

SBMS 8th Grade U.S. History Honors/Regular Syllabus: U.S. History through Reconstruction 1492-1877 Marteinn David Tomasson	Email: david.tomasson@comalisd.org Website: www.tomassonhistory.com Access site for tutoring times, contact info and more. Google Classroom: Videos posted daily of class to counter absences, copies of all assignments, class-stream with daily agenda and much more.
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Coach T.'s ideas about why this is the best class you will take:

I have always been asked this same question, “why do we need to study history, why is to know the past important to me?” Many individuals with that sort of attitude towards history will say that it promotes nothing more than pure memorization on the part of the student. I am not going to say that there are not teachers out there that focus too heavily on the factual aspect of history, which is an unfortunate thing since the subject offers so much more beauty. Of course, studying past people, events and facts is one facet of historical study but not the sole one. If students can better understand the past, then it will ultimately help them in becoming better citizens. Being able to appreciate different people and societies will allow the students to see the world with a more of an open mind and heart consequently preventing them from possible narrow-minded thinking that unfortunately plagues way too many people today. History can also provide the person with a true identity and moral understanding. Who am I and where did I and my family come from? These are all questions that history can easily answer. Studying historical documents and writings can also facilitate the student in developing certain skills such as assessing diverse sources of information, reading, writing, and interpreting various forms of historical data. The list of history’s importance can be a long one but in the end we, I, would like the subject to provide students with the opportunity to enjoy storytelling at its best, enhance their critical thinking and allow them to develop into the best human beings they can possibly become since they can understand why the world is the way it is today... because of its past history!

8th Grade Social Studies (U.S. History) - 4181

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

In this course students study the history of the United States from colonization through Reconstruction. Students analyze political, economic, religious and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the challenges of the early Republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction. Students examine the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on how and where Americans lived, the American beliefs and principles reflected in historical documents such as the U.S. Constitution, the effects of major Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of science and technology on the development of the U.S. A wide variety of primary and secondary source material is used to teach the strands of knowledge and skills..

Honors 8th Grade Social Studies (U.S. History) - 4182

Full Year

Grade: 8

This Honors course provides challenging coursework that emphasizes key literacy and analysis skills. Students will have opportunities to strengthen skills in evidence-based writing, close observation and analysis, higher-order questioning, and academic conversation in preparation for the Advanced Placement courses in high school to prepare students for advanced courses in high school. Students study the history of the United States from colonization through Reconstruction. Students analyze political, economic, religious and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the challenges of the early Republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction. Students examine the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on how and where Americans lived, the American beliefs and principles reflected in historical documents such as the U.S. Constitution, the effects of major Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of science and technology on the development of the U.S. A wide variety of primary and secondary source materials is used to teach the strands of knowledge and skills listed through independent reading, analytical writing and in-depth discussions.

Year at a Glance, what we will be studying.

 Year at a Glance 2026-2027		Eighth Grade Social Studies			Revision Date: April 2026	
Spiraled TEKS		US.28A, US.28B, US.28D, US.28E, US.28F, US.29A, US.29B, US.29C, US.30A, US.30B, US.31A, US.31B				
Unit Name	Unit 8-1 Exploration & Colonization 8/25 - 9/9 (11 Instructional Days)	Unit 8-2 Growth of the Colonies 9/10 - 9/24 (11 Instructional Days)	Unit 8-3 Revolution 9/28 - 10/26 (20 Instructional Days)		Unit 8-4 Forming a Government 10/27 - 11/18 (16 Instructional Days)	Unit 8-5 Rights of the People 11/19 - 12/15 (14 Instructional Days) Finals: 12/16 - 12/18
TEKS	8.1A, 8.1B, 8.2A, 8.2B, 8.3B, 8.10A, 8.10B, 8.15A, 8.23A, 8.23C, 8.23D, 8.23E, 8.25A, 8.29G, 8.29H	8.1A, 8.1B, 8.2B, 8.3B, 8.10A, 8.10B, 8.23A, 8.23C, 8.23D, 8.23E, 8.25A, 8.25B, 8.3A, 8.3C, 8.11A, 8.12A, 8.12B, 8.12C, 8.26A	8.1A, 8.1B, 8.10A, 8.10B, 8.4A, 8.4B, 8.4C, 8.20A, 8.20B, 8.22A, 8.23E, 8.1A, 8.1B, 8.4B, 8.4C, 8.10A, 8.22A, 8.6E, 8.10C, 8.19A, 8.19B, 8.22B <u>Health 5.B</u>		8.1A, 8.1B, 8.10A, 8.15A, 8.20A, 8.4D, 8.6A, 8.15B, 8.17A, 8.19C, 8.23B	8.1A, 8.1B, 8.15C, 8.15D, 8.16A, 8.19B, 8.19C, 8.19D, 8.21B, 8.25C
Big Ideas	- Physical geography shaped settlement patterns and culture of Native American societies. - Technological innovations, desire of wealth, and spread of Christianity contributed to Europe exploration - Regional characteristics influenced social and political development of colonies	- Geography determined the economic activities of each colonial region. - Representative government was a foundation of colonial growth. - Religion had an influence on society and representative government.	- The Declaration of Independence was issued in response to mistreatment by Britain. - The French of Indian War was a direct cause of the Revolutionary War. - The U.S. Victory in the American Revolution was highly unlikely - People of diverse backgrounds contributed to the U.S. victory in the Revolutionary War		- The Framers of the U.S. Constitution included ideas from other individuals and documents. - Compromise was an essential aspect of the Constitutional Convention. The year 1787 was pivotal in the U.S. History	- People of the U.S. have codified rights. - The Constitution is a "living document" - The national government shares power with the states (10th Amendment)
Unit Name	Unit 8-6 Early Years of the Republic & Age of Jackson 1/5 - 1/29 (18 Instructional Days)	Unit 8-7 Ind. Rev, Westward Expansion & Reform 2/1 - 2/26 (17 Instructional Days)	Unit 8-8 Civil War Reconstruction 3/1 - 3/31 (16 Instructional Days)	Unit 8-9 STAAR Review 4/1 - 4/14 (10 Instructional Days) <i>ELA STAAR 4/8</i> <i>Science STAAR 4/13</i> <i>SS STAAR 4/15</i>	Unit 8-10 Social Studies Research 4/16 - 5/24 (25 Instructional Days) Finals: 5/25 - 5/27	
TEKS	8.1AB, 8.5C, 8.10C, 8.22A, 8.22B, 8.23C, 8.5AB CDEFG, 8.7ACD 8.13A 8.14A, 8.14B, 8.17B, 8.18A, 8.18B, 8.20A, 8.21A, 8.23C	8.1A 8.1C, 8.5B, 8.5C, 8.7A, 8.10AC, 8.12BC, 8.14AB, 8.15D, 8.20B 8.21A, 8.21C, 8.6B, 8.6C, 8.10B 8.11B, 8.13B, 8.20C, 8.23D, 8.23E, 8.24A, 8.24B, 8.25B, 8.26A 8.27A, 8.27B, 8.27D, 8.28A, 8.28B	8.1A, 8.1B, 8.7A, 8.10A, 8.10B, 8.10C, 8.11A, 8.12A, 8.12B, 8.12C, 8.17B, 8.18B, 8.21A, 8.23B, 8.24B, 8.27C, 8.7B, 8.7C, 8.7D, 8.8A, 8.8B, 8.8C, 8.8D, 8.18.C, 8.9A, 8.9B, 8.9C, 8.16B		8.1A, 8.1B; 8.9A, 8.9B, 8.9C, 8.16B, 8.30C	8.1A, 8.1B; 8.9A, 8.9B, 8.9C, 8.16B, 8.30C
Big Ideas	- There were many domestic issues faced by the leaders of the new republic. - Influential individuals' beliefs and actions greatly influenced how the new government worked in terms of policy and practice. - The election of Jackson had both a positive and negative impact on the country.	- Innovation spurred industrialization which led to both opportunity and oppression as well as increased sectionalism. - Manifest Destiny expanded opportunities for the United States and some groups of people but negatively impacted other people. - Reformers had various reasons and varying amounts of success as they sought to improve the U.S.	- The North and South came into increasing conflict for geographic, political, economic, and social reasons. - Reconstruction changed the relationship between the states and federal government. - Reconstruction led to debates over new definitions of citizenship. - Reconstruction opened new political and social opportunities to former slaves but ultimately failed due to Southern resistance and Northern apathy.		- Historical debates provide differing views of historical events. - Studying different kinds of primary sources will build historical thinking skills.	

Coach T.'s Classroom Rules and Consequences

RULES

RESPECT!

Perseverance.

Responsibility.

Consequences

Warning: "Immediacy".

Student/Parent Contact.

Classroom/ Lunch Detention.

Office Referral (Administrator Punishment).



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