

Boston Collegiate Charter School
5th Grade History Course Description – Early America
2011-2012

Mrs. Camarata
617-282-6710 # 259
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Course Overview:

This class focuses on early American History, beginning with an introduction of Early American Culture through the formation and expansion of the United States. Within each unit of study, there will be a continual development of related geography, chronology, civics, and other social studies skills. We will study the topics below using a thematic unit approach, allowing us to investigate these historical topics in depth. Each unit will build upon the previous one in both content and skills.

This course will be divided into the following units:

- Introductory Unit: What is History? (August-September)
- Unit 1: First American Cultures (September– November)
- Unit 2: Early European Explorers (November – January)
- Unit 3: Colonization (January – March)
- Unit 4: The Revolutionary War and American Government – Unit and Research Project (March – June)
- On-going geography and map skills within each unit
- On-going presentation and discussion of current events throughout the year

Main class text series:

1. *The United States* – Scott Foresman
2. *The History of US* - by Joy Hakim
Book 1 – *The First Americans*
Book 2 – *Making 13 Colonies*

Primary Performance Standards

By the end of 5th grade, students will have further developed their abilities in the following areas:

- **Cause/Effect Sequencing** - Students will be able to place events in order and be able to identify two or more events that have a cause and effect relationship.
- **Geography** - Students will be able to read and analyze different types of maps and be able to demonstrate an understanding of the effect of geography on events and global issues.
- **Analysis and Synthesis of Data** - Students will be able to distinguish between fact and opinion and understand and use information from charts, timelines, maps, graphs, and political cartoons.
- **Research** - Students will be able to use secondary sources to obtain historical and factual information with teacher support and use it in a research report.

Grading:

The final grade each term will be based on the following:

- **20% Homework**
- **20% Class work** (including Do Nows, group activities, and class participation in activities and discussions)
- **30% Tests**
- **30% Other Assessments** (including quizzes, projects, essays, and binder organization)

*A cumulative final exam will be given at the end of the year representing 5% of the student's year end grade.

Homework will be given daily and must be fully completed, turned in during advisory, and comply with the school homework requirements. **Students are required to write down homework on their school homework tracking form.** If homework is not turned in, is late, OR does not meet the required expectations, students will be required to attend Homework Club that day, and complete or redo the assignment.

Classwork: Students need to complete and participate in all class assignments, activities and discussions. If a student misses class for any reason, s/he will need to see me and make up the missed work.

Class Participation is part of the class work, and consists of the following criteria:

- being prepared for class and ready to start when the bell rings;
- beginning the Do Now as soon as the bell rings and completing it with ones best effort; and
- fully participating and being attentive during all class discussions and activities.

Quizzes are given periodically throughout a unit to check for understanding. They may be announced or unannounced. **Final Unit Tests** are given at the end of each unit and will always be announced in advance. For each final unit test, students will prepare study materials from a list of study topics. **Students will be required to study these materials with a parent and have that parent sign a study guide verifying this previous to each unit test.**

Being Absent:

If a student is absent from school or misses class for ANY reason, **s/he is required to see me either before advisory or at lunch the day s/he returns to school.** Any work that was due the day that s/he was absent should be handed in at this time. Any work that was assigned the day s/he was out will be due the day after s/he returns to school. (If a student is absent for an extended period of time, we can make up a plan of work to be completed over a number of days). Students will need to complete all the required assignments s/he missed (classwork and homework).

Being prepared for class:

Students need to be prepared for class every day. Class preparation will be incorporated into the student's class participation grade at the end of each quarter. To be prepared for class means the following:

- having the social studies folder with all required permanent and unit papers
- having the covered social studies text book (once assigned)
- having a silent reading book
- having at least 2 pens/pencils (sharpened) and a handheld pencil sharpener
- having loose leaf paper for class work (at least 5 sheets)
- having turned in homework at the appropriate time
- being in seat with all of the above, ready to work when the bell rings

Daily Required Materials:

Students will be expected to come to class daily with the required materials. **Failure to do so will result in a demerit.**

- at least 2 pencils (sharpened)
- a handheld pencil sharpener
- an eraser
- red pen
- loose leaf paper for class work (at least 5 sheets)
- school HW tracking form
- Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) book
- History textbook (once assigned)

Other Required Materials:

- A set of colored pencils

Extra Help:

This year, the Lower School has moved to a targeted tutoring program, designed to provide additional skill support to struggling students. **As a result, tutoring is by invitation only.** More information about this change will be coming soon.

I have read this with my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date _____

Required Supplies for History

Dear parents and families,

The following is a list that will be needed to begin the year in History. Please buy enough so that your student can get started comfortably. When your student runs out of something, please replace it as soon as possible so as not to hinder any learning. If you have any questions, please call me at 617-282-6710 x 259.

Thank you,
Mrs. Camarata

- * 5 BLUE 2-pocket folders
- * Number 2 pencils
- * Red pen
- * Loose leaf paper
- * A hand held pencil sharpener
- * Erasers
- * Colored pencils

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Thank you,

Mrs. Camarata

- * 1 three-ring binder
- * A set of 5-tab binder dividers
- * 3" x 5" index cards (2 packs of 100)
- * Number 2 pencils
- * Red pen
- * Loose leaf paper
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