



---

# Department of Instruction

---

## What Your Child Will Learn in 8th Grade Social Studies

All Calvert County Core Social Studies Curriculum is based on [Maryland Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks](#)

### Social Studies Skills and Processes

#### Reading and Source Analysis and Application

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it.
- Integrate and evaluate content presented graphically, visually, orally, and multimodally as well as in words within and across print and digital sources.
- Evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and fluency of the evidence.

#### Writing Standards

- Students will write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.
- Students will write informative/ explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events.

#### Historical Thinking and Reasoning

- Engage in inquiry, including constructing compelling questions, supporting questions, and determining helpful resources needed to answer their questions.
- Evaluate context, continuity and change by analyzing connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts.
- Analyze various perspectives by analyzing the multiple factors that influenced peoples' perspectives during different historical eras and explaining how and why perspectives change over time.
- Analyze the relative influence of various causes of events and developments in the past and in contemporary society while evaluating their effects and implications.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Content

### Unit One: Colonization and Prelude to Revolution (1607-1763)

1. Explain the factors that led to European migration to North America.
2. Describe the reactions of the native populations to the colonization of North America.
3. Compare the economic, political, and social composition of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies and describe how these regions developed over time.
4. Analyze the social, political, and economic outcomes that developed from the enslavement of Africans in America.
5. Analyze how distance and the era of salutary neglect planted the seeds of self-government among the American colonists.
6. Explain the sources of conflict among stakeholders in North America, including Native Americans, European powers, American investors and settlers migrating west.
7. Analyze the relationships between Native Americans, England, and the American colonies.
8. Analyze the effect of the French and Indian War on the relationship between Britain and its American colonies.

### Unit Two: The American Revolution (1763-1783)

1. Analyze the self-identity of American colonists as British citizens possessing the “rights of Englishmen” (English Bill of Rights).
2. Evaluate the effects of England’s enforcement of British governance, regulatory acts, and taxation policies on the American colonies.
3. Evaluate the causes and effects of American colonial resistance to British policies, including:
4. Evaluate the steps taken to establish colonial autonomy while maintaining British loyalty, including the Olive Branch Petition.
5. Analyze the various philosophical influences regarding the rights of man (natural rights) that influenced the Declaration of Independence. These influences should include:
6. Analyze the domestic, geographic, diplomatic, and military factors that led to the successful separation of the American colonies from Great Britain.
7. Assess how free and enslaved African Americans, women, Native Americans, Patriots and Tories either contributed to and/or were impacted by the American Revolution and its outcome.

### Unit Three: Founding of the New Government (1776-1791)

1. Explain the structure of the Articles of Confederation and analyze the successes and failures of the Articles as a system of government.
2. Describe the debate that led to the Constitutional Convention.
3. Analyze how the Great Compromise addressed regional interests and differences.
4. Describe the sectional debate over slave representation, the goals of various representatives, and how the Constitution counted slaves as less than a full citizen through the Three-Fifths Compromise.
5. Analyze the preamble of the Constitution to determine how it sought to create a better system of government for the United States than was established by the Articles of Confederation.
6. Analyze the principles of American representative democracy established by the Constitution.
7. Identify the powers enumerated and denied to each branch of government as outlined in the Constitution.
8. Analyze the Federalists and Anti-Federalists arguments for and against the ratification of the Constitution. In this analysis, evaluate the impact of the Bill of Rights on the ratification of the Constitution.

## **Unit Four: A New Nation (1787-1825)**

1. Explain the impact President George Washington had on establishing a sound foundation for the New American government, as well as his role in setting precedents for the office of the President and the new Federal government.
2. Analyze the debates that took place within the American political system about the extent of Federal power and the outcomes of these debates as they pertain to the growth of the American republic and development of America's Domestic policy.
3. Evaluate Chief Justice John Marshall's role in defining domestic policy by (1) establishing Constitutional federal supremacy and (2) establishing the power of the Supreme Court as a coequal branch of government.
4. Analyze the diplomatic (Foreign) and constitutional (Domestic) issues involved in the Louisiana Purchase
5. Assess the political, social, and economic impact of the Louisiana Purchase on America, as well as its impact on the United States' relations with Native American populations.
6. Analyze the causes (domestic and foreign) of the War of 1812.
7. Explain the political, geographic, and military factors that led to the American "defeat" of the British.
8. Analyze how the War of 1812 impacted the political, social, and economic life of the United States and Native tribes of America.
9. Discuss the goals and significance of the Monroe Doctrine in establishing the United States as the dominant power in the western hemisphere.
10. Describe the goal of the American System to improve infrastructure in the growing United States and assess the impact of technological developments in communication and transportation.

## **Unit Five: Geographic Expansion and Political Division (1820-1860)**

1. Analyze the development of three distinct regions in the United States (North, South and West) and briefly describe the political, social, and economic characteristics of each region. (Sectional Polarization)
2. Evaluate the impact of technology (cotton gin) on the geographic expansion of the institution of slavery.
3. Analyze the conditions that defined life for the enslaved and identify various ways in which enslaved African Americans and free blacks resisted enslavement, oppression, and institutionalized racism.
4. Assess Andrew Jackson's presidency and its role in the expansion of democracy and its impact on sectional politics, electoral processes, and the economy.
5. Analyze President Jackson's decisions regarding Native Americans by contrasting the Indian and American arguments surrounding the issue of Native American rights and land ownership.
6. Identify the push and pull factors driving antebellum immigration to the United States.
7. Assess multiple perspectives on Manifest Destiny and its impacts on territorial growth of the United States.
8. Explain the causes, key events, and consequences of the Mexican American War.

9. Evaluate the growth of the factory system and its impact on labor, women, migration, and immigration.
10. Evaluate the impact of social reform movements on women, temperance, prison, and educational reform.

### **Unit Six: Civil War and Reconstruction (1860-1877)**

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850 in resolving the influence of slavery on politics, sectionalism, and statehood.
2. Evaluate the impact of territorial expansion, the Supreme Court, and individual actions on sectional polarization.
3. Assess the impact of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican Party, and the election of 1860 on the secession of the southern states.
4. Explain the causes of the Civil War and evaluate the importance of slavery as a central cause of the conflict.
5. Contrast the goals, resources, military technology, and strategies of the Union and Confederacy.
6. Evaluate how Union and Confederate political, military, and diplomatic leadership affected the outcome of the conflict.
7. Describe economic opportunities and obstacles faced by soldiers, civilians, free and enslaved populations during the Civil War (Draft riots, bread riots, inflation, and increase in industry).
8. Evaluate the military and historical significance of the Emancipation Proclamation.
9. Evaluate the efficacy and constitutionality of President Abraham Lincoln's suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus [Effect on civil liberties: Ex Parte Merryman (1861)].
10. Briefly interpret the economic, political, technological, and social effects of the American Civil War.
11. Contrast the goals and policies of Congressional and Presidential Reconstruction plans.
12. Describe the advancements made by African American communities fighting to protect and expand their rights in the former Confederate states.
13. Identify the legal and illegal actions used to deny political, social, and economic freedoms to African Americans and assess the factors that led to the end of Reconstruction.
14. Evaluate the impact of the Supreme Court, Jim Crow Laws, and disenfranchisement on the enforcement of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

### **Unit Seven: Growth of Industrial America (1877-1890)**

**This is a bridge unit to the high school curriculum – It is not MCAP assessed.**

1. Explain how the end of the Civil War cleared the way for America's westward expansion.
2. Evaluate the push/pull factors that encouraged Americans to migrate west and explain the consequences of this migration.