Eighth Grade Instructional Plan for US History to 1877

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Course Overview

Eighth grade US History to 1877 in Texas is a social studies course with a strong emphasis on the development and principles of American representative government. Students will explore various topics across American history, including citizenship, economics, geography, history, historical politics, and government while developing critical thinking, historical inquiry, problem-solving skills, and skills related to civil discourse.

Instruction is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), with a focus on building a deep understanding of key concepts through map analysis, primary and secondary sources, discussion with peers, and connecting real-world governmental and societal structures and features to historical figures and events. Students will engage in historical analysis of documents and maps; compare and contrast historical political parties and geographic regions of the United States; and use evidence to construct explanations and provide evidence of said explanations.

Throughout the year, students in 8th Grade will engage with learning regarding:

- Exploration and Colonization
- The American Revolution
- Constitution
- Early Republic
- Age of Jackson
- Industrialization
- Social Reform Movements
- Westward Expansion and Sectionalism
- Civil War and Reconstruction
- World Geography Intro

Classroom Expectations

Our classroom is a safe learning place, which encourages teamwork, positive feedback, and academic achievement. All students will be respectful to others. We will be good listeners to the teacher and to other's ideas. All students will be hard working contributors in the process of getting their education in order to be successful and reach their full potential.

Expectation 1: Be prepared with supplies

- Prioritize attendance
- Be ready to learn everyday

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Expectation 2: Participate actively and take responsibility for your learning

- Complete all assigned tasks
- Engage in class discussions, writing tasks, and learning opportunities
- Complete work on time

Expectation 3: Be safe

- Handle school materials with care
- Walk at all times
- Report problems to an adult

Positive reinforcement and clear routines will help students learn and meet these expectations. If expectations are not met, the teacher will first reteach and remind the student(s) of expectations. If a student continues to fail to meet expectations, they will be redirected, then parents will be contacted. If a student is unable to meet expectations after these preventative measures, an office referral will be made.

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular attendance is vital to your child's academic development. Eighth grade is an important year in social studies - this year lays the foundation for future social studies courses, including American History and Government classes. When students attend daily, they stay current with new skills, deepening their knowledge of history, develop thinking skills, and practice important habits that support lifelong learning.

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.

Course Resources

- Chromebook (provided by Midland ISD)
- Notebook paper and writing utensils (part of the school supply list)
- Colored pencils
- Glue sticks

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

The summative evaluation of a student's grade during a recording period should be based on sufficient data collected in class in the form of various assessments. Regular and periodic assessment of student progress ensures a student has ample time for remediation.

Students must receive feedback on every graded assignment within three to seven days. Major assignments will receive feedback within ten days. Teachers will, at a minimum, communicate with students and their guardians every ten school days regarding upcoming assessments, classroom reminders, learning topics covered in class, and/or expectations. Regular communication may be electronic through the adopted Student Information System or other messaging applications. Teachers will maintain a parent communication log during each grading cycle.

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Major assignments - 60%
Minor assignments - 40%
Semester exams count as 15% toward the final semester grade

Midland ISD's Late Work Grading Policy

- Assignment turned in:
  - 1 day late- highest grade possible to receive is a 90
  - 2 days late- highest grade possible to receive is an 80
  - 3- 5 days late- highest grade possible to receive is a 70
  - 5 days or more late- work does not have to be accepted, and the teacher can refuse to accept the late work.

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!

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 8th Grade US History. 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:_____