The student will demonstrate knowledge of events and issues of the Revolutionary Period by analyzing how the political ideas of John Locke and those expressed in Common Sense helped shape the Declaration of Independence:

**Essential Understandings**
- New political ideas about the relationship between people and their government helped to justify the Declaration of Independence.
- The revolutionary generation formulated the political philosophy and laid the institutional foundations for the system of government under which we live.
- The American Revolution was inspired by ideas concerning natural rights and political authority, and its successful completion affected people and governments throughout the world for many generations.

**Essential Questions**
- How did the ideas of John Locke and Thomas Paine influence Jefferson's writings in the Declaration of Independence?

**Essential Knowledge**

The ideas of John Locke
The period known as the "Enlightenment" in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries saw the development of new ideas about the rights of people and their relationship to their rulers. John Locke was an Enlightenment philosopher whose ideas, more than any other's, influenced the American belief in self-government. Locke wrote that:
- All people are free, equal, and have "natural rights" of life, liberty, and property that rulers cannot take away.
- All original power resides in the people, and they consent to enter into a "social contract" among themselves to form a government to protect their rights. In return, the people promise to obey the laws and rules established by their government, establishing a system of "ordered liberty."
- Government's powers are limited to those the people have consented to give to it. Whenever government becomes a threat to the people's natural rights, it breaks the social contract and the people have the right to alter or overthrow it.
- Locke's ideas about the sovereignty and rights of the people were radical and challenged the centuries-old practice throughout the world of dictatorial rule by kings, emperors, and tribal chieftains.

Thomas Paine and Common Sense
Thomas Paine was an English immigrant to America who produced a pamphlet known as Common Sense that challenged the rule of the American colonies by the King of England. Common Sense was read and acclaimed by many American colonists during the mid 1700s and contributed to a growing sentiment for independence from England.

The Declaration of Independence
The eventual draft of the Declaration of Independence, authored by Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, reflected the ideas of Locke and Paine:
- "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."
- "That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...."
- "That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government...."
- Jefferson then went on to detail many of the grievances against the king that Paine had earlier described in Common Sense.
STANDARD VUS.4B

The student will demonstrate knowledge of events and issues of the Revolutionary Period by evaluating how key principles in the Declaration of Independence grew in importance to become unifying ideas of American democracy:

Essential Understandings
- The ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence contradicted the realities of slavery and the undemocratic nature of political participation in the early decades of the new republic.

Essential Questions
- How did the Declaration of Independence become a road map for the new republic as it extended the franchise, provided for equality of opportunity, and guaranteed “unalienable rights”?

Essential Knowledge
The key principles of the Declaration of Independence increased political, social, and economic participation in the American experience over a period of time.

Political participation (equality)
- Extending the franchise
- Upholding due process of law
- Providing free public education

Social participation (liberty)
- Abolishing slavery
- Extending civil rights to women and other groups

Economic participation (pursuit of happiness)
- Regulating the free enterprise system
- Promoting economic opportunity
- Protecting property rights

STANDARD VUS.4C

The student will demonstrate knowledge of events and issues of the Revolutionary Period by describing the political differences among the colonists concerning separation from Britain:

Essential Understandings
The ideas of the Enlightenment and the perceived unfairness of British policies provoked debate and resistance by the American colonists.

Essential Questions
What differences existed among Americans concerning separation from Great Britain?

Essential Knowledge
Anglo-French rivalry leading to conflict with the colonies
- The rivalry in North America between England and France led to the French and Indian War, in which the French were driven out of Canada and their territories west of the Appalachian Mountains.
- As a result of the war, England took several actions that angered the American colonies and led to the American Revolution. These included:
  - The Proclamation of 1763, which prohibited settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, a region that was costly for the British to protect.
  - New taxes on legal documents (the “Stamp Act”), tea and sugar, to pay costs incurred during the French and Indian War and for British troops to protect colonists.

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The beginning of the American Revolution
- Resistance to British rule in the colonies mounted, leading to war:
  - The Boston Tea Party was staged.
  - The First Continental Congress was called, to which all of the colonies except Georgia sent representatives, the first time most of the colonies had acted together.
  - The Boston Massacre took place when British troops fired on anti-British demonstrators.
  - War began when the "Minutemen" in Massachusetts fought a brief skirmish with British troops at Lexington and Concord.

Differences among the Colonists
The colonists were divided into three main camps during the Revolution:

**Patriots**
- Believed in complete independence from England
- Inspired by the ideas of Locke and Paine and the words of Virginian Patrick Henry ("Give me liberty, or give me death!")
- Provided the troops for the American Army, led by George Washington, also of Virginia

**Loyalists (Tories)**
- Remained loyal to Britain, based on cultural and economic ties
- Believed that taxation of the colonies was justified to pay for British troops to protect American settlers from Indian attacks

**Neutrals**
- The many colonists who tried to stay as uninvolved in the war as possible

**STANDARD VUS.4D**
The student will demonstrate knowledge of events and issues of the Revolutionary Period by analyzing reasons for colonial victory in the Revolutionary War.

**Essential Understandings**
- The American rebels won their independence because the British government grew tired of the struggle soon after the French agreed to help the Americans.

**Essential Questions**
- What factors contributed to the victory of the American rebels?

**Essential Knowledge**
Factors leading to colonial victory

**Diplomatic**
- Benjamin Franklin negotiated a Treaty of Alliance with France.
- The war did not have popular support in Great Britain.

**Military**
- George Washington, general of the American army, avoided any situation that threatened the destruction of his army, and his leadership kept the army together when defeat seemed inevitable.
- Americans benefited from the presence of the French army and navy at the Battle of Yorktown, which ended the war with an American victory.
Early American History Timeline:

1607 – Jamestown Founded

1619 – House of Burgesses and slaves arrive in Jamestown

1620 – Mayflower Compact in Plymouth

1681 – William Penn charters Pennsylvania

1754-1763 French and Indian War; France loses land claims in North America

1763 – Proclamation prohibits colonists settling West of Appalachian Mountains

1765 Stamp Act and other taxes spark resistance among colonists

1765 – Second Continental Congress meets

1770 - Boston Massacre

1773 – Tea Act & Boston Tea Party


1775 - Battle of Bunker Hill

1775 - Battle of Lexington & Concord (The Shot Heard Round the World)

1775 - Second Continental Congress meets

1776 – Thomas Paine publishes Common Sense

July, 1776 - Declaration of Independence

1778 - Treaty of Alliance with France after the Battle of Saratoga

1781 – Articles of Confederation adopted as nation's first government - Cornwallis Surrenders at Yorktown to Washington and the French signifying end of Revolutionary War!

1783 - Treaty of Paris recognizes America as an independent nation