

Eighth Grade

Goals:

Knowledge and Cultural Understanding
Democratic Understanding and Civic Values
Skills Attainment and Social Participation

United States History and Geography: Growth and Conflict

The curriculum for the eighth grade builds on the concepts presented in the fifth grade. Students in grade eight study the ideas, issues, and events in United States history from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I. After reviewing the democratic institutions founded in Judeo-Christian heritage and English parliamentary traditions, particularly pertaining to the shaping of the Constitution, students trace the development of American policies, culture, and economy and relate them to the emergence of major regional differences. They will learn about the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. Finally, they will make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions.

Content Standards:

- 8.1 Students understand the major events preceding the founding of the nation and relate their significance to the development of American Constitutional Democracy.
- 8.2 Students analyze the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and compare the enumerated and implied powers of the federal government.
- 8.3 Students understand the foundation of the American political system and the ways in which citizens participate in it.
- 8.4 Students analyze the aspirations and ideals of the people of a new nation.
- 8.5 Students analyze U.S. foreign policy in the early republic.
- 8.6 Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people from 1800 to mid 1800's and the challenges they faced in the Northwest.
- 8.7 Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people from 1800 to mid 1800's with regards to the challenges the South faced.
- 8.8 Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people from 1800 to mid 1800's and the challenges they faced with emphasis on the West.
- 8.9 Students analyze the early and steady attempts to abolish slavery and realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.
- 8.10 Students analyze the multiple causes, key events, and consequences of the Civil War.
- 8.11 Students analyze the character and consequences of reconstruction.
- 8.12 Students analyze the transforming of the American economy and the changing social and political condition in the United States in response to the Industrial Revolution.