

8th Grade Social Studies TEKS by Unit

2025-2026 School Year

Course Description: Welcome to 8th Grade Social Studies! This course covers United States History from colonial times through Reconstruction (1877). Students will analyze primary sources, develop critical thinking skills, and explore how geography, economics, government, and culture shaped our nation's development.

Teacher Names and Email

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Units of Study:

Unit	Unit Title & Duration	Key Focus Areas	TEKS Standards
Unit 01	Thinking Like a Historian 5 days	Students will learn essential historical thinking skills including analyzing primary and secondary sources, understanding chronology, recognizing cause and effect, comparing perspectives, and using evidence to support arguments. Foundation for all future historical study.	8.1(A), 8.10(A), 8.15(A), 8.19(A), 8.20(A), 8.21(A), 8.22(A)
Unit 02	Colonial America – Life in a New Land (1587-1763) 15 days	Students will analyze reasons for European exploration and colonization, compare the establishment of the 13 English colonies, examine early representative government (Mayflower Compact, Virginia House of Burgesses), and explore colonial life, culture, and religious influences.	8.1(A)(B), 8.2(A)(B), 8.3(A)(B)(C), 8.10(B)(C), 8.11(A)(B), 8.15(E), 8.23(A)(D)(E), 8.25(A)(B)

Unit 03	American Independence – Restlessness to Rebellion (1763-1783) 10 days	Students will examine causes of the American Revolution (Proclamation of 1763, Stamp Act, Intolerable Acts, Boston Tea Party), analyze key figures' roles (Adams, Washington, Franklin, Paine), study major events (Lexington/Concord, Saratoga, Yorktown, Valley Forge), and evaluate the Treaty of Paris.	8.1(A)(B), 8.4(A)(B)(C), 8.15(C), 8.20(B), 8.21(B)(C), 8.22(B), 8.23(D)
Unit 04	Writing the Constitution – Creating a More Perfect Union (1783-1791) 16 days	Students will evaluate weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation, analyze Constitutional Convention debates (Great Compromise, Three-Fifths Compromise), examine Federalist vs. Anti-Federalist arguments, and study constitutional principles (federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances) and the Bill of Rights.	8.1(A)(B), 8.4(D), 8.15(A)(B)(C)(D) , 8.16(A), 8.17(A), 8.18(A)(B), 8.19(A)(B)(C)
Unit 05	Early Republic – Addressing Challenges (1789-1828) 10 days	Students will examine domestic challenges facing the new nation, analyze early political parties' development, study Washington's precedents and Farewell Address, evaluate Jefferson's presidency and Louisiana Purchase, and assess the War of 1812's causes and effects.	8.1(A)(B), 8.5(A)(C)(D)(E)(F), 8.6(B), 8.12(A), 8.13(A), 8.14(A)(B), 8.18(B), 8.22(A), 8.27(A)
Unit 06	Age of Jackson – Democracy Expands (1820s-1830s) 5 days	Students will analyze Jackson's presidency and expanded suffrage, examine the Indian Removal Act and Trail of Tears, study Worcester v. Georgia, evaluate the Nullification Crisis, and assess Jackson's impact on American democracy and federal vs. state power.	8.1(A)(B), 8.5(G)(H), 8.17(B), 8.21(A), 8.22(A), 8.23(A)(C)(D)
Unit 07	Westward Expansion – From Sea to Shining Sea (1780s-1850s) 18 days	Students will analyze the Northwest Ordinance, examine Manifest Destiny ideology, study the Louisiana Purchase's impact, evaluate the U.S.-Mexican War's causes and effects, and assess how westward expansion affected different groups including Native Americans and Mexican citizens.	8.1(A)(B), 8.6(A)(B)(C), 8.10(C), 8.11(A)(B), 8.23(A)(C), 8.27(B)(C)

Unit 08	Industrialization and Reform – Innovation Brings Change (1800s-1850s) 18 days	Students will analyze technological innovations (cotton gin, steamboat, telegraph, railroad), examine the factory system's development, evaluate reform movements (abolition, women's rights, education, temperance, prison reform), and study the Second Great Awakening's impact on society.	8.12(A)(B)(C), 8.13(B), 8.24(A)(B), 8.25(B)(C), 8.26(A)(B), 8.27(A)(B)(C), 8.28(A)(B)
Unit 09	Sectionalism – Growing Division (1820s-1850s) 10 days	Students will analyze sectional differences over slavery and economics, examine major compromises (Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850), study the Fugitive Slave Act's impact, evaluate the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and assess how slavery affected different regions and groups.	8.7(A)(B)(C)(D)(E), 8.12(C), 8.17(B), 8.18(C), 8.21(C), 8.23(B)
Unit 10	Civil War – The Endangered Union (1860-1865) 12 days	Students will analyze the central role of slavery in causing the Civil War, examine key figures (Lincoln, Davis, Grant, Lee), study major battles and events (Fort Sumter, Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Emancipation Proclamation), compare Lincoln's and Davis's inaugural addresses, and evaluate the war's impact.	8.1(A)(B), 8.8(A)(B)(C)(D), 8.17(B), 8.21(C), 8.22(A), 8.26(A)
Unit 11	Reconstruction – Rebuilding the Union (1865-1877) 10 days	Students will evaluate Reconstruction policies and programs, analyze the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, examine African American political participation (Hiram Rhodes Revels), assess economic, political, and social challenges during Reconstruction, and evaluate the era's impact on different groups.	8.1(A)(B), 8.9(A)(B)(C), 8.16(A)(B), 8.17(B), 8.23(B)(C)(D)

Assessment & Grading:

Grades will be based on class participation, unit tests, major projects, class assignments, and homework.

Key Skills Developed:

- Analyzing primary and secondary sources
- Understanding chronology and cause-and-effect relationships
- Comparing different historical perspectives
- Using evidence to support historical arguments
- Making connections between past and present
- Developing historical empathy and critical thinking

Note: Unit durations follow the established school calendar and may include flexibility for deeper exploration of complex topics or current events connections.