

School wide Benchmark Assessment Plan

8th Grade History Standards

Test 1 September
Test 2 November

Test 3 January
Test 4 March

Test	Standard	U.S. History	# of STAR	U.S. History
		Essential History Standards	Items	Kid Friendly Standards
		U.S. Constitution & the Early Republic	22	
1	8.1	<p>Students understand the major events preceding the founding of the nation and relate their significance to the development of American constitutional democracy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analyze the philosophy of government expressed in the Declaration of Independence, with an emphasis on government as a means of securing individual rights. ▪ Describe the nation's blend of civic republicanism, classical liberal principles, and English parliamentary traditions. 	3	I can describe the political influences that helped shaped American democracy and summarize the major events that led to the creation of our country.
1	8.2	<p>Students analyze the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and compare the enumerated and implied powers of the federal government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluate the major debates that occurred during the development of the Constitution and their ultimate resolutions in such areas as shared power among institutions, divided state-federal power, slavery, the rights of individuals and states (later addressed by the addition of the Bill of Rights), and the status of American Indian nations under the commerce clause. ▪ Enumerate the powers of government set forth in the Constitution and the fundamental liberties ensured by the Bill of Rights. ▪ Describe the principles of federalism, dual sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, the nature and purpose of majority rule, and the ways in which the American idea of constitutionalism preserves individual rights. 	4	I can discuss the compromises that took place in creating our Constitution. I can explain all parts of the Constitution, including the three branches of our government, the ideas of separation of powers, checks and balances, federalism, majority rule, the role of government, the Bill of Rights, the amendments, and the amendment process.
1	8.3	<p>Students understand the foundation of the American political system and the ways in which citizens participate in it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand how the conflicts between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton resulted in the emergence of two political parties. ▪ Describe the basic law-making process and how the Constitution 	3	I can explain the American political system, including the election process, how a bill becomes a law, citizenship, and the development of political parties and special interest groups.

		provides numerous opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process and to monitor and influence government.		
2	8.4	<p>Students analyze the aspirations and ideals of the people of the new nation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explain the policy significance of famous speeches (e.g., Washington's Farewell Address, Jefferson's 1801 Inaugural Address, John Q. Adams's Fourth of July 1821 Address). ▪ Analyze the rise of capitalism and the economic problems and conflicts that accompanied it. ▪ Discuss daily life, including traditions in art, music, and literature, of early national America. 	2	I can describe the aspirations and ideals of early Americans. I can summarize the importance of various political speeches, discuss the rise of capitalism and summarize its weaknesses, and describe early American life.
2	8.5	<p>Students analyze U.S. foreign policy in the early Republic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand the political and economic causes and consequences of the War of 1812 and know the major battles, leaders, and events that led to a final peace. ▪ Know the changing boundaries of the United States and describe the relationships the country had with its neighbors (current Mexico and Canada) and Europe, including the influence of the Monroe Doctrine, and how those relationships influenced westward expansion and the Mexican-American War. 	2	I can summarize early U.S. foreign policy and discuss events such as the War of 1812, the Monroe Doctrine, westward expansion, and the Mexican-American War.
2	8.6	<p>Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced, with emphasis on the Northeast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outline the physical obstacles to and the economic and political factors involved in building a network of roads, canals, and railroads. ▪ List the reasons for the wave of immigration from Northern Europe to the United States and describe the growth in the number, size, and spatial arrangements of cities. ▪ Examine the women's suffrage movement. ▪ Identify common themes in American art as well as transcendentalism and individualism . 	3	I can summarize the way of life for the Americans living in the Northeast from 1800- 1850s. I can explain the challenges of developing transportation lines, the causes of the increased immigration from Northern Europe and the problems immigrants faced in America cities, describe the women's suffrage movement, and identify common themes in American art.
2	8.7	<p>Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people in the South from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Describe the development of the agrarian economy in the South, identify the locations of the cotton-producing states, and discuss the significance of cotton and the cotton gin. ▪ Trace the origins and development of slavery; its effects on black Americans and on the region's political, social, religious, economic, and cultural development; and identify the strategies that were tried to both overturn and preserve it. 	2	I can summarize the way of life for the Americans living in the South from 1800- 1850s. I can describe the development of the farming economy and the importance of the cotton gin. I can explain the history of American slavery and how the practice of slavery impacted the South's political, social, religious, economic, and culture development. I can summarize early attempts at abolishing and preserving the practice of slavery.

3	8.8	<p>Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people in the West from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss the election of Andrew Jackson as president in 1828, the importance of Jacksonian democracy, and his actions as president. ▪ Describe the purpose, challenges, and economic incentives associated with westward expansion, including the concept of Manifest Destiny (e.g., the Lewis and Clark expedition, accounts of the removal of Indians, the Cherokees' "Trail of Tears," settlement of the Great Plains) and the territorial acquisitions that spanned numerous decades. ▪ Describe the role of pioneer women and the new status that western women achieved. ▪ Examine the importance of the great rivers and the struggle over water rights. ▪ Discuss Mexican settlements and their locations, cultural traditions, attitudes toward slavery, land-grant system, and economies. ▪ Describe the Texas War for Independence and the Mexican-American War, including territorial settlements, the aftermath of the wars, and the effects the wars had on the lives of Americans, including Mexican Americans today. 	3	<p>I can summarize the way of life for the Americans living in the West from 1800- 1850s. I can summarize Andrew Jackson's presidency and his policies. I can describe the challenges and accomplishments of the Westward Movement, the idea of Manifest Destiny, and how westward expansion impacted Native Americans and Mexicans.</p>
Civil War & Its Aftermath		13		
3	8.9	<p>Students analyze the early and steady attempts to abolish slavery and to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Describe the leaders of the movement, ▪ Describe the significance of the Northwest Ordinance in education and in the banning of slavery in new states north of the Ohio River. ▪ Discuss the importance of the slavery issue as raised by the annexation of Texas and California's admission to the union as a free state under the Compromise of 1850. ▪ Analyze the significance of the States' Rights Doctrine, the Missouri Compromise (1820), the Wilmot Proviso (1846), the Compromise of 1850, Henry Clay's role in the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854), the <i>Dred Scott v. Sandford</i> decision (1857), and the Lincoln-Douglas debates (1858). 	4	<p>I can summarize the early attempts at ending slavery and the push for American to live up to its ideas listed in the Declaration of Independence. I can discuss early abolitionists, the importance of the Northwest Ordinance, the slavery issue raised by the annexation of Texas and California, and the significance of the Missouri Compromise, the Wilmot Proviso, the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the Dred Scott case, and the Lincoln-Douglas Debates.</p>
4	8.10	<p>Students analyze the multiple causes, key events and complex consequences of the Civil War.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compare the conflicting interpretations of state and federal authority as emphasized in the speeches and writings of statesmen such as Daniel Webster and John C. Calhoun. ▪ Discuss Abraham Lincoln's presidency and his significant writings 	4	<p>I can describe the causes, key events, and consequences of the Civil War.</p>

		<p>and speeches and their relationship to the Declaration of Independence, such as his "House Divided" speech (1858), Gettysburg Address (1863), Emancipation Proclamation (1863), and inaugural addresses (1861 and 1865).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe critical developments and events in the war, including the major battles, geographical advantages and obstacles, technological advances, and General Lee's surrender at Appomattox. 		
4	8.11	<p>Students analyze the character and lasting consequences of Reconstruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List the original aims of Reconstruction and describe its effects on the political and social structures of different regions. Understand the effects of the Freedmen's Bureau and the restrictions placed on the rights and opportunities of freedmen, including racial segregation and "Jim Crow" laws. Understand the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution and analyze their connection to Reconstruction. 	3	<p>I can discuss the Reconstruction period and describe its lasting consequences and how it affected different geographic regions. I can summarize the initial goals of Reconstruction and describe the challenges faced by the newly freed black Americans.</p>
4	8.12	<p>Students analyze the transformation of the American economy and the changing social and political conditions in the United States in response to the Industrial Revolution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the reasons for the development of federal Indian policy and the wars with American Indians and their relationship to agricultural development and industrialization. Discuss entrepreneurs, industrialists, and bankers in politics, commerce, and industry. Examine the location and effects of urbanization, renewed immigration, and industrialization. Discuss child labor, working conditions, and laissez-faire policies toward big business and examine the labor movement, including its leaders (e.g., Samuel Gompers), its demand for collective bargaining, and its strikes and protests over labor conditions. 	2	<p>I can explain how the Industrial Revolution changed the social and political conditions in American and transformed the economy.</p>