



8th Grade Social Studies Curriculum

Reading and Writing Standards

Marking Period	Reading Assessments	Writing Assessments
1	Boston Massacre Analysis	13 Colonies One Pager
2	Articles of Confederation Weaknesses Article Summary	KCCS Declaration of Independence
3	George Washington's Farewell Address: Reading & Summary	Early Presidents One Pager
4	Harriet Tubman Article Summary	Oregon Trail Simulation Story

Scoring Guide for Written Work

Criteria	Limited	Developing	Proficient	Exemplary
Demonstrate Understanding of the Content	Demonstrates a limited understanding of the topic, providing incomplete or inaccurate information with significant gaps.	Demonstrates a partial understanding of the topic, providing some accurate and concise information but may lack depth or completeness.	Shows a solid understanding of the topic, providing accurate and concise information, addressing all key aspects of the prompt.	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic, providing comprehensive, accurate, and concise information. Complete: Addresses all aspects of the assigned topic or prompt Accurate: Provides accurate and relevant information supported by evidence or examples Concise: Presents ideas and information in a clear and concise manner without unnecessary repetition or digressions



8th Grade Social Studies Curriculum

Structure and Formatting	Lacks an engaging hook, inconsistent or insufficient use of citations, minimal use of CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and unclear or weak topic sentences.	Attempts to engage the reader with a hook, includes citations, attempts to use CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and provides topic sentences, but with some inconsistencies or lack of clarity.	Begins with an engaging hook, includes proper citations, effectively utilizes CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and presents clear topic sentences.	Engages the reader with a captivating hook, includes proper citations, effectively utilizes CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) structure, and presents clear and well-developed topic sentences. Hook: Engages the reader with a compelling opening that grabs attention Citation: Includes appropriate citations and references to give credit to sources used CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning): Constructs well-developed claims supported by relevant evidence and logical reasoning Topic Sentences: Clearly and effectively introduces the main ideas of paragraphs
Critical Thinking / Original Point of View	Shows limited evidence of critical thinking skills, with arguments or perspectives lacking coherence or supporting evidence.	Shows some evidence of critical thinking skills, but arguments or perspectives may be limited in depth or clarity.	Displays sound critical thinking skills, offering well-reasoned arguments and perspectives supported by relevant evidence.	Exhibits exceptional critical thinking skills, offering unique and insightful perspectives supported by strong reasoning and evidence. Demonstrates critical thinking skills by analyzing and evaluating information or arguments Presents a unique and original perspective or interpretation of the topic Supports arguments or ideas with thoughtful reasoning and evidence



8th Grade Social Studies Curriculum

Research / Reference	Relies on minimal sources, lacks integration of research findings, and shows inconsistent or inadequate citation and referencing.	Incorporates some sources, but may not fully integrate research findings or include proper citation and referencing consistently.	Incorporates appropriate sources, integrates research findings to support the content, and follows proper citation and referencing conventions with minor errors.	<p>Research / Reference: Utilizes a wide range of relevant and credible sources, effectively integrating research findings into the writing, and consistently follows proper citation and referencing conventions.</p> <p>Utilizes relevant and credible sources to support arguments or claims</p> <p>Effectively incorporates research findings to strengthen the overall content and understanding of the topic</p> <p>Demonstrates the ability to properly cite and reference sources in the appropriate format (MLA)</p>
Academic Writing	Contains frequent and significant errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure that impede readability.	Contains noticeable errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or sentence structure that occasionally hinder readability.	Demonstrates proficient spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure with occasional minor errors that do not hinder readability.	<p>Demonstrates exemplary spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure with no or minimal errors.</p> <p>Spelling: Exhibits correct spelling throughout the writing</p> <p>Grammar: Demonstrates mastery of grammar rules, including proper subject-verb agreement, verb tense consistency, and pronoun usage</p> <p>Punctuation: Applies appropriate punctuation marks, such as commas, periods, and quotation marks, correctly</p> <p>Sentence Structure: Constructs clear and varied sentence structures, including complex and compound sentences</p>



8th Grade Social Studies Curriculum

Subject Specific Requirement	Demonstrates minimal understanding or application of subject-specific requirements, with little or no effectiveness in enhancing the writing.	Attempts to incorporate subject-specific requirements, but the execution may lack clarity or effectiveness.	Incorporates subject-specific requirements effectively, demonstrating a good understanding and application of the assigned requirement.	Skillfully incorporates subject-specific requirements, showcasing creativity, foreshadowing, or point of view to enhance the overall quality of the writing. Incorporates subject-specific requirements (e.g., creativity, foreshadowing, point of view) as specified in the assignment Applies the specific requirement effectively to enhance the overall quality and depth of the writing
-------------------------------------	---	---	---	--



8th Grade Social Studies Curriculum

Content Topics and Pacing

Topic	Duration	Guiding Questions	Reading/Writing Assignments
U.S. Geography	~ 2-3 Weeks	How might physical geography have impacted the areas in which people chose to settle in the 1700s & 1800s? Why do people move? What struggles might early Americans have experienced when choosing a place to settle?	- Trip Around the World Simulation & Reflection
Colonization (Review from 5th grade)	~ 3 Weeks	What happened to early settlements? Why did settlements succeed or fail? How were the New England Colonies, Middle Colonies, & Southern Colonies similar or different from one another?	- 13 Colonies One Pager
Road to the Revolution	~ 4-5 Weeks	In what ways did the colonists try to resist the acts & taxes that were being implemented by the King? How did the colonists feel about the colonial government? Why did the colonists feel it was necessary to declare independence from Britain?	- Boston Massacre Analysis - KCCS Declaration of Independence
Revolution & the New Nation	~ 5 Weeks	Were Shays and his followers justified in their actions in Shays Rebellion?	- Articles of Confederation Weaknesses



8th Grade Social Studies Curriculum

		<p>How did compromises around issues of power, slavery, and Indigenous nations affect the creation of the Constitution?</p> <p>Why were the Framers in conflict over the adoption of the Constitution?</p> <p>What is the Bill of Rights, what does it protect, and in what ways is it still vital today?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Constitutional Convention: Borka Constitution- Bill of Rights Comic
Challenges to an Emerging Nation	~5 Weeks	<p>How did political and social leaders attempt to meet the domestic and foreign challenges facing the new government?</p> <p>How did competing ideas, experience of political leaders, and fears of the past, influence the development of political parties?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presidential One Pager- George Washington's Farewell Address: Reading & Summary
Regional & Economic Growth	~4 Weeks	<p>What societal changes occurred as a direct result of advancements in industry?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Missouri Compromise Summary- Oregon Trail Simulation Story
Reform Movements	~ 2-3 Weeks	<p>What were some of the responses to injustice in the mid-1800s?</p> <p>Who were the well-known abolitionists, and what motivated them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reformer One Pager
The Coming of the Civil War	~ 2-3 Weeks	<p>How did the tension build-up overtime lead to the Civil War?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Compromises Summary- Harriet Tubman Article Summary



8th Grade Social Studies Curriculum

		In what ways did the resistance of enslaved persons before and during the Civil War have an effect?	
Civil War	~ 3 Weeks	What caused the Southern states to secede? What role did Abraham Lincoln play in the Civil War? What factors ultimately led to the North winning the Civil War?	- Civil War Map Analysis