

America's Heritage: An Adventure in Liberty
Middle School Level Curriculum
Developed by the American Heritage Education Foundation, Inc.
Supported by the McNair Foundation
Correlated to
Project CLEAR for TAKS Social Studies Grade 8
of Houston Independent School District (HISD)

America's Heritage Middle School Units:

- I. American Heritage Themes - Freedom, Unity, Progress, Responsibility
- II. 1776 - Declaration of Independence - Freedom
- III. 1776 - Lives, Fortunes, Sacred Honor - Responsibility
- IV. 1776 - The Monarchy Game - Progress
- V. 1789 - Thanksgiving - Unity
- VI. 1792 - The United States Flag - Freedom
- VII. 1814 - The Star-Spangled Banner - Unity
- VIII. 1861 - The Gettysburg Address - Responsibility
- IX. 1864 - The National Motto - Responsibility
- X. 1886 - The Statue of Liberty - Freedom
- XI. 1892 - The Pledge of Allegiance - Unity
- XII. 2000 - What is an American? - Responsibility

Project CLEAR Correlates:

I. AHEF Unit One: American Heritage Themes - Freedom, Unity, Progress, Responsibility

Project CLEAR: Lesson 3.3 – Issues Facing the Framers of the Constitution: Important compromises

Key Concepts: The United States Constitution established a written plan for government to allow shared powers, protection of individual liberties, states' rights, and orderly growth and change.

Key Questions: What issues were addressed at the Constitutional Convention, and how were these issues resolved? What ideas emerged from the Philadelphia Convention? Describe the issue of representation in Congress as debated in the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and resolved by the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Describe the issue of citizenship as addressed by the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

TAKS Elements: What were the key issues of the Philadelphia Convention of 1787?

II. AHEF Unit Two: 1776 - Declaration of Independence - Freedom

Project CLEAR: Lesson 2.5 – Declaration of Independence

Key Concepts: Important colonial documents articulated the need for rebellion in the colonies.

Key Questions: What are the main ideas of the Declaration of Independence? Describe the significance of the Declaration of Independence as a key event in the beginning of the American Revolution.

TAKS Elements: Identify the grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence. Define “unalienable rights” and give examples.

III. AHEF Unit Three: 1776 - Lives, Fortunes, Sacred Honor - Responsibility

Project CLEAR: Lesson 2.6 – Events of the American Revolution to Saratoga

Key Concepts: Political and military patriot leaders emerged to ensure success for the American Revolution.

Key Questions: What events contributed to the success of the American Revolution? Describe the roles important individuals played in significant events of the American Revolution. Students must understand the key leadership role played by George Washington in military strategy and morale.

TAKS Elements: Writers of the Articles of Confederation

IV. AHEF Unit Four: 1776 - Monarchy Game - Progress

Project CLEAR: Lesson 1.2 – Founding the Colonies: Jamestown and Plymouth

Key Concepts: In the thirteen original colonies, geography affected settlement patterns and population distribution.

Key Questions: What hardships and challenges did the original colonists at Jamestown and Plymouth face? Compare and contrast the political, social, and economic reasons for the establishment of settlements in Jamestown and Plymouth.

TAKS Elements: Know political, economic, and social reasons for establishing the thirteen colonies.

V. AHEF Unit Five: 1789 - Thanksgiving Day - Unity

Project CLEAR: Lesson 1.6 – Religion in the Colonial Regions

Key Concepts: In the three colonial regions, there were variations in the impact of religious tradition and beliefs.

Key Questions: What role did religion play in the development of the three colonial regions? Describe how religion contributed to the growth of representative government in the American colonies. Identify examples of religious intolerance. Analyze early attempts at establishing religious freedom in colonial America.

TAKS Elements: Know contributions of various racial, ethnic, religious, and minority groups.

VI. AHEF Unit Six: 1792 - The United States Flag - Freedom

Project CLEAR: Lesson 2.4 – The Shot Heard Round the World

Key Concepts: Many colonists believed British governmental policies unfair and protested in a variety of ways.

Key Questions: Emphasize the skill of point-of-view and frame of reference, cause and effect, and interpretation of visuals using timelines, maps, and charts. Analyze the roles of significant individuals. Identify reasons for and the impact of American protests and response to British policy.

TAKS Elements: Know these causes of the American Revolution: British economic policy.

VII. AHEF Unit Seven: 1814 - Star-Spangled Banner - Unity

Project CLEAR: Lesson 2.7 – Winning the American Revolution

Key Concepts: The patriots defeated the British because of expert leadership, knowledge of the territory, tenacity, and support from foreign allies.

Key Questions: Who were important leaders of the revolutionary period and how did they contribute to the success of the revolution? Describe significant events of the American Revolution. Discuss hardships for the soldiers. Emphasize the shift in fighting from New England to the South and how this geographic shift impacted fighting style.

TAKS Elements: Know the people and their significance to the Revolution: Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson.

VIII. AHEF Unit Eight: 1861 - Gettysburg Address - Responsibility

Project CLEAR: Lesson 8.3 – Vicksburg / Gettysburg: Turning Points in the Civil War

Key Concepts: Both the North and the South had strong leaders

Key Questions: What was the significance of the Battle of Gettysburg? Summarize the important event that affected the outcome of the Civil War.

TAKS Elements: What ideas was Lincoln sharing with the nation in the Gettysburg Address?

IX. AHEF Unit Nine: 1864 - National Motto - Responsibility

Project CLEAR: Lesson 1.6 – Religion in the Colonial Regions

Key Concepts: In the three colonial regions there were variations in the impact of religious tradition and beliefs.

Key Questions: What role did religion play in the development of the three colonial regions? Identify examples of religious intolerance. Analyze religious influences on immigration groups in the Colonial period.

TAKS Elements: Know contributions of various racial, ethnic, religious, and minority groups.

X. AHEF Unit Ten: 1886 - Statue of Liberty - Freedom

Project CLEAR: Lesson 3.6 – Development of American Political Thought

Key Concepts: During the Colonial period, Americans began to define self-government. The American political system was built on strong historic and ethical principles.

Key Questions: What ideas laid a foundation for the Constitution? Summarize the major political ideas involved in forming our early government.

TAKS Elements: Explain how grievances in the Declaration of Independence were addressed in the U. S. Constitution.

XI. AHEF Unit Eleven: 1892 - Pledge of Allegiance - Unity

Project CLEAR: Lesson 5.1 – Republicanism and Popular Sovereignty

Key Concepts: Government exists in the United States by the consent of the governed.

Key Questions: How is the concept of individual rights linked to popular sovereignty and republicanism? Ensure students do not confuse republicanism with the Republican Party.

TAKS Elements: Analyze how the U. S. Constitution reflects limited government, individual rights, and republicanism.

XII. AHEF Unit Twelve: 2000 - What is an American? - Responsibility

Project CLEAR: Lesson 3.3 – Issues Facing the Framers of the Constitution: Important Compromises

Key Concepts: The United States Constitution established a written plan for government to allow for shared powers, protection of individual liberties, states' rights, and orderly growth and change.

Key Questions: Describe the issue of representation in Congress debated in the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Describe the issue of foreign trade debated in the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

TAKS Elements: Describe the issue of governmental power versus individual liberties as debated in the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and the Bill of Rights as they apply to people currently in the United States.