

Social Studies 8

State Standard Number	State Standard Area/Description	Unit Name	Course Topic Description
USI.1	Students will interpret the role of geography in shaping United States history.		
USI.1.1	Determine how geography affected the development of the United States.		
USI.1.1.a	Identify the five themes of geography; i.e., location, place, human-environmental interaction, movement, and region.	This is found in the SS 7 course.	
USI.1.1.b	Apply the five themes of geography as they relate to the development of the United States.	This is found in the high school Geography course.	
USI.1.2	Utilize geographic skills as they relate to the study of the United States.		
USI.1.2.a	Locate the major physical features, including the plains, major rivers, bodies of water, mountain ranges, and continents.	This is found in the SS 7 course.	
USI.1.2.b	Locate the major political features, including countries, regions, and states.	This is found in the SS 7 course.	
USI.1.2.c	Apply map and globe skills to the study of United States history; e.g., direction, legend, scale, grid coordinates.	This is found in the SS 7 course.	
USI.2	Students will investigate the relationship between events of different time periods.		
USI.2.1	Develop an awareness of current events.		
USI.2.1.a	Use print and broadcast media to acquire an awareness of current events.	SS 8A: Unit 15: War and Its Legacy: The Industrial Revolution	page 23: Writing assignment: Current Event
USI.2.1.b	Recognize the difference between fact and opinion, and discern bias in the media.		
USI.2.2	Analyze how contemporary concerns and events affect and are affected by history.		
USI.2.2.a	Apply knowledge of historical events to recent major events.	SS 8A: Unit 7: Irresolvable Differences	page 24: Writing Assignment: Current Events

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USI.2.2.b	Utilize contemporary news to discuss past events.	SS 8A: Unit 7: Irresolvable Differences	page 24: Writing Assignment: Current Events
USI.3	Students will understand the changes caused by European exploration in the Americas.		
USI.3.1	Explore life among the various American Indian nations prior to European exploration of the New World.		
USI.3.1.a	Identify the major regional American Indian nations of North America.	SS 8A: Unit 1: Early Exploration	Research: Native American Group Chart Assignment Option #2
USI.3.1.b	Examine the cultures of American Indian nations; e.g., languages, beliefs, traditions, and lifestyles.	SS 8A: Unit 1: Early Exploration	Research: Native American Group Chart Assignment Option #2
USI.3.2	Analyze the reasons for European exploration.		
USI.3.2.a	Explain the economic reasons behind exploration; e.g., trade routes, discoveries of fine goods in the East, search for raw materials.	SS 8A: Unit 1: Early Exploration	pages 10 – 15
USI.3.2.b	Examine the political reasons behind exploration; e.g., empire building, European rivalries.	SS 8A: Unit 2: Excitement, Expansions, Changing Horizons	pages 8 – 19
USI.3.2.c	Investigate the social reasons behind exploration; e.g., spreading ideas and beliefs, seeking religious freedoms.	SS 8A: Unit 2: Excitement, Expansions, Changing Horizons	pages 8 – 19
USI.3.2.d	Identify key individuals who contributed to European exploration; e.g. Columbus, Cartier, Cabot, Hudson.	SS 8A: Unit 1: Early Exploration SS 8A: Unit 2: Excitement, Expansion, Changing Horizons	pages 10 – 15 pages 8 - 19
USI.3.3	Assess the impact of European exploration on African slaves and American Indian nations.		
USI.3.3.a	Examine the reasons for slavery in the New World; e.g., cotton, sugar, tobacco.	SS 8A: Unit 5: The Middle and Southern Colonies	pages 5 – 27
USI.3.3.b	Trace the beginnings of the slave trade in the Americas.	SS 8A: Unit 3: Spanish Influence and Colonization in the New World	pages 13 – 16

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USI.3.3.c	Investigate the transportation of African slaves to the Americas; i.e., triangular trade routes, the middle passage.	SS 8A: Unit 3: Spanish Influence and Colonization in the New World	pages 13 – 16
USI.3.3.d	Explore the impact of the Europeans and the resulting destruction of American Indian cultures; e.g., the Spanish Conquistadors, disease brought by Europeans, European settlement.	SS 8A: Unit 3: Spanish Influence and Colonization in the New World	pages 5 – 21
USI.4	Students will analyze European colonization and settlement of North America.		
USI.4.1	Explain where and why European countries colonized North America, e.g., the Netherlands, England, France, Spain.		
USI.4.1.a	Identify motives for exploration; e.g., religion, expansion, trade, wealth.	SS 8A: Unit 1: Early Exploration SS 8A: Unit 2: Excitement, Expansion, Changing Horizons SS 8A: Unit 3: Spanish Influence and Colonization in the New World	pages 5 – 17 pages 5 – 23 pages 5 - 21
USI.4.1.b	Locate the geographical regions of European settlement.	SS 8A: Unit 1: Early Exploration SS 8A: Unit 2: Excitement, Expansion, Changing Horizons SS 8A: Unit 3: Spanish Influence and Colonization in the New World	pages 5 – 17 pages 5 – 23 pages 5 - 21
USI.4.1.c	Investigate the contributions and influences of the major European powers.	SS 8A: Unit 1: Early Exploration SS 8A: Unit 2: Excitement, Expansion, Changing Horizons SS 8A: Unit 3: Spanish Influence and	pages 5 – 17 pages 5 – 23 pages 5 - 21

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		Colonization in the New World	
USI.4.2	Assess the reasons for settlement of the English colonies.		
USI.4.2.a	Compare the reasons for settlement in the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.	SS 8A: Unit 4: Jamestown and the New England Colonies SS 8A: Unit 5: The Middle and Southern Colonies	pages 5 – 28 pages 5 – 27
USI.4.2.b	Explain the contributions of key individuals in the settling of the English colonies; e.g., John Smith, Lord Baltimore, William Bradford.	SS 8A: Unit 4: Jamestown and the New England Colonies SS 8A: Unit 5: The Middle and Southern Colonies	pages 5 – 28 pages 5 – 27
USI.4.2.c	Identify key groups involved in the settlement of the English colonies; e.g., Virginia Company, Pilgrims, Puritans, Quakers.	SS 8A: Unit 4: Jamestown and the New England Colonies SS 8A: Unit 5: The Middle and Southern Colonies	pages 5 – 28 pages 5 – 27
USI.4.2.d	Determine the reasons for conflict between the European powers in North America.	SS 8A: Unit 6: The Right to Representation	pages 10 – 14
USI.4.2.e	Examine the causes and outcomes of the French and Indian War.	SS 8A: Unit 6: Right to Representation	pages 10 – 14
USI.4.3	Examine the economic, political, and social patterns in the development of the 13 English colonies.		
USI.4.3.a	Contrast the economies of the three major Colonial regions: New England, Middle, and Southern.	SS 8A: Unit 4: Jamestown and the New England Colonies SS 8A: Unit 5: The Middle and Southern Colonies	pages 5 – 28 pages 5 – 27
USI.4.3.b	Assess the impact of geography on the economies of the three major regions.	SS 8A: Unit 4: Jamestown and the New England Colonies SS 8A: Unit 5: The Middle and Southern Colonies	pages 5 – 28 pages 5 – 27

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USI.4.3.c	Explain the development of self-government in the colonies.	SS 8A: Unit 4: Jamestown and the New England Colonies SS 8A: Unit 5: The Middle and Southern Colonies	pages 5 – 28 pages 5 – 27
USI.4.3.d	Investigate the lifestyles and cultures of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies; e.g., education, slavery, religion.	SS 8A: Unit 4: Jamestown and the New England Colonies SS 8A: Unit 5: The Middle and Southern Colonies	pages 5 – 28 pages 5 – 27
USI.5	Students will understand the significance of the American Revolution in the development of the United States.		
USI.5.1	Analyze what ideas and events led to the Revolutionary movement.		
USI.5.1.a	Explore the events leading to the outbreak of armed conflict between the American colonies and Great Britain.	SS 8A: Unit 6: The Right to Representation SS 8A: Unit 7: Irresolvable Differences	pages 5 – 23 pages 5 – 25
USI.5.1.b	Analyze the origin of the ideas behind the revolutionary movement and the movement toward independence; e.g., social contract, natural rights, English traditions.	SS 8A: The Right to Representation	pages 7 – 9
USI.5.1.c	Explain the major ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence.	SS 8A: Unit 7: Irresolvable Differences	pages 17 – 23
USI.5.2	Assess the factors affecting the course of the war and contributing to American victory.		
USI.5.2.a	Examine how the Revolutionary War affected the colonists.	SS 8A: Unit 7: Irresolvable Differences	pages 5 – 23
USI.5.2.b	Explain the events that brought European aid to the American cause.	SS 8A: Unit 8: THE American Revolution	pages 14 – 19, 23
USI.5.2.c	Examine the advantages and disadvantages of the Continental Army against British resources.	SS 8A: Unit 8: THE American Revolution	pages 8 – 13, 19 – 21
USI.5.3	Evaluate the contributions of key people and groups to the Revolution.		
USI.5.3.a	Identify the contributions of colonial leaders; e.g., George Washington,	SS 8A: Unit 8: THE American Revolution	pages 5 - 25

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	Thomas Paine, Alexander Hamilton, Sam Adams, John Adams.	SS 8A: Unit 9: We Are the United States of America	pages 6, 14,
USI.5.3.b	Analyze the role various political groups played in the Revolutionary movement; e.g., Sons and Daughters of Liberty, Committees of Correspondence, 1st and 2nd Continental Congress.	SS 8A: Unit 6: Right to Representation SS 8A: Unit We Are the United States of America	page 18- 19 pages 13 – 19
USI.5.3.c	Examine the contributions of various social groups to the Revolutionary movement; e.g., women, free and enslaved blacks, American Indians.	SS 8A: Unit 8: THE American Revolution	pages 5 - 25
USI.5.4	Examine the effects of the Revolution on the United States.		
USI.5.4.a	Analyze the terms of the Treaty of Paris of 1783.	SS 8A: Unit 9: We Are the United States of America	pages 6 – 7
USI.5.4.b	Determine the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.	SS 8A: Unit 9: We Are the United States of America	pages 10 – 12
USI.5.4.c	Investigate the problems that faced the emerging nation; e.g., debt, lack of unified central government, international relations.	SS 8A: Unit 9: We Are the United States of America	page 7
USI.5.4.d	Explain the effect the Revolution had on people; e.g., Native American Indians, slaves, European immigrants.	SS 8A: Unit 9: We Are the United States of America	page 6 – 8
USI.6	Students will understand the structure and function of the United States government established by the Constitution.		
USI.6.1	Assess the foundations and principles that led to the development of the Constitution.		
USI.6.1.a	Analyze the factors involved in convening the Constitutional Convention.	SS 8A: Unit We Are the United States of America	pages 13 - 19
USI.6.1.b	Investigate the ideas and documents that became the foundation for the United States Constitution; e.g., Magna Carta, Iroquois Confederation, European philosophers.	SS 8A: Unit 6: The Right to Representation	pages 7 – 9
USI.6.2	Analyze the compromises that led to the ratification of the Constitution.		

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USI.6.2.a	Compare the Federalists and Anti-Federalist ratification debates.	SS 8A: Unit We Are the United States of America	pages 17 - 19
USI.6.2.b	Examine the Constitution ratification compromises; i.e., 3/5 Compromise, Great Compromise, Bill of Rights.	SS 8A: Unit We Are the United States of America SS 8A: Unit 10: Your Government, Your Rights, Your Turn	pages 15 – 19 pages 5 – 6
USI.6.3	Examine the basic structure of the Constitution.		
USI.6.3.a	Identify the major elements of the United States Constitution.	SS 8A: Unit 10: Your Government, Your Rights, Your Turn	pages 5 – 23 and Writing Assignment on page 24: National Constitution Center
USI.6.3.b	Explain the purpose of the Constitution as outlined in the preamble.	SS 8A: Unit 10: Your Government, Your Rights, Your Turn	page 7 and Writing Assignment: Page 24 National Constitution Center: Explain the Preamble of the Constitution
USI.6.3.c	Explore the role and functions of the three branches of government.	SS 8A: Unit 10: Your Government, Your Rights, Your Turn	pages 9 – 23
USI.6.3.d	Examine the Constitutional principles of separation of powers and checks and balances.	SS 8A: Unit 10: Your Government, Your Rights, Your Turn	page 8 and Writing Assignment: Page 24 National Constitution Center: Explain checks and balances
USI.6.3.e	Determine the role of the Constitution as a living document	SS 8A: Unit 10: Your Government, Your Rights, Your Turn	Writing Assignment: Page 24 National Constitution Center:
USI.6.4	Analyze the rights, liberties, and responsibilities of citizens.		
USI.6.4.a	Identify the responsibilities of citizenship to secure liberties; e.g., vote, perform jury duty, obey laws.	SS 8A: Unit 10: Your Government, Your Rights, Your Turn	page 7 Webquest: Responsibilities of Citizenship
USI.6.4.b	Examine the Bill of Rights and its specific guarantees.	SS 8A: Unit 10: Your Government, Your Rights, Your Turn	page 6
USI.7	Students will explore the territorial growth of the United States before the Civil War.		
USI.7.1	Describe the ideas and events that motivated the expansion of the		

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	United States.		
USI.7.1.a	Explain Manifest Destiny and its role in American expansion; e.g., land acquisition, economy, immigration.	SS 8A: Unit 17: The Call of the West	pages 16 – 17
USI.7.1.b	Examine the background and consequences of the Louisiana Purchase.	SS 8A: Unit 14: Thomas Jefferson Wins	page 10
USI.7.1.c	Investigate the role of explorers in the expansion of the United States; e.g., Lewis and Clark, Pike, Fremont.	SS 8A: Unit 14: Thomas Jefferson Wins	pages 11 – 13
USI.7.1.d	Examine the groups of people that came West; e.g., mountain men, Mormon pioneers, California 49ers, Asian and Irish immigrants.	SS 8A: Unit 17: The Call of the West	pages 6, 9 -10
USI.7.2	Examine the conflicts during the American expansion.		
USI.7.2.a	Investigate the causes and results of the War of 1812.	SS 8A: Unit 15: War and Its Legacy: the Industrial Revolution	pages 6 – 10
USI.7.2.b	Analyze government policies toward and treaties with American Indian nations; e.g., relocation, removal, assimilation, and sovereignty.	Throughout many of the units within this time frame. For example: SS 8A: Unit 16: Continuing Transformation	page 11 – 14
USI.7.2.c	Investigate the impact of the Mexican War on the land and people of the American Southwest; e.g., Mexican Cession, Texas, Gadsden Purchase.	SS 8A: Unit 17: The Call of the West	pages 19 – 21
USI.7.3	Analyze how new inventions and transportation methods stimulated western expansion.		
USI.7.3.a	Research the impact of inventions on expansion; e.g., farming, industry, communication.	SS 8A: Unit 15: War and Its Legacy: the Industrial Revolution	pages 11 – 17
USI.7.3.b	Examine developments in transportation; e.g., expansion of roads and trails, steamboats, and railroads.	SS 8A: Unit 15: War and Its Legacy: the Industrial Revolution	page 14
USI.7.4	Assess the impact of the Industrial Revolution on the United States.		
USI.7.4.a	Examine the development of the factory system.	SS 8A: Unit 15: War and Its Legacy: the Industrial Revolution	page 15
USI.7.4.b	Analyze the role of factories on the growth of northern cities.	SS 8A: Unit 15: War and Its Legacy: the	page 15

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		Industrial Revolution	
USI.7.4.c	Determine how the Industrial Revolution affected the North, South, and West differently.	SS 8A: Unit 15: War and Its Legacy: the Industrial Revolution	pages 11 – 16
USI.7.4.d	Investigate the changes in working conditions caused by the Industrial Revolution.	SS 8A: Unit 15: War and Its Legacy: the Industrial Revolution	pages 11 – 16
USI.8	Students will examine the expansion of the political system and social rights before the Civil War.		
USI.8.1	Investigate the development of the American political party system.		
USI.8.1.a	Examine the differences between the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans.	SS 8A: Unit 13: A New Government	page 18 Writing Activity: Compare/Contrast the Federalists with the Democratic-Republican party
USI.8.1.b	Trace the development of new political parties throughout the 18th and 19th centuries; e.g., Whigs, Jacksonian Democrats, Republicans.	SS 8A: Unit 16: Continuing Transformation	pages 6 – 21
USI.8.1.c	Determine the role of third parties as an agent of reform	SS 8A: Unit 16: Continuing Transformation	pages 6 – 21
USI.8.1.d	Investigate the role of political parties in the electoral process.		
USI.8.2	Analyze the evolution of democracy and the extension of democratic principles.		
USI.8.2.a	Examine how the Supreme Court strengthened the national government.	SS 8A: Unit 13: A New Government	page 7
USI.8.2.b	Analyze how states' rights issues led to growing sectionalism.	SS 8A: Unit 16: Continuing Transformation	pages 15 – 17
USI.8.2.c	Investigate the relationship between national and state governments in expanding democracy.	SS 8A: Unit 16: Continuing Transformation	pages 15 – 17
USI.8.2.d	Appraise how the political process changed to involve more people.		
USI.8.3	Analyze the impact of social reforms on Americans during the 19th century.		
USI.8.3.a	Examine the abolitionist movement; e.g., Sojourner Truth, William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglas, the Grimke sisters.	SS 8B: Unit 19: From Sea to Shining Sea	pages 17 – 21 and page 27: Biography report

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USI.8.3.b	Investigate the impact of reform in education, religion, prisons and the treatment of the mentally ill during this period.	SS 8B: Unit 19: From Sea to Shining Sea	pages 5 – 25
USI.8.3.c	Examine the extension of women's political and legal rights.	SS 8B: Unit 19: From Sea to Shining Sea	pages 22 – 23
USI.9	Students will understand the significance of the Civil War Era to the United States.		
USI.9.1	Analyze differences and events that led to the Civil War.		
USI.9.1.a	Describe the cultural differences between the North and the South.	SS 8B: Unit 20: A Nation About to Break	pages 6 – 8
USI.9.1.b	Examine the sectional economic differences of the United States; e.g., slavery, industry, agriculture, geography.	SS 8A: Unit 16: Continuing Transformation SS 8B: Unit 20: A Nation About to Break	pages 15 – 17 pages 6 – 25
USI.9.1.c	Analyze how states' rights led to conflict between the North and the South.	SS 8A: Unit 16: Continuing Transformation SS 8B: Unit 20: A Nation About to Break	pages 15 – 17 pages
USI.9.1.d	Trace the failure of compromise to ease sectional differences; e.g., Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850, Kansas-Nebraska Act.	SS 8A: Unit 15: War and Its Legacy SS 8B: Unit 20: A Nation About to Break	page 21 pages 9 – 12
USI.9.1.e	Investigate how the abolitionist movement increased sectional tensions between the Northern and Southern states; e.g., John Brown's raid, Dred Scott decision, Uncle Tom's Cabin, and Fugitive Slave Law.	SS 8B: Unit 20: A Nation About to Break	pages 10 – 13, 15
USI.9.1.f	Assess how the election of 1860 led to secession.	SS 8B: Unit 20: A Nation About to Break	pages 14, 17 – 18
USI.9.2	Determine the factors that affected the course of the war and contributed to Union victory.		
USI.9.2.a	Compare the advantages and disadvantages of the Union and the Confederacy.	SS 8B: Unit 22: A Long War and Its Legacy	pages 7 – 8
USI.9.2.b	Analyze the impact of the Emancipation Proclamation on the United States and the Confederacy.	SS 8B: Unit 22: A Long War and Its Legacy	pages 10 – 12

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USI.9.2.c	Identify the contributions of key individuals in the Civil War; e.g., Lincoln, Davis, Lee, Grant.	SS 8B: Civil War Scavenger Hunt	page 9
USI.9.2.d	Investigate how the Civil War affected all people in the United States land area.	SS 8B: Unit 22: A Long War and Its Legacy	pages 13 – 16 22, 25
USI.9.3	Evaluate the Reconstruction period and how it affected the United States following the Civil War.		
USI.9.3.a	Explain the purpose of Reconstruction.	SS 8B: Unit 23: Reconstruction: The South Rebuilds	pages 1, 6 – 23
USI.9.3.b	Analyze the social impact of Reconstruction; e.g., abolition of slavery, integration of races, fall of Southern society, education.	SS 8B: Unit 23: Reconstruction: The South Rebuilds	pages 1, 6 – 23
USI.9.3.c	Determine the economic changes in the country caused by Reconstruction.	SS 8B: Unit 23: Reconstruction: The South Rebuilds	pages 1, 6 – 23
USI.9.3.d	Explain the political changes brought about by the Reconstruction Era; e.g., 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, voting regulations, military districts.	SS 8B: Unit 23: Reconstruction: The South Rebuilds	pages 1, 6 – 23
USI.10	Students will understand the development of the American West following the Civil War.		
USI.10.1	Analyze the factors that brought people west.		
USI.10.1.a	Examine why peoples came to the West; e.g., farmers, ranchers, miners, American Indian nations, immigrants, adventurers.	SS 8B: Unit 24: Moving West	pages 1, 6 – 23
		SS 8B: Unit 25: Real Life in the West	pages 1, 6 – 18
USI.10.1.b	Investigate the impact of mining and ranching on the land and people.	SS 8B: Unit 24: Moving West	pages 6 – 8
USI.10.1.c	Assess the impact of the railroad on western development.	SS 8B: Unit 24: Moving West	page 9
USI.10.2	Analyze the settlement of the American West.		
USI.10.2.a	Examine the changes of the landscape due to settlement patterns.	SS 8B: Unit 24: Moving West	pages 1, 6 – 23
		SS 8B: Unit 25: Real Life in the West	pages 1, 6 – 18
USI.10.2.b	Investigate the development of cities in the West.	SS 8B: Unit 24: Moving West	pages 1, 6 – 23

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		SS 8B: Unit 25: Real Life in the West	pages 1, 6 – 18
USI.10.2.c	Assess the impact western settlement patterns had on the Native American Indians.	SS 8B: Unit 24: Moving West	pages 13 – 21
USI.10.3	Investigate the conflict among various groups involved in the settlement of the West.		
USI.10.3.a	Determine the reasons and groups involved in conflict during the settlement of the West; e.g., ranchers, miners, farmers, American Indian nations, immigrants.	SS 8B: Unit 24: Moving West	pages 1, 6 – 23
		SS 8B: Unit 25: Real Life in the West	pages 1, 6 – 18
USI.10.3.b	Examine the consequences of conflict in the settlement of the West.	SS 8B: Unit 24: Moving West	pages 1, 6 – 23
		SS 8B: Unit 25: Real Life in the West	pages 1, 6 – 18