

Brunswick School Department  
Social Studies  
Grade 8 Maine Studies Today

**Unit Overview**

This unit will cover the history of Maine since World War II. Students will study the similarity and differences between local, state and national governments while learning about their roles in current civic issues. The economic conditions and technological advances that have occurred will also be covered. Elected Maine Officials and prominent people and events will be introduced. Geographic reasoning will be stressed through mapping counties, physical features and boundaries. Primary and secondary sources will be used.

**Essential Understandings**

History, geography, government, and economics have shaped the cultural and ethnic heritage of Maine.

**Priority Standards and Performance Indicators**

(as based on the Maine Learning Results)

**P.S. SS -1 Conduct and present original research that utilizes primary and secondary sources in order to analyze, interpret and explain historical (and/or) contemporary social studies topics.**

d. Use information ethically and legally.

**PS.SS- 2 Draw on concepts from civics and government to understand political systems, power, authority, governance, civic ideals and practices, and the role of citizens.**

b. Explain the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens in a constitutional democracy.

**P.S. SS-3 Draw on concepts and processes from economics to understand issues of personal finance and issues of production, distribution, and consumption in the community, Maine, the United States, and world.**

c. Identify factors that contribute to personal spending and savings decisions including work, wages, income, expenses, and budgets as they relate to the study of individual financial choices.

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**P.S. SS-4 Utilize concepts and processes from geography to understand issues involving people, places, and environments in the United States and the world.**

- c. Use the geographic grid and a variety of types of maps to identify geographic information.

**P.S.SS-5 Draw on concepts and processes from history to develop historical perspective and understand issues of continuity and change in the community, Maine, the United States, and world.**

- c. Identify and analyze major historical eras, major enduring themes, turning points, events, consequences, and people in the history of Maine, the United States and various regions of the world.

- d. Explain how history can help one better understand and make informed decisions about the present and future.

**Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments**

- Maine Counties and County Seats Map test
- “Chinese Dignitaries” project rubric
- Maine Facts test
- Identify elected Maine officials
- Summarize ways in which technology has helped to shape Maine’s environment.
- Label and color the counties and county seats of Maine

**Sample Texts and Materials/Resources**

- Publications:
  - [A Journey Through Maine](#)
- Videos:
  - HOME: the Story of Maine (series)