

**CARTERVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8**

*REVISED 2008*

**FIRST QUARTER**

- Summarize how the railroads changed the United States.
- Explain and analyze the reasons for the population surge in the West
- Describe the experiences of Native Americans as the West was settled.
- Summarize the experiences of farmers on the Great Plains in the late 1800s.
- Describe the changes that occurred in the United States during the Industrial Revolution.
- Analyze the experiences of the new immigrants who arrived from 1890-1920.
- Describe the effects of urbanization on the nation in all aspects of life.
- Describe the history of racism in America in terms of segregation, violence, development of Jim Crow laws, and the responses of African Americans.
- List reasons why workers organized unions and identify issues in early labor unions.
- Describe the development of consumer society and mass culture in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- Analyze the goals and beliefs of progressives such as Theodore Roosevelt.
- Compare and contrast the policies of the progressive Presidents.
- Analyze the manner in which women's roles expanded and how this led to suffrage.
- Identify the reasons why the United States became an imperial power.
- Explain how the United States gained possession of Alaska and Hawaii.
- Analyze the varying viewpoints on the new American empire.
- Describe the events of the Spanish-American War.
- Summarize the interests of the United States in Latin America.

## **SECOND QUARTER**

- Analyze the causes of World War I and why the United States became involved.
- Explain how the government rallied the country to support the war effort.
- Explain how American efforts helped to win the war for the Allies.
- Summarize how World War I came to an end and the effects of the war.
- Compare and contrast the Treaty of Versailles and Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points.
- Analyze the social changes that occurred after the war.
- Summarize how the economy grew and struggled in the 1920s.
- Explain why Warren G. Harding appealed to voters in 1920.
- Describe daily life in the 1920s.
- Describe reactions to racial tensions in the 1920s.
- Explain the significance of the Harlem Renaissance.
- Compare and contrast the make up of the federal and state government.
- Explain the election process in Illinois.
- Summarize the duties of the three branches of Illinois government.
- List the requirements to hold government offices in Illinois.
- Summarize the roles of state and local government officials.
- Analyze the lawmaking process for Illinois.
- Name the Illinois state symbols and explain their purpose.
- Assess the role of local governments in Illinois.

## **THIRD QUARTER**

- Identify the events that led to the Great Depression.
- Describe President Hoover's policies for dealing with the Depression and America's response.
- Summarize the steps President Franklin Roosevelt took to boost public confidence and bring relief to those who suffered economic distress via the New Deal and Second New Deal.
- Identify the reasons why the New Deal slowed down.

- Describe the experiences of those living in the Great Plains during the Dust Bowl era.
- Explain how the Depression inspired artistic and cultural achievements.
- Summarize ways in which minorities were affected by the Depression.
- Evaluate the impact of the New Deal on American society.
- Summarize how dictators took power in several nations and then began expanding.
- Describe why and how World War II began.
- Describe social changes brought about by World War II.
- Explain why Japanese-Americans were sent to internment camps.
- Analyze how the Allies advanced in Europe and North Africa and put Germany on the defensive.
- Describe how the Allies achieved victory in Europe and the horrors they discovered.
- Assess the events of Pearl Harbor and how the United States responded.
- Explain how the Allies recaptured most of the territory the Japanese invaded.
- Summarize how the United States developed atomic weapons and ended the war.
- Describe the human and economic costs of the war.
- Analyze steps that were taken to maintain peace after the war and how the world changed.
- Summarize how the economy and the political climate of the United States changed after the war.
- Describe how fear of communism affected people in the United States.
- Describe the origins and expansion of the Cold War and how the world was impacted.
- Identify events leading to the Korean War and the war's outcome.
- Describe American life in the 1950s.
- Summarize cultural influences on children and teenagers in the 1950s.

## FOURTH QUARTER

- Explain how government policies helped and hurt African Americans after Reconstruction.
- Identify ways in which minorities sought to improve their lives and fight for social justice.
- Describe the efforts of civil rights workers to protest discrimination against African Americans after segregation policies expanded and how their opponents reacted to civil rights demonstrations.
- Assess the tactics used by civil rights activists to increase public awareness of discrimination towards African Americans.
- Explain the importance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act.
- Identify conflicts in the civil rights movement in the late 1960s and their ramifications.
- Explain the ways women were still discriminated against after World War II.
- Compare and contrast the views of major leaders in the civil rights movement.
- Evaluate the history of the involvement of the United States in Vietnam.
- Contrast the tactics and strengths of Viet Cong and American troops.
- Describe the Tet Offensive and its effects on American opinions.
- Identify two basic groups of Americans at the time and reasons why they opposed each other.
- Summarize how the Vietnam War affected American political life.
- Analyze the presidency of John F. Kennedy and the impact of his assassination on the nation.
- Evaluate President Nixon's leadership during the Cold War.
- Summarize the events of the Watergate scandal and how it changed the nation.
- Describe important events and challenges faced by President Ford, President Carter, and President Reagan.
- Describe the end of the Cold War and events leading up to the Persian Gulf War.
- Identify the issues in the 2000 election and the events that made it so controversial.
- Describe the events of September 11, 2001, and the ways the United States responded.
- Summarize the challenges facing the United States today and the strengths on which we can build a future.