

Social Studies: Grade 8

Archdiocese of Washington Core Standards for Grade 8 Social Studies

Core Standard	1	Core Standard	2
History		Civics and Government	
<i>The Foundations of the United States to 1800</i>		<i>Foundations of United States Government</i>	
Explain the specific causes and effects of the American Revolution. Describe the roles the Founding Fathers played in the establishment of the Republic. Identify the conflicting ideas and the compromises that shaped the new nation.		Explain the essential ideas of constitutional government including limited government, checks and balances, rule of law, due process of law, and representative government as they appear in the founding documents.	
[Standard Indicators: 8.1.4, 8.1.5, 8.1.6, 8.1.7, 8.1.8, 8.1.9]		[Standard Indicators: 8.2.1, 8.2.8]	
<i>Westward Expansion to 1861</i>		<i>Functions of United States Government</i>	
Define Manifest Destiny and explain how the United States grew through westward expansion. Describe the interactions between settlers and Native American Indian groups and identify the consequences of western expansion.		Identify the three branches of the government and describe their powers. Explain the function of government in people's lives. Compare the powers reserved to federal and to state governments.	
[Standard Indicators: 8.1.11, 8.1.13, 8.1.14, 8.1.15, 8.1.18, 8.1.24]		[Standard Indicators: 8.2.6, 8.2.7, 8.2.8, 8.2.9]	
<i>Civil War and Reconstruction to 1877</i>			
Describe the impact of slavery on the United States. Explain the causes of sectionalism and the Civil War, including key events, individuals, and movements. Describe the policies, practices, and consequences of Reconstruction.			
[Standard Indicators: 8.1.10, 8.1.16, 8.1.18, 8.1.21, 8.1.22, 8.1.23, 8.1.25]			
<i>Chronology, Analysis, and Interpretation</i>			
Recognize historical perspective. Formulate questions about issues confronting the United States and use a variety of sources to compare and contrast American culture.			
[Standard Indicators: 8.1.27, 8.1.30, 8.5.10]			

Core Standard**3****Geography***Maps and Globes*

Map and describe the major climate regions and physical regions in the United States. Create maps that identify physical growth and development of the United States.

[Standard Indicators: 8.3.2, 8.3.3, 8.3.7, 8.3.8]

Human and Physical Systems

Describe the role of major mountain ranges and river systems in the development of the United States. Identify agricultural regions, and explain land development and land modification. Explain factors influencing migration and settlement.

[Standard Indicators: 8.3.5, 8.3.7, 8.3.9, 8.3.10]

Core Standard**4****Economics***Development of the Nation and the Economy*

Explain how the characteristics of a market economy have affected the development and history of the United States from colonial exploration through reconstruction. Analyze the effects of urbanization and immigration on labor productivity and the development of the United States economy.

[Standard Indicators: 8.4.1, 8.4.3, 8.4.6]

Role of Government

Explain the basic functions of the government in the economy of the United States (e.g., taxation, providing goods and services, promoting competition).

[Standard Indicators: 8.2.4, 8.4.4]
