

8th Grade Guide for Program Curriculum

NOTE: some lesson plans require registration/login (free to educators)

SS.8.4 - The practice of race-based slavery led to the forced migration of Africans to the American colonies and contributed to colonial economic development. Their knowledge, skills and traditions were essential to the development of the colonies.

CORE: Slavery: No Freedom, No Rights

From the basics about slavery to the attitudes that defended it and the efforts of those who wanted to see it abolished, in this lesson students will explain the impact of slavery on African Americans, identify modes of resisting slavery through the actions of Nat Turner and Dred Scott, explain the 'necessary evil' defense of slavery, describe the methods of the abolitionist movement, and identify the inconsistencies in the founding documents regarding the legal existence of slavery.

FOR EDUCATORS: [Slavery and the Northern Economy - Season 1, Episode 3](#) (Podcast)

In this podcast episode, Dr. Christy Clark-Pujara explains why American slavery couldn't have existed without a national commercial infrastructure that supported and benefited from the labor of enslaved people.

****Educators can earn professional development credit.**

SS.8.12 - Disputes over the nature of federalism, complicated by economic developments in the United States, resulted in sectional issues, including slavery, which led to the American Civil War.

CORE: How one piece of legislation divided a nation (video)

This TED-Ed video explains what sparked the civil war, the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 185

SS.8.14 - The Reconstruction period resulted in changes to the U.S. Constitution, an affirmation of federal authority and lingering social and political differences.

CORE: Civil War and Reconstruction, What is Juneteenth, and why is it so important? (video), Jim Crow, Activism and Legislation

- [Civil War and Reconstruction](#) - students will identify the division of the U.S. at the outbreak of the Civil War, describe the expansion of civil rights and liberties in the Civil War/Reconstruction Period, explain the purposes of the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment, identify the different perspectives on slavery during the Civil War period, and determine the differences between the Presidential and Congressional plans for Reconstruction.
- [What is Juneteenth, and why is it so important?](#) (video) - this video explores the history and continued significance of Juneteenth.

- Jim Crow - Uses primary documents and images to discover the ways state and local governments restricted the newly gained freedoms of African Americans after the Civil War. Student will compare, contrast, and analyze post-war legislation, court decisions (including Plessy v. Ferguson), and a political cartoon by Thomas Nast to understand life in Jim Crow states.
- Activism and Legislation - has students explain the provisions of the 14th and 15th amendments and the political forces supporting and opposing each; evaluate the agendas, strategies and effectiveness of Americans from underrepresented groups, including people with disabilities, in the quest for civil rights and equal opportunities; and explore how laws uphold democratic ideals and how changes in laws accompany social change

SUPPLEMENTAL: The Road to Civil Rights, The electrifying speeches of Sojourner Truth (video), Bus Boycott: Historical Documents Highlight Integration Milestone

- The Road to Civil Rights - Has students discover the people, groups, and events behind the Civil Rights Movement. Students will learn about means of non-violent protest, opposition to the movement, and identify how it took all three branches of the federal government to effect change. Protest posters, fictional diary entries, and a map of the movement's major events develop a greater understanding of the struggle for civil rights.
- The electrifying speeches of Sojourner Truth (video) - This video discusses the life of the outspoken activist, Sojourner Truth.
- Bus Boycott: Historical Documents Highlight Integration Milestone - a collection of primary resources with corresponding activities that sheds light on the endurance of peaceful protesters in Montgomery, Ala., who overturned an unjust law.

SS.8.20 - Active participation in social and civic groups can lead to the attainment of individual and public goals.

CORE: The historic women's suffrage march on Washington (video), Civic Action and Change, Violence Prevention, Woman Suffrage and World War I (online activity), The Nashville Sit-Ins (online activity)

- The historic women's suffrage march on Washington (video) - Explores how the Women's Suffrage Parade on Washington in 1913 helped women secure the right to vote in the United States through the 19th amendment.
- Civic Action and Change - covers the basic steps of civic action and what it takes to make change, following the "I AM" model (Inform, Act, Maintain). Students will explore the change-making examples of four key movements: women's rights, disability awareness, Native American rights, and migrant farm worker rights.
- Violence Prevention - Students will analyze the rhetorical strategies Malcolm X used in his speeches, such as tone, emotional appeal, and descriptive language; consider the strategies used by African American leaders during the civil rights movement and the social implications of these strategies; contrast the leadership and ideology of Martin

Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X in the civil rights movement and evaluate their legacies; and identify personal values and use them to determine appropriate behaviors for protecting their individual rights.

- Woman Suffrage and World War I (online activity) - Students will learn how World War I impacted the woman suffrage movement. Sources will show how suffragists promoted woman suffrage as a war measure, how women's roles expanded during the war and how suffragists used the stated purpose for fighting the war— fighting for democracy— to fight for this same right at home. The sources will also show how the tactics suffragists used varied and influenced public opinion both positively and negatively.
- The Nashville Sit-Ins (online activity) - Students will discover what makes a movement successful using primary sources with different perspectives from the Nashville Sit-In Movement of 1960.

SUPPLEMENTAL: Got Ballot?, Who Represents Me? (online activity), Voting Rights, Why is voting an important responsibility?

- Got Ballot? - Covering everything from referendums to recalls, this lesson takes students to the voting booth and explains what is on a ballot.
- Who Represents Me? - A WebQuest to help students find who represents them and how to contact their elected officials.
- Voting Rights - Explores the history of voting rights in the United States through an interactive PowerPoint presentation highlighting landmark changes. Following the presentation and class discussion, students apply the new knowledge of how voting legislation evolved to individual scenarios through a class activity.
- Why is voting an important responsibility? - Students will view three short films that explore the importance of voting. Each film/activity examines the topic from a different, thought-provoking perspective.

SS.8.21 - Informed citizens understand how media and communication technology influences public opinion.

CORE: Media Consumers and Creators, What Are Your Rights and Responsibilities?, Decoding media bias, Judicial Activism & Restraint

- Media Consumers and Creators, What Are Your Rights and Responsibilities? - Students will be able to understand the rights and responsibilities of news/media consumers and news/media producers, reflect on why these rights and responsibilities are essential in this age of increased digital access to media, and build awareness around the issue of "fake news" online and strengthen critical thinking skills in relation to media consumption
- Decoding media bias - Examines where people in the U.S. get their news, how news selection amplifies one's political views, and how media organizations decide to cover stories.

- Judicial Activism & Restraint - Students will student define judicial activism and restraint, describe the pros and cons of each judicial philosophy, decide how much value to place on a particular news-related opinion, and evaluate a news-related opinion

SS.8.22 - The U.S. Constitution established a federal republic, providing a framework for a national government with elected representatives, separation of powers, and checks and balances.

CORE: Comparing Constitutions, Branches of Power (online game), The Human Cannonball's Flight through the Courts, For The President, All In A Day's Work, A Very Big Branch, Judicial Branch in a Flash, Congress in a Flash!, Making Laws (online activity), The Courts in a Nutshell (online activity)

- Comparing Constitutions - helps students learn how the U.S. Constitution and the State of Ohio's Constitution are similar and different. Students will compare and contrast the government structure, individual rights, and amendment processes outlined by each document.
- Branches of Power (online game) - this game provides a simulated experience where students will pick leaders for each branch of government, create a presidential agenda and learn about the executive branch powers, introduce bills and pass laws out of Congress, and apply judicial review to passed laws
- **Executive Branch**
 - For The President, All In A Day's Work - Students learn the primary responsibilities of the president and how those duties connect to the powers the Constitution grants to the Executive Branch. Students also learn about the types of issues the Executive Branch deals with and which federal agencies handle them.
 - A Very Big Branch - Students learn that there's more to the executive branch than just the president. Students learn how the executive departments and agencies regulate and enforce governmental policies, and they explore the roles and responsibilities of the presidential cabinet.
- **Legislative Branch**
 - Congress in a Flash! - Students learn what Congress is, what the Constitution says about the legislative branch, and how a bill becomes law. They analyze some actual language from the Constitution, compare the House and the Senate, and simulate the lawmaking process by reconciling two versions of the same fictional bill.
 - Making Laws (online activity) - In this WebQuest, students will get an introduction to their members of Congress and what they do.
- **Judicial Branch**
 - The Human Cannonball's Flight through the Courts - a mock trial where students act out the various roles - judge, attorneys, witnesses, and others - and decide

the outcome of Hugo Zacchini's first amendment case that made its way through Ohio's court system

- Judicial Branch in a Flash - Need to teach the judicial branch in a hurry? In this lesson, students learn the basics of our judicial system, including the functions of the trial court, the Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court. Students learn how a case moves up through these levels and discover that these courts exist on both the state and federal levels.
- The Courts in a Nutshell (online activity) - In this WebQuest, students look at all levels of both the state and federal court systems. They learn about jurisdiction, look up the courts in their own state, find out what federal appellate circuit they live in, and investigate the current U.S. Supreme Court justices.

SUPPLEMENTAL: Sources of Law, Appellate Courts: Let's Take It Up, How do US Supreme Court justices get appointed? (video), How do executive orders work? (video), How does impeachment work? (video), Little Rock: Executive Order 10730 (online activity), Executive Roles: Money Doesn't Grow on Trees?, Judges: Playing Fair

- Sources of Law - Discusses the sources, types, and unique systems of law that exist in the United States. Students learn about sources of law from the Constitution to local ordinances. They also compare and contrast civil and criminal law and peek into the special systems of military and juvenile justice.
- Appellate Courts: Let's Take It Up - Students learn the purpose of appellate-level courts and how those courts operate differently from the trial courts most people are familiar with from watching television. By following the case of a real middle school girl who was strip searched at school, students find out what happens when someone takes a case all the way to the Supreme Court. Through this case, students learn about the structure of the federal court system and the way appellate courts decide cases.
- How do US Supreme Court justices get appointed? (video) - Outlines the difficult process of getting a seat on the highest bench in the country.
- How do executive orders work? (video) - Explains what an executive order is, how it works, and the extent of its power.
- How does impeachment work? (video) - Explains why impeachment is an important tool of our democracy and how it works.
- Little Rock: Executive Order 10730 (online activity) - Using the example of Executive Order 10730, students will explore how executive orders can be used to enforce the law and examine how Eisenhower justified his actions in enforcing equal rights.
- Executive Roles: Money Doesn't Grow on Trees? - Students learn the role of the executive branch in creating and carrying out laws. Through role-play, the class models the legislative and execution processes as they create a new coin in order to learn how the executive and legislative branches work together. They follow the new coin from its inception as an idea in the executive branch to its creation at the U.S. Mint.
- Judges: Playing Fair - Takes a look at the role of fair and impartial courts in American life. Students learn about how judges are selected and held accountable. It also looks at how judges focus on the facts in order to keep things fair.

SS.8.23 - The U.S. Constitution protects citizens' rights by limiting the powers of government.

CORE: No Bill of Rights, No Deal, A 3-minute guide to the Bill of Rights (video)

- No Bill of Rights, No Deal - In this lesson, students learn why the federalists thought the Constitution didn't need a bill of rights and why the anti-federalists refused to accept the Constitution without one. Students will find out why individual rights was such a big issue, where the concept of a bill of rights came from, and how the Bill of Rights finally got added to the U.S. Constitution.
- A 3-minute guide to the Bill of Rights (video) - a refresher course on exactly what the first ten amendments grant each and every American citizen.

SUPPLEMENTAL: A trip Around the World, Citizen Me

- A trip Around the World - Students learn about citizenship around the world and compare the rights and responsibilities of citizens in other countries to the rights held by U.S. citizens.
- Citizen Me - Students learn that they are citizens at many levels of society: home, school, city, state, and nation! Students create a graphic organizer that diagrams citizen rights and responsibilities at these different levels of citizenship. They also learn the sources of their rights and responsibilities at each level.