






8th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Welcome to 8th Grade! This guide will help you understand what your child will learn in social studies this year and how you can support their learning at home. In 8th grade, students focus on Georgia Studies—exploring the state’s geography, history, government, and economy. This course helps students understand Georgia’s role in the broader context of U.S. history and prepares them to be informed and engaged citizens. If you have questions, contact your child’s teacher.

This year’s focus: **Georgia Studies**

Your child will explore Georgia’s past and present, from its earliest inhabitants to its modern economy and government.

<p>HISTORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn about Native American cultures and European exploration in Georgia• Study Georgia’s colonial founding and role in the American Revolution• Examine Georgia’s growth, westward expansion, and involvement in the Civil War• Understand Reconstruction, the New South Era, and the Civil Rights Movement• Explore Georgia’s contributions to World Wars, the Great Depression, and modern developments	<p>GEOGRAPHY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify Georgia’s five geographic regions and key physical features• Understand how geography has influenced settlement, trade, and economic growth• Analyze the importance of water and natural resources in Georgia’s development 
<p>CIVICS & GOVERNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn about the structure and function of Georgia’s state government• Understand the roles of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches• Explore the rights and responsibilities of Georgia citizens• Examine how laws are made and how local governments operate• Understand the juvenile justice system and civic participation 	<p>ECONOMICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore Georgia’s transportation systems and their role in economic development• Understand how Georgia-based businesses contribute to the state’s economy• Learn about entrepreneurship, budgeting, saving, and responsible money management 

HOW YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN

Eighth graders learn through inquiry, analysis, and real-world application:

- Ask & Wonder: Pose questions like “How did Georgia’s geography shape its history?” or “Why is civic participation important?”
- Investigate: Use maps, primary sources, and data to explore historical and current issues
- Share & Explain: Write essays, create projects, and engage in discussions
- Reflect: Connect Georgia’s past to current events and personal experiences

SKILLS YOUR CHILD WILL BUILD

- Analyze maps, charts, and graphs
- Interpret primary and secondary sources
- Organize historical events chronologically
- Understand cause and effect in historical and civic contexts
- Develop research and critical thinking skills

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Visit Georgia historical sites and museums
- Discuss current events and connect them to Georgia’s history
- Talk about civic responsibilities like voting and community service
- Encourage budgeting and saving through real-life examples
- Explore biographies of Georgia leaders and changemakers

8th Grade Social Studies helps students understand Georgia’s unique story and prepares them to be active, informed citizens in their communities and beyond.



SOCIAL STUDIES

HISTORIC, GEOGRAPHIC, POLITICAL & ECONOMIC LITERACY.