Scope and Sequence

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Social Studies**
Time Period: **Full Year**
Length: **Length of the Course**
Status: **Published**

Course Overview

The 8th grade social studies curriculum has two main foci: 20th century American history and civics. The American history content begins with an exploration of the Roaring 20's and a look at the dramatic social changes that occurred during this decade. From the introduction of Jazz, to the Harlem Renaissance, to a change in the ways in which women dressed and behaved in society, there was a dramatic change in the social make up of America. The twenties also saw dramatic changes as a result of the end of World War I and the international influence exerted upon the United States. The next unit, then shows how the seemingly carefree rush of the 1920's came to a crashing halt with the crash of the stock market and subsequent Great Depression. The Great Depression unit explores the social changes that resulted for most Americans as a result of losing their economic independence. It also looks at how FDR struggled to cope with the economic crisis from a legislative level as well as simply restoring the confidence of the American people through his fireside chats. Of course the economic crisis did not fully resolve until America's entrance into World War II and the infusion of war manufacturing into the economy. The World War II unit also spends time building student understanding of the causes of the war and the influence of European leadership on the course of the war. The World War II unit has students investigate deep moral questions presented as a result of the holocaust, Japanese internment, and the usage of the atomic bomb in the war. After World War II, the course moves into an investigation of the Cold War and the struggle the United States faced in pitting democracy against Communism. The cultural impact of this resulted in an atmosphere of fear related to Communism and the rise of McCarthyism. At the same time, there was also a cultural shift with the introduction of rock and roll and early television. These cultural shifts continue into the next unit which focuses on Civil Rights. The Civil Rights unit looks heavily at the many ways in which African American leaders sought to end segregation using different protest strategies including peaceful methods such as sit-ins, boycotts, and marches as well as more violent methods extolled by leaders such as Malcolm X. Finally, the American history portion of the curriculum delves into America's involvement in the Vietnam War and the toll that a draft had on the culture and mentality of the American people. This unit explores the powers of the American President and the checks and gaining an understanding of the power of the average citizen to enact change through protest.

The final unit of the year is a culminating unit that brings together all of the civics components that were intertwined in earlier units and compiles them into an investigation of the aspects that make a country what it is. Students will be asked to "Create Your Own Country" by working off of their background knowledge and research on government structures, the role of geography in shaping a culture, and how the parts of a country impact each other.

Scope and Sequence

Order of the Unit	Title of the Unit	Time Frame
Unit 1	The Roaring Twenties	September - October
Unit 2	The Great Depression	October - November

Unit 3	World War II	November - December
Unit 4	The Cold War	January - February
Unit 5	Civil Rights	February - March
Unit 6	Vietnam War	March - April
Unit 7	Create Your Own Country	May - June

Date of Board Approval

This curriculum was approved by the Green Brook Board of Education on June 5, 2017.