SOCIAL STUIDES CURRICULUM – GRADE 7

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	CONTENT	SKILL	RESOURCES & TEXT ALIGNMENT	ASSESSMENT
How do humans influence their	Global Heritage of the	• Recognize that geography affects the social,		
environment?	American People Prior to 1500	political, and economic characteristics of a	NYS Gr. 8 Prior Assessment:	Document Based Questions:
		culture	http://www.nysedregents.org/	http://www.edteck.com/
How did geography affect the	Native Americans	• Describe the relationship between Native	testing/scostei/socstudies8.html	dbq/testing/dbq.htm
development of the Native		American culture and the environment		
American culture?		 Describe the social and economic 		Persuasive/Thematic Essay
		characteristics of Native Americans	Seneca Nation or Tuscarora Nation Guest	
How does geography influence		• Analyze the political, social and economic	Speakers	Constructed Response
economic, social and political		aspect of Northern American Native culture	Political Cartoons:	
development?		 Compare and contrast pre-Columbian 	http://www.topsfieldschools.org/TECHNOLOGY	Common the masses of two
What were the characteristics of		civilizations of the Maya, Inca and Aztec	JC_Computer_Curriculum/History%20-	Compare the message of two conflicting political cartoons.
Native American culture?		according to chronology, location, political	%20SS/JC%20american_revolution.htm	conneting pointear eartoons.
Native American culture:		organization and technology	<u>///2055/JC ///20american_revolution.num</u>	Design a political cartoon
		• Describe the natural resources and climate of	http://www.cagle.com/teacher/	depicting your view on a
		the Native American habitat		particular issue.
What happens when cultures		Compare Iroquois and Algonquians	Graphic Organizers:	
collide?	European Exploration and		http://www.eduplace.com	Debate the pros and cons of the
	Colonization of the Americas		graphicorganizer/index.html	Articles of Confederation
Why do people explore the		• Explain the impact of European exploration		
unknown?		and settlement on the political, social,		Venn diagram the powers of the
		economic and geographic aspects of Native American Indians and European cultures	Primary/Secondary Sources	national government and the
		 Examine life in the colonies including religion, 		powers of the state governments
What changes did colonial		• Examine the in the colonies including religion, family structure and roles, communication,	Social Studies Trade Books:	under the Articles of
settlement bring to the New		transportation and government	http://downloads.ncss.org/	Confederation
World?		 Compare and contrast Spanish, French and 	notable/notable2007.pdf	
		English colonies		
In what ways did colonial life		 Describe the geographic, political, social and 		Propose a new amendment to the
evolve?		economic factors related to colonial settlement		Constitution. State and defend
		continue factors related to colonial settement	Documents:	your amendment.
		• Identify the economic, political and social	http://www.gpoaccess.gov/coredocs.html	
How does revolution change	A Nation Created	causes of the American Revolution		
lives?		 Describe how the colonists were able to unite 	http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/	Use local resources to examine
		against British power to win a major military		the role of your community in the Civil War.
		and political victory	http://edteck.com/dbq/index.htm	
		 Analyze the social, political and economic 		
		consequences of the war.	http://future.state.gov/educators/social/	
		consequences of the war.		

 What does it mean to be a citizen? Is government necessary? Where does power to rule initiate? What is the role of the people in a democracy? How did the Constitution affect the political, economic, and social issues in the new nation? How did the administration of Andrew Jackson affect the U.S.? How are agrarian societies impacted by technology? Are all Americans equal? Are civil wars inevitable? When does compromise fail? 	Experiments in Government Life in a New Nation Division and Reunion	 Explain the formal structure of the U.S. government as expressed in the Articles of Confederation and the weaknesses Compare and contrast the U.S. and NYS Constitution. State the key arguments and the compromises resulting from them during the Constitutional Convention. Discuss the powers granted to the national and state governments by the U.S. Constitution, to individuals in the Bill of Rights Explain that the Constitution can be amended Explain the separation of powers and checks and balances. Investigate how people in the U.S. resolved the political, social and economic issues confronting the new nation Explain the impact of Jacksonian democracy on the political, political and economic impact of the shift from and agarian to an industrial society Describe the causes, development and events of the Civil War Investigate key turning points in the war. Examine the failures of political compromise
		• Examine how the Civil War affected the
In what ways was the United		development of postwar U.S
States both positively and		
negatively affected by the Civil War?		

Social Studies content in Grades 7 and 8 focuses on a chronologically organized study of the U.S. and NYS history. Course content is divided into 11 units, tracing the human experience in the U.S. from pre-Columbian times to the present, and tying political, geographic, economic and social trends in the United States history to parallel trends and time frames in NYS history. The grade 7 program studies the development of the U.S. through the Civil War.