Unit Plan Timeline

Transportation Systems

1807   America's first commercially successful steamboat travels up the Hudson River in N.Y.

1825   The Erie Canal officially opens.

1869   Completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Point, Utah.

1896   Thanks to railroads, rural mail delivery begins, allowing farm families to purchase goods through mail-order catalogs.

1908   Ford's Model T is made available to the public.

1913   Ford experiments with the assembly line.

1940   Dick and Mac McDonald open the first McDonald's restaurant.

1956   The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 initiates the largest construction project in world history: the Interstate Highway System.

2001   President George W. Bush signs the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, placing airport security under federal control.

World Events

1804   Napoleon crowns himself Emperor of France.

1858   Rule of India is transferred from the East India Company to the British Crown.

1899   The Boer War begins in South Africa.

1909   Robert Peary and Matthew Henson reach the North Pole.

1914   World War I begins.

1922   Britain's Howard Carter opens Pharaoh Tutankhamen's tomb.

1939   World War II begins.

1949   Mao Zedong proclaims the formation of the People's Republic of China.

1961   Soviet Yuri Gagarin is the first person to leave Earth's atmosphere.

1994   Nelson Mandela is elected as first black president of South Africa; apartheid ends.

National Events

1803   The Louisiana Purchase.

1838   The forced removal and relocation of Cherokee and other Indians, known as the Trail of Tears.

1861 - 1865   The American Civil War.

1898   The Spanish-American War.

1906   The Great Earthquake in San Francisco.

1919   The 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote.

1929   The U.S. stock market crashes, initiating the Great Depression.

1945   World War II ends.

1959 - 1979   The Vietnam War.

2001   Passenger planes are hijacked by terrorists and crash into New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.