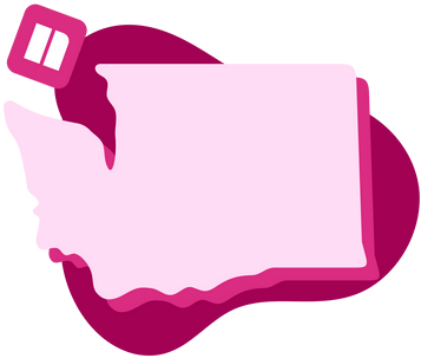
newsela Social Studies for Washington

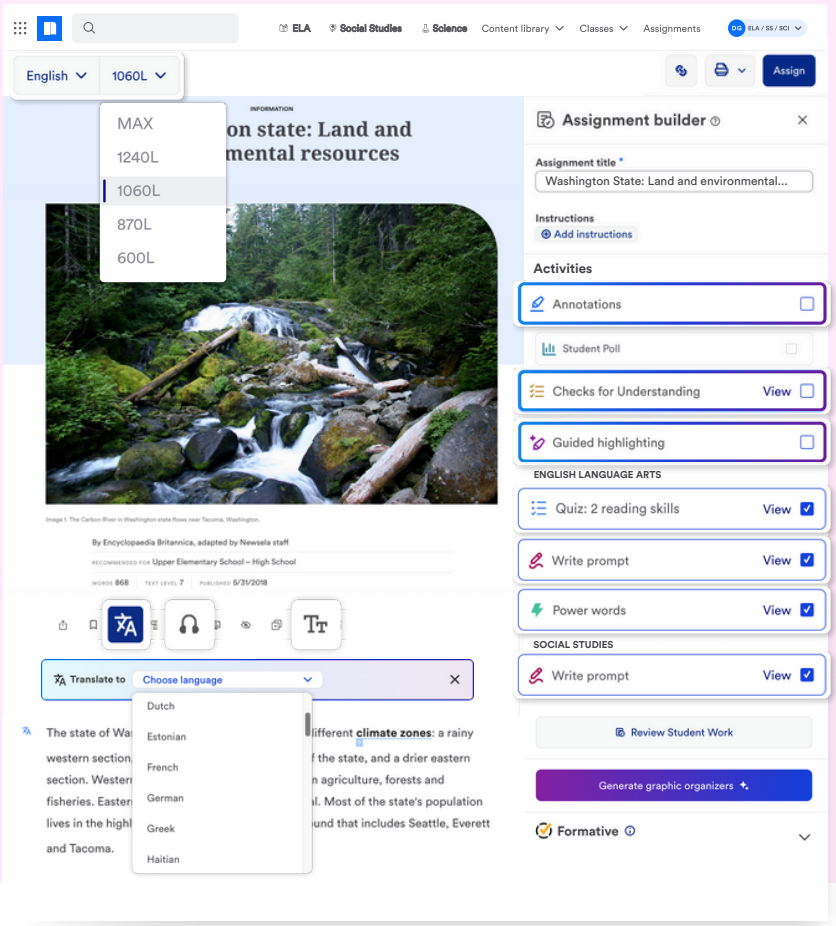
History, Headlines, and Lessons to Shape Tomorrow's Citizens



Inspire students with diverse, state-specific content — including materials curated to support Washington's standards and initiatives — that connects history with current events and promotes scaffolded, inquiry-based learning, all in one place.

Students who used Newsela Social Studies weekly showed the equivalent of an additional year of instruction on their state social studies exam.

- Engage students with **relevant, diverse, and authentic materials** like primary sources, biographies, speeches, and videos.
- **Create an inquiry-driven experience** that places your students at the forefront using curated text sets for digital citizenship, media literacy skills, and C3 inquiry skills.
- **Build literacy skills** by helping students make sense of the world through texts, discussions, and critical thinking.
- Drive success for all students with **Luna, an AI assistant**, that powers features such as a text leveler, text translator, checks for understanding, graphic organizers, and more to support all learners.



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To learn more about Newsela Social Studies, scan this QR code or visit newsela.com/about/products/social-studies

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Tailor instruction to the needs of your unique classroom and community.

Included in the extensive Newsela Social Studies library, Washington educators will find collections specifically designed to help them create learning experiences that resonate with students' lives while covering essential standards and initiatives.

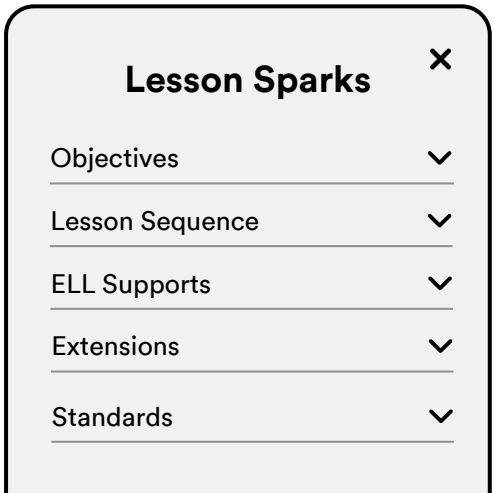
The Washington Middle School Social Studies Collection

The Washington Middle School collection provides texts and instructional resources aligned to WA social studies standards for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, including specific state history sources in 7th grade.

The Washington Mandates Collection

This collection provides resources supporting multiple recent mandates passed by the state that require better instruction and integration of media literacy, ethnic studies, and indigenous studies in social studies curriculum. There are three sub-collections focusing on each key content area.

Each collection includes a unique and robust set of resources that enable teachers to deliver the content in a meaningful way.



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Overview of The Washington 6th Grade Ancient Civilizations Collection

Unit	Sample Lessons
Enduring Cultures	• The Creation of an Ancient Civilization • Ancient Civilizations Overcome Challenges • Current Connections: Humans and the Environment • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action
Impact of Ancient Cultures	• Ancient Egypt • Ancient China • Ancient River Valley Societies • Taking Informed Action: Current Connections • Summative Performance Task
Necessity of Order	• Ancient Greece • Ancient Rome • Government Today • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action: Current Connections
Disease and Pandemics	• The Black Death • Spread of Disease • Societal Impacts • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action
Improving the World	• History of the U.N. • U.N. Sustainable Development Goals • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action

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Overview of The Washington 7th Grade State History Collection

Unit	Sample Lessons
Geography of Washington	• Washington Regions • The Environment and Washingtonians • Our Relationship with the Environment • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action: Current Connections
Territory and Treaty Making	• Struggle for Power • Native American Rights • Coexistence • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action
Railroads, Reform, Immigration & Labor (1889-1930)	• Immigrant Stories • Westward Immigration and Migration • Shaping the Future • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action: Current Connections
Freedom versus Security (1930-1974)	• Limits of Personal Freedom • Reasons For and Against Internment • Disruption of Japanese American Lives • Division over Exclusion Policy • Civil Liberties Act • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action
Contemporary Washington State Issues	• Immigration • Tech Industry vs. The People • Human Rights and Government Regulation • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action: Current Connections

Unit	Sample Lessons
Contemporary Washington State Issues	• Immigration • Tech Industry vs. The People • Human Rights and Government Regulation • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action: Current Connections
Sovereignty and Recognition	• History of the Chinook • Tribal Constitutions and Sovereignty • Federal Recognition • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action

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Overview of The Washington 8th Grade American Revolution Collection

Unit	Sample Lessons
The Story of Freedom	• Perspectives and Ideologies • Breaking from Britain • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action: Current Connections
The Great Compromise	• The Articles of Confederation • The Virginia Plan • The New Jersey Plan • The Connecticut Plan • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action
Westward Migration	• Investigating Self-Interest • Motivating Factors • New Technologies • Conflict • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action
“Uncle Tom’s Cabin”	• The Power of Words • Origins of Uncle Tom’s Cabin • Reactions to Abolition and Uncle Tom’s Cabin • Impacts on Abolitionism • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action: Human Rights
The Living Constitution and American Ideals	• Understanding Your Rights • Individual Rights vs. Common Good • Changing Constitution • Summative Performance Task • Taking Informed Action: Current Connections

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Overview of The Washington Ethnic Studies Collection

Unit	Sample Lessons
What is Ethnic Studies?	• What is Ethnic Studies • History of Ethnic Studies • Future of Ethnic Studies
Who am I? IDENTITY	• What is identity? • What is race? • Collision of Race, Ethnicity, Nationality, and Culture • Tracing your heritage • Multiracial/multicultural identities • Immigrant identities • Cultural meld and exchange in the United States • Language and Identity • Assimilation • Stereotypes • Representation in popular culture and media • Self Love
Why is the world the way it is? SYSTEMS & POWER	• Settler Colonialism • Chattel Slavery: Uniquely American • United States Political System • Capitalism • Systemic Racism Over Time • Defining whiteness and otherness • Patriarchy and race • Global system of colonialism and imperialism • American imperialism • The American Dream and Meritocracy • Shifting American demographics • Intersectionality • Power and privilege • Implicit bias • Colorism • Borders • Citizenship • Cultural Appropriation • Representation in American Politics • Education and Inequity

Unit	Sample Lessons
Why is the world the way it is? SYSTEMS & POWER (cont'd)	• Segregation, housing, wealth, and race • Mass incarceration • Police brutality • Environmental racism • Medical Racism • Political Polarization • Technology and racism • The Curriculum Wars • Four Is of Oppression • Institutional Resistance • Ideological resistance • Interpersonal resistance • internal resistance • Religion as both oppression and resistance
Who are we? FAMILY & COMMUNITY STORIES	• What is community? • Introduction to Master and Counter Narratives • Owning Narratives, Preserving Culture and stories • Indigenous peoples of California • Indigenous peoples of Washington • The power of indigenous languages • Gender fluidity in indigenous cultures • Indigenous conservation & land stewardship in CA • Indigenous experiences in the military • Indigenous cuisine • Indigenous storytelling • DIversity of Latinx communities in the United States • Texas Vaqueros • Mexican L.A. • Keeping Zoot Suits Alive • Muralism • Rise of Latin American music • Day of the Dead celebrations • Latinx entrepreneurship • Latinx Political Activism & alignment • Building America's Railroads • Chinatown SF

Unit	Sample Lessons
Who are we? FAMILY & COMMUNITY STORIES (cont'd)	• Asian Americans in the Pacific Northwest • Asian Americans in the military • Middle Eastern immigration and communities • Indian Culture comes to the United States • The rise of Kpop • African muslims in the Americas • Building Black communities across the US • The Black West • Black Intellectual Traditions • The history of black music • Black innovation • HBCUs • Black Hair • Radical Possibility • Modern Abolitionism • Reparations • Afrofuturism • Latinx futurism • Asian American futurism • Native American futurism
What can we do? MOVEMENTS & SOLIDARITY	• Positive Social Transformation • Methods of Transformation • Indigenous Genocide and Slavery • Assimlation and Resistance • California Missions • A history of Broken Treaties, Stolen Land, and Violence • Forced Migration and the Trail of Tears • Military Resistance in the 1800s • 20th Century indigenous rights movement • Native Hawaiian Resistance • No DaPL • Land Back • The Inhumanity of Slavery • Resistance, Rebellion, and Self-Emancipation • Abolition Movement • Reconstruction

Unit	Sample Lessons
What can we do? MOVEMENTS & SOLIDARITY (cont'd)	• Black Political and Economic Strides towards equality • White violence and plunder, Jim Crow and segregation • Civil Rights Movement, COurt Cases, Protest, Boycotts, and Civil Disobedience • Black Power and Black Panthers • Pan Africanism • Fighting Injustice in the Late 20th Century • Black Lives Matter • Colonization of South & Central America • U.S. Foreign Policy in Latin America • U.S. -Mexico War • Back and Forth on Immigration: U.S. - Mexico Immigration Policy over Time • Immigration Stories: Motivations for migration, experiences of migration • Documentation and Citizenship for Latinx Americans • Chicanx/Latinx Civil Rights Movement • Fighting for education equity • Modern discrimination & challenges • Modern Chicanx/Latinx activism • Policies of Asian Exlusion • Japanese Internment • Tryin gthe Courts • Asian American activism in th e20th century • Post 1965 immigration • Syrian refugee crisis and response • Covid-19 discrimination and response • Allyship • Influence of the Black Civil Rights movement on other social movements • Farmworkers movement: Latino-Filipino solidarity • Intersectional feminism throughotu American history • Queer and Trans POC activism • POC Cliamte and Environmental activism • Becoming an Agent of Change

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Overview of The Washington Media Literacy Collection

Unit	Sample Lessons
Media Literacy	• The Importance of Media Literacy • First Amendment and the Freedom of Press INQUIRY • The Power of Algorithms • Media Consumption • Impact of the Media • Clickbait • Fake News • Finding Credible News • Politics & the Media • Reading for Bias • Non-Dominant Narratives and the News • Is the Internet Good for Democracy? INQUIRY • Digital Citizenship • My Digital Footprint • Data, Privacy and Security • Tiktok • Mini-Inquiry

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Overview of The Washington Indigenous Studies Collection

Unit	Sample Lessons
Since Time Immemorial	• The First Americans: Migration and Settlement of Native Americans • Early Civilizations: The Hopewell • Diversity of Tribal Societies • Tribal Government Systems • Indigenous Tribes of the Northwest • Tribal Origin Stories
European Exploration and Exploitation	• European Exploration: Encounters and Impact • Trade and Cooperation with Colonial Settlers • Indigenous Resistance and Resilience • French and Indian War
Relations with the U.S. Government	• Iroquois Confederacy and the Great Law of Peace and Democracy • Native Americans and the Revolution • Laws and Treaties • Point no Point Treaty • Walla Walla and Medicine Creek Treaties
U.S. Expansion and Indian Removal	• Indian Removal Act • Trail of Tears • Responses of Indigenous People to U.S. Expansion • Life on Reservations • Indigenous Role in the Civil War • Homestead Act and Dawes Act • Indigenous People and Bison • Forced Assimilation and Indian Boarding Schools

Unit	Sample Lessons
Tribal Cultures, Communities, and Contributions	• Traditions and Beliefs in the Northwest • Art and Culture in the Northwest • Language Preservation and Revitalization in the Northwest • Contemporary Lifestyles in the Northwast • Stewardship
Contemporary Issues	• Indigenous Rights Movement of the 20th Century • Salmon and the Boldt Decision • Elwha Dam Removal • Tribal Sovereignty and Land Acknowledgement • Voting Rights • Education and Healthcare • Environmental Issues and Climate Change • Hanford Nuclear Reservation