

**MASTER  
DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How does Geography help us understand the migration and development of North America?	7.1.8.A 7.1.8.B	Geographic representations are essential to explain the spatial organization of people, places, and environments.	5 Themes/6 essential elements		
			Read a map key to interpret information.		
			Use latitude and longitude to determine the exact location of a site.		
			Use a compass rose to distinguish cardinal and intermediate directions.		
			Compare and contrast types of information found on globes and maps.		
			Recognize and interpret different kinds of specialized maps.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How does the Constitution limit the power of Federal and State government and give rights to the people?	5.1.8.A 5.1.8.D 5.1.8.C 5.1.8.D	The purpose of the U.S. Constitution is to provide the framework for U.S. government, and has helped preserve the basic rights of American citizens.	Explain the purposes of the Constitution as stated in the Preamble.		
			Summarize the function of each of the three branches of the Federal Government.		
			Distinguish the powers of each of the three branches of the Federal Government.		
			Describe the systems of checks and balances and explain the importance of the system.		
			Summarize the debate for and against ratifying the Constitution.		
			Explain the role of the Bill of Rights in the approval process.		
			Discuss the formation of the first political parties.		
	5.2.8.A			Discuss the role, rights and responsibilities of citizens.	

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
What was the effect of the Emancipation Proclamation?	5.1.8.A 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.A 8.3.8.B 8.3.8.C	Identify the causes and effects of the Civil War.	Explain the impact of emancipation on the lifestyle of former slaves.		
			Discuss the impact of emancipation on the plantation system.		
How do ideas change the way people live?	8.3.8.C 8.3.8.D	Identify and describe the impact Reconstruction had on the South.	Explain the successes and failures of the Reconstruction Era.		

**\*Note: IF NOT COMPLETED IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – DO IN 8<sup>TH</sup>!**

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
<p>What was the impact of American westward expansion on the frontier and on the decline of Native American cultures?</p>	<p>8.3.8.C 8.3.8.D</p>	<p>In the last half of the 1800's, American settlement continued its spread into the Western U.S.</p>	<p>Show the impact on the creation of states.</p>		
			<p>Explain how the railroads changed the mining industry and the nation.</p>		
			<p>Show how cattle ranchers and farmers affected the economy of the West.</p>		
			<p>Compare the contributions of cattle ranchers, miners, and farmers to the development of the region.</p>		
			<p>Discuss the causes and effects of conflicts between Native Americans and White settlers.</p>		
			<p>Describe the promises the government made to Native Americans.</p>		
			<p>Discuss why the Indian way of life ended.</p>		
			<p>Examine how farmers became politically active in the National Grange, the Farmers Alliance and the Populist Party.</p>		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How did the rise of industry impact the American way of life and affect businesses.	8.3.8.C 8.3.8.D	Industrial expansion was made possible in part by the development of new business practices and organizations.	Discuss how the new technology of the Industrial Revolution changed the way people lived and worked.		
			Identify strategies railroad barons used to eliminate competition.		
			Analyze the roles of business leaders of the time in the rise of big business.		
			Discuss the role of labor unions.		
			Summarize the arguments for and against trusts.		
			Describe the special problems faced by women and minority groups in the workforce.		
			Relate why organized labor was not well received after 1870's.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
Why do people move? How do new ideas change the way people live?	8.3.8.D	Immigrants to the U.S. brought with them the cultural heritage of their homelands.	Identify and evaluate the reasons different groups of immigrants were pushed or pulled to the U.S.		
			Explain shifting patterns in immigration from 1865-1920.		
			Describe what happened to many immigrants after their arrival in the U.S.		
			Identify areas of immigration entry to the U.S. and areas of settlement.		
			Analyze the challenges and opportunities created by the rapid growth of cities.		
			Examine the role of settlement houses and the work of reform providing for immigrant needs.		
			Explain why some Americans opposed increased immigration.		
			Identify immigrants who made notable contributions in American business, education and politics, literature, and music.		
			Explain how education became more widely available and the impact education had on American society.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
What were the causes and effects of the Progressive Movement?	8.3.8.A 8.3.8.C 8.3.8.D	Many men and women became part of a widespread movement to bring about reform in the U.S.	Identify and evaluate reform and reformers that emerged during this era.		
			Analyze the impact Progressive presidents had on reforms during this era.		
			Compare and contrast the ways society in the U.S. changed during this era.		
			Identify how women joined together to work for their social, political, and economic rights.		
			How did Presidents Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson work to control big business and labor problems.		
			Explain how journalists/muckrakers helped to shape the reform movement.		
			Discuss why Progressive reforms did not include all Americans.		
			Discuss issues relating to the regulation of big business and the spoils system.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How did the U. S. demonstrate its growing interest in the Pacific and Latin America?	8.4.8.A 8.4.8.B 8.4.8.C	America's imperialistic attitude solidified its position as a world power.	Discuss how the U.S. expanded its economic and political influence in the late 1800s.		
	5.4.8.A 5.4.8.C		Summarize how the U.S. gained influence in the Pacific with the takeover of Hawaii and Samoa.		
			Explain how the Spanish American War led to expanding global affairs for the U.S.		
			Analyze how the Roosevelt Corollary reinforced the Monroe Doctrine to justify intervention in Latin America.		
			Describe the policies followed by the U.S. in Latin America and their impact.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
Why does conflict develop?	8.4.8.A 8.4.8.C 5.4.8.A	World War I changed the world. When the fighting was over the U.S. emerged as a superpower.	List the causes of WWI.		
			Describe how fighting progressed.		
			Explain how Germany's use of submarine warfare affected American neutrality.		
			Summarize the events leading to U.S. involvement in the war.		
Why did the U.S. get involved?	8.4.8.A 8.4.8.B 8.4.8.C  5.4.8.A 5.4.8.B		Discuss new methods of warfare.		
			Describe how the government prepared for and managed the war effort.		
			Show how Americans responded to the war at home.		
			Explain the role of The American Expeditionary Forces in the war effort.		
			Describe Wilson's Fourteen Points..		
			Discuss why many Americans opposed the Versailles Treaty.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How did American society change during the Roaring Twenties?	8.3.8.A 8.3.8.C	American industries boomed in the 1920's changing many Americans' lives.	Describe how the prosperity of the 20's affected the nation and Americans' buying habits.		
			Summarize the impact the automobile had on American life.		
		American's faced new opportunities, challenges, and fears as major changes swept the country in the 1920's.	Explain the cultural clashes that occurred.		
			Identify the factors that contributed to prejudice toward foreigners.		
		Musicians, artists, and writers aided the American culture in the 1920's.	Identify foods and fashions that became popular in the 20's.		
			Describe how new artists and writers affected American culture.		
Explain how jazz music came to be.					

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
What changes occurred because of the economic disaster of the Great Depression?	8.3.8.A 8.3.8.C 8.3.8.D	The collapse of the stock market in 1929 helped to start the Great Depression.	Examine the causes of the stock market crash.		
			Explain how the Depression plunged many families into poverty.		
			Describe how Hoover reacted to the Depression.		
			Explain how the Depression affected women and minority groups.		
			Identify how FDR tried to restore confidence to Americans.		
		Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal included government programs to relieve unemployment and help the economy recover.	Explore the programs that were created in FDR's first 100 days as president.		
			Identify the radical, political movement gained influence.		
			Explain why some Americans disagreed with Roosevelt and The New Deal.		
			Discuss the Second New Deal.		
			Identify how the Dust Bowl helped call for more aid to people in the West.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
What effect did the Treaty of Versailles have on Germany?	8.4.8.A	The rise of dictators led to WWII.	Explain how dictators came to power in Germany, Italy and Japan.		
	8.4.8.D		Discuss the factors that led to WWII.		
	8.4.8.C		Explain how the U.S. supported Great Britain in the war effort.		
	8.4.8.D		Identify the steps the U.S. took to mobilize for war.		
How did events and battles during WWII change American society and the nation's role in the world?	5.4.8.A	After fighting in Europe and North Africa the Allies stopped the Germans and then reversed Japan's expansion in the Pacific.			
	8.4.8.A		Discuss the events that led the U. S. to declare war.		
	8.4.8.B		Show how trade helped to turn the tide of war in Europe.		
	8.4.8.C		Explain the role the Atomic bomb played in ending the war.		
	8.4.8.D		Describe the global position held by the U.S. at the end of WWII.		
	5.4.8.A				
	5.4.8.B				

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How did the Cold War and domestic changes in the postwar years affect the nation?	8.4.8.A 8.4.8.C  5.4.8.A 5.4.8.B	After WWII, Americans adjusted to new challenges both at home and around the world.	Explain how the Cold War began.		
			Describe how the U.S. tried to stop the spread of communism.		
			Explain why the U.S. became involved in the Korean War.		
			Discuss the effects Cold War fears had on domestic policies.		
	8.3.8.A 8.3.8.C 8.3.8.D	During the Cold War, the U.S. government confronted communism globally and within the U.S.	List factors that helped the economy to grow in the 50's.		
			Discuss the impact of the Baby Boom.		
			Explain how American society and culture changed in the 50's.		
			Explain how discrimination affected the lives of minorities, and the role of the courts helping minorities gain their civil rights.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How did the Cold War increase tension around the world?	8.4.8.A 8.4.8.C 8.4.8.D	The U.S. confronted Communist nations in Cold War conflicts.	Explain how the Cold War turned into an arms race.		
			Describe how the Cold War divided emerging countries in Asia and Africa.		
			Explain how Communism gained influence in Latin America.		
			Explain why Cuba became a crisis spot during the Cold War.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How did Americans respond to discrimination during the “Civil Rights” movement?	8.3.8.A 8.3.8.D	Civil rights activists used local challenges and public protests to confront segregation.	Review the impact of Jim Crow laws.		
			Identify the goals of Kennedy’s “New Frontier” and Johnson’s “Great Society”.		
			Explain how Martin Luther King, Jr. emerged as a Civil Rights leader.		
			List actions taken by African Americans in the 60’s to obtain their rights.		
		Many groups worked for “equal rights.”	Examine steps women and minorities took to improve their lives.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
What were the causes and effects of the Vietnam War?	8.4.8.A 8.4.8.C 8.4.8.D	The U. S. confronted Communist nations in Cold War conflicts around the world.	Explain how the U.S. became involved in the Vietnam War.		
			Describe how Americans at home responded to the war in Vietnam.		
			Explain how the Tet Offensive was an important turning point in the war.		
	5.4.8.A 5.4.8.B 5.4.8.D	Johnson expanded U.S. involvement in Vietnam.	Discuss how opinions about the Vietnam War divided Americans in the 60's.		
			Explain how Nixon expanded the war from Vietnam to Laos and Cambodia.		
			Analyze how the end of the Vietnam War had lasting effects on Vietnam and the U.S.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard (s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES:	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How did the presidencies of the 1970's and 1980's deal with the Cold War?	8.3.8.A 8.3.8.C 8.3.8.D 8.4.8.A 8.4.8.C 8.4.8.D	Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan each had different approaches to dealing with Communist nations.	Critique how Nixon's policies helped ease Cold War tensions before the Watergate Scandal and the actions that led to his resignation.		
	5.4.8.A 5.4.8.B 5.4.8.D		Outline significant aspects of the Ford and Carter Administration. a. Iranian Hostages b. Conflict in the Middle East c. Camp David Accords		
		Describe the roles of Reagan and Gorbachev in ending the Cold War.	Describe how President Reagan enacted conservative policies at home and took a strong anti-Communist stance in the Cold War.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
How did major national and international events affect the nation?	5.2.8.C 5.2.8.D 5.3.8.D 5.4.8.C	In the 1980's a new conservative political movement gained strength and reshaped American politics.	Compare and contrast liberal and conservative political agendas.		
			Compare the policies of five U.S. presidents – Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush, Obama.		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
What challenges face the nation in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century?	8.4.8.A 8.4.8.C 8.4.8.D	Terrorism in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century has had a major impact in our world.	Describe the effects of religion on terrorism.		
			Explore how Americans responded to the terrorist attacks of 9/11.		
			Find out how the U.S. became involved in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.		
	7.3.8.A 7.4.8.B 8.4.8.A 8.4.8.B 8.4.8.C 8.4.8.D	Economic and environmental issues link the U.S. and the world.	Explore the role of the United States in the new global economy.		
			Understand the goals of the environmental movement.		
			Learn about the challenges of renewable and non-renewable energy resources.		
			How has science and technology transformed our society?		

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM  
GRADE 8  
U.S. History**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION	PA Standard(s)	BIG IDEA	COMPETENCIES	Text pages or supplementary material	Date Assessed
	8.4.8.A 8.4.8.C	Immigration has a major effect on the U.S. economy and culture.	Learn how immigration and population problems have changed in recent decades.		
	5.4.8.D	Social media and technology have transformed our society	Describe the effect social media has had on society.  Discuss how social media affected society. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Positive effects</li> <li>b. Negative effects</li> <li>c. Globalization</li> <li>d. Cultural diversity</li> </ul>		