

Instructional Vocabulary

Grade 8 Social Studies

Unit 1: Exploration and Colonization

- **Exploration** – travel for the purpose of discovery
- **Colonize** – a group of people leave their native country to settle in a new land, but are still connected with the parent nation; representative government- power is held by the people and exercised through the efforts of representatives elected by those people
- **Charter** – a contract given to someone to establish a colony
- **Mercantilism** – system by which a nation increases its wealth and power by obtaining from its colonies gold and silver. It includes a favorable balance of trade. The colonies became a source of raw materials for the mother country (England). The colonies are expected to be the purchasers of manufactured goods from the mother country. Mercantilism includes the theory that a colony exists for the economic benefit of the mother country.

Unit 2: Celebrate Freedom Week

- **Natural rights** – basic rights that government cannot deny from the people
- **Colonial grievances** – wrongs, as perceived by the colonists that were committed by the King George III toward the colonists. Twenty-seven grievances are listed in the Declaration of Independence.

Unit 3: American Revolution

- **Boycott** – to refuse to have dealings with, usually to express disapproval of certain conditions
- **Taxation** – the action of taxing
- **Revolution** – a fundamental change in political organization; the overthrow of a government
- **Independence** – the quality of state of being independent

Unit 4: Writing the Constitution

- **Confederation** – a union of states in which each member state retains some independent control over internal and external affairs.
- **Constitution** – the fundamental law, written or unwritten, that establishes the character of a government by defining the basic principles to which a society must conform; by describing the organization of the government and regulation, distribution, and limitations on the functions of different government departments; and by prescribing the extent and manner of the exercise of its sovereign powers.
- **Ratification** – process of approving the Constitution
- **Compromise** – an agreement between opposing parties to settle a dispute or reach a settlement in which each gives some ground, rather than continue the dispute

Unit 5: More Perfect Union

- **Principle** – a basic truth, law, or assumption
- **Legislative branch** – law making body
- **Executive branch** – branch of the government that executes or enforces the laws

- **Judicial branch** – branch of the government that interprets the laws
- **Amendment** – change to the Constitution after following the formal process

Unit 6: Early Republic

- **Republic** – a government having a chief of state who is not a monarch, a government in which supreme power resides in a body of citizens entitled to vote and is exercised by elected officers and representatives responsible to them and governing according to law
- **Political Party** – group of people that supports a candidate running for a government position
- **Foreign Policy** – relations with governments of other countries
- **Isolationism** – policy of nonparticipation in international economic and/or political relations
- **Neutrality** – the state of remaining independent and not forming political alliances with other countries
- **Interventionism** – the theory or practice of intervening; governmental interference in political affairs of another country

Unit 7: Age of Jackson

- **Policy** – a plan or course of action to make decisions
- **Nullification** – the action of a state impeding or attempting to prevent the operation and enforcement of a law of the United States
- **Resettlement** – the movement of people to a new location or settlement

Unit 8: Manifest Destiny

- **Manifest Destiny** – idea that it was meant to be (or divine right) for the United States to expand its territory from sea to sea (Atlantic to Pacific)

Unit 9: Industrialization: North and South Economies Develop

- **Innovation** – the introduction of something new (e.g., idea, method or device)
- **Transportation** – means of conveyance or travel from one place to another
- **Communication** – an act or instance of transmitting a verbal or written message
- **Region** – a geographic area distinguished by similar features
- **Industrialization** – the overall change in circumstances accompanying a society's movement of population and resources from farm production to manufacturing production and associated services
- **Urbanization** – the process by which towns and cities are formed and become larger as more people begin living and working in central areas

Unit 10: Reform and Culture

- **Reform**- to amend or improve by change of form or removal of faults or abuses
- **Suffrage**- the right of voting
- **Abolition**- the act of abolishing (ending or stopping something)

Unit 11: Sectionalism and Civil War

- **Sectionalism** – loyal to the interests of their section or region of the nation

- **Compromise** – an agreement where each side gains some of their demands by giving up some of their demands

Unit 12: Reconstruction

- **Reconstruction** – process of restoring, reorganizing or repairing
- **Civil rights** – rights to personal liberty

Unit 13: Rights and Responsibilities

- **Individual Rights** – a personal liberty guaranteed by the Bill of Rights
- **Naturalization** – process for becoming a citizen