

**State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)  
Performance Level Descriptors  
Grade 8 Social Studies**

<b>Performance Level Descriptors</b>	
<p>Students' social studies skills are not assessed in isolation but are incorporated into questions that assess understanding of U.S. history content. Social studies skills focus on applying critical-thinking skills to interpret, organize, and analyze social studies information from a variety of sources.</p>	
<p><b>Students achieving</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>can</b></p> <p>Evaluate historical perspectives on major events and issues in U.S. history            Apply content knowledge in multiple contexts to make historical connections and evaluate change over time            Evaluate historical justifications and interpretations through the examination of multiple and varied sources            Analyze the foundation of representative government and how economic, political, and social changes impact representative government</p>
<p><b>Students achieving</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>can</b></p> <p>Describe the impact of colonialism and revolution on the development of the United States            Explain the development of representative government in the United States            Explain constitutional principles and issues            Analyze the causes of the Civil War and the effects of Reconstruction            Analyze the effects of geographic factors on major events in U.S. history            Describe economic, political, and social factors associated with U.S. expansion            Analyze factors that contributed to the economic development of the United States            Explain cultural influences on the development of the United States, including the impact of immigrant groups, religion, reform movements, and fine arts            Explain the s22.9 (20.82 0 Tdo h8.75x.28 m E) g xupsncan-60m (9)afv antk W D 9BC) 903</p>