STAAR, State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, is the state’s student testing program. Over the course of their public school career, students will be tested in the core subject areas—reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. The number of tests taken each year will vary from two to four, depending on the grade level. Assessments for the 8th Grade social studies program will take place at the end during the last full week of April.

During the course of their 8th grade career, students are expected to investigate the history of the United States from colonization until the year 1877. As outlined by Texas state law (more information can be found on TEA’s website at http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113), students will be exposed to the major turning points in U.S. history including:

- Colonization
- Pre-Revolutionary Era
- American Revolution
- Confederation Era
- Creating the Constitution
- The Constitution of the United States
- The New Republic
- Age of Jefferson
- Age of Jackson
- Manifest Destiny
- Reform Movements
- Causes of the Civil War
- The Civil War
- Reconstruction

Students are also expected to have developed their critical thinking skills including:

- Analyzing primary and secondary documents such as articles, speeches, laws, Supreme Court cases, or letters.
- Analyzing visual resources such as political cartoons, art, illustrations, maps, charts, and graphs.
- Evaluating the causes and effects of events throughout their studies.
- Connecting complex concepts together to explain events.
- Analyzing the role of people who have had an impact on the history of the United States.
- Comparing and contrasting people, places and events in U.S. history.
- Understanding the role of geography, economics and government during different periods of time.
- Evaluating the influences on the modern government of the United States.
- Understanding the development of civil rights.
- Analyzing the role of political parties during different eras.
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For more information, visit our our STAAR area on the website.