

STAAR Alternate 2 Spring 2026

Grade 8 Social Studies Essence Statements

STAAR Reporting Category 1	STAAR Reporting Category 2	STAAR Reporting Category 3	STAAR Reporting Category 4
<p>History: The student will demonstrate an understanding of issues and events in U.S. history.</p>	<p>Geography and Culture: The student will demonstrate an understanding of geographic and cultural influences on historical issues and events.</p>	<p>Government and Citizenship: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the role of government and the civic process on historical issues and events.</p>	<p>Economics, Science, Technology and Society: The student will demonstrate an understanding of economic and technological influences on historical issues and events.</p>
<p>Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.1) History. The student understands traditional historical points of reference in U.S. history through 1877. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes important dates and time periods in U.S. history through 1877.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.6) History. The student understands westward expansion and its effects on the political, and social development of the nation. (Readiness Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes westward expansion of the United States and its effects on the development of the nation.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.19) Citizenship. The student understands the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens.</p> <p>Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.20) Citizenship. The student understands the importance of voluntary individual participation in the democratic process. (Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the importance of individual participation in the democratic process.</p> <p>Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.21) Citizenship. The student understands the importance of the expression of different points of view in a constitutional republic. (Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the importance of the expression of different points of view on historical issues.</p>	<p>Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.12) Economics. The student understands why various sections of the United States developed different patterns of economic activity through 1877. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the development of different patterns of economic activity among various U.S. regions.</p> <p>Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.14) Economics. The student understands the origins and development of the free enterprise system in the United States. (Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes the development of the free enterprise system in the United States.</p> <p>Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.27) Science, technology, and society. The student understands the impact of scientific 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.</p>

<p>Knowledge and Skills Statement (8.8) History. The student understands individuals, issues, and events of the Civil War. (Readiness and Supporting Standard) Essence Statement Recognizes important people, issues, and events relating to the Civil War.</p>		<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
--	--	--	--