



Shakopee Area Catholic School  
Social Studies Standards and Benchmarks  
Grade Level: 8  
American History  
(Colonial Times to the Civil Rights Movement)

**History**

Students will evaluate the key influences which shape the United States.

1. Determine the cultures (beliefs, values, accepted behaviors, and environment) of Americans.
2. Explain the key foreign and domestic events, people, inventions, and discoveries in United States history.
3. Evaluate the motivations that lead to change in United States history.

Students will develop and utilize chronological perspective of United States History to distinguish between past, present, and future time.

1. Demonstrate how to place key influences on a timeline.
2. Relate key influences to what was happening just before, during, and after the key influences.
3. Formulate a logical sense of progression of United States history.

Students will apply skills of historical analysis and interpretation.

1. Compare and contrast historical data.
2. Differentiate between historical facts and interpretations.
3. Analyze cause and effect relationships.

**Geography**

Students will express an understanding of the spatial contexts of people, places, and environments involved in United States history.

1. Construct and interpret maps, charts, models, and graphs which show views of the world at various points in United States history.
2. Develop and interpret charts, maps, models, graphs, and data bases which show key information (population, resources, movement, battles, and change over time).
3. Apply a geographic point of view to solve social and environmental problems.

**Civics and Government**

Students will employ an understanding of civic life, politics, and government of the United States.

1. Explore the origins of United States government.
2. Explain how United States government operates under the Constitution, and the purposes, values, and principles of American democracy.
3. Understand how state and local governments are organized.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of citizenship and its rights and responsibilities.

1. Utilize abilities and dispositions to participate in civic life.
2. Analyze political campaign ads and platform.
3. Demonstrate understanding of persuasive techniques.
4. Experience the voting process.

Students will appraise the relationship of the United States to other nations and to world affairs.

1. Use media to gather information.
2. Research topics in current events.
3. Relate current events to personal experiences.

### **Economics**

Students will interpret economic issues that have been resolved in United States history.

1. Understand the concept of scarcity and that economic choices involve trade-offs.
2. Explain the institutions that evolved in the United States to help individuals, groups and government accomplish their economic goals.
3. Analyze trends in the current economy of the United States.

### **Psychology**

Students will interpret United States history from various perspectives.

1. Identify the emotional and social developments which influence personal perspective.
2. Relate what was important to various groups in United States history.
3. Infer how key influences changed the lives of various groups in United States history.