

Grade 8 History Day Topics List

“Communication in History”

United States History

Creating the United States: The Foundation, Formation, and Transformation of the American Nation, 1754–1877

Social Studies Content Standards	History Day Example Topics
1. Analyze the foundations of the United States by examining the causes, events, and ideologies, which led to the American Revolution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pontiac’s War: American Indians driving the British away from the Great Lakes• The Whiskey Rebellion: How Taxes and Transport Cost Led to Armed Insurrection
2. Examine key military and diplomatic events of the Revolutionary War that resulted in an independent nation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Federalist Papers: Building a Nation Through an Eighteenth-Century Flame War• The Quebec Act, Protestant Imperial Expansion, and the Revolutionary War
3. Examine the formation of the American system of government following the Revolutionary War and the creation of the Constitution of the United States as the supreme law of the land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Five Tribes and the Loyalist Cause• Indian Removal and Western Expansion
4. Examine the political and economic changes that occurred during the Early Federal Period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andrew Jackson, the Second Bank of the United States, and the Panic of 1837• Tecumseh and the Western Confederacy: Leading the Battle Against Westward Expansion
5. Analyze the political and geographic changes that occurred during the Jeffersonian Era.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Fugitive Slave Act: How the South Violated the Rights of Northern States and Started the American Civil War
6. Examine the political, economic, and social transformation during the “Era of Good Feelings.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Five Nations and the American Civil War• Cotton, the Internal American Slave Trade, and Western Expansion
7. Examine the political, economic, and social transformations of the Jacksonian Era.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Reconstruction Treaties and the Second Trail of Tears• Assimilation: The New Federal Policy, Oklahoma, and the Indian Wars
8. Examine the political, economic, social, and geographic changes that occurred during the period of westward expansion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• George Whitefield and the Great Awakening: Preaching Christianity to America’s Slaves• South Carolina: Leader of the Secession Movement
9. Analyze the social and economic transformations of the early nineteenth century.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ulysses S. Grant: Leading the Campaign to Take the Mississippi River

10. Analyze major political, economic, and social events that resulted in the Civil War.

11. Analyze the course and consequences of the Civil War.

12. Analyze the political, social, and economic transformations during the Reconstruction Era to 1877.

- Andrew Johnson and the Legacy of Reconstruction