



## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade United States History**

### **Study Guide**

### **Growth and Conflict**

#### **American Revolution and Declaration of Independence:**

**Standard 8.1: Students understand the major events preceding the founding of the nation and relate their significance to the development of American constitutional democracy.**

**Standard 8.2: Students analyze the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and compare the enumerated and implied powers of the federal government.**

**Standard 8.3: Students understand the foundation of the American political system and the ways in which citizens participate in it.**

1. How did the Great Awakening influence the American Revolution?
2. What were the political and economic causes of the American Revolution?
3. When do people have a right to change or abolish their government?
4. What does the Declaration of Independence mean when it says, "All men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights?"
5. How does the British Parliament resemble the U.S. Congress?
6. How did the ideas of the American Revolution influence other revolutions?
7. Why is Magna Carta important?
8. Why is the English Bill of Rights important?
9. Why is the Mayflower compact important?
10. What is the lasting influence of the Declaration of Independence throughout American political ideas?

#### **The Constitution:**

**Standard 8.2: Students analyze the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and compare the enumerated and implied powers of the federal government.**

**Standard 8.3: Students understand the foundation of the American political system and the ways in which citizens participate in it.**

1. Why did the Article of Confederation fail?
2. What were the effects of Shay's Rebellion?
3. Who wrote most of the Constitution?

4. From whom did the framers get the idea of three branches of government and separation of powers?
5. State two reasons why the Northeast Ordinance was important.
6. Why are John Locke's ideas important?
7. How was the structure of state governments similar to the structure of our Constitution?
8. What type of government did the Framers create?
9. What is a federal government?
10. At the Constitutional Convention, what was the name of the compromise that settled the dispute between big and small states over representation in Congress?
11. What did the Great Compromise do?
12. At the Constitutional Convention, what compromise settled the dispute between Northern and Southern states for representation in Congress and taxes?
13. What was the result of the debate between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists?
14. Why were the Federalists in favor of the ratification of the Constitution?
15. Why were the Anti-Federalists against the ratification of the Constitution?

### **Checks and Balances and the Bill of Rights:**

**Standard 8.2: Students analyze the political principles underlying the U.S. Constitution and compare the enumerated and implied powers of the federal government.**

1. What branch of government makes laws, declares war, approves presidential appointments and treaties and writes tax laws?
2. What branch appoints judges and cabinet members, makes treaties, and serves as commander-in-chief of the military?
3. What branch settles disputes between states and other countries and determines the constitutionality of laws?
4. What is another name for the first ten amendments?
5. What do you think are the three most important amendments and why?
6. How do citizens participate in a republic?
7. Why did the founders think freedom of religion was important?
8. Why is freedom of the press important?
9. What are political parties?
10. Is the Constitution successful in implementing the ideals of the Declaration of Independence?

## **Political History – Washington to Jackson:**

**Standard 8.3: Students understand the foundation of the American political system and the ways in which citizens participate in it.**

**Standard 8.4: Students analyze the aspirations and ideals of the people of the new nation.**

**Standard 8.5: Students analyze U.S. foreign policy in the early Republic.**

1. What did Washington say to our country in his farewell address?
2. Why did John Adams support the Alien and Sedition Acts?
3. What were Hamilton's and Jefferson's views on human nature, foreign policy, the economy, political parties, and the Constitution?
4. What are the two main causes of the War of 1812?
5. What happened during the War of 1812 at these events?
  - a. invasion of Canada
  - b. Washington, D.C.
  - c. New Orleans
6. What were three effects of the War of 1812?
7. What was the Monroe Doctrine?
8. Why were more people allowed to vote during the "Age of Jackson"?
9. Why was Jackson called the "people's president"?
10. How did Andrew Jackson expand the power of the President?

## **The West:**

**Standard 8.8: Students analyze the divergent paths of the American people in the West from 1800 to the mid-1800s and the challenges they faced.**

**Standard 8.12: 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.**

1. How did the United States acquire each piece of land?
  - a. Oregon Territory
  - b. Mexican Cession
  - c. Texas Annexation
  - d. Gadsden Purchase
  - e. Louisiana Purchase
  - f. Florida
2. Why did the United States acquire the Louisiana Purchase?
3. Why were Louis and Clark important?
4. What happened in the 1832 case of *Worcester v. Georgia*?
5. What was the Trail of Tears?
6. Under what conditions did the Mexican government allow American immigrants to settle in Mexico?

7. How did Texas gain its independence?
8. What was Manifest Destiny?
9. What was the main cause of the Mexican American War?
10. What were the effects of the Mexican American War?
11. What impact did European settlement have on Native Americans?
12. What role did the Buffalo Soldiers play in fighting for the west?
13. Why were western states first in allowing women to vote?

### **Industrial Revolution and Reform:**

**Standard 8.6: 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.**

**Standard 8.12: 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.**

1. In what geographical region did the Industrial Revolution occur during the 1800's?
2. What happened when the United States industrialized?
3. Immigrants from which country came to work in factories during the mid 1800's?
4. What pushed Irish immigrants to the United States in the 1800's?
5. What pulled Irish immigrants to the United States in the 1800's?
6. What pulled Southern and Central Europeans to America in the late 1800's?
7. What pushed Southern and Central Europeans to America in the late 1800's?
8. What were the educational and religious practices of free African Americans in the Northeast during the 1800's?
9. Why was public education introduced to America by Horace Mann, and others?
10. What is women's suffrage and why is it important?
11. What role did the following women play in the struggle for women's rights?
  - a. Susan B. Anthony
  - b. Elizabeth Blackwell
  - c. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
  - d. Lucretia Mott
  - e. Sojourner Truth
12. What are the long term effects of Industrialization?

## **Events to the Civil War:**

**Standard 8.9: Students analyze the early and steady attempts to abolish slavery and to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.**

1. What states are considered northern and which are considered southern?
2. What are three major differences between the North and South?
3. How did the “cotton gin” affect cotton production and slavery?
4. What did each of these people do to end slavery?
  - a. Frederick Douglass
  - b. John Brown
  - c. Harriet Tubman
  - d. William Lloyd Garrison
  - e. Theodore Weld
5. What was the Underground Railroad?
6. What were the following events and their results?
  - a. Missouri Compromise
  - b. Compromise of 1850
  - c. The Kansas Nebraska Act
  - d. The Dred Scott Decision
  - e. The Lincoln Douglas Debates
  - f. The Election of 1860

## **The Civil War:**

**Standard 8.10: Students analyze the multiple causes, key events, and complex consequences of the Civil War.**

1. What advantages did the North have in fighting the Civil War?
2. What advantages did the South have in fighting the Civil War?
3. Why was the firing on Fort Sumter important?
4. Why was the First Battle of Bull Run important?
5. Why was the Battle of Gettysburg important?
6. Who did many consider the best general for the North?
7. Who did many consider the best general for the South?
8. Who was president of the Confederate States of America (C.S.A.)?
9. Who was president of the United States of American (U.S.A.) during the Civil War?
10. How do Lincoln’s speeches and writings relate to the Declaration of Independence?
11. What were three technological advances made during the Civil War?
12. Where did General Lee surrender to Grant?

## **Reconstruction:**

**Standard 8.11: Students analyze the character and lasting consequences of Reconstruction.**

1. What was Reconstruction:
2. What organization was set up during Reconstruction to assist former slaves by building schools, supplying food, and giving medical care?
3. What were the “Black Codes”?
4. What was the main purpose of the Ku Klux Klan?
5. What was the purpose of “Radical Reconstruction”?
6. What were the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments?
7. What were “Jim Crow” laws?