

SOCIAL STUDIES

For high-achieving school students
Grades 8 - 12

THE
BIG RED
GROUP



Social Studies

Civics

National Civics is a one-semester course offering seven units that cover topics including the origins of American government, the structure and function of our government, rights and responsibilities of citizens, the American federal system, political parties and the election process, basic economic principles, and current matters regarding domestic and foreign policy. The course includes a variety of unit and lesson activities that examine the history, culture, and economy of the nation that encourage research and reflection. In these activities, students will examine seminal documents and landmark Supreme Court cases in American political history, analyze changes in federal and executive power over time, explore the political election process and data related to recent voting trends, research and propose a public policy plan, as well as compare and contrast the functions of the national government with state and local governments. The course also prepares students to pass the civics portion of the USCIS Naturalization Test.

Contemporary World A/B

The Contemporary World is a year-long course designed to strengthen learners' knowledge about the modern world. Multimedia tools including custom videos as well as videos from the BBC, custom maps, and interactive timelines will help engage learners as they complete this course. Learners will explore the importance of geography, the influence of culture, and the relationship humans have with the physical environment. They will also focus on the responsibility of citizens, democracy in the United States, U.S. legal systems, and the U.S. economy. Ultimately, learners will complete this course as global citizens with an understanding of how to help and better their community and the world.

Economics

This course covers basic economic problems such as scarcity, choice, and effective use of resources. It also covers topics on a larger scale such as market structures and international trade. It particularly focuses on the US economy and analyzes the role of the government and the Federal Reserve System.

Middle School Civics A/B

Middle School Civics is informed by the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards and delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build middle school student's understanding of the political and governmental systems of the United States and the roles played by citizens. By honing their ability to analyze civic life, political practices, and government structures, students build the depth of knowledge and higher-order thinking skills required to demonstrate their mastery when put to the test. The two-semester course is arranged into themed units, each with three to five lessons. In each unit, activities make complex ideas about civics accessible through focused content, guided analysis, multi-modal representations, and personalized feedback. Each lesson includes a variety of activities such as direct instruction, application of skills, performance tasks, and formative and summative assessments. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored assignments.

Middle School U.S. History A/B

In Middle School U.S. History, learners will explore historical American events with the help of innovative videos, timelines, and interactive maps and images. The course covers colonial America through the Reconstruction period. Learners will develop historical thinking and geography skills, which they will use throughout the course to heighten their understanding of the material. Specific topics of study include the U.S. Constitution, the administrations of George Washington and John Adams, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.

Middle School World History A/B

The Contemporary World is a year-long course designed to strengthen learners' In Middle School World History, learners will study major historical world events from early human societies through to the present day. Multimedia tools including custom videos as well as videos from the BBC, custom maps, and interactive timelines will help engage learners as they complete this year-long course. They will explore the development of early humans and early civilizations. They will be introduced to the origins of major world religions, such as Hinduism and Buddhism.

MS Contemporary World A/B

Middle School Contemporary World is informed by the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards and delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build middle school student's knowledge of contemporary world geography, cultures, civics, and economics. By honing their ability to analyze the physical, social, and political forces that shape our world, students build the depth of knowledge and higher-order thinking skills required to demonstrate their mastery when put to the test. The two-semester course is arranged into themed units, each with three to six lessons. In each unit, activities make complex ideas about the modern world accessible through focused content, guided analysis, multi-modal representations, and personalized feedback. Each lesson includes a variety of activities such as direct instruction, application of skills, performance tasks, and formative and summative assessments. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored assignments.

MS U.S. History A/B

Middle School U.S. History is informed by the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards and delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build middle school student's knowledge of U.S. history, from the peopling of North America through the era of Reconstruction. By constantly honing their ability to analyze history, students build the depth of knowledge and higher-order thinking skills required to demonstrate their mastery when put to the test. The two-semester course is arranged into themed units, each with three to five lessons. In each unit, activities make complex ideas about U.S. history accessible through focused content, guided analysis, multi-modal representations, and personalized feedback. Each lesson includes a variety of activities such as direct instruction, application of skills, performance tasks, and formative and summative assessments. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored assignments.

MS World History A/B

Middle School World History is informed by the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards and delivers instruction, practice, and review designed to build middle school student's knowledge of world history, from the Neolithic Revolution through the Middle Ages. By constantly honing their ability to analyze history, students build the depth of knowledge and higher-order thinking skills required to demonstrate their mastery when put to the test. The two-semester course is arranged into themed units, each with three to five lessons. In each unit, activities make complex ideas about world history accessible through focused content, guided analysis, multi-modal representations, and personalized feedback. Each lesson includes a variety of activities such as direct instruction, application of skills, performance tasks, and formative and summative assessments. Students engage with the subject matter in an interactive, feedback-rich environment as they progress through standards-aligned content and demonstrate their learning through computer- and teacher-scored assignments.

U.S. Government

The interactive, problem-centred, and inquiry-based units in U.S. Government emphasize the acquisition, mastery, and processing of information. Semester A units include the study of the foundations of American government and the American political culture, with units 2 and 3 covering the U.S. constitution, including its roots in Greek and English law, and the various institutions that impact American politics.

US History A/B

US History v3.0 is a two-semester course aligned with the principles of the C3 Framework. The course promotes the examination, analysis, and evaluation of important people and events in the history of the United States of America. The course also uses investigative questions to guide the examination and analysis of events. The content of the course is designed to promote an understanding of the impacts historical events had on the numerous groups of diverse people who make up the United States. Clarifying Big Ideas (CBI) Lessons appear throughout the course to model critical thinking skills and strategies. These skills and strategies are woven throughout the lessons to allow students to practice using the skills in context. Activities further promote critical thinking about historical figures and encourage learners to analyze factors that impacted the decisions these figures made to shape the growth and development of the United States. The activities have learners analyze and evaluate primary and secondary sources, and have them form opinions while using evidence to support their opinions.

World Geography A/B

In an increasingly interconnected world, equipping students to develop a better understanding of our global neighbours is critical to ensuring that they are college and career ready. These semester-long courses empower students to increase their knowledge of the world in which they live and how its diverse geographies shape the international community. Semester A units begin with an overview of the physical world and the tools necessary to explore it effectively. Subsequent units survey each continent and its physical characteristics and engage students and encourage them to develop a global perspective.

World History A/B

In World History, learners will explore historical world events with the help of innovative videos, timelines, and interactive maps and images. Learners will develop historical thinking skills and apply them to their study of European exploration, the Renaissance the Reformation, and major world revolutions. They will also study World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and the benefits and challenges of living in the modern world.

World History Survey A/B

In World History Survey, learners will study major historical events from early human societies through to the present day. Multimedia tools including custom videos as well as videos from the BBC, custom maps, and interactive timelines will help engage learners as they complete this year-long course. Topics of study include early civilizations, world religions, the Renaissance, the World Wars, and the globalized world of today.