

8th Grade Social Studies

2016-17



Social Studies Skills

Independence Social Studies teachers understand that acquiring skills to make sense of information is more important than memorizing facts. Therefore, the content objectives below will be practiced and assessed through specific skills:

- Construct and use maps, graphs, and other representations to answer geographic questions.
- Construct, use, and evaluate timelines, charts, and other tools to answer historical questions.
- Locate, organize, evaluate, and compare evidence.
- Create and support a relevant claim based on available evidence.

The following learning targets represent the major concepts studied and assessed in this course.

Semester 1

Unit 1

1. Compare Native American cultures.
2. Analyze motivating factors that led people to colonize the New World.
3. Compare English, French, and Spanish colonies.
4. Compare English colonial regions.
5. Analyze the roles of groups in the colonies and their interactions.
6. Analyze the development of self-rule in America.
7. Describe the causes and consequences of the French and Indian War.

Unit 2

1. Evaluate colonial responses to actions by England after the French and Indian War.
2. Trace events leading to the escalating conflict between England and the colonies.
3. Explain the purpose and legacy of the Declaration of Independence.
4. Analyze contributions of individuals and groups to the Revolutionary War.
5. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Americans and British during the Revolutionary War.
6. Explain the impact of the Revolutionary War to World History.
7. Trace the successes and challenges of the Articles of Confederation.
8. Evaluate the major debates that occurred during the adoption of the constitution.

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Semester 2

Unit 3

1. Explain the purpose and function of the Constitution.
2. Describe the origins and purpose of the Bill of Rights.
3. Describe the structure and function of the three branches of government.
4. Infer how conflicts in early American government led to the development of philosophies, interest groups and political parties.

Unit 4

1. Evaluate the response of Thomas Jefferson to challenges of a growing nation.
2. Evaluate the causes and consequences of the War of 1812.
3. Explain how Jackson's presidency impacted American government.
4. Analyze the removal and resettlement of Native American tribes.
5. Explain how industrialization influenced different regions.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of reform movements.
7. Analyze *manifest destiny* to determine its influence on America.
8. Trace the changing boundaries of the US.

Unit 5

1. Analyze the causes of the Civil War.
2. Explain how events in Kansas and Missouri led to the Civil War.
3. Compare the perspectives of the North and South regarding the election of Abraham Lincoln.
4. Use maps and other tools to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the North and South during the Civil War.
5. Evaluate the influence of political and military leadership on the Civil War.
6. Analyze key events and new technologies to determine their impact on the Civil War.
7. Analyze the short and long-term effects of Lincoln's presidency.
8. Predict the course of Reconstruction.