



8th Grade Social Studies Syllabus

Course Description

8th Grade U.S. History explores the origins and development of the United States from European exploration through Reconstruction. Students investigate key historical events, foundational documents, and the evolution of American political, economic, and social systems. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, geographic literacy, and civic understanding aligned with STAAR readiness.

Curriculum Overview

Unit	Dates	Topic	Focus	District Assessments
Unit 1	Aug. 19 – Aug. 27	European Exploration & Early Settlement	Reasons for colonization; geography of regions	MAP BOY (RLA, Math, Science)
Unit 2	Aug. 28 – Sept. 11	Colonization	Economics, representative government	—
Unit 3	Sept. 12 – Oct. 7	American Revolution	Causes, war events, independence	LC #1
Unit 4	Oct. 8 – Nov. 19	Constitution	Founding documents, government, citizenship	LC #2
Unit 5	Nov. 20 – Dec. 19	Early Republic	Domestic/foreign issues, political parties	MAP MOY
Unit 6	Jan. 7 – Jan. 15	Age of Jackson	Democracy, Indian removal, conflicts	—



Unit 7	Jan. 16 – Feb. 4	Industrial Revolution	Innovation, free enterprise, effects	LC #3
Unit 8	Feb. 5 – Feb. 25	Westward Expansion & Reform	Manifest Destiny, reform movements, culture	Benchmark 2/8
Unit 9	Feb. 26 – Mar. 12	Sectionalism & Civil War	Slavery, sectional conflicts, war	—
Unit 10	Mar. 23 – Apr. 2	Reconstruction	Events, impacts, amendments	LC #4
STAAR Review	Apr. 7 – Apr. 21	Review	Meets/Masters Focus	STAAR SS: 4/22
Post-STA AR	Apr. 23 – May 21	Celebrate Freedom Week	Civics & historical reflection	MAP EOY (5/4–5/15)

Skills & Standards

- Analyze primary and secondary sources
- Understand cause-and-effect relationships in history
- Apply geographic tools and interpret maps
- Explain the development of government systems and founding documents
- Evaluate the impact of individuals, groups, and movements
- Interpret historical context through economic, political, and social lenses
- Make connections between past and present civic responsibilities
- Analyze constitutional principles and amendments
- Draw conclusions from historical data and justify with evidence



- Prepare for STAAR Social Studies through review and critical thinking

Grading

See Forney ISD Grading Guidelines for expectations regarding assignments, reassessments, and late work policies