

# Basic State History Syllabus

## Course Summary

The purpose of this course is to familiarize the student with basic knowledge of the history and geography of his state and to give him an appreciation of its heritage.

## Organizing Your Study

No textbook is required for this course; library or Internet research is required instead. At the beginning of each quarter, look over the requirements and assignments. Then create a schedule that you can follow in order to complete them. Set manageable goals: divide your work into steps that will fit into your routine. If there are books which you need to locate or reserve, do this at the start of the quarter.

*The length of the course is two quarters, however you are free to spread the course out over four quarters, if desired. To do this, break the quarter one assignments down into two groups and complete them over two quarters. (Do the same thing with the quarter two assignments.)*

## Assignments

Each Quarter Assemble a Portfolio of the following:

**The Required Assignment** Listed for Each Quarter (See Next Page)

### 3 Projects

## QUARTER 1

**Required Assignment:** Make seven (7) state maps and/or graphs (where indicated below).

**Include all of the following:**

Major Geographical Features (e.g., lakes, rivers, mountains, valleys, etc.)

Major Cities

Graph of Population Growth (over about 150 years) *or* a Map of Population Distribution

Climate and Vegetation

Locations of Industrial, Agricultural (and Technological if applicable) Areas

Types and Locations of Natural Resources

State Parks, Monuments, and Places of Special Interest

**Projects:** See the list in this syllabus. Complete three projects for your portfolio.

## QUARTER 2

**Required Assignment:** Make a state history notebook with a bibliography of the sources that you use. The following subjects are suggestions for a table of contents. Each section should be 100–150 words.

### Choose at Least Seven (7) Topics from the Following:

- Natives and Early Settlers
- Early Exploration
- Development as a State
- Earliest Known Settlements
- Languages, Religion, and Cultures of the Area
- Transportation Development
- Communication Development
- Educational Development
- Political Changes Over Time
- Locations of Places of Historical Significance
- People of Historical Importance

**Projects:** See the list below. Complete three projects for your portfolio.

### State History Projects From Which to Choose

1

Choose one state industry or natural resource. Prepare a two-page written research report\* describing its development to the present day. Explain its impact on the state's economic and population structure.

2

Prepare a current-events notebook from state newspaper clippings arranged by topic: First Family, Sports, Landmarks, National Recognition, Legislative News, and other subjects. Collect 18 articles and write a one- to two-sentence summary of each article.

3

Write a two-page biography\* of an influential man or woman from your state. Discuss the valuable contributions he or she has made to your state.

4

Study a local topic of specific interest; e.g., an old school, church, railroad station, post office, hotel, person, and write a 2-page report on that subject.

5

Plan a trip to your state capitol and sit in on a legislative assembly. Document your observations. (Some cable TV channels carry these sessions.)

6

Write a research paper\* on the history of the government of your state to the present day. Include up-to-date names of top state officials.

7

Research historic songs of your state's heritage. Make a notebook\* of at least 5 songs including your state song, folk songs and hymns written by individuals from your state. Include your own comments about the song or hymn, its composer, and the historical period in which it was written.

8

Create the front page of a newspaper with headlines and articles covering significant events from an important time in your state's history.

9

Write a one- to two-page summary of what you learned from a field trip to an historical site, museum, etc.

10

Make a time line, chronologically tracing at least 15 important events in your state's history. Summarize the importance of each event, including key persons, on the time line.

11

Draw or paint the scene of an event of significance in your state's history. Portray the event with historical accuracy after carefully reading about it from several sources.\*

12

Study the process by which a bill becomes a law in your state. Make a flowchart detailing this process.

13

Become a part of your state's history by writing a letter to a governmental official from your state expressing your opinion about an issue currently under discussion. Send us a copy of the letter and mail the original. Refer to a reference book for an explanation of the proper format for a business letter.

14

Develop a travel brochure for your state. Highlight natural, cultural, and historical attractions.

15

List each of the following and write a paragraph for each explaining how they relate to your state: state flag, state bird, state flower, state motto, state nickname, and state song.\*

\*Include a bibliography. Refer to a writing reference manual for proper formatting procedure of your bibliography.