

## 8th Grade Social Studies Syllabus 2026-2027

### 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

The following table outlines the units, date ranges, and specific TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) for the 2026-2027 school year based on the updated scope and sequence.

**Readiness TEKS** are high-priority standards for mastery, while **Supporting TEKS** provide essential foundational context.

| Unit | Unit Name                         | Date Range         | Readiness TEKS                                       | Supporting TEKS                                                                |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | European Exploration & Settlement | Aug. 18 – Aug. 26  | 8.2A, 8.10B, 8.10C, 8.11A                            | 8.1B, 8.2B, 8.10A, 8.11B, 8.12B, 8.23D, 8.25A, 8.25C, 8.26A, 8.28A             |
| 2    | Colonization                      | Aug. 27 – Sept. 10 | 8.1A, 8.3A, 8.10B, 8.10C, 8.11A, 8.12B, 8.12C, 8.23A | 8.2B, 8.3B, 8.3C, 8.7B, 8.10A, 8.12A, 8.12C, 8.15A, 8.15E, 8.21A, 8.23B, 8.25B |
| 3    | American Revolution               | Sept. 11 – Oct. 6  | 8.1A, 8.4A, 8.4C, 8.11A, 8.15C, 8.19A                | 8.1B, 8.4B, 8.14A, 8.20A, 8.20B, 8.21A, 8.22A, 8.22B, 8.23B, 8.24A, 8.26A      |

|   |                                   |                       |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | The Constitution                  | Oct. 7 –<br>Nov. 16   | 8.1A, 8.4D, 8.10C,<br>8.15A, 8.15C, 8.15D,<br>8.16A, 8.17A, 8.19A,<br>8.19B, 8.25C | 8.1B, 8.6A, 8.7B, 8.11A,<br>8.15B, 8.15E, 8.19C,<br>8.21A, 8.21B, 8.23A,<br>8.25A, 8.26A                       |
| 5 | Early Republic                    | Nov. 17 –<br>Dec. 17  | 8.1A, 8.5A, 8.5C, 8.5E,<br>8.6A, 8.10C                                             | 8.1B, 8.5B, 8.5D, 8.5F,<br>8.6B, 8.11B, 8.14A,<br>8.14B, 8.17B, 8.18A,<br>8.18B, 8.19B, 8.21A,<br>8.22A, 8.25A |
| 6 | Age of Jackson                    | Jan. 6 –<br>Jan. 19   | 8.1A, 8.5C, 8.7C,<br>8.10C, 8.12C, 8.15D,<br>8.17B                                 | 8.5D, 8.5G, 8.5H, 8.7D,<br>8.7E, 8.10A, 8.20A,<br>8.21A, 8.23C                                                 |
| 7 | Industrial<br>Revolution          | Jan. 20 –<br>Feb. 3   | 8.10B, 8.10C, 8.11A,<br>8.13B, 8.23A, 8.27A                                        | 8.1A, 8.5E, 8.11B,<br>8.12A, 8.13A, 8.14A,<br>8.14B, 8.21C, 23B, 26A,<br>27B, 27C, 28A, 28B                    |
| 8 | Westward<br>Expansion &<br>Reform | Feb. 4 –<br>Feb. 23   | 8.1A, 8.6B, 8.6C,<br>8.10B, 8.10C, 8.11A,<br>8.12C, 8.24A, 8.24B                   | 8.1B, 8.6C, 8.7B, 8.7D,<br>8.10A, 8.20B, 8.23C,<br>8.23E, 8.24A, 8.25B,<br>8.26B, 8.28A                        |
| 9 | Sectionalism &<br>Civil War       | Feb. 24 –<br>March 17 | 8.1A, 8.7C, 8.8B, 8.8C,<br>8.10B, 8.10C, 8.12C,<br>8.15D, 8.17B                    | 8.7A, 8.7C, 8.7D, 8.7E,<br>8.8A, 8.8D, 8.12A,<br>8.12B, 8.13A, 8.18C,<br>8.21A, 8.21C, 8.23B,<br>8.24A, 8.26A  |

|             |                   |                       |                                                           |                                                                                 |
|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10</b>   | Reconstruction    | March 18<br>– April 1 | 8.1A, 8.8B, 8.9C,<br>8.10B, 8.10C, 8.16A,<br>8.16B, 8.19A | 8.2A, 8.7B, 8.8B, 8.9A,<br>8.9B, 8.11A, 8.21A,<br>8.21C, 8.27B, 8.27C,<br>8.28A |
| <b>Rev</b>  | STAAR Review      | April 2 –<br>April 16 | Differentiated                                            | N/A                                                                             |
| <b>Post</b> | Celebrate Freedom | April 21 –<br>May 20  | 8.1A, 8.15C, 8.19A                                        | 8.29(A-H), 8.30(A-C),<br>8.31(A)                                                |

***Note:** Celebrate Freedom Week specifically honors the values and ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.*

#### **District Assessments**

- **LC #1:** Oct. 5 – Oct. 6
- **LC #2:** Dec. 15 – Dec. 16
- **Social Studies Benchmark:** Jan. 12
- **LC #3:** Feb. 8 – Feb. 9
- **LC #4:** March 31 – April 1
- **STAAR Social Studies 8:** April 20

#### **Skills & Standards**

- **Analyze primary and secondary sources** to acquire information about the United States.
- Apply **absolute and relative chronology** through sequencing and identifying cause-and-effect relationships.
- **Apply geographic tools** to analyze patterns shown on thematic maps, graphs, and charts.
- Explain the development of **representative government** and foundational documents.
- Evaluate the impact of **significant individuals, groups, and movements** on American identity.
- **Interpret historical context** through economic, political, and social lenses.
- Analyze **constitutional principles**, individual rights, and the amendment process.
- Engage in **civil discourse** about social studies topics with multiple perspectives.

#### **Grading**

Please refer to the **Forney ISD Grading Guidelines** for detailed information on assignment expectations, late work, and reassessment policies