

# Unit 1: Founding a New Nation

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## **Title Section**

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## **Department of Curriculum and Instruction**



**Belleville Public Schools**

**Curriculum Guide**

## **Social Studies Grade 8H**

# **Unit 1: Founding a New Nation**

**Belleville Board of Education**

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## **Unit Overview**

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Unit one examines the North American continent before the arrival of Europeans, the early days of colonization, and the founding of the United States of America. Unit one is divided into six modules.

Module 1 – America, Africa, and Europe before 1500

Module 2 – New Empires in the Americas

Module 3 – The English Colonies

Module 4 – The American Revolution

Module 5 – Forming a Government

Module 6 – Citizenship and the Constitution

## **Enduring Understanding**

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- Many diverse Native American cultures developed across the different geographic regions of North and South America.
- Using trade to gain wealth, Ghana, Mali, and Songhai were West Africa's most powerful Kingdoms.
- New ideas and trade changed Europeans lives.
- Europeans explored the world, searching for new lands and trade routes.
- Columbus's voyages led to new exchanges between Europe, Africa, and the Americas.
- Despite a difficult beginning, the southern colonies soon flourished.
- English colonists traveled to New England to gain religious freedom.
- Tensions developed as the British government placed tax after tax on the colonies, eventually leading to armed conflict.
- Patriot forces faced many obstacles in the war against Britain but eventually defeated them in the southern colonies.
- The Articles of Confederation proved to be too weak a framework for a national government.
- Americans carried on a vigorous debate before ratifying the Constitution.
- The US Constitution balances the powers of the federal government among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
- The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution to define clearly the rights and freedoms of citizens.

## **Essential Questions**

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### **Essential Questions are:**

- Questions that lie at the heart of a subject or a curriculum;
- Questions that promotes inquiry and the discovery of a subject.

Why might a U.S. historian study the Americas, Africa, and Europe before 1500?

How did Europeans change life in the Americas?

How did the colonial experience shape America's political and social ideals?

Why were the American Patriots willing to risk their lives for independence?

Did compromise make the U.S. Constitution stronger or weaker?

Which ideas in the Constitution are most important for preserving freedom?

## **Exit Skills**

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Describe life in the new world before European arrival and criticize the effect of the Colombian Exchange on both Europeans and Native Americans.

Judge the motivations for American colonists' desire for independence.

Evaluate the Constitution and how it protects freedom of Americans.

## **New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSL-S)**

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SOC.6.1.8	U.S. History: America in the World: All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.
SOC.6.1.8.A.1.a	Compare and contrast forms of governance, belief systems, and family structures among African, European, and Native American groups.
SOC.6.1.8.A.2.a	Determine the roles of religious freedom and participatory government in various North American colonies.
SOC.6.1.8.A.2.b	Explain how and why early government structures developed, and determine the impact of these early structures on the evolution of American politics and institutions.
SOC.6.1.8.A.2.c	Explain how demographics (i.e., race, gender, and economic status) affected social, economic, and political opportunities during the Colonial era.
SOC.6.1.8.A.3.a	Examine the ideals found in the Declaration of Independence, and assess the extent to which they were fulfilled for women, African Americans, and Native Americans during this

	time period.
SOC.6.1.8.A.3.b	Evaluate the effectiveness of the fundamental principles of the Constitution (i.e., consent of the governed, rule of law, federalism, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, and individual rights) in establishing a federal government that allows for growth and change over time.
SOC.6.1.8.A.3.c	Determine the role that compromise played in the creation and adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
SOC.6.1.8.A.3.e	Explain how and why constitutional civil liberties were impacted by acts of government (i.e., Alien and Sedition Acts) during the Early Republic.
SOC.6.1.8.A.3.f	Explain how political parties were formed and continue to be shaped by differing perspectives regarding the role and power of federal government.
SOC.6.1.8.A.3.g	Evaluate the impact of the Constitution and Bill of Rights on current day issues.
SOC.6.1.8.B.3.a	Assess how conflicts and alliances among European countries and Native American groups impacted the expansion of the American colonies.
SOC.6.1.8.B.3.b	Determine the extent to which the geography of the United States influenced the debate on representation in Congress and federalism by examining the New Jersey and Virginia plans.
SOC.6.1.8.B.3.c	Use maps and other geographic tools to evaluate the impact of geography on the execution and outcome of the American Revolutionary War.
SOC.6.1.8.B.3.d	Explain why New Jersey's location played an integral role in the American Revolution.
SOC.6.1.8.C.1.a	Evaluate the impact of science, religion, and technology innovations on European exploration.
SOC.6.1.8.C.1.b	Explain why individuals and societies trade, how trade functions, and the role of trade during this period.
SOC.6.1.8.C.2.a	Compare the practice of slavery and indentured servitude in Colonial labor systems.
SOC.6.1.8.C.2.b	Explain the system of mercantilism and its impact on the economies of the colonies and European countries.
SOC.6.1.8.C.2.c	Analyze the impact of triangular trade on multiple nations and groups.
SOC.6.1.8.D.1.a	Compare and contrast gender roles, religion, values, cultural practices, and political systems of Native American groups.
SOC.6.1.8.D.1.b	Explain how interactions among African, European, and Native American groups began a cultural transformation.
SOC.6.1.8.D.1.c	Evaluate the impact of the Colombian Exchange on ecology, agriculture, and culture from different perspectives.
SOC.6.1.8.D.2.a	Analyze the power struggle among European countries, and determine its impact on people living in Europe and the Americas.
SOC.6.1.8.D.2.b	Compare and contrast the voluntary and involuntary migratory experiences of different groups of people, and explain why their experiences differed.

## **Interdisciplinary Connections**

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LA.RH.6-8.1

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

LA.RH.6-8.2	Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
LA.RH.6-8.3	Identify key steps in a text's description of a process related to history/social studies (e.g., how a bill becomes law, how interest rates are raised or lowered).
LA.RH.6-8.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
LA.RH.6-8.5	Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).
LA.RH.6-8.6	Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).
LA.RH.6-8.10	By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.
LA.RST.6-8.1	Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.
LA.RST.6-8.2	Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
LA.RST.6-8.3	Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.
LA.RST.6-8.4	Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6-8 texts and topics.
LA.RST.6-8.5	Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to an understanding of the topic.
LA.RST.6-8.6	Analyze the author's purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text.
LA.RST.6-8.7	Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).
LA.RST.6-8.8	Distinguish among facts, reasoned judgment based on research findings, and speculation in a text.
LA.RST.6-8.9	Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.
LA.WHST.6-8	Writing History, Science and Technical Subjects
LA.WHST.6-8.1	Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
LA.WHST.6-8.2	Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.
LA.WHST.6-8.3	(See note; not applicable as a separate requirement)
LA.WHST.6-8.7	Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
LA.WHST.6-8.8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
LA.WHST.6-8.9	Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Craft and Structure

- Appraise which of the New World civilizations was most highly developed.
- Contrast the lives of natives living in the dry southwest and the those living in the cold far north.
- Dramatize the conflict that emerged between Spain and Portugal and how it was resolved.
- Contrast the ways in which French, English, and Spanish settlers interacted with the native people they encountered.
- Assess whether the Columbian Exchange made life better or worse in America.
- Create an annotated map describing differences between the colonial regions.
- Determine how the events at Lexington and Concord changed the conflict between Great Britain and the colonies.
- Devise or revise an amendment to the Constitution.
- Defend the decision to create the Constitution instead of revising the Articles of Confederation.
- Assess which branch of government is most powerful.

**Action Verbs:** Below are examples of action verbs associated with each level of the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy.

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Choose	Classify	Choose	Categorize	Appraise	Combine
Describe	Defend	Dramatize	Classify	Judge	Compose
Define	Demonstrate	Explain	Compare	Criticize	Construct
Label	Distinguish	Generalize	Differentiate	Defend	Design
List	Explain	Judge	Distinguish	Compare	Develop
Locate	Express	Organize	Identify	Assess	Formulate
Match	Extend	Paint	Infer	Conclude	Hypothesize
Memorize	Give Examples	Prepare	Point out	Contrast	Invent
Name	Illustrate	Produce	Select	Critique	Make
Omit	Indicate	Select	Subdivide	Determine	Originate
Recite	Interrelate	Show	Survey	Grade	Organize
Select	Interpret	Sketch	Arrange	Justify	Plan
State	Infer	Solve	Breakdown	Measure	Produce
Count	Match	Use	Combine	Rank	Role Play
Draw	Paraphrase	Add	Detect	Rate	Drive
Outline	Represent	Calculate	Diagram	Support	Devise
Point	Restate	Change	Discriminate	Test	Generate
Quote	Rewrite	Classify	Illustrate		Integrate
Recall	Select	Complete	Outline		Prescribe
Recognize	Show	Compute	Point out		Propose
Repeat	Summarize	Discover	Separate		Reconstruct
Reproduce	Tell	Divide			Revise
	Translate	Examine			Rewrite
	Associate	Graph			Transform
	Compute	Interpolate			
	Convert	Manipulate			
	Discuss	Modify			
	Estimate	Operate			
	Extrapolate	Subtract			
	Generalize				
	Predict				





### **Suggested Activities & Best Practices**

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- Map migrations of people across the ancient world.
- Create models of Native American structures.
- Venn diagram comparing African kingdoms.
- Map the lands seen by Columbus' voyage of exploration.
- Dialogue a conversation between a settler in Jamestown and a settler in Plymouth.
- Examine how differences in climate and geography led to differing economic growth in the northern and southern colonies.
- Story board events leading to the American revolution.
- Condemn/ Defend Washington's defensive strategy to win the war.
- Infographic describing the three branches of government and their checks and balances.

## **Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)**

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Assessment Evidence for this unit include:

- Describe and explain the different Native American structures they had throughout the Americas (formative assessment)
- Social Media webpage explaining the interactions of the Jamestown and Plymouth settlers (alternative assessment)
- Unit test (summative assessment)
- Entrance/exit tickets (formative assessment)

- Admit Tickets
- Anticipation Guide
- Common Benchmarks
- Compare & Contrast
- Create a Multimedia Poster
- DBQ's
- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Evaluation rubrics
- Exit Tickets
- Explaining
- Fist- to-Five or Thumb-Ometer
- Illustration
- Journals
- KWL Chart
- Learning Center Activities
- Multimedia Reports
- Newspaper Headline
- Outline

- Question Stems
- Quickwrite
- Quizzes
- Red Light, Green Light
- Self- assessments
- Socratic Seminar
- Study Guide
- Surveys
- Teacher Observation Checklist
- Think, Pair, Share
- Think, Write, Pair, Share
- Top 10 List
- Unit review/Test prep
- Unit tests
- Web-Based Assessments
- Written Reports

## **Primary Resources & Materials**

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United States History – HMH Social Studies Text Book and supplemental materials

## **Ancillary Resources**

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Internet based research

Teacher created supplemental materials

Maps/ charts/ posters/ diagrams/ infographics

Video clips

Channel 1 subscription

Document Based Question resources with original source documents

Junior Scholastic Monthly Magazine

Artistic supplies: paper, colored pencil, scissors, etc

## **Technology Infusion**

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SMART Board/ projectors/ TV

Internet connected Chromebook computer/ laptop

Video clip sources including but not limited to Channel 1, Discovery Education, PBS, History Channel, YouTube



## **Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology**

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- English Language Arts;
- Social Studies, including American History, World History, Geography, Government and Civics, and Economics;
- World languages;
- Technology;
- Visual and Performing Arts.

CAEP.9.2.8.B.3	Evaluate communication, collaboration, and leadership skills that can be developed through school, home, work, and extracurricular activities for use in a career.
TECH.8.1.8	Educational Technology: All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge.
TECH.8.1.8.A	Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.
TECH.8.1.8.A.1	Demonstrate knowledge of a real world problem using digital tools.
TECH.8.1.8.A.2	Create a document (e.g., newsletter, reports, personalized learning plan, business letters or flyers) using one or more digital applications to be critiqued by professionals for usability.
TECH.8.1.8.A.CS1	Understand and use technology systems.
TECH.8.1.8.A.CS2	Select and use applications effectively and productively.
TECH.8.1.8.B	Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and process using technology.
TECH.8.1.8.C	Communication and Collaboration: Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
TECH.8.1.8.C.1	Collaborate to develop and publish work that provides perspectives on a global problem for discussions with learners from other countries.
TECH.8.1.8.D	Digital Citizenship: Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.
TECH.8.1.8.D.CS1	Advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.
TECH.8.1.8.D.CS2	Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.
TECH.8.1.8.E	Research and Information Fluency: Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.
TECH.8.1.8.F	Critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making: Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.
TECH.8.2.8	Technology Education, Engineering, Design, and Computational Thinking - Programming: All students will develop an understanding of the nature and impact of technology, engineering, technological design, computational thinking and the designed world as they relate to the individual, global society, and the environment.
TECH.8.2.8.B	Technology and Society: Knowledge and understanding of human, cultural and society values are fundamental when designing technology systems and products in the global society.

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## 21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes

- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem Solving

- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy
- Information Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

## **21st Century Skills**

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- Civic Literacy
- Environmental Literacy
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Global Awareness
- Health Literacy

## **Differentiation**

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Different Differentiations that will be employed in this include:

- Allowing students to work in small groups assignments to complete (graphic organizers, projects, and assessments)
- Allow work to be submitted online and allow extra time to complete assignments
- Different Summative Assessments (Projects, Google Forms, Open Ended, Essays)

### **Differentiations:**

- Small group instruction
- Small group assignments
- Extra time to complete assignments
- Pairing oral instruction with visuals
- Repeat directions
- Use manipulatives
- Center-based instruction
- Token economy
- Study guides
- Teacher reads assessments allowed
- Scheduled breaks
- Rephrase written directions
- Multisensory approaches
- Additional time
- Preview vocabulary
- Preview content & concepts

- Story guides
- Behavior management plan
- Highlight text
- Student(s) work with assigned partner
- Visual presentation
- Assistive technology
- Auditory presentations
- Large print edition
- Dictation to scribe
- Small group setting

#### **Hi-Prep Differentiations:**

- Alternative formative and summative assessments
- Choice boards
- Games and tournaments
- Group investigations
- Guided Reading
- Independent research and projects
- Interest groups
- Learning contracts
- Leveled rubrics
- Literature circles
- Multiple intelligence options
- Multiple texts
- Personal agendas
- Project-based learning
- Problem-based learning
- Stations/centers
- Think-Tac-Toes
- Tiered activities/assignments
- Tiered products
- Varying organizers for instructions

#### **Lo-Prep Differentiations**

- Choice of books or activities
- Cubing activities
- Exploration by interest
- Flexible grouping
- Goal setting with students
- Jigsaw
- Mini workshops to re-teach or extend skills
- Open-ended activities
- Think-Pair-Share
- Reading buddies
- Varied journal prompts
- Varied supplemental materials

## **Special Education Learning (IEP's & 504's)**

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Different Special Education Learning adaptations that will be employed in the unit include:

- Using online website, teachers use assistive technology for audio presentation for Unit 1
- Use HMH workbook for each section to help identify main ideas
- Playing Kahoot at the end of each unit as the primary resource for a study guide

- printed copy of board work/notes provided
- additional time for skill mastery
- assistive technology
- behavior management plan
- Center-Based Instruction
- check work frequently for understanding
- computer or electronic device utilizes
- extended time on tests/ quizzes
- have student repeat directions to check for understanding
- highlighted text visual presentation
- modified assignment format
- modified test content
- modified test format
- modified test length
- multiple test sessions
- multi-sensory presentation
- preferential seating
- preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
- Provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
- reduced/shortened reading assignments
- Reduced/shortened written assignments
- secure attention before giving instruction/directions
- shortened assignments
- student working with an assigned partner
- teacher initiated weekly assignment sheet
- Use open book, study guides, test prototypes



## **English Language Learning (ELL)**

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Different English Language Learning strategies that can be used for this Unit include:

- Create documents through different Google programs to translate documents to specific languages (worksheets, graphic organizers, notes)
  - HMH Spanish/English Workbook to identify main points for each section
  - Pair students up with same language speaker
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- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
  - using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify
  - allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning;
  - allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
  - allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
  - decreasing the amount of work presented or required
  - having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
  - modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
  - providing study guides
  - reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
  - reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
  - tutoring by peers
  - using computer word processing spell check and grammar check features
  - using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests

## **At Risk**

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Different Intervention Strategies that will be employed in the unit include:

- Playing Kahoot at the end of each unit to summarize main ideas for that section
  - Providing the students with teacher notes of Unit 1 assessment to help students prepare for assessment
  - Allow students to work in groups in order to create a visual of one of the four documents of democracy
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- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
  - teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information

- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning
- allowing students to select from given choices
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- collaborating (general education teacher and specialist) to modify vocabulary, omit or modify items to reflect objectives for the student, eliminate sections of the test, and determine how the grade will be determined prior to giving the test.
- decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- marking students' correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- tutoring by peers
- using authentic assessments with real-life problem-solving
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

## **Talented and Gifted Learning (T&G)**

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Different Talented and Gifted adaptations that will be employed in the unit include:

- Analyzing different DBQ worksheets on Valley Forge and have students construct an essay on the importance of Valley Forge toward the American Revolution
  - Students create a poster on one of the selected Native American tribes that were living in North America
  - Analyze the four different democracy documents throughout history and have students create their own "Democratic Constitution" for their own fictitious country
  - Having high order thinking questions (open ended) on assessments to challenge and further explain the main ideas for the unit
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- Above grade level placement option for qualified students
  - Advanced problem-solving
  - Allow students to work at a faster pace
  - Cluster grouping
  - Complete activities aligned with above grade level text using Benchmark results
  - Create a blog or social media page about their unit
  - Create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
  - Debate issues with research to support arguments
  - Flexible skill grouping within a class or across grade level for rigor
  - Higher order, critical & creative thinking skills, and discovery

- Multi-disciplinary unit and/or project
- Teacher-selected instructional strategies that are focused to provide challenge, engagement, and growth opportunities
- Utilize exploratory connections to higher-grade concepts
- Utilize project-based learning for greater depth of knowledge

## Sample Lesson

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Unit Name: Unit 1: Founding a Nation

NJSLS: see links below

Interdisciplinary Connection: see links below

Statement of Objective: Students will be able to construct a document based question on the importance of Valley Forge and the importance this event had on the American Revolution.

Anticipatory Set/Do Now: List and explain some of the hardships that the Continental Army faced while being at Valley Forge.

Learning Activity:

1. Analyze Do Now/Discuss Do Now
2. Teacher displays the Valley Forge Photo and students list what they see from that picture
3. Teacher passes out the first DBQ worksheet to help students construct their opening paragraph of the essay

Student Assessment/CFU's:

1. Hot seat: Teacher goes around the room and students have to describe using previous knowledge on some the hardships the troops faced during the beginning years of the war
2. Describe: Students describe the picture that is being displayed on the SmartTV
3. Think-Pair-Share: After students analyze first DBQ worksheet, students work in pairs to describe what their opinion on the worksheet is to help formulate their first paragraph

Materials: Computer, SmartTV, Notebooks, Pen/Pencil, DBQ Worksheet

21st Century Themes and Skills:

1. Information Literacy
2. Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving

Differentiation/Modifications: Students will have extra time to complete assignment and teacher will give oral instruction paired with visuals to help students understand what the soldiers were experiencing at Valley Forge.

Integration of Technology: Teacher will be using Smartboard/PowerPoint for the students to see the Objective, Do Now, and Homework. Students will also be using their chromebooks during class to go along with Google Classroom, HMH online textbook,

and any other applications for that day (Newsela, Youtube, BrainPop).

LA.RH.6-8.1	Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
LA.RH.6-8.2	Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
LA.RH.6-8.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
LA.RH.6-8.7	Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
SOC.6.1.8.D	History, Culture, and Perspectives
SOC.6.1.8.D.3.c	Analyze the impact of George Washington as general of the American revolutionary forces and as the first president of the United States.
SOC.6.1.8.CS3	Revolution and the New Nation: Disputes over political authority and economic issues contributed to a movement for independence in the colonies. The fundamental principles of the United States Constitution serve as the foundation of the United States government today.