# State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Performance Level Descriptors U.S. History Studies Since 1877

## **Performance Level Descriptors**

Students' social studies skills are not assessed in isolation but are incorporated into questions that assess understanding of U.S. history content. These skills focus on applying critical-thinking skills to interpret, organize, and analyze social studies information from a variety of sources.

### Students achieving Masters Grade Level Performance can

- Evaluate historical perspectives on major events and issues in U.S. history
- Apply content knowledge in multiple contexts to make historical connections and evaluate change over time
- Evaluate historical justifications and interpretations through the examination of multiple and varied sources

# Students achieving Meets Grade Level Performance can

- Apply understanding of U.S. constitutional principles to major events in U.S. history
- Analyze the domestic and international impact of U.S. participation in wars and international relations
- Analyze issues related to the development of the U.S. economic system
- Analyze geographic and cultural influences on the United States
- Evaluate the impact of reform movements, court cases, and legislation on the civil and political rights of citizens.

#### Students achieving Approaches Grade Level Performance can

- Describe the effects of U.S. government and economic policies and actions
- Describe the role and influence of the United States in the international community
- Describe geographic and cultural influences on the United States
- Describe the impact of significant individuals, groups, organizations, and policies on U.S. history
- Explain the impact of science and technology on the United States

#### Students achieving Did Not Meet Grade Level Performance can

- Identify significant individuals, events, and issues in U.S. history
- Define major social studies terminology
- Identify and use social studies sources
- Recognize major historical points of reference