8th Grade U.S. History Syllabus: First Quarter

Wed., Aug. 16: In Class: (Journal: Write Miss Brailey a letter telling her what you want

her to know about you.) Hand out Syllabus, Rules and expectations (Return

signed by Friday). Why History? Q and A Discussion. Assignment: Read

and Terms Chapter 1 Section 1 (1:1) pp. 6-9.

Thurs., Aug. 17: In Class: (Journal: In light of your reading, why do you believe people

trusted the Mayans to predict the end of the world on 12/21/12?

Support your position / Explain why you think so/not.) Discuss the early

settling of America. Examine the Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas. (DFT

Mayans/Incas?) Discuss the contributions of each. Cultural Identification

exercise? Assignment: Read and Terms 1:2 pp. 10-15.

Fri., Aug. 18: In Class: (Journal: List what you think a person's top five (5) Basic needs

are. Explain why you think so. Then, list the top five (5) beliefs ALL

Americans hold.) Discuss the different ways of living. Review What

makes a Culture. Group time on Native American Groups. Computer Lab/

Chromebooks. Assignment: Review your section in the book.

Mon., Aug. 21: In Class: (Journal: None.) Computer Lab/Chromebooks: Work time on

presentations. Remember to include: Housing style, tribal groups, language,

whether or not they're peaceful, their government structure, core beliefs, how

they survive, and a fun fact. Remember, you need a visual for your

presentation. Assignment: Keep Working!

Tues., Aug. 22: In Class: (Journal: None.) Computer Lab/Chromebooks. Finish time for

Presentations. Assignment: Make sure presentations are ready for

Tomorrow!

Wed., Aug. 23: In Class: (Journal: (Done after presentations) Write down three (3) things

you learned that you didn't already know.) Presentations! Assignment:

Finish Preparing if you haven’t already gone.

Thurs., Aug. 24: In Class: (Journal: None) Finish Presentations. Beginning discussion of

trade. Assignment: Read and Terms 1:3 pp. 16-19.

Fri., Aug. 25: In Class: (Journal: Do you think there was more to be gained from trade

with Asia or trade with Africa? Defend your answer.) Finish Presentations. Discuss the trade routes through Africa and Asia. How would these affect

exploration in the future? Assignment: Read and Terms 1:4 pp. 22-27.

Mon., Aug. 28: In Class: (Journal: What do you believe?) Discuss the background of

belief systems. Examine different forms of government. Which do you

think is the best? Discuss European Eras. Assignment: Study!

Tues., Aug. 29: In Class: (Journal: What is one question you expect to be on the test?

Answer it ☺) Review and Test. Assignment: None.

Wed., Aug. 30: In Class: (Journal: If you could live anywhere in the world, where would

you pick and why? What would be your greatest adjustment?) Catch up

day / Test if necessary. Intro to Colony projects. Select jobs and assign

groups. Assignment: Read and Terms 2:1 pp. 36-41.

Thurs., Aug. 31: In Class: (Journal: Why do you think Columbus is credited with

discovering America? Do you think he deserves the credit? Why or why

not?) Discuss the contributions of early explorers. Map making exercise

(weather permitting) Assignment: Read and Terms 2:2 pp. 44-48 (2 Day

Discussion.)

Fri., Sept. 1: In Class: (Journal: What was the easiest part of making your own map?

What was the hardest? Compare your experience to early cartographers.)

Discuss the Conquistadors. Examine the positives and negatives of

exploration. Assignment: Review Reading. Enjoy your Break!

Mon. Sept. 4: No School! Labor Day!

Tues., Sept. 5: In Class: (Journal: What do you think separates people at Edison? Are

there any ways to bring unity? Explain.) Discuss the issues of

colonization and the Caste system. Discuss Unity. Project time.

Assignment: Read and Terms 2:3 pp. 49-52 (2 Day Discussion.)

Wed., Sept. 6: In Class: (Journal: How do you think things would have been different if

the Spanish Armada would not have been defeated?) Examine the

conflicts in Europe. Discuss the impact religion in England and Spain had

on the United States. Continued discussion of Exploration. Assignment:

Review Reading.

Thurs., Sept.7: In Class: (Journal: Freewrite.) Finish Discussion of explorers. Catch up/

Project day, if needed. Assignment: Read and Terms 2:4 pp. 53-57.

Fri., Sept. 8: (Journal: What would be your biggest challenge going to a new

place? What would you most look forward to?) Beginning Colonization.

Discuss early settlements in America. Review country rivalry. Read

Marquette's Account p. 611. Assignment: Study for the Test! (Tuesday)

Mon., Sept. 11: In Class: In Class: (Journal: List what you know of what happened on

September 11, 2001.) Review the impact of faith on events in history.

Examine September 11 in light of what has happened historically.

Assignment: Finish studying for your test!

Tues., Sept. 12: (Journal: Freewrite) Beginning review, then Test! Last chance for Income or

Indenture. Assignment: Read and Terms 3:1 pp. 66-70 (2 Day Discussion.)

Wed., Sept. 13: In Class: (Journal: Diary of a Voyage—written after travel) Travel to the

New World. Assignment: Bring Supplies/ideas for project.

Thurs., Sept. 14: In Class: (Journal: What do you think was the greatest difficulty the

settlers in Jamestowne faced? Explain why you think so.) Examine initial

settling in Roanoke and Jamestowne. Work time on Colonies.

Assignment: Review Reading.

Fri., Sept. 15: In Class: (Journal: What are the circumstances that would make America

so bad, you'd feel like you couldn't live here anymore? Where would you

go and why?) Discuss the beginning of Plymouth. Set up a system of

rules and government for your colony (will be revised later.) Assignment:

Read and Terms 3:2 pp. 71-75. Brainstorm issues for town meeting.

Mon., Sept. 18: In Class: (Journal: Define Tolerance. Give an example you've seen of

someone being Intolerant.) Discuss New England colonies. Examine the

role of religion in expansion. Focus on the Puritans. Continued Rules

work. Town Meeting. Assignment: Read and Terms 3:3 pp. 77-81

Tues., Sept. 19: In Class: (Journal: Describe the ideal colony or Utopia. Is it possible to

achieve?) Examine the Middle Colonies. Focus on the Quakers and

Penn's experiment. Examine Utopia. Assignment: Bring materials to

work tomorrow.

Wed., Sept. 20: In Class: (Journal: None.) Work time in Lab/Chromebooks typing Colony

rules. Then, Class time developing colonies. Assignment: Read and Terms

3:4 pp. 76, 84-89.

Thurs., Sept. 21: In Class: (Journal: Do you think Bacon was justified in his rebellion?

Support your answer.) Discuss the conflicts in the Southern regions.

Examine the differences in ways of life. Assignment: Read and Terms 3:5

pp. 90-93.

Fri., Sept. 22: In Class: (Journal: Do you think the Spanish colonies were better or

worse than the English colonies? Explain why or why not.) Discuss the

influence missions had on the development of Spanish colonies.

Assignment: Study for test!

Mon., Sept. 25: In Class: (Journal: If you had lived in the thirteen colonies, where would

you like to have lived and why?) Beginning review, then TEST! Colony

work time. Assignment: Bring materials for a work day tomorrow.

Tues., Sept. 26: In Class: (Journal: Freewrite.) First half: Computer Lab—colony

research and travel brochure work. Second half: Class work.

Assignment: Read and Terms 4:1 pp. 102-106 (2 Day Discussion.)

Wed., Sept. 27: In Class: (Journal: What do you think is our most important right/freedom

as Americans? Explain why you think so.) Discuss early forms of

Government. How did they influence American government?

Re-examine your colony's rules. Work time on Colonies. Assignment:

Review Reading.

Thurs., Sept. 28: In Class: (Journal: Should there be any limits to free speech and free

press? If yes, explain what and why. If no, explain why.) Examine

Colonial government. Discuss the Zenger case (p. 105). Focus on

Alexander Hamilton's statement: Truth is key! Examine the pros and cons

of the Navigation Acts. Computer Lab/Chromebook time to finish rules.

Assignment: Read and Terms 4:2 pp. 107-112.

Fri., Sept. 29: In Class: (Journal: Do you believe there are specific roles for men and

women? Explain what tends to be expected of each today.) Discuss

Colonial families and gender roles. Examine social class structure. Work

time on Travel Brochures. Assignment: Bring supplies to work.

Mon., Oct. 2: In Class: (Journal: What has been the biggest challenge for your colony?

What part have you most enjoyed?) Catch up day if needed. Work Day.

First half: Computer Lab, Second Half: Classroom. Assignment: Read

and Terms 4:3 pp. 113-117 (3 Day Discussion.)

Tues., Oct. 3: In Class: (Journal: Write a letter to a slave trader convincing them that the

slave trade is wrong. Make sure you anticipate their objections.) Clips of

Amazing Grace. Discuss differing philosophies about the

Middle Passage. Beginning discussion of why slavery happened.

Assignment: Bring Colony supplies.

Wed., Oct. 4: In Class: (Journal: Freewrite) Continued clips of Amazing Grace.

Continued work time on Colonies. Assignment: Make sure you log

in and work. Two weeks til projects are due!

Thurs., Oct. 5: In Class: (Journal: If you were given control of ten people, what kind of

Master would you be? (Be Honest!) If someone else owned you, what

kind of slave would you be? (Be Honest!) Explain.) Discuss slave codes

in regards to rights. Examine the psychology of slaves and slave owners.

Continued movie clips. Assignment: Read and Terms 118-123 (3 Day

Discussion.)

Fri., Oct. 6: In Class: (Journal: Do you believe school should be mandatory for all

Americans of school age? Explain why or why not.) Discuss Colonial

education. Examine the New England Primer and the ties between religion

and education. Assignment: Write a poem (any style) to be shared

tomorrow. Review Reading. Extra Credit for your favorite Ben Franklin

Quote.

Mon., Oct. 9: In Class: (Journal: What's the best book you've ever read? What did you

like about it?) Poetry reading day. (Yours+Bradstreet, Franklin, and

Wheatley.) Assignment: Review Reading.

Tues., Oct. 10: In Class: (Journal: If you believe in God, explain why and what you

believe He's like. If you do not, explain why and how you believe the

world came to be.) Discuss the Great Awakening. Examine “Sinners in

the Hands of an Angry God” vs. God Made You Special. Review the

affect of religion on culture. Assignment: Review Reading.

Wed., Oct. 11: In Class: (Journal: What gives Humans rights? How do we determine the

way people should be treated?) Discuss the concept of Human Rights.

How are they given and taken away? Discuss the concept of power. Catch

up day and review for the Test. Assignment: Study for the Test!

Thurs., Oct. 12: In Class: (Journal: Agree or Disagree: Power Corrupts. Ultimate Power

Corrupts Ultimately. Explain.) Beginning review, then TEST! Work time

on Colonies. Reminder: Due Next Wednesday! Assignment: None.

Fri., Oct. 13: In Class: (Journal: Write a list of at least 5 major events that have

happened in your life.) Discuss use of Primary Sources. Examine Ben

Franklin's Autobiography and Equiano's account. Work time on Autobiographies (Due After Fall Break) Assignment: Keep working on

Autobiographies. Bring supplies for Monday.

Mon., Oct. 16: In Class: (Journal: Freewrite.) Final Preparation for presentations. First

Half: Computer Lab; Second Half: Classroom. Assignment: Final

Colony Projects are due Wednesday. Remember, you need: Colony

(including 1 house each member, 1 church/school/meeting house, crops or

goods for the region, and a water source.), Charter, Travel Brochure, and

Rules for Government.

Tues., Oct. 17: In Class: (Journal: Write a review of the Colony projects. Explain what

you liked and didn't like about them.) Finalize projects. Assignment: Finish

Your Autobiographies if not done. Arrange for Colony projects tomorrow.

Wed., Oct. 18: In Class: (Journal: None.) Set up Projects. Computer Lab for final

details or to type Autobiographies. Assignment: Come tonight. Read and

Terms 5:1 pp. 140-144.

Thurs., Oct. 19: In Class: (Journal: What is necessary to win a war? Explain.)

End of First Quarter!! Discuss the advantages and disadvantages in the

French-Indian War. What is necessary to win a war? Assignment: Review

Reading.

Fri., Oct. 20-Mon., Oct. 23: No School! Fall Break!