

Classical Magnet School American History- 8th Grade Course Overview

	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May/June
Unit Title	Collision of Cultures	Thirteen Colonies		The American Revolution		African Americans and Slavery	Moving West/Era of Reform	Civil War	Reconstruction
Essential Questions	What is civilization?	What is culture? How do different societies impact each other?		How do people form a government?		What are freedom and liberty?	How does geography determine the economic life of a place?	Does war protect or threaten freedom?	What does it mean to be an American?
Guided Questions	Why do people travel to a new place?	What makes a colony successful or unsuccessful?		Is it ever justified to rebel against your government?		How does gaining freedom change your life?	Who owns the land and who determines ownership of land?		What are the benefits and challenges of living in a diverse society?
Major Skills/Themes									
History Alive Chapter	1) The Native American and 2) European Exploration and Settlement	3) The English Colonies in America and 4) Life in the Colonies		5) Toward independence 6) The Declaration of Independence and 7) The American Revolution 8) Constitution & Bill of Rights		20) African Americans in Mid-Century	16) Life in the West 18) An Era of Reform	19) The Worlds of North and South 20) African Americans at Mid Century, 21) a Dividing Nation 22) The Civil War	23) The Reconstruction Era
Creating America Chapters	1) The World in 1500 and 2) European Exploration of the Americas	3) The English Establish 13 Colonies, 4) The Colonies develop and 5) Beginnings of American Identity		6) The Road to Revolution and 7) The American Revolution		11) National and Regional Growth 14) Abolitionism and Women's Rights	10) The Jefferson Era 13) Manifest Destiny	15) The Nation Breaking Apart 16) The Civil War Begins 17) The Tide of War Turns	18) Reconstruction
Connections to Literature	<i>Copper Sun</i>	<i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i>		<i>My Brother Sam is Dead</i>		<i>Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass</i>		<i>Across Five Aprils</i>	
Seminar Texts/Paideia	Classical Mission Statement	Columbus Diary		George Washington's Inauguration Speech		Nigger "4 of July" Frederick Douglass	Political Cartoons Jackson's Indian	The Gettysburg Address	The birth of Jim Crow

					Removal "Ain't I a Women?" Sojourner Truth		
Extra Credit/Coached projects/Field Trips	Extra Credit: Hispanic Heritage Month Project: Map Illustration of Triangular Trade Routes <i>Copper Sun</i> Novel Project Harriet Beecher Stowe Center & Mark Twain House	Native American History Month Calendar <i>The Witch of Blackbird Pond</i> Novel Project Pequot Museum History Day	History Day Project <i>My Brother Sam is Dead</i> Novel Project The Bill of Rights Pamphlet	The Underground Railroad Follow the Drinking Gourd Re- enactment Black History Month Calendar <i>Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglas</i> Novel Project	Women's History Month Calendar	<i>Across Five Aprils</i> Novel Project	