

Grade 8

- Analyze the major arguments for and against representative government as distinguished from direct democracy, and discuss why, in a representative democracy, decisions are made by the majority with minority rights protected.
- Employ appropriate maps and other data displays, including tables, graphs, charts, and diagrams, to locate and analyze current world events.
- Sketch a world map from memory and identify major landforms, water systems, and concentrations of resources.
- Describe how physical characteristics, including climate, soil, ocean currents, and salinity, affect the number, kind, and distribution of plants and animals in an ecosystem. Evaluate the relationship between the carrying capacity of different ecosystems and optimal land use patterns.
- Discuss interactions among the atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere.
- Evaluate, take, and defend positions concerning the ways changing population patterns can influence the environment and society.
- Describe, by examining the development of major industries in the United States, how geography and the factors of production have contributed to the location of certain types of manufacturing in particular places and regions.
- Analyze how various factors, including resources, boundaries, strategic locations, culture, and politics, contribute to cooperation and conflict within and between countries.
- Analyze patterns of land use in terms of physical and human geographic features; distances to raw materials; proximity to population center; and absence of physical barriers.
- Discuss how settlement patterns and other land use decisions reflect the perceptions of people both in the past and in the present.
- Analyze the relationship between resources and the exploration, colonization, and settlement of different areas of the world.
- Analyze historical documents, artifacts, and other materials for credibility, relevance, and point of view.
- Examine historical materials relating to a particular region, society, or theme; analyze change over time; and make logical inferences concerning cause and effect.
- Develop and implement research strategies in order to investigate a given historical topic.
- Critically analyze historical materials in order to distinguish between the important and the inconsequential and differentiate among historical facts, opinion, and reasoned judgments.
- Explain, using examples from history, that not all problems have clear-cut solutions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of major topics in the study of the Expanding Nation: The North and South (1803-1860) including geographic and demographic expansion; market expansion; early industrialization (Industrial Revolution); the plantation system; growth of cities; immigrants and their experiences; political change; religious roots of reform movements; and the legacies of the temperance, public education, abolitionist, and women's rights movements.
- Demonstrate an understanding of major topics in the study of the Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877) including the slave system in the Old South and its defenders and opponents, North and South; causes of the war; conduct and course of the war; Lincoln's leadership and words; the Emancipation Proclamation and the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments; and the accomplishments, limits, and failures of Reconstruction.
- Discuss the contributions of New Hampshire to United States history from 1600 through 1877 including the economic development of the colonies; Revolutionary War; creation and ratification of the United States Constitution; Industrial Revolution; abolitionist and other 19th century reform movements; recreation of the Republican Party; and Civil War.
- Discuss the origins, political ideas, and worldwide effects on society; politics, and economics of the European ideologies of the 19th and 20th centuries including Conservatism, Liberalism, republicanism, social democracy, Marxism, Communism, Fascism, Nazism, and nationalism.

- Discuss the nature and growth of European imperialism in the 18th and 19th centuries as well as de-colonization in the 20th century including the consequences of World War 1, the Russian Revolutions, World War II, the Chinese Revolution, the Cold War, and post-World War II conflicts. Explain how the United States constitution is a living document by analyzing its evolution through amendments and Supreme Court interpretations and decisions.
- Describe how statements and events related to the following movements contributed to the evolution of the United States Constitution-ratification process including the Federalist papers; states' rights; abolition; universal suffrage; prohibition; and civil rights.
- Discuss the major responsibilities of government at the local, county, state, and federal levels; how these governments are funded; and the purposes for which funds are used.
- Describe the legislative and political processes by which a bill becomes a law or a governmental policy is established at the state and federal levels.
- Discuss how individual rights are protected in the United States legal system.
- Explain why American constitutional democracy has survived for more than 200 years and why it has become a model governmental framework.
- Explain how the world is organized politically, and discuss that no political organization at the international level has power comparable to that of an individual nation.
- Discuss, using historical and contemporary examples, the national and international consequences of interactions between and among nations.
- Discuss the reasons for conflicts between and among nations, and describe the role of governmental international organizations in the search for and maintenance of order.
- Discuss the nature, importance, and potential impacts on world affairs of political, demographic, environmental, pathogenic, economic, technological, and cultural developments, and identify and examine possible responses to these developments.
- Discuss the impact of the American concept of democracy on world affairs.
- Analyze those dispositions or traits of character that lead individuals to become independent members of society and that foster respect for individual worth and human dignity including self-discipline; self-governance; individual responsibility; respect for the rights and decisions of others; concern for the well-being of others; tolerance; and the ability to compromise.
- Describe and analyze the ways Americans can effectively participate in civic and political life at the school, community, state, and national levels and discuss how such participation can lead to the attainment of both individual and public goals.
- Name the persons who represent them in legislative bodies and the heads of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of their local, county, state, and federal governments, and explain which level(s) of government they should contact to express their opinions or to get information or help on specific problems and issues.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how an individual participates in primary and general elections including registering to vote; identifying the major duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required for a particular position; becoming informed about candidates and issues; declaring or changing party affiliation; and obtaining, marking, and depositing a ballot.
- Describe how economic choices made by producers and consumers are based on supply, demand, and access to markets.
- Explain how market systems influence the production and distribution of goods and services.
- Analyze how changes in technology, costs, and demand interact in competitive markets to determine or change the price of goods and services.
- Describe and analyze the role that supply and demand, prices, incentives, and profits play in determining what is produced and distributed in market economies.
- Discuss the ways that specialization contributes to and influences the production and exchange of goods and services.
- Describe and analyze how governments create money; how governmental taxation, spending, regulation, and intervention affect the functioning of market economies; and how governments deal with market failures.
- Apply knowledge of economic concepts in evaluating historical issues, policies, and events.
- Employ economic concepts to develop a response to a current economic issue.