

GRADE 8 UNITED STATES HISTORY

Anchor Standard	Grades 6-8 Inquiry Standards
<i>The student demonstrates an understanding of</i>	<i>Therefore, the student is able to</i>
Anchor Standard 1 Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.1.1 Create compelling questions representing key ideas of the disciplines
	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.1.2 Explain how a question reflects an enduring issue in the field
	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.1.3 Create supporting questions that address key ideas identified in compelling questions
	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.1.4 Explain the relationship between compelling and supporting questions
Anchor Standard 2 Gathering and Evaluating Sources	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.2.1 Evaluate the credibility of a source by examining its origin, author, context, and content
	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.2.2 Gather relevant information from credible sources representing a wide range of views
Anchor Standard 3 Creating Claims	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.3.1 Develop claims and counterclaims while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both
	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.3.2 Identify specific evidence that supports the claims and counterclaims
Anchor Standard 4 Communicating Conclusions	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.4.1 Construct arguments and explanations using claims and evidence from multiple sources while acknowledging the strengths and limitations of the arguments
	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.4.2 Present arguments and explanations using a variety of print and oral technologies (e.g., posters, essays, letters, debates, speeches, reports, maps) and digital technologies (e.g., Internet, social media, digital documentary)

Anchor Standard 5 Taking Informed Action	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.5.1 Identify local, regional and/or global problems or issues using interdisciplinary lenses
	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.5.2 Examine the origins of a problem or issue and explain the challenges and opportunities faced by those trying to address it
	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.5.3 Apply a range of deliberative strategies and procedures to make decisions and propose feasible solutions to address local, regional, and/or global concerns
	Inquiry Standard SS.6-8.5.4 Create an action plan to address a solution to the problem or issue and demonstrate evidence of implementation

Theme 1	The US Constitution: 1785–1791		
Sample Compelling Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of government? • What is the balance between the rights and responsibilities of citizenship? 		
Anchor Standard	Topic	Content Standard	Sample Content/Concepts
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Civics Anchor Standard 6 Civic and Political Institutions	Constitutional Origins	Content Standard SS.8.1.6.1 Examine how challenges the government faced were resolved at the Constitutional Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postwar Challenges: Articles of Confederation, debt crisis, Shays' Rebellion, state militias • Compromises: commerce clause, Great Compromise, Three-Fifths Compromise
Civics Anchor Standard 6 Civic and Political Institutions	Structure of Government	Content Standard SS.8.1.6.2 Explain the structure and powers of the three branches of the federal government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure: executive, judicial, and legislative branches, federalism • Powers: appropriations, checks and balances, declarations of war, impeachment, judicial review, legislation, veto
Civics Anchor Standard 7 Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles	Individual Liberties	Content Standard SS.8.1.7.3 Analyze how the Bill of Rights protects individual liberties from the national government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of Liberties: civil liberties, criminal law protections, political freedoms, religious freedom

Theme 2	Governing Early America: 1787–1837		
Sample Compelling Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to be a good citizen? • When is restricting the right to vote justified? 		
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History Anchor Standard 17 Change, Continuity and Context	Exclusions and Restrictions	Content Standard SS.8.2.17.1 Analyze citizenship and voting rights in early America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship: 1790 Alien Naturalization Act, Native Americans • Voting Rights: free Blacks, Jacksonian Democracy, property qualifications, women
Civics Anchor Standard 6 Civic and Political Institutions	Politics in Transition	Content Standard SS.8.2.6.2 Explain how political parties developed out of conflicts in early America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factions to Parties: Anti-Federalists, Democratic-Republicans, Federalists, Jacksonian Democrats, Whigs • Dividing Issues: state debts, Whiskey Rebellion, Alien and Sedition Acts, War of 1812, Panic of 1819, Second Bank of the United States

Theme 3		Native America and Westward Expansion: 1787–1876	
Sample Compelling Questions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were the justifications for territorial expansion “just”? • How can we make amends for historical wrongs? 	
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History Anchor Standard 19 Causation and Argumentation	Causes of Western Expansion	Content Standard SS.8.3.19.1 Analyze the ideological and socioeconomic reasons for U.S. territorial expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideological: Hudson River School, Manifest Destiny, Romanticism • Socioeconomic: agricultural expansion, canals, cotton production, fur trade, gold rush, Homestead Act, population growth, railroads, steamboats, technological advances
Geography Anchor Standard 16 Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Acquisition of Western Territory	Content Standard SS.8.3.16.2 Trace how the United States acquired new territories, including purchases, annexation, treaties, and war	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial Acquisition: Northwest Ordinance, Louisiana Purchase, Florida, Texas Annexation, Oregon, Mexican Cession, Gadsden Purchase, Alaska • Frontier Migration: Oregon Trail, Santa Fe Trail, Mormon Trail • International Wars: Indian Wars, Mexican-American War
History Anchor Standard 17 Change, Continuity, and Context	Interaction and Conflict	Content Standard SS.8.3.17.3 Explain how Native Americans resisted U.S. territorial expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confederacies and Alliances: Cherokee Confederacy, Ghost Dance, Tecumseh, • Revolts and Warfare: Battle of Fallen Timbers, Seminole Wars, Dakota War, Bear River Massacre, Great Plains Wars, Chief Joseph, Geronimo
History Anchor Standard 19 Causation and Argumentation	Impacts of Western Expansion	Content Standard SS.8.3.19.4 Assess the effects of U.S. expansion on Native Americans in terms of population loss, land dispossession, and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depopulation and Impoverishment: buffalo eradication, disease, warfare • Displacement and Reservations: Trail of Tears, Oklahoma Territory, Long Walk of the Navajo • Forced Assimilation: missionaries, reservations, Indian boarding schools

Theme 4		Industrial America: 1810–1860	
Sample Compelling Questions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did industrialization improve daily life? • What sparks innovation? 	
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Economics Anchor Standard 9 Economic Decision Making	Changing Standard of Living	Content Standard SS.8.4.9.1 Analyze how economic growth and industrialization transformed daily life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Life: clock time, factory system, putting-out system, slave labor, wage work • Society: emerging middle class, immigration, leisure, women’s sphere, urbanization
Geography Anchor Standard 15 Human Population: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Technological Advancements	Content Standard SS.8.4.15.2 Explain how innovations in transportation, communication, and production reshaped American society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation: National Road, Erie Canal, steamboats, railroads • Communication: Pony Express, telegraph • Production: cotton gin, interchangeable parts, Lowell mills, steel plow
Economics Anchor Standard 10 Exchange and Markets	Social Change and Conflict	Content Standard SS.8.4.10.3 Analyze how the market revolution contributed to labor conflicts and divisions over slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Organizations and Conflicts: cycles of joblessness, guilds, Lowell strikes, workingmen’s parties • Social Divisions: economic inequality, expansion of slavery

Theme 5		Slavery: 1808–1861	
Sample Compelling Questions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can oppressed people respond to injustice? • Why does forced labor exist? 	
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Economics Anchor Standard 9 Economic Decision Making	Economics of Slavery	Content Standard SS.8.5.9.1 Analyze how slavery shaped the economic development of the North and South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of slavery: artisans, gang labor system, plantations, servants, urban slavery • North: finance, textile production • South: Cotton Kingdom, internal slave trade
Geography Anchor Standard 14 Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Regions, and Culture	Endurance and Resistance	Content Standard SS.8.5.14.2 Examine how enslaved people adapted to and resisted slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repression: illiteracy, paternalism, slave codes, violence • Adaptation: family, music, religion, slave community • Resistance: Amistad, deception, Gabriel's Rebellion, Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, sabotage, Underground Railroad

Theme 6	Social Reform Movements: 1800–1860		
Sample Compelling Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a perfect society? • How can people make society better? 		
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History Anchor Standard 18 Perspectives	Religion and Reform	Content Standard SS.8.6.18.1 Analyze the religious and utopian movements that flourished around the Second Great Awakening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion: Hiram Bingham, Methodism, Mormonism, revival meetings • Utopian Communities: New Harmony, Oneidas, Shakers
Civics Anchor Standard 7 Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles	Social Reform Movements	Content Standard SS.8.6.7.2 Evaluate the effectiveness of 19 th -century reform movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolitionism: American Anti-Slavery Society, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe, William Lloyd Garrison • Women’s Rights: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Seneca Falls Convention • Alcohol: Women’s Christian Temperance Union • Prisons and Asylums: Dorothea Dix • Public Education: Horace Mann

Theme 7		Civil War: 1861–1865	
Sample Compelling Questions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does war settle issues? • Did the North win the Civil War or did the South lose it? 	
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History Anchor Standard 19 Causation and Argumentation	Causes of Civil War	Content Standard SS.8.7.19.1 Explain how conflicts over slavery led the North and South to war	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antebellum Conflicts: states' rights, Compromise of 1850, Dred Scott case, Bleeding Kansas, John Brown's raids, Lincoln's election, secession • Debates: free-labor ideology, Lincoln-Douglas campaign, pro-slavery arguments, Republican Party
History Anchor Standard 17 Change, Continuity, and Context	Turning Points of Civil War	Content Standard SS.8.7.17.2 Analyze major factors that determined the outcome of the Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and Economic Factors: disease, manufacturing, national currency, population, slaves • Leadership: Abraham Lincoln, Emancipation Proclamation, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant • Military: Antietam, Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts Volunteers, Gettysburg, naval blockade, Sherman's March

Theme 8		Reconstruction and the Rise of Jim Crow: 1865–1900	
Sample Compelling Questions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did Reconstruction fail? • How should societies reconcile after conflict? 	
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Civics Anchor Standard 8 Processes, Rules, and Laws	Promise of Reconstruction	Content Standard SS.8.8.8.1 Assess the efforts of the federal government and African Americans to forge a new political and social order after emancipation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Action: Sherman Field Order 15, Presidential Reconstruction, Freedmen’s Bureau, Radical Republicans, Civil Rights Act of 1875, Reconstruction Amendments • Freedpeople: Black churches, Black officeholders, Black schools and colleges, Juneteenth
History Anchor Standard 17 Change, Continuity, and Context	Jim Crow: Repression and Segregation	Content Standard SS.8.8.17.2 Assess how the end of Reconstruction affected African Americans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Reconstruction: Ku Klux Klan, Panic of 1873, racial terrorism, Slaughterhouse Cases, Compromise of 1877 • Restrictions of Freedom: Black Codes, convict leasing, Jim Crow, Plessy v. Ferguson, sharecropping