

**8th Grade Standards**

**Social Studies**

**Course Overview:** During 8th grade social studies students will take a close look at the history of the nation. This course will start with who the first people were who walked on this land and end with the great California Gold Rush. In addition, the students will cover such topics as: The Revolutionary War, Louis and Clark, The Alamo, and the Oregon Trail.

**Bold standards are essential standards that all students will learn as they complete the course.**

**Unit 1: America’s Beginnings Prehistory-1700 (9 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, students will study the first people who lived and traveled to North America.

**Standards**

1. The students will identify the geography of the Americas (A.8.1)
2. **The students will examine who the first people were in North America and how they lived (B.8.11)**
3. The students will use a map to locate where in North America early European explorers settled (B.8.7)
4. The students will examine the early European empires that were set up in the Americas (B.8.3)

**Unit 2: Colonial Settlement (8 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, the students will study the original 13 colonies and what life was like in each one.

**Standards**

1. **The students will examine early settlements in North America such as Jamestown and Plymouth (B.8.10)**
2. The students will identify who settled in the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies (B.8.7)
3. The students will give examples of what life was like in the original 13 colonies (B.8.10)
4. **The students will identify what events led to the American Revolutionary War (B.8.10)**

**Unit 3: A New Nation (6 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, the students will study the American Revolutionary War and important documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution

**Standards**

1. The students will identify why the colonists wrote the Declaration of Independence. (B.8.4, B.8.6, B.8.7, B.8.10,)
2. The students will describe how the new colonies were able to win the American Revolutionary War with the help from other European countries. (B.8.3, B.8.10)
3. **The students will explain the influence of the Constitution of the United States. (B.8.6, C.8.1, C.8.2, C.8.3, C.8.4, C.8.5)**

**Unit 4: Early Years of the Republic (7 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, the students will study the development of political parties and how they are different from one another. During this unit the students will see how the size of the United States doubled with the Louisiana Purchase. Students will also look at problems between the United States and England and how these differences led to the War of 1812

**Standards**

1. **The students will explain why different political parties developed in the United States and what beliefs each party stood for. (C.8.1, C.8.6)**
2. The students will identify when and why the United States was able to double in size with the Louisiana Purchase. (B.8.2, B.8.7, B.8.10)
3. The students will explain the significance of the War of 1812. (B.8.1, B.8.2, B.8.3, B.8.7, B.8.10)
4. The students will give examples of new inventions during the early 1800’s that enable more products to be produced. (B.8.8, D.8.8)

**Unit 5: The Nation Expands (6 Weeks)**

**Description:** In this unit, the students will take a closer look on how our country was able to expand, with the help of the Gold Rush and the Oregon Trail, all the way to the Pacific Ocean. They will also study the reasons for the war with Mexico along with battle that took place at the Alamo.

**Standards**

1. **The students will identify what problems settlers had traveling west along the Oregon Trail. (B.8.1, B.8.7, A.8.7)**
2. The students will explain the significance of the California Gold Rush.

(D.8.7, E.8.7, B.8.2, B.8.8)

1. The students will describe the lifestyles of settlers along with problems faced in California due to the Gold Rush. (D.8.8, D.8.9, E.8.7)
2. The students will list the causes of the War with Mexico. (B.8.3, B.8.10, C.8.1)