

US History 1

RCAS Policies/Procedures

Students will be required to follow all RCAS policies and procedures. To view the RCAS High School Student Handbook, click [handbook](#).

Course Description

1. The course explores history of the United States from pre-Columbus through Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will compare and contrast social, political, and economic forces that impacted America during this time period. Cause-and-effect understanding of historical moments is emphasized. Students will analyze primary and secondary documents that have shaped the founding of the United States.

Grading

Assignments, participation, projects, tests, and final examine. Per RCAS grading policy.

Late work will be accepted through a unit. Late work not turned in on or before the end of a unit will not be accepted. Please let me know if there are extenuating circumstances.

Textbook

United States History by Pearson

Reading

Primary sources for example: Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Emancipation Proclamation, etc.

Optional Reading

NA

Instructional Resources

Savvas & Quizzes

Essential Questions

- Were the colonists justified in resisting British policies after the French and Indian War?
- Was the American War for Independence [choose one: a revolt against taxes, inevitable]?
- Could the Constitution be written without compromise?
- How did political parties evolve?
- Was the Age of Jackson an age of democracy?
- Should the states have the right to ignore the laws of the national government?

- Does a geographic minority have the right to ignore the laws of a national majority?
- Can legislative compromises solve moral issues?
- Can the Supreme Court settle moral issues? (Dred Scott decision)
- Was slavery the primary cause of the Civil War?
- Was the Civil War inevitable

Essential Learning Intentions

- Students can summarize how the wars and their outcomes changed the relationship between Britain and the colonies.
- Students can explain the colonist reaction and protests to new taxes implemented by Great Britain.
- Students can assess why Congress declared independence, and the ideas underlying the Declaration of Independence.
- Students can explain the need for the Constitutional Convention, and describe the compromises made to create the Constitution
- Students can explain how a 2-party system emerged in the new nation.

- Students can explain how territorial expansion brought Americans into conflict with the British and Native Americans
- Students can explain the causes, key events, and impact of the War of 1812.
- Students can analyze the movement toward greater democracy under Andrew Jackson.
- Students can summarize the causes and effects of the removal of Native Americans in the early 1800s.
- Students can explain the concept of Manifest Destiny and how it influenced western expansion.
- Students can explain how the Second Great Awakening affecting the United States.
- Students can explain how the Abolitionist Movement created division within American Society.
- Students can analyze why slavery in the territories was a divisive issue between North and South and how Congress tried to settle the issue in 1850.
- Compare and contrast the positions of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas on the issue of slavery.
- Students can analyze why the southern states seceded from the Union.
- Analyze why Lincoln decided to issue the Emancipation Proclamation and what is achieved.
- Assess the impact of the Civil War on the North and the South.
- Students can explain the multiple reasons why a plan was needed for Reconstruction of the South.
- Students can explain the successes and failures of Reconstruction.