

## **Grade 8 Social Studies Essential Questions**

### **UNIT 1**

#### **Chapter 19**

1. How did geography effect development in the west?
2. What caused conflict between white settlers and the Native Americans on the Great Plains
3. Have Native Americans been treated fairly by the United States government?
4. What were the goals of the Grange?

#### **Chapter 20**

1. What factors contributed to the Industrial Revolution?
2. How did railroads transform the nation?
3. Were big business leaders “captains of industry” or “robber barons”?
4. How do monopolies and trusts affect people? Who benefits? Who suffers?

#### **Chapter 21**

1. How did Industrialization change city life?
2. Has immigration been the key to America’s success?
3. To what extent did Jim Crow Laws create and govern a racially segregated society in the South?
4. What was the impact of Plessy v. Ferguson?

### **UNIT 2**

#### **Chapter 22**

1. What were the goals of the Progressive movement?
2. Was Teddy Roosevelt a Progressive President?
3. Were the Progressives successful in making government more responsive to the will of the people?
4. What reasons contributed to the passage of the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment?
5. What events led to the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment?

## Chapter 23

1. What factors contributed to American imperialism?
2. Did the press cause the Spanish American war?
3. Was the United States justified in going to war with Spain in 1898?
4. Why did the United States want a canal connecting the oceans?
5. Was acquiring the Panama Canal Zone a justifiable act of Imperialism?

## Chapter 24

1. What were the causes of World War I?
2. Was it possible for the United States to maintain neutrality in World War I?
3. What efforts were made on the home front to help the war effort?
4. What was the Treaty of Versailles? Who was punished severely by the treaty?
5. Was the treaty of Versailles a solution to lasting world peace?

## ***Unit 3***

### Chapter 25

1. What changes allowed for the increase in consumerism?
2. Was prohibition a success?
3. How did American culture change in the 1920's?

### Chapter 26

1. What problems of the 1920's US economy contributed to the Great Depression?
2. Why did Hoover lose to Roosevelt in the 1932 presidential election?
3. Was the New Deal an effective response to the Great Depression?
4. What effect did the Dust Bowl have on farmers on the plains?
5. Did the New Deal effectively end the Great Depression and bring the U.S. back to prosperity?

### Chapter 27

1. What contributed to the rise of dictators leading up to World War II?
2. Was war with Japan inevitable?
3. Why did Japan begin taking over territory throughout Asia and the Pacific?
4. How important was the American home front in the United States victory in the war?

5. Was the treatment of Japanese Americans during the war justified?
6. Was the holocaust preventable?

## ***UNIT 4***

### Chapter 28

1. What contributed to the postwar economic boom?
2. What are the origins of the cold War and what is containment policy?
3. Why did war break out in Korea?
4. What is the American dream?

### Chapter 29

1. What factors contributed to the civil rights movement?
2. What is the significance of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka?
3. Were civil disobedience and passive resistance an effective means for achieving goals?
4. What events contributed to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

### Chapter 30

1. How does the domino theory relate to the Vietnam conflict?
2. Why was the Vietnam conflict a frustrating war for U.S. forces?
3. How did the Vietnam conflict divide the nation?
4. How were Nixon's policies different from Johnson's?

### Chapter 31

1. What events led to the Watergate Scandal?
2. What impact did Watergate have on the nation?
3. What is the significance of the Camp David Accords?

### Chapter 32

1. What was Reaganomics?