

## Social Studies 8 Course Overview

Unit	Major Concepts	Skills	Summative Assessment
Colonial Foundations: (Discovery of New World-American Revolution)	The origins and purpose of government  The potential for the abuse of power  Systems and strategies designed to prevent the abuse of power	Analyze primary sources Analyze cause and effect Analyze the ethical implications of choices in history Assume and analyze different perspectives Formulate and express their own perspectives on complex issues Interpret initial United States Geography	Environment, Government, Economy Change Presentation  Colonial Poster Project  DBQ: Slavery Investigation  Women of the Revolution Analysis
Constitutional Foundations (Articles of Confederation - Abolition Movement)	The development of the U.S. Constitution  Origins of conflict and approaches to building peace  Forms of violent and nonviolent action/resistance  What it means to make informed decisions in the context of conflict and conflict resolution	Research and present results to the class Participate in group discussion Work in groups/teams Write considering multiple perspectives	Continuity vs. Change Essay  Constitutional Convention Simulation  Teaching the Checks and Balances Presentation
The Civil War: A Nation Divided	Several different factors lead to the division of the United States.  Ethics of war  Changes in legislation.  Failed efforts to peacefully resolve a conflict, make war the final option.	Analyze media (Digital, Graphic Novel, Short Stories) Re-evaluate American Geography and its Implications Analyze primary and secondary sources	DBQ: Causes of the Civil War  Thematic Essay  Media Interpretation

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Reconstruction	<p>Conflict resolution</p> <p>Changes in society influenced the government</p> <p>The present day would be different without the influence of past events</p>	<p>Engage in respectful argumentation/debate based on an understanding of non-violent communication and discussion facilitation</p> <p>Speak effectively in public</p> <p>Analyze primary and secondary sources</p> <p>Analyze and construct media</p> <p>Analyze the ethics of war and conflict</p>	<p>DBQ: Effects of Reconstruction</p> <p>Women's Rights Movement Presentation</p> <p>Westward Expansion Journal Analysis</p> <p>Cause and Effect of Westward Expansion</p>
America Pushing Forward: Industrial Revolution and Progressive Era	<p>The evolution of ideals through United States history</p> <p>Human responses to difference</p> <p>Origins of prejudice and discrimination and how those forces impact different groups through U.S. history and in the world today</p>	<p>Analyze/Create Media</p> <p>Read, analyze, and interpret primary source documents</p> <p>Evaluate Different Perspectives and Cultures</p> <p>Interpret culture and identity throughout history</p> <p>Interpret Societal Problems</p> <p>Evaluate changing economies</p> <p>Analyze Reform Movements</p> <p>Consider multiple perspectives when analyzing one issue</p>	<p>Eliis Island Immigration and Urbanization Project:</p> <p>Identity project</p> <p>Poster Analysis and Creation: Observing Media</p>
Becoming A Global Superpower: (Pre WWII-Cold War)	<p>Numerous factors lead to the United States becoming a World Super Power</p> <p>Forces that shape American foreign policy</p>	<p>Analyze the ethics of war and conflict</p> <p>Interpret primary and secondary sources</p> <p>Evaluate Civic Participation and its importance</p>	<p>Graph Analysis</p> <p>Political Cartoon Analysis and Creation Project</p>
The American Experience: (1960s-Present)	<p>Ways in which individuals can play a role in the struggle for social justice</p> <p>The concept of progress in the context of personal choice, society, quality of life, and social justice.</p>	<p>Analyze the social justice implications of choices and policies in history and today</p> <p>Engage in self-reflection regarding the interplay of their own identities, choices, and impacts on the world</p> <p>Analyze primary and secondary sources</p> <p>Analyze and construct media</p> <p>Outline and write research essays</p> <p>Analyze different perspectives on progress in a variety of contexts</p>	<p>Social Issue Investigation and Presentation</p> <p>Reform Movement DBQ</p> <p>Notable Historical Figure Project</p>