

# Grade 8 Social Studies American History Syllabus

☺ Mr. Kemp

## ~ Course Overview ~

Grade 8 Social Studies American History serves students not only to better frame and understand historical knowledge in America from the Colonial to the Civil War/Reconstruction contextual time periods, but to discover its geography, civics and government, and economy. Learning to improve a concept or practice a skill in this particular social science involves daily reading and writing of informational text, speaking and listening, and critically thinking in the interpretive analysis capacity. This will be our goal. The areas of Scope and Sequence Topics, Methods Practiced, Standards Addressed, and Grading Policy and Rules listed below support understanding the class. Timing of certain instruction may vary during the calendar year due to unforeseen circumstances.

### ***Scope and Sequence Topics --***

**Quarter 1** Geography – USA political and physical feature discovery. Review and Connect – Ancient, World, to US history ... 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment. Grand Exchange. Colonial America. **Quarter 2** Causes of the American Revolution. Constitutional Era & Civics. **Quarter 3** New Nation (The Critical Period). Jacksonian Democracy. Westward Expansion. Speak & Listen Presentations. **Quarter 4** North & South (economy and beyond). Slavery/The Civil War/Reconstruction. Intro to Discrimination, Segregation, Integration/Civil Rights Movement. Review.

### ***Methods Practiced --***

Article analysis and write 5-Ws & H's, Critical Thinking, Interpretive Analysis, Discuss & Write, Debate, Question & Answer, Thesis Statements, Complete Sentence Short Answer, Historical Fiction, Timelines, Vocabulary, Cornell Key-Notes, Speeches, Book-notes, Discussions, Constructive Meaning Summaries, Critical Comparison – Group Geography, Read Aloud, Essays, Issue-Rule-Analysis-Conclusion, Mapping, Storytelling, Group Share, Show & Tell, Pop Quiz & Review, Multiple-Choice Tests, Group Research, I-Search, Practice Writing/Speaking & Reading for Information Skills, Document Based Questions and Research, Think Pair Share, Topic Sentence Notes, Artifact Discovery, Community Outreach, Frame Economic/ Political/ and Social principles, Graphic Organization, News of the Day Discussions, Fireside Radio Chat, A/B Partner Talk, Table Group Discussions, Simulations, Reading Workshop, Dialogue Journal, Illustrate and Caption, and More. Individualized learning needs are addressed on a regular basis.

### ***Standards Addressed --***

#### *U.S. History*

Historical Knowledge and Thinking; 1765 to Reconstruction.

1. Examine by social, political, and economic factors of the following historical movements:
  - a. Causes of the American Revolution and the Constitutional Era.
  - b. New Nation foreign and domestic, Jacksonian Democracy, Westward Expansion, North and South (economy and beyond).
  - c. Slavery/Civil War/Reconstruction.
2. Create and compare timelines.
3. Review Ancient & World (Grade 6&7) connections.

#### *Geography*

Interpret maps to identify growth and historical development of the United States.

#### *Civics & Government*

Explain rights and responsibilities of citizens from the colonial times to reconstruction.

### *Economy*

Describe how industrialization created shifts in an economy.

### *Reading & Writing*

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of sources.

Determine the central ideas or information of a source; provide an accurate summary.

Analyze relationship between primary and secondary source on the same topics.

Write arguments focused on *discipline-specific content*.

Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

### *Speaking and Listening*

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.

Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.

Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own view.

Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.

Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

### ***Grading Policy and Rules***

Students will be graded using the following scale: 90-100=A, 80- 89 =B, 70-79 =C, 60- 69 =D, 50- 59 =F. Modifications will be given for IEP students. Grades will be based on a combination of summative academic achievement and formative work. Daily projects will receive anywhere from 5 through 50 points. Larger projects will receive anywhere from 50 through 300 plus points. Separately, a citizenship grade based on preparedness, attitude, and overall behavior is available.

Regarding student work deadlines, each student is responsible for his or her own work. It is the student's responsibility to have their work in by due dates, which are written on the board. Exceptions are given to students that have been absent due to illness. If a student is absent for two or more days, then please see the teacher for a new due date. Parents or guardians should call the school for classwork pick-up if their student will be absent for a given length of time.

To improve class performance, further remediation after school with the teacher is available. After school tutoring hours are 3:10 to 3:50 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Other rules: No cell phones, gum, and picture taking or recordings.