

# A. Using an Atlas and Activity Maps

Content Area: **Social Studies**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **September**  
Length: **1 week**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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To become familiar with the organization and information that can be obtained from the Nystrom Atlas of United States History

## Essential Questions

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How is the atlas set up?

What information can be found in this atlas?

What text features will assist me in locating information?

What is an era?

How do I determine the type of map to use?

What do a title, key or legend assist me in understanding a map, chart or graph?

How do I label a map properly?

What are longitude, latitude and Cardinal directions?

How can the history of the United States of America be understood by completing the atlas and activity map lessons?

## Content

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The *Nystrom Atlas of United States History* is organized by era.

The atlas contains maps, graphs, charts, photographs, diagrams and informational text.

Text features including, era titles, headings, and subheadings, will assist me in locating information?

Physical, historical and political maps will provide different types of information.

Charts, graphs, pictures, photos, diagrams and captions provide information.

The compass rose and lines of longitude and latitude, assist when location and mapping information.

Information from atlas sources can be combined and/or compared to gain an understanding of culture and traditions, as well, as causes and effects of important events in US history.

Documentation of information from atlas and program lessons on activity maps.

## **Skills**

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Locating information in an atlas

Using text features

Understanding how to use map legends, titles, graphs, diagrams, informational text, photographs, pictures and charts

Comparing and contrasting data from various atlas resources

Apply atlas information to classroom and small group discussion to connect to the content of United States history

Labeling of activity maps and following directions

Understanding longitude, latitude and Cardinal directions

## **Assessments**

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Formative-*Nystom* Using the Atlas lesson 1a; Using the Activity Maps lesson 2a; Reviewing Map Skills lesson 3a

Summative-Using Your *Nystrom* Atlas of the United States History activity as a graded assignment

## **Lessons/Learning Scenarios**

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Lesson 1: Using the Atlas activity pp.3-4

Lesson 2: Using the Activity Map pp. 5-6

Lesson 3: Reviewing Map Skills p 7 only

Lesson 4: Summative Assessment *Using Your Nystrom Atlas of the United States p 1-2*

## **Resources**

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The *Nystom* Atlas of United States History

Activity sheets

Activity Maps

Map markers