

8th Grade U.S. History to 1877
PISD Curriculum: Year at a Glance

Bundle	Title Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings	Guiding Questions
1	<p><i>Colonization</i> Interaction among different groups of people, ideas about religion and representative government, and physical geography played major roles in shaping the political, social, cultural and economic development of the colonies and colonists.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did religion push different groups of people into leaving Europe for North America? ▪ How did religion influence the growth and development of different colonies in North America? ▪ How did physical geography shape the political, social, cultural, and economic development of individual colonies? ▪ How did the American Indians and the Europeans change each other? ▪ How and why did individuals and groups take important steps towards representative government during colonization?
2	<p><i>Colonization: Colonial Life and Road to the Revolution</i> The colonies developed independently and interdependently with each other and Great Britain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did the physical geography lead to economic differences among the colonies? What else contributed to different economic development? ▪ Why and how was representative government able to begin during colonial times? ▪ Why is freedom of speech and press essential to a democracy? ▪ How did the mother country's economic and political policies impact her colonies?
3	<p><i>American Revolution</i> Significant events of the American Revolution did not occur in isolation: They were influenced by events that came before and they influenced events which came after.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did individuals impact the course of the American Revolution? ▪ When should we put the needs of the community above our own needs? ▪ What were the causes and effects of significant events of the American Revolution? ▪ How did artists and writers during Revolutionary times express contemporary events in their art and writing?
4	<p><i>Articles of Confederation and Constitutional Convention</i> Many documents and institutions in England and the colonies greatly influenced the ideas and structure of the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did a tradition of representative government develop over time? ▪ Why did the writers develop a weak central government for the Articles of Confederation? ▪ How did different American beliefs and principles influence the writing of the U.S. Constitution?
5	<p><i>U.S. Government</i> The U.S. Constitution gives the government enough power to be effective and a structure which keeps any part of the government from becoming too powerful. A democracy depends on its citizens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How does the U.S. government balance its powers and responsibilities? ▪ What does the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, guarantee its citizens? ▪ How are individual rights essential to a democracy? ▪ What is the purpose of government?

8th Grade U.S. History to 1877
PISD Curriculum: Year at a Glance

Bundle	<i>Title</i> Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings	Guiding Questions
	understanding and respecting their individual rights and responsibilities.	
6	<i>A New Republic</i> Influential individuals' beliefs and actions greatly influenced how the new government worked in terms of policy and practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did individuals' ideas and actions influence the practice and precedent of the new nation? ▪ How did early interpretations of the U.S. Constitution impact the nation? ▪ How did the free enterprise system develop in the new United States?
7	<i>Jefferson to Monroe</i> Thomas Jefferson, the War of 1812, the Louisiana Purchase, Industrialization, and interpretations of the U.S. Constitution significantly shaped the new nation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the legacy of Jefferson and Jeffersonian Democracy in American history? ▪ How did the War of 1812 define the United States of America? ▪ What were the economic, social, political, geographic, and cultural effects of the Louisiana Purchase? ▪ How did early interpretations of the U.S. Constitution impact the new nation? (Continuation from Bundle #6) ▪ What are causes and effects of industrialization?
8	<i>Jacksonian Democracy and Westward Expansion</i> Manifest Destiny expanded opportunities for the United States and some groups of people but negatively impacted other people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did Manifest Destiny affect the United States as well as different groups of people within and around the United States? ▪ How did Andrew Jackson and his presidency change the course of American democracy? ▪ How did geographic, social, cultural, political, and economic differences among regions of the United States lead to increased conflict?
9	<i>Immigration, Reform, American Culture, and Causes of the Civil War</i> Individuals' and groups' efforts can effect significant political and cultural change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did individuals and groups of people increase rights for citizens and non-citizens, contribute to our national identity, and work to reform American society? ▪ How and why did individuals and regions express their disagreements with the federal government?
10	<i>Civil War</i> The Civil War and its effects was a defining period of U.S. history.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did political and military leaders influence the course of the Civil War? ▪ Was Lincoln the most influential leader in United States history? ▪ Which post-Civil War amendment did the most to broaden rights for people in the United States?
11	<i>TAKS Review/ Culture of the Civil War</i> Understanding U.S. history is important to being a good citizen and to understanding who we are as a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Which parts of your learning this year are most important to know for the TAKS test? ▪ Why did the writers of the TEKS for Texas think this specific information was the most important to know and understand?

8th Grade U.S. History to 1877
PISD Curriculum: Year at a Glance

Bundle	<i>Title</i> Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings	Guiding Questions
	nation today. The Civil War experience was complex, sometimes in surprising ways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did different groups of people; such as women, prisoners of war, slaves, American Indians, African-American Union soldiers; experience the Civil War?
12	<i>Reconstruction</i> Reconstructions had both superficial and enduring effects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How was the promise for racial equality advanced during Reconstruction? ▪ What and how successful was the process for becoming a unified country again? ▪ How was the South the same and different before and after Reconstruction?