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