

From Diocese of San Diego
Curriculum Course Content Guidelines

**SOCIAL STUDIES
EIGHTH GRADE**

United States History and Geography: Growth and Conflict

- Identify the major events preceding the founding of the nation and relate their significance to the development of American constitutional democracy.
- Describe major events and explain ideas underlying the American Revolution.
- Discuss the importance of significant writings and speeches and their relationship to the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.
- Explain the political, economic, religious and social justice principles that shaped the U.S. Constitution and the nature of the government that it created.
- Describe the challenges which faced the new nation and its leaders in the first quarter century of the Republic.
- Give examples of the aspirations and ideals of the people of the new nation.
- Describe the impact of U.S. foreign policy on the government and the economy of the early Republic.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the influence of the American West on the politics, economy, religious life and social justice.
- Explain the importance of the industrial revolution in the Northeast and its impact on the nation.
- Evaluate the importance of the South's agrarian economy and labor system, and explain their effect on the region's political, social, economic, religious, social justice and cultural development.
- Describe the significant attempts to abolish slavery.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the multiple causes, key events and complex consequences of the Civil War.
- Describe the character and lasting consequences of Reconstruction.
- Explain how industrialization, immigration and expansion transformed the United States in the years 1877-1914.

As updated 2/1/06