Unit 5: 21st Century Issues

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **December**
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Status: **Published**

Transfer

America in the 21st Century faces both challenges and opportunities. Changes in the economy have tied the country more closely to the rest of the world., bringing economic growth as well as competition. Technology accelerates these changes as innovations in computers, media, and the Internet impact every facet of American life. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, inaugurated a new era of domestic and foreign policy, raising questions about security and civil rights.

Enduring Understandings

- The attacks of September 11 dramatically altered the way Americans looked at life.
- By seeking weapons of mass destruction terrorist and rogue nations pose a grave and growing danger.
- America's immigration system faces a struggle to meet the needs of the economy and the values of the country.
- As the 21st century begins, Americans find themselves grappling with new forms of violent crimes.
- From the earliest days of the nation, American leaders have stressed the importance of education.
- Many observers credit computer technology with driving the nation's astonishing economic growth during the 1990s.
- Health care is too important for any modern society to permit many citizens to go without it.
- Many Americans who live in poverty are employed.
- Women are still making less than their male counterparts.
- As the 21st century begins, the nation faces the challenge of balancing energy needs with environmental concerns.
- American often comes to the aid of different countries in times of humanitarian crisis in third world countries at times with the assistance of the UN.

Essential Questions

- How can the United States combat terrorism?
- How should the United States deal with dangerous dictators?
- Should new laws restrict or expand immigration?
- Will tougher gun control laws reduce the incidence of crime?
- How can a country guarantee equal education for all?
- Can information on the Internet be both reliable and accessible?
- How should medical coverage for the uninsured be funded?
- Who has the responsibility for helping the poor?
- How can Social Security be reformed so that it will have enough money to pay retirees?
- Will the American workplace grant men and women equal opportunities?

- Can the nation balance conservation with economic progress?

Content

Learning Objectives

1. Identify and examine the tactics used in and the motives behind terrorist attacks.
2. Describe the measures the United States has taken to combat terrorism.Describe the circumstances that led to the launching of Operation Iraqi
3. Describe the circumstances that led to the launching of Operation Iraqi Freedom
4. Analyze the legal, economic, and moral aspects of immigration.
5. Describe the arguments for and against restricting immigration.
6. Identify trends in crime rates and crime-prevention strategies.
7. Describe the controversy involving gun control and criminal sentences.
8. Explain the significance of computers and technology in American life.
9. Describe the development of government health programs and analyze the challenges facing Medicare 16. Explain the legislative challenges involved in insuring more Americans and protecting patients' rights.
10. Analyze the challenges facing the welfare reform program.
11. Describe the financial and demographic challenges that Social Security is facing and analyze the options being considered to reform Social Security.
12. Explain the obstacles to equality that women face in the workplace and describe the progress women have made on workplace issues.
13. Analyze current laws involving individual rights and national security.

21st Century Skills

1. Creativity
2. Collaboration
3. Critical Thinking
4. Communication
5. Information and Media Literacy

Standards

SOC.6.1.12.A.14.c	Assess the merit and effectiveness of recent legislation in addressing the health, welfare, and citizenship status of individuals and groups.

SOC.6.1.12.A.14.e	Evaluate the effectiveness and fairness of the process by which national, state, and local officials are elected and vote on issues of public concern.
SOC.6.1.12.A.14.g	Analyze the impact of community groups and state policies that strive to increase the youth vote (i.e., distribution of voter registration forms in high schools).
SOC.6.1.12.A.14.h	Assess the effectiveness of government policies in balancing the rights of the individual against the need for national security.
SOC.6.1.12.A.16.b	Analyze government efforts to address intellectual property rights, personal privacy, and other ethical issues in science, medicine, and business that arise from the global use of new technologies.
SOC.6.1.12.B.14.a	Determine the impact of recent immigration and migration patterns in New Jersey and the United States on demographic, social, economic, and political issues.
SOC.6.1.12.B.14.b	Analyze how regionalization, urbanization, and suburbanization have led to social and economic reform movements in New Jersey and the United States.
SOC.6.1.12.B.15.a	Evaluate the effectiveness of the United States government’s efforts to provide humanitarian assistance during international natural disasters and times of crises.
SOC.6.1.12.C.14.d	Relate the changing manufacturing, service, science, and technology industries and educational opportunities to the economy and social dynamics in New Jersey.