Eighth Grade Social Studies Course Description:

- In grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction.
- The content in Grade 8 builds upon that from grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth.
- Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction.
- Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns.
- Students analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic.
- Students identify the origins of the free enterprise system.
- Students examine the American beliefs and principles reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historic documents.
- Students evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century.
- Students examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States.
- Students examine the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic.
- Students evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States.
- Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material.

TEKS: Click [HERE](#) to access state standards for Social Studies.
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<tr>
<th>Grading Period</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Instructional Topics</th>
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| 1st Grading Period | Exploration & Colonization   | • Causes of exploration and colonization  
• Foundations of representative government in the United States  
• Location and characteristics of places and regions  
• Physical characteristics of regions in America and how humans adapted to and modified the environment  
• Economic development and activity  
• Relationships between and among people from various groups  
• Impact of religion on the American way of life  

|   | American Revolution          | • Significant political and economic issues of the revolutionary era  
• Location and characteristics of places and regions  
• Physical characteristics of regions in America and how humans adapted to and modified the environment  
• American beliefs and principles reflected in the Declaration of Independence  
• Unalienable rights  
• Contributions of Founding Fathers as models of civic virtue  
• Contributions of significant political, social, and military leaders of the United States  
• The relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created  

| 2nd Grading Period | Constitution, Government, & Citizenship | • American beliefs and principles reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historic documents  
• Changing the U.S. Constitution and the impact of amendments on American society  
• Nature of the powers of the national government and state governments in a federal system  
• Rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States  
• Importance of the expression of different points of view in a constitutional republic  
• Impact of religion on the American way of life  

|   | Early Republic               | • Challenges confronted by the government and its leaders in the early years of the republic  
• Expansion and its effects on the political, social, and economic development of the United States  
• Location and characteristics of places and regions  
• Physical characteristics of regions in America and how humans adapted to and modified the environment  
• Various economic forces resulted in the Industrial Revolution  
• Impact of landmark Supreme Court cases  
• Importance of the expression of different points of view in a constitutional republic  
• Importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic  

| 3rd Grading Period | Industry & Urbanization       | • Location and characteristics of places and regions  
• Physical characteristics of regions in America and how humans adapted to and modified the environment  
• Why various sections of the United States developed different patterns of economic activity  
• Various economic forces resulted in the Industrial Revolution  
• Development of the free enterprise system in the United States  

Dickinson I.S.D. Social Studies
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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| Dickinson I.S.D.    | - Relationships between and among people from various groups  
                     - Impact of science and technology on the economic development of the United States  
                     - Impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on daily life in the United States |
| Age of Jackson      | - Challenges confronted by the government and its leaders in the early years of the republic  
                     - Nature of the powers of the national government and state governments in a federal system  
                     - Relationships between and among people from various groups  
                     - Location and characteristics of places and regions |
| Westward Expansion  | - Westward expansion and its effects on the political, social, and economic development of the United States  
                     - Location and characteristics of places and regions  
                     - Physical characteristics of regions in America and how humans adapted to and modified the environment  
                     - Why various sections of the United States developed different patterns of economic activity  
                     - Relationships between and among people from various groups |
| Reform & Culture    | - Location and characteristics of places and regions  
                     - Importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic  
                     - Major reform movements of the 19th century  
                     - The relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created |
| 4th Grading Period  | - Political, economic, and social factors that led to the growth of sectionalism and the Civil War  
                     - Individuals, issues, and events of the Civil War  
                     - Location and characteristics of places and regions  
                     - Physical characteristics of regions in America and how humans adapted to and modified the environment  
                     - Why various sections of the United States developed different patterns of economic activity  
                     - Nature of the powers of the national government and state governments in a federal system  
                     - Impact of landmark Supreme Court cases  
                     - Importance of the expression of different points of view in a constitutional republic  
                     - Importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic  
                     - Relationships between and among people from various groups  
                     - The relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created  
                     - Impact of science and technology on the economic development of the United States |
| Reconstruction      | - Effects of Reconstruction on the political, economic, and social life of the nation  
                     - Changing the U.S. Constitution and the impact of amendments on American society |