

STAAR Alternate 2 Spring 2027

Grade 8 Social Studies Essence Statements

STAAR Reporting Category 1	STAAR Reporting Category 2	STAAR Reporting Category 3	STAAR Reporting Category 4
History: The student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and events in U.S. history.	Geography and Culture: The student will demonstrate an understanding of geographic and cultural influences on historical issues and events.	Government and Citizenship: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the role of government and the civic process on historical issues and events.	Economics, Science, Technology and Society: The student will demonstrate an understanding of economic and technological influences on historical issues and events.
Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.2) History. The student understands the causes of exploration and colonization eras. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes reasons for exploration and colonization. Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.5) History. The student understands the challenges confronted by the government and its leaders in the early years of the republic and the Age of Jackson. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes important challenges faced by the country during its early years. Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.7) History. The student understands how political, economic, and social factors led to the growth of sectionalism and the Civil War. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the causes of U.S. sectional conflict that led to the Civil War.	Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.10) Geography. The student understands the location and characteristics of places and regions of the United States, past and present. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the physical characteristics of the United States and the effects of these historical events. Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.23) Culture. The student understands the relationships between and among people from various groups, including racial, ethnic, and religious groups, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the relationships among people from various groups and their effects on American society. Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.24) Culture. The student understands the major reform movements of the 19th century. (Readiness Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the development and impact of reform movements.	Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.15) Government. The student understands the American beliefs and principles reflected in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and other important historic documents. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the ideas and principles reflected in historic documents important to U.S. history. Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.17) Government. The student understands the dynamic nature of the powers of the national government and state governments in a federal system. (Readiness Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the powers of the national and states governments under the U.S. federal system. Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.22) Citizenship. The student understands the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. (Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the importance of effective leadership and the contributions of significant leaders of the United States.	Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.13) Economics. The student understands how various economic forces resulted in the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the causes of industrialization and urbanization in the United States. Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.27) Science, technology, and society. The student understands the impact of science and technology on the economic development of the United States. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovation on economic growth of the United States.

	Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.26) Culture. The student understands the relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created. (Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the relationship between the arts and American culture.		Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.28) Science, technology, and society. The student understands the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on daily life in the United States. (Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on daily life in the United States.
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