





At the end of Eighth Grade,  
students can...



Social Studies

Eighth Grade



COLORADO  
Department of Education

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## Social Studies Learning Expectations for Eighth Grade History

Examine and interpret a variety of primary and secondary sources, from different perspectives, to formulate a hypothesis and construct a written historical argument about a topic in American history (origins of the American Revolution through Reconstruction).

## Geography

Use different geographic tools and data such as maps, globes, diagrams, charts, geospatial technologies (geographic information systems, Google Earth, global positioning systems) to analyze human and physical systems; explain both conflict and cooperation over space and resources in the United States from the origins of the American Revolution through Reconstruction.

## Economics

Provide examples of how economic freedom and free trade are important for economic growth; explain why it is important to manage personal credit and debt.

## Civics

Analyze the elements of continuity and change in the United States' constitutional system; summarize the role of law and the rights, roles, and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

## Throughout the Eighth Grade, you may find students...

- Gathering and analyzing primary and secondary sources (art, documents, photos, letters, diaries, propaganda, artifacts) from multiple perspectives to

develop and defend an historical thesis; constructing a written argument either for or against an ideal expressed or action taken by the United States during the period of time from the Revolution to Reconstruction; analyzing the causes and effects of major historical events such as the American Revolution, slavery, abolition, and states' rights.

- Using different types of maps and other geographic tools to explain and interpret significant events in U.S. history from the American Revolution through Reconstruction (Westward Expansion, Gold Rush, population growth); addressing issues of land ownership and security from a geographic perspective; making inferences about how the location of and access to resources may lead to cooperation or conflict.
- Discussing the economic policies of the U.S. between the Revolution and Reconstruction; analyzing how policies, tariffs, taxation, and availability of resources affected the growth of the nation; analyzing the benefits and costs of credit and debt.
- Analyzing foundational documents (the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights); discussing how the U.S. constitutional system of government evolved between the American Revolution and Reconstruction, paying particular attention to the changing definition and rights of citizens; examining the changes to the U.S. Constitution and the tensions between individual rights, state law, and national law; explaining the rule of law and the role of judicial review in the U.S. judicial system.