

# **Tewksbury Public Schools**

## **History and Social Sciences**

### **Expectations for Understanding Grade 8**

#### **I. A Meeting of Different Worlds**

- a. Geography of the Americas**
- b. Europeans reach the Americas**
- c. The First English Settlements**

#### **II. Revolution to Republic**

- a. 13 English Colonies**
- b. Road to Revolution**
- c. The American Revolution**
- d. Creating a Republic**

#### **III. The New Republic**

- a. The New Government Begins**
- b. The Constitution; a living document**
- c. The Jefferson Era**
- d. Years of Growth and Expansion**

#### **IV. Expanding Nation**

- a. The Jackson Era**
- b. Westward Expansion**
- c. North/South; Evolving economic, social divisions**
- d. Reforming Age**

#### **V. The Civil War**

- a. Events leading up to the Civil War**
- b. Civil War Years**
- c. Reconstruction**

The following are key concepts that are essential to the Grade Eight American History Curriculum:

- *the struggle for social, political, intellectual, religious, and economic development*
- *the study of expansion and conflict and how conflict can often arise from diversity*
- *understanding the political and social impact of the idea of Manifest Destiny*
- *understanding the characteristics of life on the Western frontier in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the cultural interactions between diverse groups*
- *understanding the legitimate exercise of authority, the abuse of office and power, and the historical effects of and the public responses to each*