

**Curriculum at a Glance**  
**Social Studies**  
**Grade 8/American History (Colonies to Reconstruction)**

During 8th grade social studies, students engage in the study of events, documents, movements and people emphasizing 18th/19th century America with a focus on inquiry into the development of the United States as a nation. Through this content, students develop skills such as annotating texts, citing specific textual evidence to support a claim using analysis of primary and secondary sources, determining central ideas of different texts, crafting an accurate summary of a source, identifying aspects of texts revealing author's point of view or purpose. In addition, students analyze connections among events and developments in historical contexts.

<b>Unit Name</b>	<b>Content</b>
Colonization, Rebellion and Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Settlement and development of 13 original colonies</li><li>● Economics of mercantilism</li><li>● Causes of Rebellion</li><li>● Declaration of Independence</li><li>● The American Revolution</li><li>● Founding fathers</li><li>● Articles of Confederation</li></ul>
Constitution and New Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Constitution and Constitutional Convention</li><li>● Bill of Rights</li><li>● Political Parties</li><li>● Jeffersonian Democracy</li><li>● War of 1812</li><li>● Era of Good Feelings</li></ul>

Age of Jackson and Jackson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Elections of 1824 and 1828</li><li>● The Jacksonian Era and Rise of the Common Man</li><li>● Reforms (education, abolition, disabilities, prohibition, women's suffrage)</li><li>● Manifest Destiny/Expansion</li><li>● Growth of Sectionalism</li></ul>
Civil War Era	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Slavery</li><li>● Causes of the War (economic, cultural)</li><li>● The Civil War (battles, key figures, emancipation, outcome)</li><li>● Reconstruction</li><li>● Civil Rights Movement of 1960's</li></ul>