

**Berlin Brothersvalley School District
Berlin Brothersvalley Middle School
Year at a Glance Curriculum**

**Social Studies Department
Social Studies
8th Grade**

Course Description:

8th Grade Social Studies is a one-year course covering events in the United States between the early 1800's and 1900. We will study the cultural and political events that have forged the United States. In this class, we will use methods like problem solving, writing, analyzing, debating, and creating important group and individual projects. Please see below for a concise outline of the course.

Units of Study	Competencies	Approximate Time Frame	Standards
Life in the South	Students will be able to compare and contrast the social classes of the South, explain how the cotton gin led to the expansion of slavery, and interpret primary sources from the time period.	3 weeks	8.3.8.B
Age of Reform	Students will be able to explain how the 2nd Great Awakening led to an interest in social reform, identify and analyze the major reform movements and who led them, and compare and contrast the arguments for and against each of the movements.	2 weeks	8.3.8.A
Civil War Era	Students will be able to determine the causes that led to the division between North and South, evaluate the goals of the North and South, analyze the results of key battles and the political and economic changes during the war, describe the actions of key figures on both sides, compare and contrast plans for Reconstruction, and identify important individuals and groups that played a role in Reconstruction.	13 weeks	8.3.8.D
Westward Expansion	Students will be able to explain the reasons why settlers moved West and the boom and bust cycle of mining in the West, describe agricultural development including farming and ranching of the Great Plains, and analyze the conflict between settlers and Native Americans.	3 weeks	8.1.8.A
America Moves to the City	Students will be able to explain the role of immigration, industrialization, and urbanization in the late 1800's.	6 weeks	8.3.8.C

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Imperialism	Students will be able to analyze the motivations and responses to the United States annexing new lands during the 19th and 20th centuries.	3 weeks	5.4.8.A
Progressive Era	Students will be able to analyze the different social movements of the Progressive Era and identify and analyze the contributions of key progressive reformers.	3 weeks	8.1.8.B
Research Project and Presentation	Students will create an in depth research project about a topic of their choosing.	3 weeks	8.1.8.C

*Please visit pdesas.org for a complete list of standards taught in this course and for more information regarding PA State Standards for this course.

Revised 5/7/24