



Priority Standards

Social Studies Priority Standards – 8th grade

Description: This is a survey of American history from the end of the American Revolution to 1900. Units include the topics of the beginnings of the national government, westward expansion, Jacksonian democracy, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the end of the frontier and the growth of big business. Teachers will assess the following benchmarks in each unit as indicated below. In the event that instructional time is lost, teachers will assess the bolded priority standards only.

Unit	Code	Benchmark Description
Establishing a Nation (1787-1800)	1.1	The student will recognize and evaluate significant choices and consequences that have impacted our lives and futures.
	1.2	The student will analyze the context and draw conclusions about choices and consequences.
	1.3	The student will investigate and connect examples of choices and consequences with contemporary issues
	1.4	The student will use their understanding of choices and consequences to make a claim or advance a thesis using evidence and argument.
Jeffersonian Era (1800-1820)	1.1	The student will recognize and evaluate significant choices and consequences that have impacted our lives and futures.
	1.2	The student will analyze the context and draw conclusions about choices and consequences.
	1.3	The student will investigate and connect examples of choices and consequences with contemporary issues
	1.4	The student will use their understanding of choices and consequences to make a claim or advance a thesis using evidence and argument.
Jacksonian Era (1824-1840)	4.1	The student will recognize and evaluate continuity and change over time.
	4.2	The student will analyze the context and draw conclusions about continuity and change.
	4.3	The student will investigate and connect continuity and change to a contemporary issue.
	4.4	The student will use their understanding of continuity and change to make a claim or advance a thesis using evidence and argument.
End of 1st semester		
Westward Expansion (1840s)	4.1	The student will recognize and evaluate continuity and change over time.
	4.2	The student will analyze the context and draw conclusions about continuity and change.
	4.3	The student will investigate and connect continuity and change to a contemporary issue.
	4.4	The student will use their understanding of continuity and change to make a claim or advance a thesis using evidence and argument.



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Slavery and the Causes of the Civil War	3.1	The student will recognize and evaluate how societies are shaped by the identities, beliefs, and practices of individuals and groups.
	3.2	The student will analyze context and draw conclusions of how societies are shaped by the identities, beliefs, and practices of individuals and groups.
	3.3	The student will investigate and connect how societies are shaped by the identities, beliefs, and practices of individuals and groups with contemporary issues.
	3.4	The student will use their understanding of how societies are shaped by the identities, beliefs, and practices of individuals and groups to make a claim or advance a thesis using evidence and argument.
Civil War and Reconstruction	2.1	The student will recognize and evaluate the rights and responsibilities of people living in societies.
	2.2	The student will analyze the context and draw conclusions about rights and responsibilities.
	2.3	The student will investigate and connect the rights and responsibilities of individuals with contemporary issues.
	2.4	The student will use their understanding of rights and responsibilities to make a claim or advance a thesis using evidence and argument.
Post Reconstruction to 1900	5.1	The student will recognize and evaluate dynamic relationships that impact lives in communities, states, and nations.
	5.2	The student will analyze the context and draw conclusions about dynamic relationships.
	5.3	The student will investigate and connect dynamic relationships to contemporary issues.
	5.4	The student will use their understanding of dynamic relationships to make a claim or advance a thesis using evidence and argument.