Driscoll ISD

8th Grade Social Studies - Syllabus

Campus: Driscoll Middle School

Course and Grade Level: 8th Grade Social Studies - American History

Course Description: This comprehensive 8th-grade course explores U.S. history from early colonial foundations through Reconstruction, fully aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students will investigate pivotal events, analyze founding documents like the Constitution, and master critical-thinking skills in preparation for the STAAR Grade 8 Social Studies Assessment. Students will develop a deep understanding of cause-and-effect relationships, historical bias, and civic responsibility.

First Semester

Unit 1 - Exploration and Colonization

- **Reasons for Exploration and Early Colonization**
- **Physical and Human Geography of the Colonial Regions**
- **Economics of the Colonial Regions**
- **Representative Government and Its Growth**

Unit 2 - American Revolution

- **Causes of the Revolution**
- **Revolutionary War**
- **Independence**

Unit 3 - Constitution

- **The Articles and the Constitutional Convention**
- **Government/Citizenship**
- **Ratification Debate**
- **Bill of Rights**

Unit 4 - Early Republic

- **Setting the Precedent: The First Six Presidents**
- **Formation of Political Parties**
- **Domestic Issues of the Early Republic**
- **National Security and Foreign Policy of the Early Republic**

Unit 5 - Age of Jackson

- **Jacksonian Democracy**
- **Conflicts and Compromise**
- **Removal and Resettlement of the Cherokee Indians**

Unit 6 - Westward Expansion

- **Roots/Causes of Manifest Destiny**
- **Factors Contributing to Settlement**
- **Conflicts Arising from Westward Expansion**

Unit 7 - Industrialization

- **Factors of Industrialization**
- **Free Enterprise and Innovation**
- **Effects of Industrialization**

Second Semester

Unit 8 - Reform and Culture

- **Causes of the Reform Movements**
- **Reform Movements**
- **American Culture**

Unit 9 - Civil War

- **Expansion of Slavery**
- **Sectionalism**
- **States' Rights**
- **The Civil War**

Unit 10 - Reconstruction

- **Events of Reconstruction**
- **Problems and Impacts**

STAAR Review

*Subject to Change