Michigan K-12 Standards
Social Studies
8th Grade
THE GOALS OF SOCIAL STUDIES

Introduction

Michigan’s Social Studies Content Expectations describe what students should know and be able to do in order to succeed in college, career, and civic life. In 2013, the State of Michigan began revising the content expectations and involved educators from local, ISD, university, and state-level organizations. The project was focused on updating the existing 2007 standards around the charge of “clearer, fewer, and higher” and the result of this work is presented here.

Writing teams met on a regular basis throughout the revision process and several opportunities for public review and commentary were provided. Sessions took place around the state in 2015, 2018, and again in 2019. As a result, a diverse representation of Michigan’s educators and citizens provided additional feedback, which was used to shape the final version of this document.

This document is not intended to be a state curriculum. The revised content in the standards is coupled with the Arc of Inquiry and skills delineated in the C3 Framework. In a “local control” state such as Michigan, each district can use the document as it sees fit to revise curriculum and create a foundation from which it can continue to improve instruction.

Purpose of Social Studies

The purpose of social studies is to promote the knowledge, skills, intellectual processes, and dispositions required of people to be actively engaged in fulfilling their responsibility of civic participation. As members of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world, young people need to learn how to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good. Social studies fosters a renewed and reinvigorated commitment to the ideal, “government of the people, by the people, and for the people,” as expressed by President Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address. The expectations outlined below are designed to fulfill that purpose.

Literacy in Social Studies

The digital revolution has fostered a sizable shift not only in how students acquire information, but how educators make social studies more relevant and meaningful. Teachers are welcoming into their classrooms students who have grown up in a world where multiple modes of communication and interaction are an indispensable part of everyday life. Instant communication has made distances between locations practically invisible; the pace of change is now at a staggering rate, and there is a sizable and expanding role of civic participation. As a result, students need to be equipped with a more sophisticated level of literacy than ever before — one that transcends basic technical and functional knowledge and skills.

For many, literacy means different things from a wide variety of perspectives. One constant, however, is that the notion of literacy is often associated with the mastery of the technical skills of oral and written communication, dialogue, and questioning. Today’s society demands an urgent need to move beyond content-based teaching and the application of discipline-specific skill sets (e.g., thinking like a historian, geographer, economist). Critical literacy is the next cerebral step as students move toward an approach to see and “read” themselves and the world.

Embedded in literacy practices, critical literacy provides opportunities for students to utilize an integrated approach. Critical literacy has been defined as “learning to read and write as part of the process of becoming conscious of one’s experiences as historically constructed within specific power relations” (Anderson & Irvine, 1982). In simpler terms, critical literacy is about how students evaluate society and possess the necessary abilities and the desire to interact with the world. The combined approach of the skill sets of disciplinary literacy along with the tools of critical literacy for critical thinking empowers students with multiple perspectives and questioning habits. It encourages them to think and take informed action on their decisions through dialogue, civic participation, and their daily decisions about how to live so that they can help make their world better.
The Responsibilities of Civic Participation

Responsible citizenship requires active participation in our communities. Therefore, social studies instruction should engage students so they simultaneously learn about civic participation while being involved in the civic life of their communities, our state, and our nation. Social studies prepares students to participate in political life, to serve their communities, and to conduct themselves responsibly.

Being a responsible student in and beyond the classroom means:

• Using knowledge of the past to construct meaningful understanding of our diverse cultural heritage and inform their civic judgments. (Historical Perspective)

• Using knowledge of spatial patterns on earth to understand processes that shape both the natural environments and the diverse societies that inhabit them. (Geographic Perspective)

• Understanding American government and politics to make informed decisions about governing and their community. (Civic Perspective)

• Using knowledge of the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services to make personal, career, and societal decisions about the use of resources. (Economic Perspective)

• Using methods of social science investigation to answer questions about society. (Inquiry)

• Knowing how, when, and where to construct and express reasoned positions on public issues. (Public Discourse and Decision Making)

• Acting constructively to further the public good (Civic Participation)

The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework

The College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework was developed by more than twenty-six state agencies and social studies organizations over the course of several years. It introduces an Arc of Inquiry that a teacher may find valuable when planning social studies instruction. Inquiry, as an instructional practice, can be a powerful tool for local- or site-level curriculum planning and development, or for teachers in refining their practice.

The Guiding Principles of the C3 Framework

The following principles about high-quality social studies education guided the development of the C3 Framework.

Social studies prepares the nation’s young people for college, careers, and civic life. The third “C” — representing civic life — is an essential component of preparation for the future of the United States.
It is in the K-12 social studies classrooms that the youth comprising our future will learn about civil discourse, the history of our families, schools, communities, state, nation and world, and how to be a productive member of society.

Inquiry is at the heart of social studies. It is through identification of questions and problems, studying various disciplinary lenses, learning to use and evaluate sources and evidence, and communicating possible conclusions that students can be prepared to face the challenges of the modern world.

Social studies is composed of deep and enduring understandings, concepts, and skills from the disciplines. From studying questions like “Who makes up a community?” to grappling with bigger issues like “Can one person change the world?”, the acquisition of both content knowledge and skills is essential.

Social studies emphasizes skills and practices as preparation for democratic decision making. Strong content knowledge, like the standards outlined in the Michigan Social Studies Standards, is only one part of preparing students for life beyond the walls of a school. That content knowledge must be coupled with strong, foundational skills that prepare students to navigate a complex and ever-changing world.

Social studies education should have direct and explicit connections to other standards, both local and national. The Michigan Social Studies Standards outline content that can be further developed at the local level with the addition of local examples. By including portions of the C3 Framework alongside Michigan’s revised standards, districts now have a blueprint for the integration of literacy, social studies content, and other disciplines such as science, art, and the humanities.

**The Critical Component: Instructional Shifts of the Frameworks**

The C3 Framework represents a substantial shift in the way that social studies was most commonly taught in the past. To meet the changing needs of students in the Information Age, and to prepare them for the challenges of a dynamic world environment, the following instructional shifts are necessary:

1. Inquiry should be a primary form of instruction in all social studies classes.
2. Students (and teachers) should craft investigative questions that matter.
3. Teachers should establish a collaborative context to support student inquiry.
4. Teachers should integrate content and skills meaningfully and in a rigorous manner.
5. Teachers should help students articulate disciplinary literacy practices and outcomes (thinking, reading, writing, speaking like a historian, like a geographer, like an economist, etc.).
6. Teachers should provide, and help students develop, tangible opportunities to take informed action.

Inquiry can be a powerful tool for teaching the content outlined in Michigan’s Grade Level Content Expectations. As humans, we are naturally prone to questioning as we try to make sense of the world around us. While the C3 Framework is not assessed on state-level assessments, such as the M-STEP, it provides guidance for teachers and students on how to practice structured inquiry at the classroom level. It is set up around an instructional arc outlined below, with more information available by downloading the full document from the National Council for the Social Studies. A full copy of the C3 Framework can be found online.

**Inquiry Arc**

The inquiry arc highlights the structure of and rationale for the organization of the C3 Framework’s four dimensions. The arc focuses on the nature of inquiry in general and the pursuit of knowledge through questions in particular. The C3 Framework, alongside the Michigan Social Studies Content Expectations, connect with the Michigan ELA Standards.

**Dimensions and Subsections**

The C3 Framework is organized into the four dimensions, which support a robust social studies program rooted in inquiry.

Dimensions 2, 3, and 4 are further broken down into subsections. For example, Dimension 2, Applying
Disciplinary Concepts and Tools, includes four subsections, one for each of the major social studies disciplines — civics, economics, geography, and history — which include descriptions of the structure and tools of the disciplines as well as the habits of mind common in those disciplines.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developing Compelling and Supporting Questions and Planning Inquiries</td>
<td>Civics</td>
<td>Gathering and Evaluating Sources</td>
<td>Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Developing Claims and Using Evidence</td>
<td>Taking Informed Action</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geography</td>
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<td>History</td>
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**Unique Structure of Dimension 2**

Dimension 2 has an additional layer of three to four categories within each disciplinary subsection. These categories provide an organizing mechanism for the foundational content and skills within each discipline. For example, within the subsection of economics, there are four categories: (1) Economic Decision Making; (2) Exchange and Markets; (3) The National Economy; and (4) The Global Economy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIVICS</th>
<th>ECONOMICS</th>
<th>GEOGRAPHY</th>
<th>HISTORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civic and Political Institutions</td>
<td>Economic Decision Making</td>
<td>Geographic Representations: Spatial Views of the World</td>
<td>Change, Continuity, and Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation and Deliberation: Applying Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles</td>
<td>Exchange and Markets</td>
<td>Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture</td>
<td>Perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processes, Rules, and Laws</td>
<td>The National Economy</td>
<td>Human Population: Spatial Patterns and Movements</td>
<td>Historical Sources and Evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Global Economy</td>
<td>Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns</td>
<td>Causation and Argumentation</td>
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</table>
MICHIGAN’S SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

The purpose of social studies instruction is to develop social understanding and civic efficacy. The Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) balance disciplinary content with processes and skills that contribute to responsible citizenship and form a foundation for high school social studies coursework.

The disciplinary knowledge found in this document can be used by students to construct meaning through understanding of powerful ideas drawn from the disciplines of history, geography, civics and government, and economics.

Effective social studies instruction and assessment incorporate methods of inquiry, involve public discourse and decision making, and provide opportunities for citizen involvement. These methods in the updated standards fit well with the four dimensions of the C3 Framework.

The K-12 Social Studies GLCE was revised to meet these goals:

Increasing rigor and ensuring they were challenging enough to equip students with necessary skills to succeed at the next grade level, while still representing the essential core content of a discipline.

Providing more clarity to teachers and educational stakeholders. Standards need to be widely understood and accepted by teachers, parents, school boards, and others who have a stake in the quality of schooling.

Specific enough to provide sufficient detail for districts who are developing curricula and teachers planning instruction, while providing enough focus to delineate which facts, concepts, and skills should be emphasized at each grade level.

Moving from simple to complex, from concrete to abstract, the Michigan standards needed to clearly delineate a progression of both knowledge and skills across grade levels, with each grade level providing a brick on the road toward mastery of the high school content.

Reflecting a coherent structure of the discipline and/or revealing significant relationships among the strands, as appropriate.

Accurate enough for all Michigan students to see themselves.

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL STUDIES GLCE CODING

In use since the 2007 standards, each social studies GLCE code is made up of four parts: the grade, the standard category, the standard, and the expectation. In grades K-4, the “standard category” is described by discipline; in grades 5 through high school, “standard category” is described by topic. As a result, K-4 expectations are organized using the standard categories, and do not use the standard codes listed in the K-12 organizational chart.

6 – E 2 . 3 . 1

Grade  Standard Category  Standard Expectation

K-4 expectations are organized by discipline and standard category, standard, and expectation.

Kindergarten example: K – G1.0.2 = Kindergarten, 1st Geography Standard Category, 2nd Expectation

4th Grade example: 4 – C5.0.3 = Grade 4, 5th Civics Standard Category, 3rd Expectation

(The “0” is used as a place holder and indicates that K-4 expectations are organized using the standard categories, and do not use the standard codes listed in the K-12 organizational chart).

5th and 8th grades focus on an integrated study of United States history. The expectations are organized by U.S. History and Geography (USHG) era. The code indicates the era, the standard, and the expectation.

5th Grade example: 5 – U3.2.1 = Grade 5, 3rd USHG Era, 2nd Standard, 1st Expectation

6th and 7th grades focus on an integrated study of the world. The expectations are organized by discipline and standard category (or World History and Geography [WHG] era), standard, and expectation.
6th Grade example: 6 – G4.4.1 = Grade 6, 4th Geography Standard Category, 4th Standard, 1st Expectation
7th Grade example: 7 – W2.1.5 = Grade 7, 2nd WHG Era, 1st Standard, 5th Expectation

MICHIGAN’S PROCESS AND SKILLS STANDARDS

Michigan’s Process and Skills Standards identify the inquiry, communication, evaluation, and decision-making abilities that can be developed in all disciplines and at many grade levels. Local districts and teachers integrate work on inquiry processes and communication skills throughout the curriculum in ways that best respond to the needs of the district’s children.

Michigan’s Process and Skills Standards align well with the C3 Arc of Inquiry, as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension 1: Develop Questions and Plan Investigations</th>
<th>Dimension 2: Apply Disciplinary Concepts and Tools</th>
<th>Dimension 3: Evaluate Sources and Use Evidence</th>
<th>Dimension 4: Communicate Conclusions and Take Informed Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>P2: Inquiry, Research, and Analysis</strong></td>
<td><strong>P1: Reading and Communication</strong></td>
<td><strong>P3: Public Discourse and Decision Making</strong></td>
<td><strong>P4: Citizen Involvement</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2.1 Apply methods of inquiry to investigate social scientific problems.</td>
<td>P1.1 Use appropriate strategies to read and analyze social science tables, graphs, graphics, maps, and texts.</td>
<td>P3.2 Discuss public policy issues, clarifying issues, considering opposing views, applying Democratic Values or Constitutional Principles, and refining claims.</td>
<td>P4.1 Act out of respect for the rule of law and hold others accountable to the same standard.</td>
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<td>P3.1 Clearly state an issue as a question of public policy, gather and interpret information about the issue, analyze various perspectives, and generate and evaluate possible alternative solutions.</td>
<td>P1.2 Interpret primary and secondary source documents for point of view, context, bias, and frame of reference.</td>
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</tr>
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<td>P2.2 Evaluate data presented in social science tables, graphs, graphics, maps, and texts.</td>
<td>P1.4 Express social studies ideas clearly in written, spoken, and graphic forms.</td>
<td>P3.4 Plan, conduct, and evaluate the effectiveness of activities intended to advance views on matters of public policy.</td>
<td>P4.3 Act out of respect for the rule of law and hold others accountable to the same standard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>P2.3 Find, organize, and interpret information from a variety of sources.</td>
<td>P1.5 Present an argument supported with evidence.</td>
<td><strong>P4: Citizen Involvement</strong></td>
<td><strong>P3: Public Discourse and Decision Making</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2.4 Use resources from multiple perspectives to analyze issues.</td>
<td><strong>P3: Public Discourse and Decision Making</strong></td>
<td><strong>P4: Citizen Involvement</strong></td>
<td><strong>P3: Public Discourse and Decision Making</strong></td>
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MICHIGAN CONTENT EXPECTATIONS

Michigan Process and Skills Standards have been changed from the 2007 standards in several ways. First, they are fewer and clearer to provide teachers with more focused guidelines. Second, Process and Skill Standards have now been included for elementary, middle school, and high school in a developmentally appropriate manner instead of just for high school. Last, they specifically include the development of compelling and supporting questions.
Several considerations are important as teachers use the GLCE to plan instruction.

Integrate acquisition of content (in the GLCE) with process and skill development. Development of basic skills in interpreting text, data, graphs, and maps in elementary and middle schools is important for success in high school. Development of basic citizenship and discussion skills, while never tested on state exams, is nonetheless critical for success in and out of high school.

Active social studies inquiry is essential. The Arc of Inquiry from College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) is a description of a process that helps students develop the kind of reasoned and informed decision-making skills needed for active participation in American society. Using the Arc of Inquiry begins with the development of compelling questions. Exemplars for the use of compelling questions will be included in the instructional material being developed to accompany the revised standards.

The GLCE is a content guide, not a curriculum organizer; it does not specify lessons, units, or a curriculum sequence. World Geography can be taught regionally or thematically. History can be taught past to present, or present to past. One teacher may develop a community activity at the beginning of the year to help develop a sense of purpose, and another might wait until year’s end as part of a capstone project.

On numerous occasions, the expectations will include examples to help clarify teachable content. These specific examples are suggestions. Educators may use other examples to meet the expectations or to guide instruction and the creation of a local curriculum and resources. Specific examples included for each standard are clearly labeled underneath each standard by using the language “examples may include but are not limited to.” These examples are not assessable outside of a stimulus text on state summative assessments. The focus of a state assessment question will be the language and content delineated in the content expectation itself. In the example below, the content standard is about the origins of the American education system. Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Rush, Noah Webster, and Horace Mann are just four of the many examples that could be used when teaching the standard.

8 – U4.3.1 Explain the origins of the American education system.

**Examples may include but are not limited to:** Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Rush, Noah Webster, and Horace Mann.
THE SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS AND MICHIGAN LAW:

Michigan Public Act No. 170 of 2016 states: “Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy shall ensure that the school district’s or public school academy’s social studies curriculum for grades 8 to 12 includes age- and grade-appropriate instruction about genocide, including, but not limited to, the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide. The legislature recommends a combined total of 6 hours of this instruction during grades 8 to 12.”

Careful attention, review, and revision work was conducted to ensure that the mandate of Public Act No. 170 of 2016 was met with the revisions to the Michigan K-12 Standards for Social Studies. The law also states that genocide instruction may take place over time, between grade levels, and across classes and disciplines. A student may read a compelling novel such as Night by Elie Wiesel and learn about the Holocaust in both the context of their English/Language Arts class and either their high school World History and Geography Course (HS-WHG 7.2.3, 7.2.6) or their high school United States History and Geography course (HS-US 7.2.4). A student may also study the Armenian Genocide in both courses, with complementary social studies instruction found in HS-WHG 7.2.1 and 7.2.6.

Opportunities to meet the requirement of this law exist both within the confines of the revised Michigan K-12 Standards for Social Studies and beyond the boundaries of the social studies classroom.
## 6th-8th Grade Overview

### 6th Grade
- **World Geography**

### 7th Grade
- **World History and Geography**

### 8th Grade
- **Integrated U.S. History**

### Grade Level Focus
- **GEOGRAPHY**
  - G1 The World in Spatial Terms
  - G2 Places and Regions
  - G3 Physical Systems
  - G4 Human Systems
  - G5 Environment and Society
  - G6 Global Issues

- **CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT**
  - C1 Purposes of Government
  - C2 Structure and Functions of Government
  - C3 Relationship of the United States to Other Nations and World Affairs

- **ECONOMICS**
  - E1 The Market Economy
  - E2 The National Economy
  - E3 International Economy

- **PUBLIC DISCOURSE, DECISION MAKING, AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION**
  - Identifying and Analyzing Public Issues
  - Persuasive Communication
  - Civic Participation

### History
- **HISTORY**
  - H1 The World in Temporal Terms
  - W1 WHG Era 1
    - The Beginnings of Human Society
  - W2 WHG Era 2
    - Early Civilizations and the Emergence of Pastoral Peoples
  - W3 WHG Era 3
    - Classical Traditions, World Religions, and Major Empires
  - W4 WHG Era 4
    - Case Studies from Three Continents

### Thematic Analysis of U.S. History Eras 1-5
- **U1 USHG Era 1**
  - Beginnings to 1620
- **U2 USHG Era 2**
  - Colonization and Settlement 1585-1763
- **U3 USHG Era 3**
  - Revolution and the New Nation 1754-1800
- **U4 USHG Era 4**
  - Expansion and Reform 1792-1861
- **U5 USHG Era 5**
  - Civil War and Reconstruction 1850-1877

### Embedded in the Context of History:
- **GEOGRAPHY**
  - G1 The World in Spatial Terms
  - G4 Human Systems
  - G5 Environment and Society
  - G6 Global Issues

- **CIVICS**
  - Conceptual Foundations
  - Role and Functions of Government
  - Purposes of Government
  - Values and Principles of American Democracy
  - Role of the Citizen in American Democracy

- **ECONOMICS**
  - Individual, Business, and Government Choices
  - Competitive Markets
  - Prices, Supply, and Demand
  - Role of Government
  - Economic Interdependence

- **PUBLIC DISCOURSE, DECISION MAKING, AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION**
  - Identifying and Analyzing Public Issues
  - Persuasive Communication
  - Civic Participation
Dimension 1: Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries  
Central to a rich social studies experience is the capability for developing questions that can frame and advance an inquiry. Those questions come in two forms: compelling and supporting questions.

Individually and collaboratively, students construct compelling questions and:
- explain why compelling questions are important to others (e.g., peers, adults).
- identify disciplinary concepts and ideas associated with a compelling question that are open to different interpretations.
- identify the disciplinary concepts and ideas associated with a supporting question that are open to interpretation.
- explain how supporting questions help answer compelling questions in an inquiry.
- determine the kinds of sources that will be helpful in answering compelling and supporting questions, taking into consideration the different opinions people have about how to answer the questions.

Dimension 2: Applying Disciplinary Concepts and Tools  
The four disciplines within social studies provide the intellectual context for studying how humans have interacted with each other and with the environment over time. Each of these disciplines — civics, economics, geography, and history — offers a unique way of thinking and organizing knowledge as well as systems for verifying knowledge. Dimension 2 focuses on the disciplinary concepts and tools students need to understand and apply as they study the specific content described in Michigan’s state standards.

Dimension 3: Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence  
Dimension 3 includes the skills students need to analyze information and come to conclusions in an inquiry. These skills focus on gathering and evaluating sources, and then developing claims and using evidence to support these claims.

Individually and collaboratively, students:
- gather relevant information from multiple sources while using the origin, structure, and context to guide the selection.
- use distinctions among fact and opinion to determine the credibility of multiple sources.
- identify evidence that draws information from multiple sources in response to compelling questions.
- use evidence to develop claims in response to compelling questions.

Dimension 4: Communicating Conclusions and Taking Informed Action  
Students should construct and communicate claims for a variety of purposes and audiences. These audiences may range from the school classroom to the larger public community.

Individually and collaboratively, students:
- construct arguments using claims and evidence from multiple sources.
- construct explanations using reasoning, correct sequence, examples, and details with relevant information and data.
- present a summary of arguments and explanations to others outside the classroom using print and oral technologies (posters, essays, letters, debates, speeches, and reports) and digital technologies (Internet, social media, digital documentary).
- critique arguments.
- critique explanations.
- draw on disciplinary concepts to explain the challenges people have faced and opportunities they have created, in addressing local, regional, and global problems at various times and places.
- explain different strategies and approaches that students and others could take in working alone and together to address local, regional, and global problems, and predict possible results of their actions.
- use a range of deliberative and democratic procedures to make decisions about and act on civic problems in their classrooms and schools.
SOCIAL STUDIES PROCESS AND SKILLS STANDARDS: GRADERS 6-8

P1 READING AND COMMUNICATION – READ AND COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

P1.1 Use appropriate strategies to read and interpret basic social science tables, graphs, graphics, maps, and texts.

P1.2 Interpret primary and secondary source documents for point of view, context, bias, and frame of reference or perspective.

P1.3 Express social science ideas clearly in written, spoken, and graphic forms, including tables, line graphs, bar graphs, pie charts, maps, and images.

P1.4 Present an argument supported with evidence.

P2 INQUIRY, RESEARCH, AND ANALYSIS

P2.1 Use compelling and supporting questions to investigate social scientific problems.

P2.2 Evaluate data presented in social science tables, graphs, graphics, maps, and texts.

P2.3 Know how to find, organize, and interpret information from a variety of sources.

P2.4 Use resources in multiple forms and from multiple perspectives to analyze issues.

P3 PUBLIC DISCOURSE AND DECISION MAKING

P3.1 Clearly state an issue as a question of public policy, gather and interpret information about that issue, and generate and evaluate possible alternative resolutions.

P3.2 Discuss public policy issues, clarifying position, considering opposing views, and applying Democratic Values or Constitutional Principles to develop and refine claims.

P3.3 Construct arguments expressing and justifying decisions on public policy issues supported with evidence.

P3.4 Explain the challenges people have faced and actions they have taken to address issues at different times and places.

P4 CIVIC PARTICIPATION

P4.1 Act out of the rule of law and hold others to the same standard.

P4.2 Assess options for individuals and groups to plan and conduct activities intended to advance views on matters of public policy.

P4.3 Plan, conduct, and evaluate the effectiveness of activities intended to advance views on matters of public policy.
Eighth-grade students continue their study of U.S. history from the development of the Constitution through Reconstruction. Geographic, civics/government, and economics content is integrated within the historical context under study. Students should understand the relevancy and connections of this history to their lives. Students will use significant content knowledge, research skills, and inquiry practices to analyze issues and communicate conclusions.

INTEGRATED U.S. HISTORY, ORGANIZED BY ERA (USHG)
Foundational Issues in USHG Eras 1-3 (Review of Grade 5 Social Studies)
F1 Political and Intellectual Transformations

USHG ERA 3 – REVOLUTION AND THE NEW NATION (1754-1800s)
3.3 Creating New Government(s) and a New Constitution (introduced in Grade 5; begins Grade 8 expectations)

USHG ERA 4 – EXPANSION AND REFORM (1792-1861)
4.1 Challenges to an Emerging Nation
4.2 Regional and Economic Growth
4.3 Reform Movements

USHG ERA 5 – CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION (1850-1877)
5.1 The Coming of Civil War
5.2 Civil War
5.3 Reconstruction

USHG ERA 6 – THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDUSTRIAL, URBAN, AND GLOBAL UNITED STATES (1870-1898)
6.1 America in the last half of the 19th Century (Introduced in Grade 8; begins high school USHG)
6.2 Policy Issues in USHG Eras 3-6 (P2)

Note: U.S. historians, history books, history standards, and the peoples themselves have used, at one time or another, “Native American” and “American Indian,” while Canadian history uses “First Peoples” to refer to inhabitants of North America prior to European exploration, conquest, and settlement. While we are using “Indigenous Peoples” throughout the content expectations, students should be familiar with the different names and specific tribal identities as they will likely encounter variations over the course of their studies.

Sample Integrated U.S. History and Geography Compelling and Supporting Question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8th</th>
<th>How does growth change a nation?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) What kinds of growth does a new nation experience?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) How did the federal government protect slaveholders and slave states during expansion efforts in the 19th century?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3) How did westward expansion change the geographic, social, political, economic, and cultural landscape of the United States?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Standards Connection: 8 – U4.2.1, 8 – U4.2.2, 8 – U4.2.3, 8 – U4.2.4
FOUNDATIONS IN U.S. HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY ERAS 1-2

These foundational expectations are included to help students draw upon their previous study of American history and connect 8th Grade U.S. History with the history studied in 5th grade.

To set the stage for the study of U.S. history that begins with the development of the U.S. Constitution, students should be able to draw upon an understanding of these philosophies and intellectual foundations.

F1 Political and Intellectual Transformations

F1.1 Describe the ideas, experiences, and interactions that influenced the colonists’ decisions to declare independence by analyzing:

- colonial ideas about government.
- experiences with self-government.

**Examples may include but are not limited to:** limited government, republicanism, protecting individual rights and promoting the common good, representative government, natural rights, House of Burgesses and town meetings, changing interactions with the royal government of Great Britain after the French and Indian War.

F1.2 Using the Declaration of Independence, including the grievances at the end of the document, describe the role this document played in expressing:

- colonists’ views of government.
- their reasons for separating from Great Britain.

F1.3 Describe the consequences of the American Revolution by analyzing and evaluating the relative influences of:

- establishment of an independent republican government.
- creation of the Articles of Confederation.
- changing views on freedom and equality.
- concerns over the distribution of power within government, between government and the governed, and among people.
U3 USHG ERA 3 – REVOLUTION AND THE NEW NATION

Individually and collaboratively, students will engage in planned inquiries to analyze the institutions and practices of government created during the Revolution and how they were revised between 1787 and 1815 to create the foundation of the American political system.

U3.3 Creating New Government(s) and a New Constitution

Explain the challenges faced by the new nation and analyze the development of the Constitution as a new plan for governing (Foundations for Civics HSCE Standard 2.1).

Note: Expectations U3.3.1 – U3.3.5 address content that was introduced in Grade 5, but asks for explanation and analysis at a higher level than expected in Grade 5. They are included here to support an in-depth discussion of the historical and philosophical origins of constitutional government in the United States.

8 – U3.3.1 Explain the reasons for the adoption and subsequent failure of the Articles of Confederation.

Examples may include but are not limited to: why its drafters created a weak central government, challenges the nation faced under the Articles, Shay’s Rebellion, conflicts over western lands.

8 – U3.3.2 Identify economic, political, and cultural issues facing the nation during the period of the Articles of Confederation and the opening of the Constitutional Convention.

8 – U3.3.3 Describe the major issues debated at the Constitutional Convention, including the distribution of political power among the states and within the federal government, the conduct of foreign affairs, commerce with tribes, rights of individuals, the election of the executive, and the enslavement of Africans as a regional and federal issue.

8 – U3.3.4 Explain how the new Constitution resolved (or compromised) the major issues, including sharing and separation of power and checking of power among federal government institutions; dual sovereignty (state-federal power); rights of individuals; the Electoral College; the Three-Fifths Compromise; the Great Compromise; and relationships and affairs with tribal nations.

8 – U3.3.5 Analyze the debates over the ratification of the Constitution from the perspectives of Federalists and Anti-Federalists and describe how the states ratified the Constitution.

8 – U3.3.6 Explain how the Bill of Rights reflected the concept of limited government, protection of basic freedoms, and the fear among many Americans of a strong central government.

8 – U3.3.7 Use important ideas and documents to describe the philosophical origins of constitutional government in the United States with an emphasis on the following ideals: social contract, limited government, natural rights, right of revolution, separation of powers, bicameralism, republicanism, and popular participation in government.
Examples may include but are not limited to: the Mayflower Compact, Iroquois Confederacy, Common Sense, Declaration of Independence, Northwest Ordinance, Federalist Papers.

U4 USHG ERA 4 – EXPANSION AND REFORM (1792-1861)

Individually and collaboratively, students will engage in planned inquiries to investigate the territorial expansion of the United States between 1801-1861, how the Industrial Revolution, the rapid expansion of slavery, and the westward movement changed the lives of Americans and led toward regional tensions, and the sources and character of cultural, religious, and social reform movements during the antebellum period.

U4.1 Challenges to an Emerging Nation

Analyze the challenges the new federal government faced and the roles of political and social leaders in meeting those challenges.

8 – U4.1.1 Washington’s Farewell – use President George Washington’s farewell address to analyze Washington’s perspective on the most significant challenges the new nation faced.

Examples may include but are not limited to: deciding if and when to get involved in foreign conflicts, the risk of political factions, establishing the limits of executive power.

8 – U4.1.2 Establishing America’s Place in the World – assess the changes in America’s relationships with other nations by analyzing the origins, intents, and purposes of treaties.

Examples may include but are not limited to: The Jay Treaty (1795), French Revolution, Pinckney’s Treaty (1795), Louisiana Purchase, War of 1812, and the Monroe Doctrine.

8 – U4.1.3 Challenge of Political Conflict – examine the origins and intentions of early American political parties, including how they emerged, who participated, and what influenced their ideologies.

Examples may include but are not limited to: examine the competing ideas, experiences, and fears of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton (and their followers), despite the worries the Founders had concerning the dangers of political division, by analyzing disagreements over relative power of the national government, the Whiskey Rebellion, Alien and Sedition Acts, foreign relations, economic policy, the creation of a national bank, assumption of revolutionary debt.

8 – U4.1.4 Establishing a National Judiciary and its Power – use Marbury v. Madison to explain the development of the power of the Supreme Court through the doctrine of judicial review.
U4.2 Regional and Economic Growth

Describe and analyze the nature and impact of territorial, demographic, and economic growth in the first three decades of the new nation, using maps, charts, and other evidence.

8 – U4.2.1 Comparing the Northeast and the South – compare and contrast the social and economic systems of the Northeast, the South, and the Western Frontier (Kentucky, Ohio Valley, etc.) with respect to geography, climate, and the development of:

- agriculture, including changes in productivity, technology, supply and demand, and price.
- industry, including the entrepreneurial development of new industries, such as textiles.
- the labor force, including labor incentives and changes in labor forces.
- transportation, including changes in transportation (steamboats and canal barges) and the impact on economic markets and prices.
- immigration and the growth of nativism.
- race relations.
- class relations.

8 – U4.2.2 The Institution of Slavery – explain the ideology of the institution of slavery, its policies, and consequences.

8 – U4.2.3 Westward Expansion – analyze the annexation of the west through the Louisiana Purchase, the removal of Indigenous Peoples from their ancestral homelands, the Mexican-American War, the growth of a system of commercial agriculture, and the idea of Manifest Destiny.

Examples may include but are not limited to: The Indian Removal Act of 1830 (the Trail of Tears, the Trail of Death), the Treaty of Chicago (1833), the Treaty of Fort Wayne (1809).

8 – U4.2.4 Consequences of Expansion – develop an argument based on evidence about the positive and negative consequences of territorial and economic expansion on Indigenous Peoples, efforts to maintain and sustain the institution of slavery, and the relations between free and slave-holding states.

U4.3 Reform Movements

Analyze the growth of antebellum American reform movements.

8 – U4.3.1 Explain the origins of the American education system.

Examples may include but are not limited to: the contributions of Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Rush, Noah Webster, and Horace Mann.
8 – U4.3.2 Describe the formation and development of the abolitionist movement by considering the roles of key abolitionist leaders and the response of southerners and northerners to the abolitionist movement.

**Examples may include but are not limited to:** John Brown and the armed resistance, Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad, Sojourner Truth, Maria Stewart, William Lloyd Garrison, and Frederick Douglass.

8 – U4.3.3 Analyze the antebellum women’s rights (and suffrage) movement by discussing the goals of its leaders and comparing primary source documents from this era to the Declaration of Independence.

**Examples may include but are not limited to:** Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton; the Declaration of Sentiments, Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s Address on Women’s Rights (September 1848).

8 – U4.3.4 Analyze the goals and effects of the antebellum temperance movement.

8 – U4.3.5 Investigate the role of religion in shaping antebellum reform movements.

**Examples may include but are not limited to:** differences in beliefs by different denominations of Christianity.

**U5 USHG ERA 5 – CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION (1850-1877)**

Individually and collaboratively, students will engage in planned inquiries to understand the causes, course, and character of the Civil War and its effects on people, as well as how various Reconstruction plans succeeded or failed.

**U5.1 The Coming of the Civil War**

Analyze and evaluate the early attempts to abolish or contain slavery and to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.

8 – U5.1.1 Compare the differences in the lives of free black people (including those who escaped from slavery) with the lives of free white people and enslaved people.

8 – U5.1.2 Describe the impact of the Northwest Ordinance on the expansion of slavery.

**Examples may include but are not limited to:** the establishment of free states, including Michigan, as a result of the Northwest Ordinance.

8 – U5.1.3 Describe the competing views of John C. Calhoun, Daniel Webster, and Henry Clay on the nature of the union among the states.

**Examples may include but are not limited to:** sectionalism, nationalism, federalism, state rights.
8 – U5.1.4 Draw conclusions about why the following increased sectional tensions:

- the Missouri Compromise (1820).
- the Wilmot Proviso (1846).
- the Compromise of 1850, including the Fugitive Slave Act.
- the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) and subsequent conflict in Kansas.
- changes in the party system.

**Examples may include but are not limited to:** the death of the Whig party, rise of the Republican party, and division of the Democratic party.

8 – U5.1.5 Describe the resistance of enslaved persons and effects of their actions before and during the Civil War.

**Examples may include but are not limited to:** Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad, Michigan’s role in the Underground Railroad.

8 – U5.1.6 Describe how major issues debated at the Constitutional Convention, such as disagreements over the distribution of political power, rights of individuals (liberty and property), rights of states, the election of the executive, and slavery, help explain the Civil War.

**U5.2 Civil War**

Evaluate the multiple causes, key events, and complex consequences of the Civil War.

8 – U5.2.1 Discuss the social, political, economic, and cultural reasons for secession.

8 – U5.2.2 Make an argument to explain the reasons why the North won the Civil War by considering the following:

- critical events and battles in the war.
- the political and military leadership of the North and South.
- respective advantages and disadvantages of each side, including geographic, demographic, economic, and technological.

8 – U5.2.3 Examine Abraham Lincoln’s presidency with respect to:

- his military and political leadership.
- the evolution of his emancipation policy (including the Emancipation Proclamation).
- The role of his significant writings and speeches, including the Gettysburg Address and its relationship to the Declaration of Independence.
8 – U5.2.4 Describe the role of African-Americans in the war, including black soldiers and regiments, and the increased resistance of enslaved people.

8 – U5.2.5 Construct generalizations about how the war affected combatants, civilians (including the role of women and Indigenous Peoples), the physical environment, and the future of warfare, including technological developments.

U5.3 Reconstruction

Using evidence, develop an argument regarding the character and consequences of Reconstruction.

8 – U5.3.1 Compare the different positions concerning the reconstruction of Southern society and the nation, including the positions of President Abraham Lincoln, President Andrew Johnson, Republicans, Democrats, and African-Americans.

8 – U5.3.2 Describe the early responses to the end of the Civil War by describing:

- the policies of the Freedmen’s Bureau.
- the restrictions placed on the rights and opportunities of freedmen, including racial segregation and Black Codes.

8 – U5.3.3 Describe the new role of African-Americans in local, state, and federal government in the years after the Civil War and the national and regional resistance to this change, including the Ku Klux Klan.

8 – U5.3.4 Analyze the intent and the effect of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution.

8 – U5.3.5 Explain the decision to remove Union troops from the South in 1877 and investigate its impact on Americans.

U6 USHG ERA 6 – THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDUSTRIAL, URBAN, AND GLOBAL UNITED STATES (1870-1930)

Grade 8 begins to address trends and patterns in the last half of the 19th century, through 1898.

U6.1 America in the Last Half of the 19th Century

Analyze the major changes in communication, transportation, demography, and urban centers, including the location and growth of cities linked by industry and trade, in the last half of the 19th century. The purpose of this section is to introduce some of the major changes in American society and the economy in the last part of the 19th century. This era will be addressed in depth and with greater intellectual sophistication in the high school U.S. History and Geography content expectations.
8 – U6.1.1 America at Century’s End – compare and contrast the United States in 1800 with the United States in 1898, focusing on similarities and differences in:

- territory.
- population.
- systems of transportation.
- governmental policies promoting economic development.
- economic change.
- the treatment of African-Americans.
- the policies toward Indigenous Peoples.

**Examples may include but are not limited to:**

**Territory:** the size of the United States and land use.

**Population:** immigration, reaction to immigrants, the changing demographic structure of rural and urban America.

**Systems of transportation:** canals, railroads, etc.

**Governmental policies:** promoting economic development, tariffs, banking, land grants, mineral rights, the Homestead Act.

**Economic change:** industrialization, increased global competition, the impact of conditions of farmers and industrial workers.

**Policies toward African-Americans:** the rise of segregation as endorsed by the Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the response of African-Americans.

**Policies toward Indigenous Peoples:** the Dawes Act of 1887, the response of Indigenous Peoples.

**U6.2 Investigation Topics and Issue Analysis (P2)**

Use the historical perspective to investigate a significant historical topic from U.S. History Eras 3-6 that also has significance as an issue or topic in the United States today.

8 – U6.2.1 U.S. History Investigation Topic and Issue Analysis, Past and Present – use historical perspectives to analyze issues in the United States from the past and the present; conduct research on a historical issue or topic, identify a connection to a contemporary issue, and present findings (e.g., oral, visual, video, or electronic presentation, persuasive essay, or research paper); include causes and consequences of the historical action and predict possible consequences of the contemporary action.
Examples of Investigation Topics and Questions (and examples from U.S. history):

- **Balance of Power** – how has the nation addressed tensions between state and federal governmental power? (e.g., Articles of Confederation, U.S. Constitution, states' rights issues, secession, others).
- **Liberty versus Security** – how has the nation balanced liberty interests with security interests? (e.g., Alien and Sedition Acts, suspension of habeas corpus during the Civil War).
- **The Government and Social Change** – how have governmental policies, the actions of reformers, and economic and demographic changes affected social change? (e.g., abolitionist movement, women’s movement, Reconstruction policies).
- **Movement of People** – how has the nation addressed the movement of people into and within the United States? (e.g., Indigenous Peoples, immigrants).

**PUBLIC DISCOURSE, DECISION MAKING, AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION (P3, P4)**

**P3.1 Identifying and Analyzing Issues, Decision Making, Persuasive Communication About a Public Issue, and Civic Participation**

8 – **P3.1.1** Identify, research, analyze, discuss, and defend a position on a national public policy issue.

- identify a national public policy issue.
- clearly state the issue as a question of public policy orally or in written form.
- use inquiry methods to trace the origins of the issue and to acquire data about the issue.
- generate and evaluate alternative resolutions to the public issue and analyze various perspectives (causes, consequences, positive and negative impact) on the issue.
- identify and apply Democratic Values or Constitutional Principles.
- share and discuss findings of research and issue analysis in group discussions and debates.
- compose a persuasive essay justifying the position with a reasoned argument.
- develop an action plan to address or inform others about the issue.

**P4.2 Civic Participation**

Act constructively to further the public good.

8 – **P4.2.1** Demonstrate knowledge of how, when, and where individuals would plan and conduct activities intended to advance views in matters of public policy, report the results, and evaluate effectiveness.

8 – **P4.2.2** Engage in activities intended to contribute to solving a national or international problem studied.

8 – **P4.2.3** Participate in projects to help or inform others.
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