

Eighth Grade Social Studies Overview: 1492-1914 US History

1492-1783: European Colonization of North America to the Emergence of an independent USA

Students will consider and investigate the causes, conflicts, and results from the era of European exploration to the emergence of the USA by studying the following topics:

Growth of the 13 English Colonies in North America

French and Indian War

US Revolution

1783-1828: US Constitution/Government to the Industrial Revolution

Students will explore and investigate the creation of the US Republic by our Constitution as well as the early conflicts and challenge which emerged by studying the following topics:

Articles of Confederation

US Constitution

First Administrations

War of 1812

Industrial Revolution

1828-1865: Andrew Jackson to the US Civil War

Students will analyze and investigate how the US responds to the political struggles caused by conflicts over slavery, Native Americans, territorial expansion, regionalism and how these struggles eventually results in the US Civil War. Students will study the following topics:

Andrew Jackson/Indian Removal

Westward Expansion

Slavery/Regionalism/Economics

Causes of Civil War

US Civil War

1865-1914: (as much as time allows) Reconstruction to Causes of World War I

Students will consider and investigate how the US enters the modern era and its place as a world power by studying the following topics:

Reconstruction

Industrialism and Labor

Segregation

Progressives

Causes of World War I

Expectations and grading policy:

I expect that as 8th graders you take responsibility for your learning. We will be using a wide variety of learning techniques this year. The focus on this class is to enjoy learning about the birth of our great nation not on homework. Therefore, you will find that although you won't be doing a lot of daily history homework you will need to keep up on all aspects of the class.

Grading policy: Summative tests and projects will count for 60% of your grade, while formative quizzes, classwork and homework will be 40%.