



Social Sciences Grade 4

The HCPS Office of Social Sciences will build empowered and informed citizens who think critically, advocate locally, impact globally, and innovate by examining the lessons of the past and applying them to today.

Course Overview

This course will focus on the development of the United States beginning with the pre-contact America and ending with Westward Expansion. Students will research Native Americans who lived in North America prior to the arrival of the Europeans. They will evaluate the reasons Europeans explored this area of the world. Students will analyze how different regions of North America developed politically, socially, and economically. They will learn about the circumstances that led to revolution and the formation of a new democratic government. Students will study the reasons for the expansion of the country from the original 13 colonies and how this growth impacted specific groups along the way.

Native Cultures

This module focuses on the reasons early inhabitants arrived in North America from Asia, Europe, and Africa, and how the geography, economy and political ideas of these groups impacted relationships with one another.



Exploration

In this module, students will learn how different British colonial regions of North America were shaped by their geography and how this led to different economic and political differences amongst the regions. Students will evaluate how these circumstances led to the different cultures within the 13 colonies.

American Revolution

This module focuses on the reasons the American colonists wanted to break away from the British rule and the events and outcome of the Revolutionary War. Students will evaluate the circumstances that led to the road to revolution and will learn about the events and ideas that shaped the eventual decision of the colonists to declare and fight for their independence.



Development of American Government and Challenges of a New Nation



This unit focuses on the development of the United States government, Maryland's role in the War of 1812 and the westward expansion of the United States. Students will study how individual groups were affected by expansion including Enslaved People, Native Americans, and immigrants.

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Unit 1: Native Americans, the Age of Encounter, and Early Colonies

This module focuses on the reasons early inhabitants arrived in North America from Asia, Europe, and Africa, and how the geography, economy and political ideas of these groups impacted relationships with one another.

Enduring Understandings:

- Economic wants and needs drive exploration and promotes change.

Essential Questions:

- How does exploration change people and the environment?

Acquisition:

- evaluating the impact of geography on cultural development and interaction
- comparing how societies in the Americas, Western Europe, and Western Africa have shaped and been shaped by their culture and environment
- explaining how societies in the Americas, Western Europe, and Western Africa increasingly interacted after 1450
- analyzing settlement patterns among the Piscataway, Piscataway Conoy, and/or Accohannock people of Maryland using maps and other data
- evaluating the impact of exploration on various groups by examining economic relationships among groups, evaluating early interactions from multiple perspectives, and identifying positive and negative impacts of the Columbian exchange

Experience 1: Native Americans

- Essential Question:
 - Why do people migrate to other areas?
 - How did geography impact political, economic, and social development for Native American Tribes?
- Main Ideas:
 - Economic wants and needs drive exploration and change, sometimes causing conflict.
 - History is shaped by cause-and-effect relationships.
 - Geography shaped the cultural development and interactions of American Indians/Native American groups through trading, exchanging, gifting, and negotiating the purchase of goods, foods, technologies, domestic animals, ideas, and cultural practices with one another

Experience 2: Age of Encounter

- Essential Question: How did geography impact political, economic, and social development during the Age of Encounter?
- Main Ideas:
 - Economic wants and needs drive exploration and change, sometimes causing conflict.
 - History is shaped by cause-and-effect relationships.
 - Push and pull factors led to European exploration and colonization.
 - Societies in the Americas, Western Europe, and Western Africa increasingly interacted after 1450.
 - Positive and negative impacts of the Columbian Exchange

Experience 3: Early Colonies in North America

- Essential Question:
 - How did geography impact political, economic, and social development during the colonial period?
 - How do the interactions of different cultures influence and change society?
- Main Ideas:
 - Different groups were impacted in different ways by the economic and geographic outcomes of European exploration in North America and Maryland
 - Various factors led to successes and failures in Jamestown, Plymouth, St. Augustine, and St. Mary's City

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Unit 2: Colonialism

In this module, students will learn how different British colonial regions of North America were shaped by their geography and how this led to different economic and political differences amongst the regions. Students will evaluate how these circumstances led to the different cultures within the 13 colonies.

Enduring Understandings:

- Colonization benefited specific groups of people at the expense of others.

Essential Questions:

- Who does colonialism benefit?
- How did the pursuit of freedom lead to conflict?
- How does where you live, impact how you live?
- What causes people to deny freedoms to others?

Acquisition:

- analyzing how geography impacted the development of the American colonies.
- comparing human, capital, and natural resources of colonial regions.
- analyzing how ports, slavery, and natural resources created a tobacco-based economy in Maryland.
- examining the impact of the interdependence created by triangle trade in different regions in North America, Europe, and Africa.
- explaining how colonization resulted in conflict, loss of life, disruption of tradition, loss of lands, and resistance by American Indians.
- interpreting laws and legal documents that defined freedom for women, indentured servants, American Indians, and free blacks in the colonies.
- analyzing how the institution of race-based slavery started with indigenous people and expanded by forcing Africans to come to the Americas.
- explaining how the enslaved experience differed from place to place.
- analyzing how forms of slavery have existed over time and how people across multiple locations and time have sought freedom and resisted slavery

Experience 1: Colonial Regions

- Essential Question: Colonial Regions How did geography impact the development of Colonial America?
- Main Ideas:
 - Geography impacted the development of the American colonies differently.
 - Colonial regions developed different cultures based on who settled in the region, their interactions with Indigenous American tribes who were there first, their religion and culture, and the ways geography impacted the growth of their economies.

Experience 2: Colonial Government and Economy

- Essential Question: How did the economic and political systems of Colonial America develop and determine citizens' rights and responsibilities?
- Main Ideas:
 - Interdependence created by the triangular trade impacted different regions in North America, Europe, and Africa.
 - Ports, slavery, and natural resources created a tobacco-based economy in Maryland
 - Colonization resulted in conflict, loss of life, disruption of tradition, loss of lands, and resistance by American Indians/Native Americans.
 - Laws and legal documents defined freedom differently for women, indentured servants, American Indians, and free Black people in the colonies.
 - The institution of race-based slavery started with indigenous people and expanded by forcing Africans to come to the Americas
 - The enslaved experience differed from place to place.
 - Enslaved people resisted slavery in various ways over time

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Unit 3: American Revolution

This module focuses on the reasons the American colonists wanted to break away from the British rule and the events and outcome of the Revolutionary War. Students will evaluate the circumstances that led to the road to revolution and will learn about the events and ideas that shaped the eventual decision of the colonists to declare and fight for their independence.

Enduring Understandings:

- When governments do not meet the needs or wants of the governed, people revolt.

Essential Questions:

- Did the revolution achieve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all?
- What causes revolution?
- Did the Declaration of Independence unite or divide Americans?
- Why did some Marylanders support the Revolution and others did not?

Acquisition:

- examining the causes and effects of the French and Indian War.
- identifying the impact of taxation without representation on various groups.
- evaluating how new religious and political thinking empowered individuals to question royal authority and increased a spirit of independence.
- analyzing the variety of colonial responses to British laws imposed after the French and Indian War.
- identifying the British injustices outlined in the Declaration of Independence and the principles of government proposed to resolve those injustices.
- assessing the challenges for future generations to expand the freedoms expressed in the Declaration of Independence.
- contrasting colonial and British reactions to the Declaration of Independence.
- evaluating various methods of communication and argumentation used by Patriots to further their cause
- evaluating the role of women and African Americans in Maryland in supporting the American Revolution
- using primary and secondary sources to analyze historical information?

Experience 1: Events Leading to the American Revolution

- Essential Question:
 - What cause and effect relationships existed that led up to the American Revolution?
 - Was the government meeting the wants and need the American colonists?
- Main Ideas:
 - How the French and Indian War and British laws imposed after it led to a variety of colonial responses.
 - New religious and political thinking empowered individuals to question royal authority and increased a spirit of independence
 - Taxation without representation impacted various groups in different ways.

Experience 2: Continental Congress and the Declaration of Independence

- Essential Question: Did the Declaration of Independence unite or divide Americans?
- Main Ideas:
 - Colonial responses to British injustices led to the Declaration of Independence
 - Various principles of government were proposed to resolve British injustices
 - The freedoms expressed in the Declaration of Independence created a challenge for future generations to expand upon.
 - Colonial and British reactions to the Declaration of Independence were varied.
 - Various methods of communication and argumentation were used by Patriots to further their cause.

Experience 3: Role of Marylanders in Building a Nation

- Essential Question: Why did some Marylanders support the Revolution and others did not?
- Main Ideas:
 - Economic class and geographic region influenced the division between Patriots and Loyalists in Maryland.
 - The Burning of the Peggy Stewart contrasts with other acts of resistance in the colonies
 - Women and African Americans in Maryland played a role in supporting the Revolution

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Unit 4: Development of American Government and Challenges of a New Nation

This unit focuses on the development of the United States government, Maryland's role in the War of 1812 and the westward expansion of the United States. Students will study how individual groups were affected by expansion including Enslaved People, Native Americans, and immigrants.

Enduring Understandings:

- When governments do not meet the needs or wants of the governed, people revolt.
- Problems in the United States have historically been solved through compromise or conflict.
- The Constitution establishes the rules, virtues, and organization of the United States government.

Essential Questions:

- Did the revolution achieve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all?
- Why do we limit the power of government?
- How does the Bill of Rights protect citizens of the United States?

Acquisition:

- determining how disagreements among the states and federal government under the Articles of Confederation led to people wanting to reform the government.
- assessing the promises set forth in the Preamble.
- evaluating the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances.
- critiquing the Great Compromise and Three-Fifths Compromise.
- identifying scope of powers within branches and levels of government.
- distinguishing the powers and responsibilities of government on the federal, state, and local levels.
- evaluating how perspectives and decisions at the Constitutional Convention limited the definition of citizenship.
- analyzing the roles and powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Maryland state government.
- analyzing how the War of 1812 affected Marylanders

Experience 1: Founding of Our Government

- Essential Question:
 - Is the government for the people and by the people?
 - How and why is power distributed in the United States Constitution?
- Main Ideas:
 - The structure of the powers and responsibilities of the federal and state governments under the Articles of Confederation led to disagreements among the states and federal government.
 - Early challenges to the new nation, including Shays Rebellion and the structural weaknesses of the federal government led to the formation of a new government.
 - The perspectives and decisions at the Constitutional Convention limited the definition of citizenship.
 - The U.S. Constitution establishes a Federal Republic with specific powers outlined for the federal government, with separation of powers and checks and balances embedded into it.
 - The U.S. Constitution protected the institution of slavery with the Great Compromise and Three-Fifths Compromise.
 - The U.S. Constitution distinguishes powers and responsibilities of government on the federal, state, and local levels.
 - Individuals with varying interests contributed to the emergence of the federalist and antifederalist perspectives.
 - The purpose and importance of the first 10 Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and how the amendments are exercised in contemporary times in Maryland and the nation.

Experience 2: War of 1812 and Maryland's Role in the War

- Essential Question:
 - How did the War of 1812 affect Marylanders?
 - How has learning about Maryland's past help us understand Maryland's present?
 - How has technological advancements influenced economic growth and culture?
- Main Ideas:
 - The role the Battle of Baltimore played in the War of 1812 and the writing of the National Anthem

(Experiences 3–4 on the next page)

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Essential Questions:

- Did the revolution achieve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all?
- Why do we limit the power of government?
- How does the Bill of Rights protect citizens of the United States?

Acquisition:

- analyzing the powers and responsibilities of government on the federal and state levels under the Articles of Confederation.
- identifying early challenges to the new nation including Shays Rebellion and the structural weaknesses of the federal government
- analyzing how the War of 1812 affected Marylanders

Experience 3: Growing America

- Essential Question:
 - How did the United States and Maryland respond to growth and change?
 - How did the changes in industry and industry impact the United States in the 1800's?
- Main Ideas:
 - The effects on individual groups of people due to the growth of the United States.
 - Analyzing Maryland's unique role as a hub for industry and transportation as it contributed to national growth and sectional conflict.

Experience 4: Impact of Marginalized Groups on Growth and Expansion

- Essential Question:
 - What are outcomes of treaties with American Indian Nations from the early years of the United States into the mid-1800s?
 - What is the impact of marginalized groups on growth and expansion of Maryland and the U.S.?
- Main Ideas:
 - The United States made and broke many treaties with Native American nations and tribes.
 - The idea of Manifest Destiny was used as a justification for breaking treaties with Native American peoples.
 - The United States' purchase of the Louisiana territory led to forced migration of Native American tribes in what became known as the Trail of Tears.
 - The experiences of indentured servants, enslaved people, free Black people, and immigrants varied widely as the nation expanded.

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All HCPS Social Science Frameworks are built to align with the Maryland State Social Studies Standards and MSDE State Frameworks. Information on the standards and frameworks can be found on the MSDE website (<https://marylandpublicschools.org>).