

Grade _8_ Units of Study
2012__ - 2013__

Social Studies – Grade _8_	Unit 1: Declaration of Independence	Unit 2: Principals of the Constitution	Unit 3: Legislative Branch	Unit 4: Executive Branch	Unit 5: Judicial Branch	Unit 6: Bill of Rights
Key Skills	Analysis of the reasons why the Declaration of Independence was written and its results.	Analysis of the ideas put forth by the framers of the Constitution and their plan for the United States.	An explanation and analysis of the functions and duties of the Legislative Branch and how it relates to the other two branches.	An explanation and analysis of the functions and duties of the Executive Branch and how it relates to the other two branches.	An explanation and analysis of the functions and duties of the Judicial Branch and how it relates to the other two branches.	Application of the Bill of Rights upon their lives and citizens as a whole in how to carry out the rights and responsibilities the Bill of Rights grants.
Academic Vocabulary	Declaration of Independence Inalienable rights Consent of the governed	Limited Government Separation of powers Popular sovereignty Rule of law Checks and balances Due process Majority rule Federalism Amendment process Voting rights	Laws House of Representatives Senate Congress Compromise	President Department Cabinet Commander in Chief Veto	Supreme Court Judges Jury Criminal case Court	Ratify Due Process Amendment Freedom Right
Reading/Writing Skills	Experience with reading and analyzing eighteen century document	Written description comparing and contrasting limited and unlimited governments	Independent research reading Article I of the Constitution and discovering qualified opinions on that article	Independent research reading Article II of the Constitution and discovering qualified opinions on that article	Independent research reading Article III of the Constitution and discovering qualified opinions on that article	Summarizing and giving examples of the various amendments in the Bill of Rights
Power Standards/GLEs Assessed	Analyze the important principals in the Declaration of Independence, including inalienable rights and government by the consent of the governed. 1.A.d;3a.I;1.A.d	Analyze the important principals of the Constitution including: limited government, rule of law, majority rule, separation of powers, checks and balances, amendment process. 2.A.b	Explain how leaders are selected and power is distributed among individuals and branches of government. 1.A.a (Legislative Branch)	Explain how leaders are selected and power is distributed among individuals and branches of government. 1.A.a (Executive Branch)	Explain how leaders are selected and power is distributed among individuals and branches of government. 1.A.a (Judicial Branch)	Apply important principles of the Bill of Rights: 1) basic freedoms (Amendments 1-8) and 2) protection against government (fair trial, right of the accused, due process)

Grade 8 Units of Study
2012 - 2013

Approximate Instruction Dates	October	Early November, review in January	Late November/Early December, review in March	December/ Early January, review in March, April	January, review in April	February, review in April

Social Studies – Grade ____	Unit 7: Participation in Government	Unit 8: Regions of the United States	Unit 9: Slavery	Unit 10: Westward Expansion	Unit 11:	Unit 12:
Key Skills	Application of government rights and responsibilities in their lives and citizenship in general.	Know the 50 states and capitals Understand the relationship within and between US regions.	Analysis of the importation and immigration of African slaves in America and its effect on history and modern America.	Analysis of westward expansion’s effect on the United States, its politics, geography, and slavery.		
Academic Vocabulary	Responsibility Voting Petitioning Campaigning Public opinion Lobbying Political party	Region Population Location Capital State Climate	Middle Passage Triangle Trade 3/5 Compromise Abolitionist Underground Railroad	Railroad Popular Sovereignty Territory Westward Expression California Gold Rush Oregon Territory Louisiana Purchase Texas and Mexican War Missouri Compromise Lewis and Clark Expedition		

Grade 8 Units of Study
2012 - 2013

Reading/Writing Skills	Write letters to members of Congress and other local and state leaders informing about their jobs and roles in the government.	Independent research on regions.	Writing in first person, becoming a character and describing experience of a slave.	Create map of United States showing the expansion of the US westward.		
Power Standards/GLEs Assessed	Describe how to participate in government (i.e. voting, campaigning, lobbying, participating in a political party, petitioning, influencing public opinion, etc.). 6.N; 3a.M; 1.A.b	Explain how regions of the United States relate to one another and change over time. GEO5F	Analyze cultural interactions among Africans brought to America HS3aFb Summarize reform movements such as: Abolitionism HS3aH	Assess the significance of Westward Expansion including: 1. Louisiana Purchase 2. Lewis and Clark Expedition 3. Missouri Compromise 4. Texas and the Mexican War 5. Oregon Territory 6. California Gold Rush HS3aFa		
Approximate Instruction Dates	February, shown in US history context March - May	September	Reintroduced theme of course October - March	March - May		