

The Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum

*American History and Civics Lessons
for K-12 Classrooms*

ABOUT THE HILLSDALE 1776 CURRICULUM

A Curriculum to Unite Americans and Heal America

The Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum is a complete collection of lesson plans for teaching American history, civics, and government to K-12 students. Students who study using this curriculum learn about American history from the colonies through the Civil War at four different times during their K-12 years, each time increasing in depth. The curriculum also includes American history since the Civil War and American government and civics for both middle and high school students.

This curriculum is drawn from the actual evidence of the past, mostly documentary, which is our sole way of knowing what has gone before. It stays as close to that evidence as possible. As the student grows and learns, he is increasingly placed in direct contact with this evidence.

The curriculum provides teachers with guidance—not dictates—about how to plan and teach a given topic in American history or civics, and is free of cost to schools, teachers, parents, and the general public.

The introduction outlines how content was chosen, the pedagogical principles appropriate for teaching the curriculum, how teachers might use the curriculum when they plan lessons, what is necessary for the successful adoption of the curriculum and the restoration of American K-12 education, and the principles underlying the curriculum's approach to history and civics education.

The Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum is the product of Hillsdale College professors and some of the very best K-12 teachers, both past and present, derived from and created for real classrooms with real students taught by real teachers.

INSIDE THE CURRICULUM

What Teachers Receive

The Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum restores tried and true instructional methods and the freedom to teach to America's teachers. The curriculum includes the following resources for teachers:

- Lesson plan guidance for teachers, from kindergarten to senior year

- Complete history, civics, and government courses

- Hillsdale College-vetted book, online course, and resource recommendations

- Student-ready primary sources

- Sample assignments, activities, and assessments

THE EDUCATION STUDENTS DESERVE

What Students Learn

In July 2021, Hillsdale College released the first phase of *The Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum*. The remainder of the curriculum will be released in early 2022. Once completed, the curriculum will include complete units on the following topics.

Hillsdale’s History of America for K-12 Students

- Unit 1 | The British Colonies of North America (1492–1763)
- Unit 2 | The American Founding (1763–1789)
- Unit 3 | The Early Republic (1789–1848)
- Unit 4 | The American Civil War (1848–1877)
- Unit 5 | The Turn of the Century (1877–1919)
- Unit 6 | The Interwar Years and World War II (1919–1945)
- Unit 7 | Post-War America (1945–1975)
- Unit 8 | Recent American History (1975–Present)

Hillsdale’s American Civics for Middle School Students

- Unit 1 | The Declaration of Independence
- Unit 2 | The United States Constitution
- Unit 3 | Politics and Policy
- Unit 4 | Challenging and Defending America’s Principles

Hillsdale’s American Government and Politics for High School Students

- Unit 1 | The Principles of America
- Unit 2 | A Constitution of Principles
- Unit 3 | Governing in the Constitution
- Unit 4 | Equality in America
- Unit 5 | Progressivism and the State
- Unit 6 | Institutions and Policy
- Unit 7 | Politics in Practice
- Unit 8 | Late 20th Century Government and Politics
- Capstone Conversation | The Meaning of America
- Optional Civics Activities | Fostering Civic Responsibility

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

What You Can Do

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| State Policymakers | Publicly promote the curriculum and work to have the state endorse it as one of several curricula schools may use to teach American history and civics.

Reform state social studies standards based on the curriculum. |
| School Board Officials | Adopt the curriculum as your schools’ American history and civics curriculum. |
| Teachers | Use the curriculum to supplement your current lessons. |
| Parents and Citizens | Share with your local school board members, administrators, and teachers.

Use to compare what your child should be learning in social studies classes with what they are really being taught. |

The curriculum is available free for download at
K12.Hillsdale.edu

HILLSDALE COLLEGE | K-12 Education