



Course Name: Grade 8 US
History School Year: 2025-2026

Course Purpose and Relevance:

In this course, students study in depth the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction, which is the first part of a two-year study of U.S. History. The second part is provided at the high school level. Using critical thinking skills, as well as basic social studies skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material students describe the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present, analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the Republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system: examine the American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights, reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents; evaluate the impact of supreme court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society; and evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovation on the development of the U.S.

Overview of Student Outcomes:

The student

- Explain traditional historical points of reference in U.S. history through 1877
- Identify the causes of exploration and colonization eras
- Describe the foundations of representative government in the United States
- Analyze significant political and economic issues of the revolutionary era
- Explain the challenges confronted by the government and its leaders in the early years of the republic and the Age of Jackson
- Explain westward expansion and its effects on the political, economic, and social development of the nation
- Compare how political, economic, and social factors led to the growth of sectionalism and the Civil War
- Explain individuals, issues, and events of the Civil War
- Evaluate the effects of Reconstruction on the political, economic, and social life of the nation
- Analyze the location and characteristics of places and regions of the United States, past and present
- Describe the physical characteristics of North America and how humans adapted to and modified the environment through the mid-19th century
- Explain why various sections of the United States developed different patterns of economic activity
- understands how various economic forces resulted in the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century
- Identify the origins and development of the free enterprise system in the United States
- Identify the American beliefs and principles reflected in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and other important historic documents
- Summarize the process of changing the U.S. Constitution and the impact of amendments on American society

- Explain the dynamic nature of the powers of the national government and state governments in a federal system
- Evaluate the impact of landmark Supreme Court cases
- Summarize the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States
- Analyze the importance of voluntary individual participation in the democratic process
- Explain the importance of the expression of different points of view in a constitutional republic
- Describe the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic
- Identify the relationships between and among people from various groups, including racial, ethnic, and religious groups, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries
- Describe the major reform movements of the 19th century
- Analyze the impact of religion on the American way of life
- Identify the relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created
- Analyze the impact of science and technology on the economic development of the United States
- Compare the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on daily life in the United States
- Apply critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired through established research methodologies from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology
- Communicate in written, oral, and visual forms
- Use problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others, in a variety of settings

How to Assist Your Learner at Home:

Refer to the teacher's Course Syllabus for resources and course specific opportunities.
Student textbook and/or digital version are available through the CCISD Student Portal.

Link to Course TEKS on State website:

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113b.pdf>

Year-at-a-Glance 25-26		Subject	8th Grade History of United States through 1877	PEIMS Code	
		Prerequisites		Grade Level	8

Days	Dates	Unit/BB
4	Aug 13-16	<u>Exploration and Early Colonization</u> 3 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons for Exploration English settlements of Virginia and New England Representative Government and its Growth Government Principles
5	Aug 18-22	
5	Aug 25-29	
4	Sept 2-7	<u>Physical and Human Geography of Colonial Regions</u> 2 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New England Colonies Middle Colonies Southern Colonies Introduction of African slaves to the American colonies Reasons for colonization and the geographic differences in the 13 colonies
5	Sept 8-12	
5	Sept 15-19	<u>Revolutionary Era (Part 1)</u> 2 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes of the American Revolution Declaring Independence
5	Sept 22-26	
4	Sept 30-Oct 3	Time to complete proficiency with TEKS that will complete learning progressions
4	Oct 6-9	<u>Revolutionary Era cont.</u> 3 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Shots Fired Revolution Turning Points Effects of the American Revolution
3	Oct 15-17	
5	Oct 20-24	
5	Oct 27-31	<u>U.S. Constitution</u> 4 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Influences Constitutional Convention Structure of the Constitution Principles of the Constitution Declaration of Independence (DOI) Grievances in the Constitution Ratification Debate Bill of Rights and Reasons for Amendments
4	Nov 3-7	
5	Nov 10-14	
5	Nov 17-21	
5	Dec 1-5	<u>Early Republic (Part 1)</u> 1 week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington: Setting the Precedent Domestic Issues
5	Dec 8-12	
5	Dec 15-19	Time to complete proficiency with TEKS that will complete learning progressions
5	Dec 15-19	Semester Exam Week
5	Jan 6-9	<u>Early Republic (Part 2)</u> 3 weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Security v Individual Rights Formation of Political Parties Age of Jefferson Foreign Policy: The War of 1812 and the Monroe Doctrine Era of Good Feelings and Rising Manufacturing
5	Jan 12-16	
4	Jan 20-23	
5	Jan 26-30	<u>Industrialization</u> 1 week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes Free Enterprise and Innovation Effects
5	Feb 2-6	
5	Feb 9-13	<u>Age of Jackson</u> 1 week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacksonian Democracy Conflicts and Compromise Removal and Resettlement of Cherokee Indians
5	Feb 16-20	
5	Feb 23-27	<u>Westward Expansion</u> 1 week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factors Contributing to the Settlement in the West Conflicts Arising from Expansion Effects of Westward Expansion
4	Feb 27-Mar 2	
4	Feb 17-20	<u>Reform and Culture</u> 1 week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causes of Reforms Reform Movements American Culture
5	Feb 23-27	
5	Mar 2-6	Time to complete proficiency with TEKS that will complete learning progressions
5	Mar 2-6	<u>Sectionalism</u> 1 week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geographical Sectionalism Slavery and States Rights Political Divisions
5	Mar 9-13	

4	Mar 16-19	<u>Civil War and Reconstruction</u> 3 weeks
5	Mar 23-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Advantages/Disadvantages
4	Mar 30-Apr 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early days of the Civil War • Civil War Turning Points • Lincoln's Assassination and Radical Reconstruction • Reconstruction Policies & Amendments
5	Apr 6-10	<u>STAAR review & testing</u> 2 weeks
5	Apr 13-17	
5	Apr 20-24	<u>Early US History Over Time</u> 3 weeks
5	Apr 27-May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion and Contraction of democracy • Population Movement and Growth
5	May 4-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regionalism • Economic Development
5	May 11-15	Unit Mastering 8th Grade
		Time to complete proficiency with TEKS that will complete learning progressions or prepare students for HS
4	May 18-21	Final Exam Week