

Grade 8
Social Studies

These are the expectations for a student by the end of Eighth Grade.

Social Studies 8 - American Studies Honors

The American Studies course is designed for students with strong interest and skills in both Language Arts and Social Studies.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe and analyze the principles and ideals that shape a democratic system of government.
- Analyze and interpret the basic documents that shape our political system.
- Describe and interpret the roles of the framers of our founding fathers.
- Identify and analyze citizen rights and responsibilities in local, state, and national government.
- Define and compare the responsibilities and powers of the three branches of our national government and evaluate its effectiveness.
- Identify and analyze how the government protects individual rights.
- Analyze and interpret historical sources, including maps, graphs, tables, primary documents and artifacts.
- Use chronological thinking to interpret, analyze, and evaluate historic events.
- Use historical knowledge to evaluate present day events.
- Describe and explain historic events that shaped the development of the country.
- Identify and define the importance of US leaders(and Pennsylvania) and the reasons for the historic, cultural and political impact.
- Analyze the fundamentals of historic interpretation including fact v. opinion, cause and effect, differing perspectives and contradictory evidence.
- Describe the physical characteristics of different regions.
- Describe and explain the human characteristics of place and region by economic activities.
- Locate, identify, and analyze the importance of various places and regions, including historic sites in the US(and Pennsylvania).
- Describe historical examples of expansion, recession and depression.
- Identify and analyze conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations in the US(and Pennsylvania).
- Verbalize opinions on historic events in a debate setting.
- Utilize appropriate and advanced research methods to evaluate and present historic events in essays and papers.
- Use advanced presentation methods to present historic events and its impact on US history.

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These benchmarks are the goals for a chronological study of American History beginning with the Constitutional Convention to the Post Civil War West.

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- Analyze the basic documents that shape our political system.
- Describe and interpret the roles of the framers of our founding fathers.
- Identify and analyze citizen rights and responsibilities in local, state, and national government.
- Define and compare the responsibilities and powers of the three branches of our national government and evaluate its effectiveness.
- Identify and analyze how the government protects individual rights.
- Analyze and interpret historical sources, including maps, graphs, tables, primary documents and artifacts.
- Use chronological thinking to interpret and analyze historic events.
- Describe and explain historic events that shaped the development of the country.
- Identify and define the importance of US leaders(and Pennsylvania).
- Analyze the fundamentals of historic interpretation including fact v. opinion, cause and effect, differing perspectives.
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