

Implementation of Common Core Standards

Each lesson in this unit requires the use and development of important reading, writing, and critical thinking skills that are now being championed by Common Core. These are skills that have long been used by many Social Studies teachers because they are innate components of the study of history. Listed here are the new North Carolina Essential Standards (adapted from Common Core) for American History and how this unit will accomplish its broad objectives.

NC Essential Standards for American History I and II:

2. Analyze key political, economic and social turning points in American History using historical thinking.

Students will be using historical thinking skills in each of the lessons in this unit to determine important answers to questions, identify patterns among each time period, and interpret meaning of primary source documents. The AP U.S. History redesign includes helpful strategies for incorporating Common Core skills. According to College Board, the key skills include:

College Board's Historical Thinking Skills

Skill 1: Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence

Skill 2: Chronological Reasoning (Historical causation, Patterns of continuity and change over time and Periodization)

Skill 3: Comparison and Contextualization

Skill 4: Historical Interpretation and Synthesis

4. Understand how tensions between freedom, equality and power have shaped the political, economic and social development of the United States.

Students will learn about the slow progression of freedom and equality during American History and their relationship to the struggle for power. In addition, as students study specific examples, they will be prompted to judge their impact of the development of our ever-changing society

8. Analyze the relationship between progress, crisis and the “American Dream” within the United States.

This unit is perfect for this objective! The study of the American Dream can easily be integrated into every unit that is taught in American History because it is created during America's inception and still survives today. Over time, students will evaluate changes in the American Dream and the extent to which it is possible for all Americans.