



Big Six Ideas

AND OVERARCHING ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1

CHANGE



- What are the causes and effects of historical events and patterns?
- What makes a movement or revolution successful?
- What social, political, and economic challenges has the U.S. faced?
- What are the effects of human-environment interaction?
- How can we be involved in the change process?
- Can a country have change and still hold traditional shared beliefs?

2

DEMOCRACY



- What does it mean to have a democracy?
- Who has the right to self-government?
- Why does democracy need education?
- What is the difference between a freedom fighter and a terrorist?
- Does government work for the people?
- How should governments balance majority rule with minority rights?

3

DIVERSITY



- How has American identity and diversity changed over time?
- Do we need to give up some diversity to achieve unity?
- What does it mean to value and respect diversity?
- How do we resolve conflicts between cultural practices and human rights?
- Why is it important to consider multiple diverse perspectives?
- How have diverse groups struggled for equality?

4

EVIDENCE



- How do we generate and investigate compelling questions?
- How do we know what to believe?
- What do we do when sources disagree?
- How do we think like historians and social scientists?
- Should we question everything?
- How do we make a strong argument?

5

JUSTICE



- When do we have a right to revolution?
- How does the Constitution establish justice?
- Are laws applied fairly?
- Do we have a right to break unjust laws?
- What happens when justice is denied?
- What is a just war?

6

POWER



- Does might make right?
- What makes a government legitimate?
- How is power attained and maintained?
- Why is it important to speak truth to power?
- How has global power shifted over time?
- How has American power shifted over time?