

**Social Studies- Grade 8
2008-2009**

The 8th grade social studies curriculum is based on the Massachusetts State Frameworks, the Archdiocesan of Boston's social studies curriculum, and E.D. Hirsch's Core Knowledge Curriculum.

Unit 1- Civics: The Constitution-Principles and Structures of American Democracy
Students will review:

- Pre-Revolutionary War History
- Declaration of Independence
- Constitutional convention
- Students will learn about:
- Overview of the U.S. Constitution
- Legislative Branch; role and powers of Congress
- Executive Branch; role and powers of the Presidency
- Judiciary: Supreme Court as Constitutional interpreter
- How each branch of government checks the other

Unit 2-The Great Depression

- Students will learn about:
- The Stock Market Crash
- Social Effects of the Great Depression
- Life During the Great Depression
- The Election of 1932
- The New Deal

Unit 3-World War II and the Holocaust

Students will learn about:

- The rise of dictators
- Europe in the war
- The changing Geography of Europe during W.W.II
- Japan's involvement the war
- The causes of U.S. involvement in the war
- The war in Europe
- The war in the Pacific
- The Holocaust

Unit 4- The Cold War

Students will learn about:

- Origins of the Cold War

- The Marshall Plan
- The Berlin Airlift
- NATO
- The Warsaw Pact
- HUAC
- The McCarran-Walter Act
- The Rosenberg Trail
- Korean War
- America in the Cold War

Unit 5- The Civil Rights Movement

Students will learn about:

- Segregation
- Brown vs. Board of Education
- Montgomery Bus Boycott-Rosa Parks
- Southern “massive resistance”
- Nonviolent challenges to segregation
- Civil Rights Leaders
- March on Washington
- President Johnson and the Civil Rights movement
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 65
- Twenty-Fourth Amendment

**** if time at the end of the year we may learn about: The Vietnam Conflict and the Rise