



8th Grade Social Studies Instructional Plan: Fall Semester

Course Overview

Welcome to 8th grade Social Studies.

Contact Information

Teacher Name: Luis Gallegos

Email: luis.gallegos@midlandisd.net

Phone: 432-240-4700

Classroom Expectations

Be Respectful – Listen. Use kind words. Treat everyone and everything with care.

Be Responsible – Be on time. Bring what you need. Start bellwork immediately.

Follow Directions – Do what's asked the first time. Raise your hand to speak.

Stay Focused – Sit where you're supposed to. Keep your area tidy. Participate.

Stay Positive – Try your best. Learn from mistakes. Keep growing.

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Attendance Is the First Step to Success

Coming to school every day ensures every student gets the instruction, connections, and support they need to learn, belong, and grow. Missing just a few days can create gaps in learning—but showing up builds confidence, community, and a path toward long-term achievement.

Please notify the school if your child will be absent. Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the first semester, students will be able to:

TEKS

Scope of 8th Grade Social Studies TEKS

Historical Knowledge

- **Students explore key eras and events in U.S. history through 1877, including:**
 - **Colonization and the American Revolution**
 - **The creation and ratification of the Constitution**



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- Early Republic, Westward Expansion, and the Age of Jackson
- Reform movements, Sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction
- They're expected to sequence historical developments and explain the significance of critical dates like 1607, 1620, 1776, 1787, 1803, and 1861–1865

Government & Foundations

- Students examine the principles and documents that shaped U.S. governance:
 - Influence of the Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact, and Federalist Papers
 - Strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation Connection of colonial grievances in the Declaration of Independence to the Constitution and Bill of Rights
 - Analysis of core government principles: limited government, republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights
 - Role of key thinkers and leaders like Thomas Hooker, Montesquieu, and John Locke in shaping self-government

Geography, Economics & Society

- Geography: Locate and describe U.S. regions relevant to major historical eras, analyzing how physical and human geography influenced historical events.
- Environment: Explain how humans adapted to and modified the environment across North America through the mid-19th century Economics: Compare the economic development patterns of different U.S. regions through 1877

Course Resources

- United States History to 1877 Student Edition, McGraw Hill

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

[Student Handbook](#)

School-wide System of Communication

Families can reach out by email, phone, or messages during school hours. We are to hear, to listen, to answer questions, and support you both.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!



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Please fill out the portion below and return this portion to your teacher.

We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in [grade level or course]. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Parent Signature : _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____