

Social Studies – Eighth Grade “I Can” Statements

- I can define a primary source of information.
- I can define a secondary source of information.
- I can analyze primary and secondary sources to describe the different perspectives on an issue relating to a historical event in U.S. history and present and defend a position.
- I can explain the economic reasons behind the European exploration of North America.
- I can explain the religious reasons behind the European exploration of North America.
- I can explain how competition for control of territory and resources in North America led to conflicts among colonizing powers.
- I can explain how the practice of race-based slavery led to the forced migration of Africans to the American colonies.
- I can describe the contributions of enslaved and free Africans on cultural and economic development in different regions of the American colonies.
- I can state the ideas of the Enlightenment.
- I can explain how the ideas of the Enlightenment led to the dissatisfaction with colonial rule.
- I can explain what led the English colonists to write the Declaration of Independence and launch the American Revolution.
- I can analyze the new political, social and economic relationships for the American people that resulted from the American Revolution.
- I can state the major domestic problems faced by the leaders of the new republic under the Articles of Confederation.
- I can explain the challenges in writing and ratifying the U.S. constitution.
- I can explain how the actions of early presidential administrations established a strong federal government, provided peaceful transitions of power and repelled a foreign invasion.
- I can describe how the United States added to its territory through treaties and purchases.
- I can explain how westward expansion contributed to economic and industrial development, debates over sectional issues, war with Mexico and the displacement of American Indians.
- I can distinguish between the positions of the sections of the United States on sectional issues of the 1820s through the 1850s.
- I can illustrate how disputes over the nature of federalism fed into sectional issues and helped lead to the American Civil War.
- I can describe how the Reconstruction period resulted in changes to the U.S. Constitution, an affirmation of federal authority and lingering social and political differences.
- I can use modern and historical maps and other geographic tools to analyze the ways in which historical events are shaped by geography.
- I can analyze how the availability of natural resources contributed to the geographic and economic expansion of the United States.

- I can explain how the economic expansion of the United States sometimes resulted in unintended environmental consequences.
- I can describe the movement of people, products and ideas that resulted in new patterns of settlement and land use and analyze its impact on the political and economic development of the United States.
- I can explain how cultural biases, stereotypes and prejudices had social, political and economic consequences for minority groups and the population as a whole.
- I can identify the developments which helped bring about a common national identity for Americans and describe the democratic ideals around which that identity is based.
- I can explain how participation in social and civic groups can lead to the attainment of individual and public goals.
- I can use examples and explain how media and communication technology influence public opinion.
- I can describe and give examples on how the U.S. Constitution created a federal system, representative democracy, separation of powers, and checks and balances.
- I can describe and evaluate how the U.S. Constitution protects citizens' rights by limiting the powers of government.
- I can analyze how choices made by individuals, businesses and governments have both present and future consequences.
- I can explain the impact government can have on markets by spending, regulating, taxing and creating trade barriers.
- I can analyze how the Industrial Revolution in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries changed the means of production.
- I can demonstrate how effective management of one's personal finances includes using basic banking services (e.g., savings accounts and checking accounts) and credit.