

Scope and Sequence | Pacing Guides

Overview

This resource is designed to support middle school educators as they bring BRI's Building a Self-Governing People curriculum to life in their classrooms. It includes a concise, one-page overview of key historical content and deconstructed document-based question (DBQ) skills addressed in each unit.

To make planning easier, we've also included two pacing guides that help teachers integrate or adopt the curriculum. Pacing Option 1 completes the curriculum in three nine-week quarters at a fast pace. Pacing Option 2 completes the curriculum in four 8-week quarters with more flexibility.

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**Building a
Self-Governing
People**



Civics & US History
for Middle School

**BILL of RIGHTS
INSTITUTE**

UNIT 1

The Colonial World (1607-1763)

Major Content Topics

- Establishing Colonies
- Economic Development
- Foundations of Self-Government
- Cultural Exchange & Conflict

Deconstructed Document-Based Question (DBQ) Skills

- Thesis

UNIT 2

American Revolution (1763- 1783)

Major Content Topics

- Growing Tensions
- Independence
- Revolution,
- Creating a New Nation

Deconstructed Document-Based Question (DBQ) Skills

- Thesis
- Grouping Sources

UNIT 3

Constitution and Ratification (1787-1791)

Major Content Topics

- Weaknesses of the Articles
- Constitutional Convention
- Ratification
- Federalism

Deconstructed Document-Based Question (DBQ) Skills

- Thesis
- VIEW Sentences

UNIT 4

Civic and Constitutional Life

Major Content Topics

- The Bill of Rights
- Branches of Government
- Citizenship and Participation

Deconstructed Document-Based Question (DBQ) Skills

- Thesis
- Grouping Sources
- VIEW Sentences

UNIT 5

Early Republic (1789-1815)

Major Content Topics

- Washington
- Party Politics
- Foreign Relations

Deconstructed Document-Based Question (DBQ) Skills

- Context
- Thesis
- Grouping Sources
- VIEW Sentences

UNIT 6

American in Transition (1815-1860)

Major Content Topics

- Jacksonian Democracy
- Industrialization and Urbanization
- Reform Movements

Deconstructed Document-Based Question (DBQ) Skills

- Thesis
- Grouping Sources
- VIEW Sentences

UNIT 7

American Expansion (1830-1860)

Major Content Topics

- Economic Development
- Territorial Expansion
- Sectionalism and Compromise

Deconstructed Document-Based Question (DBQ) Skills

- Thesis
- VIEW Sentences
- Providing Evidence

UNIT 8

Civil War (1860-1865)

Major Content Topics

- Causes of the Civil War
- The War and its Impact
- Leadership

Deconstructed Document-Based Question (DBQ) Skills

All skills:

- Creating a thesis
- Grouping primary sources
- Document summary and analysis (VIEW)
- Adding historical context
- Using/providing evidence

UNIT 9

Reconstruction (1865-1877)

Major Content Topics

- Presidential and Congressional Reconstruction
- African Americans in the Post-War Era
- End of Reconstruction

Deconstructed Document-Based Question (DBQ) Skills

All skills:

- Creating a thesis
- Grouping primary sources
- Document summary and analysis (VIEW)
- Adding historical context
- Using/providing evidence

Pacing Guides

Pacing Guide Color Code

	First Lesson of the Quarter
	Second Lesson of the Quarter
	Third Lesson of the Quarter
	Flex Days

Pacing Option 1

For dedicated U.S. History and Civics teachers who conclude the year with a state exam or end-of-course assessment, this pacing guide is designed for classes meeting five days a week for 45–60 minutes. The curriculum is structured to be completed in three quarters (9 weeks each), allowing for an accelerated pace that covers all required content before testing.

Quarter 1

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Week 1	First Day of School	<u>The Colonial World Stations</u>	<u>Cont. The Colonial World Stations</u>	<u>Reasons for Settlement</u>	<u>Colonial Charters</u>
Week 2	<u>Major Industries of the 13 Colonies</u>	<u>Cont. Major Industries of the 13 Colonies</u>	<u>Mercantilism and the Colonial World</u>	<u>Origins of Slavery, Resistance to Slavery</u>	<u>Cont. Origins of Slavery, Resistance to Slavery</u>
Week 3	<u>Self-Governance in the British Colonies</u>	<u>Origins of Slavery, Resistance to Slavery</u>	<u>Cont. Origins of Slavery, Resistance to Slavery</u>	<u>Self-Governance in the British Colonies</u>	<u>Cont. Self-Governance in the British Colonies</u>
Week 4	<u>Salutary Neglect</u>	<u>The Albany Plan and the War that Followed</u>	<u>Timeline and Place</u>	<u>Cont. Timeline and Place</u>	<u>Cultural Exchanges in the Colonial World</u>
Week 5	<u>Rising Tensions</u>	<u>Views of British Rule before the Revolution</u>	<u>Cont. Views of British Rule before the Revolution</u>	<u>Founding Principles, Virtues, and the American Revolution</u>	Reteach or Extension
Week 6	<u>Battles of the Revolution</u>	<u>Cont. Battles of the Revolution</u>	<u>Revolutionary War Story Map</u>	<u>Effectiveness of the Articles of Confederation</u>	<u>What's in the Articles of Confederation?</u>
Week 7	<u>Assign and begin Unit 2 Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>	Reteach or Extension	<u>Comparing the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution</u>
Week 8	<u>The Articles of Confederation</u>	<u>The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution Preamble</u>	<u>Cont. The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution Preamble</u>	<u>Sorting Views of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists</u>	<u>Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists</u>
Week 9	<u>Modified Fed Up Game: Whole-Group Version</u>	<u>Federalism and the National Bank</u>	<u>Assign and begin Unit 3 Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>

Quarter 2

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Week 1	<u>Grouping Rights</u>	<u>Limiting Government Through the Bill of Rights</u>	<u>Learning to Read Supreme Court Decisions</u>	<u>Cont. Learning to Read Supreme Court Decisions</u>	<u>The Constitutional System of Government</u>
Week 2	<u>Cont. The Constitutional System of Government</u>	<u>Healthy Tension through Checks and Balances</u>	<u>Cont. Healthy Tension through Checks and Balances</u>	<u>Branches Battle Whole Class Game</u>	<u>What Makes a Good Citizen?</u>
Week 3	<u>Outward Civic Life: Civic Groups</u>	<u>Cont. Outward Civic Life: Civic Groups</u>	<u>Assign and begin Unit 4 Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>
Week 4	Reteach or Extension	<u>Understanding Washington: His First Inaugural Address and Farewell Address</u>	<u>Understanding Washington: His First Inaugural Address and Farewell Address</u>	<u>Washington and the Whiskey Rebellion</u>	<u>Party Lines: The Rise of Federalists and Democratic-Republicans</u>
Week 5	<u>Cont. Party Lines: The Rise of Federalists and Democratic-Republicans</u>	<u>Homework Help: Marbury v. Madison</u>	<u>The Causes and Effects of the Election of 1800</u>	<u>Early American Conflicts</u>	<u>Cont. Early American Conflicts</u>
Week 6	<u>Decisions in the Early Republic</u>	<u>Assign and begin Unit 5 Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>	Reteach or Extension
Week 7	<u>Interactive Suffrage Timeline</u>	<u>Cont. Interactive Suffrage Timeline</u>	<u>Social Movements of the Nineteenth Century</u>	<u>Cont. Social Movements of the Nineteenth Century</u>	<u>The Presidency of Andrew Jackson</u>
Week 8	<u>Technology Cause and Effects</u>	<u>Cont. Technology Cause and Effects</u>	<u>Industrial Growth and Immigration</u>	<u>Cont. Industrial Growth and Immigration</u>	<u>Reform Movements of the Nineteenth Century</u>
Week 9	<u>Cont. Reform Movements of the Nineteenth Century</u>	<u>Assign and begin Unit 6 Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>	Reteach or Extension

Quarter 3

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Week 1	<u>Geography and History: A Map-Based Inquiry</u>	<u>Cont. Geography and History: A Map-Based Inquiry</u>	<u>Infrastructure in the Era of Expansion</u>	<u>Land Acquisition and Westward Movement</u>	<u>Migration West</u>
Week 2	<u>Voices From Western Expansion</u>	<u>Trail of Tears Stations</u>	<u>Is the Constitution Pro or Anti-Slavery?</u>	<u>Development of Sectionalism and Rising Tensions</u>	<u>Abolition Views Sorting</u>
Week 3	<u>How Enslaved People Resisted Slavery</u>	<u>Assign and begin Unit 7 Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>	Reteach or Extension
Week 4	<u>Underlying and Immediate Causes of the Civil War</u>	<u>Secession and the Start of the Civil War</u>	<u>Views of Slavery</u>	<u>Battles of the Civil War</u>	<u>Civil War Battles Research Project</u>
Week 5	<u>Cont. Civil War Battles Research Project</u>	<u>Voices from the Civil War</u>	<u>Domestic and International Views of the Civil War</u>	<u>Turning Points and Events of the Civil War</u>	<u>Respect at Appomattox</u>
Week 6	<u>Thirteenth Amendment Case Study</u>	<u>Lincoln and Prudence</u>	<u>Assign and begin Unit 8 Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>
Week 7	Reteach or Extension	<u>Different Models of Reconstruction</u>	<u>The Story of Reconstruction</u>	<u>Assessing President Andrew Johnson's First Annual Message</u>	<u>Comparing Art to Reality</u>
Week 8	<u>Reconstruction and Resistance: Black Codes and the Ku Klux Klan</u>	<u>Oral Histories of Formerly Enslaved Individuals</u>	<u>Cont. Oral Histories of Formerly Enslaved Individuals</u>	<u>The End of Reconstruction</u>	<u>Reconstruction Point-Counterpoint</u>
Week 9	<u>Legacy of Reconstruction</u>	<u>Assign and begin Unit 8 Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>	Reteach or Extension

Pacing Guides

Pacing Guide Color Code

	First Lesson of the Quarter
	Second Lesson of the Quarter
	Third Lesson of the Quarter
	Flex Days

Pacing Option 2

For dedicated U.S. History and Civics teachers with 45–60 minutes of class time, five days a week, who need a more flexible schedule and do not have an early end-of-year exam. Each quarter includes 8 weeks of instruction, plus 5 flex days for holidays, weather-related closures, or in-service days.

Quarter 1

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Week 1	First Day of School	Flex Days	Flex Days	The Colonial World Stations	Cont. The Colonial World Stations
Week 2	Reasons for Settlement	Colonial Charters	Cont. Colonial Charters	Major Industries of the 13 Colonies	Cont. Major Industries of the 13 Colonies
Week 3	Mercantilism and the Colonial World	Origins of Slavery, Resistance to Slavery	Cont. Origins of Slavery, Resistance to Slavery	Self-Governance in the British Colonies	Cont. Self-Governance in the British Colonies
Week 4	Salutary Neglect	The Albany Plan and the War that Followed	Timeline and Place	Cont. Timeline and Place	Cultural Exchanges in the Colonial World
Week 5	Cont. Cultural Exchanges in the Colonial World	Assign and begin Unit 1 Deconstructed DBQ	Continue Deconstructed DBQ	Complete Deconstructed DBQ	Reteach or Extension
Week 6	Rising Tensions	Views of British Rule before the Revolution	Cont. Views of British Rule before the Revolution	Founding Principles, Virtues, and the American Revolution	Cont. Founding Principles, Virtues, and the American Revolution
Week 7	Battles of the Revolution	Cont. Battles of the Revolution	Revolutionary War Story Map	Effectiveness of the Articles of Confederation	What's in the Articles of Confederation?
Week 8	Cont. What's in the Articles of Confederation?	Assign and begin Unit 2 Deconstructed DBQ	Continue Deconstructed DBQ	Complete Deconstructed DBQ	Reteach or Extension

Quarter 2

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Week 1	Flex Day	Comparing the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution	The Articles of Confederation	The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution Preamble	Sorting Views of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists
Week 2	Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists	Modified Fed Up Game: Whole-Group Version	Federalism and the National Bank	Assign and begin Unit 3 Deconstructed DBQ	Continue Deconstructed DBQ
Week 3	Complete Deconstructed DBQ	Reteach or Extension	Grouping Rights	Limiting Government Through the Bill of Rights	Learning to Read Supreme Court Decisions
Week 4	The Constitutional System of Government	Cont. The Constitutional System of Government	Healthy Tension through Checks and Balances	Cont. Healthy Tension through Checks and Balances	Branches Battle Whole Class Game
Week 5	Outward Civic Life: Civic Groups	What Makes a Good Citizen?	Assign and begin Unit 4 Deconstructed DBQ	Continue Deconstructed DBQ	Complete Deconstructed DBQ
Week 6	Reteach or Extension	Understanding Washington: His First Inaugural Address and Farewell Address	Understanding Washington: His First Inaugural Address and Farewell Address	Washington and the Whiskey Rebellion	Party Lines: The Rise of Federalists and Democratic-Republicans
Week 7	Cont. Party Lines: The Rise of Federalists and Democratic-Republicans	Homework Help: Marbury v. Madison	The Causes and Effects of the Election of 1800	Early American Conflicts	Decisions in the Early Republic
Week 8	Assign and begin Unit 5 Deconstructed DBQ	Continue Deconstructed DBQ	Complete Deconstructed DBQ	Reteach or Extension	Flex Day

Quarter 3

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Week 1	<u>Interactive Suffrage Timeline</u>	<u>Cont. Interactive Suffrage Timeline</u>	<u>Social Movements of the Nineteenth Century</u>	<u>Cont. Social Movements of the Nineteenth Century</u>	Flex Day
Week 2	<u>The Presidency of Andrew Jackson</u>	<u>Technology Cause and Effects</u>	<u>Cont. Technology Cause and Effects</u>	<u>Industrial Growth and Immigration</u>	<u>Cont. Industrial Growth and Immigration</u>
Week 3	<u>Reform Movements of the Nineteenth Century</u>	<u>Cont. Reform Movements of the Nineteenth Century</u>	<u>Assign and begin Unit 6 Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>
Week 4	Reteach or Extend	Flex Day	<u>Geography and History: A Map-Based Inquiry</u>	<u>Cont. Geography and History: A Map-Based Inquiry</u>	<u>Infrastructure in the Era of Expansion</u>
Week 5	<u>Land Acquisition and Westward Movement</u>	<u>Cont. Land Acquisition and Westward Movement</u>	<u>Migration West</u>	<u>Voices From Western Expansion</u>	<u>Cont. Voices From Western Expansion</u>
Week 6	<u>Trail of Tears Stations</u>	<u>Cont. Trail of Tears Stations</u>	<u>Is the Constitution Pro or Anti-Slavery?</u>	<u>Cont. Is the Constitution Pro or Anti-Slavery?</u>	<u>Development of Sectionalism and Rising Tensions</u>
Week 7	<u>Cont. Development of Sectionalism and Rising Tensions</u>	<u>Abolition Views Sorting</u>	<u>Cont. Abolition Views Sorting</u>	<u>How Enslaved People Resisted Slavery</u>	<u>Cont. How Enslaved People Resisted Slavery</u>
Week 8	<u>Assign and begin Unit 7 Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>	Reteach or Extension	Flex Day

Quarter 4

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Week 1	<u>Underlying and Immediate Causes of the Civil War</u>	<u>Secession and the Start of the Civil War</u>	<u>Views of Slavery</u>	<u>Battles of the Civil War</u>	<u>Cont. Battles of the Civil War</u>
Week 2	<u>Civil War Battles Research Project</u>	<u>Cont. Civil War Battles Research Project</u>	<u>Voices from the Civil War</u>	<u>Cont. Voices from the Civil War</u>	<u>Domestic and International Views of the Civil War</u>
Week 3	<u>Turning Points and Events of the Civil War</u>	<u>Respect at Appomattox</u>	<u>Thirteenth Amendment Case Study</u>	<u>Cont. Thirteenth Amendment Case Study</u>	<u>Lincoln and Prudence</u>
Week 4	<u>Assign and begin Unit 8 Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>	Reteach or Extension	Flex Day
Week 5	<u>Different Models of Reconstruction</u>	<u>The Story of Reconstruction</u>	<u>Assessing President Andrew Johnson's First Annual Message</u>	<u>Cont. Assessing President Andrew Johnson's First Annual Message</u>	<u>Comparing Art to Reality</u>
Week 6	<u>Cont. Comparing Art to Reality</u>	<u>Reconstruction and Resistance: Black Codes and the Ku Klux Klan</u>	<u>Cont. Reconstruction and Resistance: Black Codes and the Ku Klux Klan</u>	<u>Oral Histories of Formerly Enslaved Individuals</u>	<u>Cont. Oral Histories of Formerly Enslaved Individuals</u>
Week 7	<u>The End of Reconstruction</u>	<u>Reconstruction Point-Counterpoint</u>	<u>Legacy of Reconstruction</u>	<u>Cont. Legacy of Reconstruction</u>	<u>Assign and begin Unit 8 Deconstructed DBQ</u>
Week 8	<u>Continue Deconstructed DBQ</u>	<u>Complete Deconstructed DBQ</u>	Reteach or Extension	Flex Day	Flex Day