

**State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)
Performance Level Descriptors
Grade 8 Social Studies**

| Performance Level Descriptors | |
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| <p>Students' social studies skills are not assessed in isolation but are incorporated into questions that assess understanding of U.S. history content. Social studies skills focus on applying critical-thinking skills to interpret, organize, and analyze social studies information from a variety of sources.</p> | |
| Students achieving | can |
| <p>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 Analyze the foundation of representative government and how economic, political, and social changes impact representative government</p> | |
| Students achieving | can |
| <p>Describe the impact of colonialism and revolution on the development of the United States Explain the development of representative government in the United States Explain constitutional principles and issues Analyze the causes of the Civil War and the effects of Reconstruction Analyze the effects of geographic factors on major events in U.S. history Describe economic, political, and social factors associated with U.S. expansion Analyze factors that contributed to the economic development of the United States Explain cultural influences on the development of the United States, including the impact of immigrant groups, religion, reform movements, and fine arts Explain the social and economic effects of technological and scientific innovations</p> | |
| Students achieving | can |
| <p>Identify major eras in U.S. history Explain the roles of significant individuals and events in the American Revolution</p> | |