

**Course Title:** Grade 8 American History

**Board Approval Date:** June, 2010

**Course Description:**

This course focuses on mastery of the PA Academic Standards for Historical Analysis and Skills Development, U.S. History, PA History, and Civics and Government and Economics as applicable. Course content will focus on American History from 1787, the founding of a new nation, to the rise of industrial growth and the Progressive era. Elements of Pennsylvania History will be focused on as they either reflect or are focal points of the national course of study. Planned units of study are listed in the 8th grade handbook. The text will serve as a primary resource. Other readings and resources will be provided throughout the year.

**Learning Activities / Modes of Assessment:**

Large group instruction  
Small group work  
Projects with Rubrics  
Analyzing primary sources  
Identifying cause and effect relationships  
Exploration of multiple perspectives related to a historic event  
Research  
Historical inquiry-thesis development and support  
Discussion of current events/issues and connections to history  
Evaluating historical fiction works as a source of historical information  
Tests and Quizzes  
Type One Writing responses (formative assessment)  
Type Two Writing responses (summative assessment)

**Instructional Resources:**

*The American Nation* (Prentice Hall 2003)  
*Pennsylvania Pride* (Penns Valley Publishers, 2004)  
Selections from the LASD Approved Reading List  
Appropriate Internet Resources

## Course Pacing Guide

Course: Grade 8 American History

Course Unit (Topic)	Length of Instruction
1. Unit 1: Foundations of Government	24 Days
2. Unit 2: Presidents and the Growth of a New Nation 1787-1845	26 Days
3. Unit 3: Industrial Growth and Sectional Interests	10 Days
4. Unit 4: Manifest Destiny	16 Days
5. Unit 5: Antebellum Reforms	6 Days
6. Unit 6: A Divided Nation	24 Days
7. Unit 7: Reconstruction	10 Days
8. Unit 8: The New West	8 Days
9. Unit 9: Industrialization-The Gilded Age and Progressive Era	22 Days