

**Social Studies Standard  
Catalina Foothills School District  
Grade 8**

Eighth grade students study the individuals, groups, movements, and events that shaped the history of the United States and the world in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. They analyze the economic, social, and political factors of the Cold War, the rise and fall of communism, the structuring of Europe, the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam War, and current conflicts of the world. There is an emphasis on understanding economic systems as eighth graders study how natural resources, supply and demand, and interdependence affect economic interactions among countries. The structures, laws, and documents of the United States are examined to determine founding principles and philosophies. Throughout the course of study, skills in research, critical and creative thinking, and geography will be used to access and understand information and ideas.

---

## **HISTORY AND CULTURE**

---

### **Cultural Diversity and Interactions**

SS8.1.1 Describes multiple similarities and differences between cultural elements of China, an Islamic Middle Eastern country, and the United States.

SS8.1.2 Examines how the availability of, competition over, and allocation of natural resources lead to cooperation or conflict between nations (for example: distribution of oil, water use, forest management).

### **Individuals, Groups, and Events that Shaped History**

SS8.8.1 Describes the role of important people and events in contemporary United States history (required: President Eisenhower to current president, Civil Rights Movement).

SS8.8.2 Describes the spread of Communism and the impact of the Cold War (for example: Korean War, NATO/Warsaw Pact, Vietnam War, Space Race, McCarthyism).

SS8.8.3 Explains the fall of Communism and the unification and restructuring of Europe.

SS8.8.4 Describes post-colonial political movements (for example: creation of Israel, Apartheid).

### **Patterns of Change Over Time**

SS8.9.1 Explains how world events of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and early 21<sup>st</sup> century affect, and continue to affect the social, political, geographic, and economic climate of the world (required: terrorism, global warming, economic globalization, human rights).

### **Current Events/Issues and the Modern World**

SS8.10.1 Explains current events from a historical perspective (for example: Middle East conflicts, human rights issues, terrorism, globalization).

---

## **GEOGRAPHY**

---

### **Spatial Thinking and Use of Charts, Maps, and Graphs**

SS8.2.1 Explains similarities and differences between contemporary and historical regions.

### **Reciprocal Impact of Geography on People and Events**

SS8.3.1 Describes the sources of territorial disputes and how they can lead to local, regional, and international conflict and cooperation (required: African genocide, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, China-Taiwan conflict).

SS8.3.2 Explains how migration causes regions and places to change (for example: growth in U.S. Hispanic population, Muslim migration to Europe).

---

## **ECONOMICS AND PERSONAL FINANCE**

---

### **Economic Philosophies and Systems**

SS8.4.1 Describes the impact of the availability and distribution of natural resources on an economy.

SS8.4.2 Describes how competition affects supply and demand from the vantage point of the consumer and producer.

SS8.4.3 Compares and contrasts market versus command economies.

SS8.4.4 Explains factors that affect economic interdependence among nations (required: trade restrictions, trade agreements, international economic organizations, sanctions).

### **Economic Decision-Making and Personal Finance**

SS8.5.1 Describes the factors of personal financial planning (for example: personal investments, lines of credit, budgeting, savings).

---

## **GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS AND POLITICS**

---

### **Rights, Responsibilities, and Participation in the Political Process**

SS8.6.1 Describes the individual rights added to the Constitution by the Bill of Rights.

SS8.6.2 Describes the impact of the Civil Rights Era (required: 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Americans with Disabilities Act, Title 9, Voting Right Act).

SS8.6.3 Explains the electoral process (for example: primary and general voting elections, popular vote, electoral college).

### **Government Symbols, Structures, Laws, and Documents**

SS8.7.1 Explains the purpose and outcome of the Constitutional Convention.

SS8.7.2 Describes the principles on which the Constitution was founded (required: federalism, popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, limited government).

SS8.7.3 Explains the influence of political philosophers on the creation of government structures (required: John Locke, Thomas Paine, Montesquieu).

SS8.7.4 Compares different world governments and political ideologies (required: dictatorship, totalitarianism, democracy, socialism, communism, theocracy).

---

## **RESEARCH SKILLS FOR HISTORY**

---

SS8.12.1 Interprets and organizes information/data relevant to central question from a variety of sources (required: online databases, credible web site, surveys, interviews, newspapers, magazines).

SS8.12.2 Determines the credibility and bias of primary and secondary sources.

SS8.12.3 Explains how the role of the media, images, and advertising influence society.

---

## **CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING (Deep Learning Proficiency)**

---

SS8.11.1 Describes multiple perspectives of an issue by examining the reasons and historical evidence (for example: Vietnam War, Americans with Disabilities Act, Equal Rights Amendment).

SS8.11.2 Constructs sound arguments with a clear claim and support (for example: different economic and political systems).