

8th Grade U.S. History Syllabus

Academic Year 2025–2026

Course Overview

This course explores the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction after the Civil War. Students will examine key events, influential figures, and transformative movements that have shaped the nation's development. Through reading, discussion, projects, and research, students will develop critical thinking and analytical skills while gaining a deeper appreciation for U.S. history.

Units of Study

1. The Foundations of America: Indigenous Peoples, Exploration, and Colonization
2. The Road to Independence: The American Revolution
3. Building a Nation: The Constitution and Early Republic
4. Expansion and Reform: Jacksonian Democracy, Westward Expansion, and Reform Movements
5. Conflicts and Compromises: Slavery, Sectionalism, and the Road to Civil War
6. The Civil War: Causes, Major Events, and Consequences
7. Reconstruction: Rebuilding and Redefining the Nation

Course Materials

- Supplemental primary source documents and articles (provided in class)
- Notebook and writing materials

Classroom Expectations

- Be respectful and engaged during discussions.
- Complete assignments on time.
- Bring required materials to class each day.
- Ask questions and participate actively.