of work as applied to various groups in colonial America (i.e. indentured servants, slaves, women, men, etc.)
- Assess the various ideas, issues, and incidents on the road to revolution from British and American perspectives.
- Describe the conduct of the Revolutionary War in terms of diversity of the participants.

- Explain how the Revolutionary War was more than a war for independence but a revolution that established a new society based upon the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

**Themes Addressed:**

- War and Diplomacy
- Religion
- Politics and Citizenship
- American Identity

**Unit Three: Building a New Nation (1776 – 1860)**

**Essential Question:**

- What were the challenges facing the new nation?
- What responsibility does government have to the people?
- What shaped the American identity?

**Objectives:**

- Explain why the Articles of Confederation were abandoned and replaced with a federal Constitution that established a powerful central government.
- Describe the conflicts between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists and the development of political parties.
- Trace the role of the Federalists in implementing the Constitution.
- Explain the short-term and long-term effects of the Election of 1800.
- Describe Jeffersonian philosophy in theory and practice; identify the causes, internal conflicts and the results of the War of 1812.
- Assess the elements that led to the creation of an American identity in terms of national outlook, economic development, and an emerging American culture.
- Critique the development of an expanding democracy and the politics of the common man during the Age of Jackson.
- Recognize the growing debate on states' rights issues.

**Themes Addressed:**

- American Diversity
- Culture
- War and Diplomacy
- Demographic Changes
- Politics and Citizenship

**Unit Four: Testing the New Nation 1820 – 1877**  
**Road the Civil War and Reconstruction**

**Essential Questions:**

- What unites and divides people?
- Can this conflict be resolved?
- Why do we fight wars?
- Who is the enemy in a conflict? What makes him/her/ them the enemy?

- How does the conflict impact the participants?
- What are the costs of war? Was it worth the sacrifice?
- To what extent was Reconstruction successful?

**Objectives:**

- Identify the unique sectional issues that shaped American society during the period.
- Describe the nature of slavery and its political, economic and social impact on the United States
- Describe the relationship of territorial expansion to the sectional crisis.
- Assess the impact of Manifest Destiny on territorial expansion.
- Trace the events in the 1850's that led to the Civil War.
- Assess the inevitability of the secession crisis.
- Describe the conduct of the Civil War in terms of objectives, strategies and outcomes.
- Analyze the long term affects of the Civil War on society.
- Assess the role of Reconstruction in transforming the nation yet leaving questions unresolved.

**Themes Addressed:**

- Slavery and its Legacies
- War and Diplomacy
- Culture
- American Identity
- Reform
- American Diversity
- Economic Transformations

**Unit Five: Forging an Industry Society (1869 – 1909)**  
**Gilded Age, Urbanization and Manifest Destiny**

**Essential Questions:**

- What causes people to change how they live?
- How does one person create change?
- What shapes American identity?
- What impacts economic decisions?
- What is the American dream? Who has access to it?

**Objectives:**

- Trace the development and impact of industrialism on American society.
- Evaluate the impact of The Closing of the Frontier on American Society and Native American Policy
- Analyze the conditions that characterized the “Jim Crow” era in the South and evaluate the differing responses to this legalized segregation.
- Evaluate the impact of changes in the economy on farmers, industrialists, and industrial workers.

- Discuss the appropriateness of the label “Gilded Age” in terms of political, economic, social and cultural realities.
- Evaluate the rise of labor unions and the public’s response to labor unions.

**Themes Addressed:**

- Economic Transformations
- Culture
- Slavery and its Legacies
- Reform
- Politics and Citizenship
- American Diversity

**Unit Six: Struggling for Justice at Home and Abroad (1901 – 1945)**  
**US Becomes A World Power and Progressivism**

**Essential Questions:**

- What causes people to change how they live?
- How does one person create change?
- What shapes American identity?
- What impacts economic decisions?
- What is the American dream? Who has access to it?
- What were the forces that helped create an American that emerges as a major world power?

**Objectives:**

- Assess the short-term and long-range effects of The Progressive Movement;
- Analyze why economic expansion led to political entanglements abroad;
- Discuss the debates regarding American idealism and the United States expansionism
- Assess the American entry and role in World War I;
- Recognize the immediate and long-term ramifications of the peace making which concluded World War I;

**Themes Addressed:**

- Reform
- American Identity
- Globalization
- Culture
- War and Diplomacy

**Unit Seven: Struggling for Justice at Home and Abroad (1901 – 1945)**  
**Roaring 20s, Depression and World War II**

**Essential Questions:**

- What shapes American identity?

- What is the American dream? Who has access to it?

**Objectives:**

- Reconcile the tensions between new and changing attitudes and traditional values and the nostalgia in the 1920s;
- Examine the causes and extent of the Great Depression;
- Analyze the effectiveness of the New Deal programs;
- Describe the conduct of the World War II in term of objectives, strategies and outcomes;
- Assess the effects of the wartime mentality on the home front.

**Themes Addressed:**

- Reform
- American Identity
- Culture
- War and Diplomacy
- Economic Transformations

**Unit Eight: Making of Modern America (1945 - Present)**  
**The Cold War, Eisenhower, and Modern America**

**Essential Questions:**

- What shapes American identity?
- What is the American dream? Who has access to it?

**Objectives:**

- Examine the origins of the Cold War;
- Discuss the impact of the Cold War mentality at home and abroad;
- Evaluate the causes and effects of the Korean conflict;
- Discuss the impact of affluence and conformity in shaping the society of the 1950s;
- Examine the nature, development and scope of the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s;
- Analyze the image and impact of the programs of the New Frontier and the Great Society.
- Evaluate the effects of the United States participation in the Vietnam both at home and abroad.
- Critique the effect of the evolution of social changes in American society in the post-sixties period;
- Evaluate the role of conservative thought in response to decades of change;
- Formulate a perspective on the responsibilities of the United States in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Themes Addressed:**

- Culture
- American Diversity
- American Culture
- Globalization

- Environment
- Economic Transformations
- War and Diplomacy