

**SOCIAL STUDIES**  
**Grade 8 – Benchmarks**

<b>STANDARD A: GEOGRAPHY</b>	
<b>Wisconsin Performance Standards</b>	<b>Grade Eight Benchmarks</b>
<p>A.8.4 Conduct a historical study to analyze the use of the local environment in a Wisconsin community and to explain the effect of this use on the environment.</p> <p>A.8.10 Identify major discoveries in science and technology and describe their social and economic effects on the physical and human environment.</p> <p>A.8.11 Give examples of the causes and consequences of current global issues and suggest possible responses by various individuals, groups, and nations.</p>	<p>A.8.4. Knows the cause and effect relationship between Wisconsin history and the use of environmental resources.</p> <p>A.8.10. Knows how major discoveries in science and technology impact the physical and human environment (social and economic effects).</p> <p>A.8.11. Knows how current global issues are related to the interaction among people, places, and environments.</p>
<b>STANDARD B: HISTORY</b>	
<b>Wisconsin Performance Standards</b>	<b>Grade Eight Benchmarks</b>
<p>B.8.1 Interpret the past using a variety of sources and evaluate the credibility of sources used.</p> <p>B.8.2 Employ cause-and-effect arguments to demonstrate how significant events have influenced the past and the present in United States and world history.</p> <p>B.8.4 Explain how and why events may be interpreted differently depending upon the perspectives of participants, witnesses, reporters, and historians.</p> <p>B.8.5 Use historical evidence to determine and support a position about important political values and express the position coherently.</p> <p>B.8.9 Explain the need for laws and policies to regulate science and technology.</p>	<p>B.8.1. Knows how the past can be interpreted using a variety of primary sources.</p> <p>B.8.2a. Uses cause and effect arguments to demonstrate how significant events have influenced the past and the present United States.</p> <p>B.8.4. Knows how perspectives of historical events vary based on the role of the individual (e.g. participant, witnesses, reporter, historian).</p> <p>B.8.5. Uses historical evidence to determine and support a position about important political values.</p> <p>B.8.9. Knows the need for laws and policies to regulate science and technology.</p>

<b>STANDARD C: POLITICAL SCIENCE</b>	
<b>Wisconsin Performance Standards</b>	<b>Grade Eight Benchmarks</b>
<p>C.8.1 Identify and explain democracy's basic principles.</p> <p>C.8.2 Identify, cite, and discuss important political documents and explain their function in the American political system.</p> <p>C.8.4 Describe and explain how the federal system separates the powers of federal, state, and local governments in the United States, and how legislative, executive, and judicial powers are balanced at the federal level.</p> <p>C.8.6 Explain the role of political parties and interest groups in American politics.</p> <p>C.8.7 Locate, organize, and use relevant information to understand an issue of public concern, take a position, and advocate the position in a debate.</p> <p>C.8.8 Identify ways in which advocates participate in public policy debates.</p>	<p>C.8.1. Understands the basic principles of democracy.</p> <p>C.8.2. Understands importance political documents (Constitution, Bill of Rights, landmark Supreme Court decisions) and their function in the American political system.</p> <p>C.8.4b. Understands federalism.</p> <p>C.8.6. Understands the role of political parties and interest groups in American politics.</p> <p>C.8.7. Understands and defends a position on an issue of concern.</p> <p>C.8.8. Knows ways advocates participate in public policy debates.</p>
<b>STANDARD D: ECONOMICS</b>	
<b>Wisconsin Performance Standards</b>	<b>Grade Eight Benchmarks</b>
<p>D.8.1 Describe and explain how money makes it easier to trade, borrow, save, invest, and compare the value of goods and services.</p> <p>D.8.2 Identify and explain basic economic concepts.</p> <p>D.8.3 Describe Wisconsin's role in national and global economies and give examples of local economic activity in national and global markets.</p> <p>D.8.4 Describe how investments in human and physical capital affect standard of living and quality of life.</p> <p>D.8.5 Give examples to show how government provides for national defense.</p> <p>D.8.6 Identify and explain various points of view concerning economic issues.</p> <p>D.8.8 Explain how and why people who start new businesses take risks to provide goods and services.</p> <p>D.8.9 Explain why the earning power of workers depends on their productivity and the market value of what they produce.</p> <p>D.8.10 Identify the economic roles of institutions such as corporations and businesses, banks, labor unions, and the Federal Reserve System.</p> <p>D.8.11 Describe how personal decisions can have a global impact on issues.</p>	<p>D.8.1. Understands the benefits and uses of money.</p> <p>D.8.2. Understands the basic economic concepts.</p> <p>D.8.3. Understands Wisconsin's role in the national and global markets.</p> <p>D.8.4. Knows how capital investments affect standard of living and quality of life.</p> <p>D.8.5. Understands services provided by the government.</p> <p>D.8.6. Understands various points of view concerning economic issues.</p> <p>D.8.8. Knows the risks and rewards involved with starting a business.</p> <p>D.8.9. Knows the factors that influence the wages of workers.</p> <p>D.8.10. Knows the roles of economic institutions.</p> <p>D.8.11. Knows how personal economic decisions have a global impact.</p>

<b>STANDARD E: BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES</b>	
<b>Wisconsin Performance Standards</b>	<b>Grade Eight Benchmarks</b>
<p>E.8.5 Describe and explain the means by which groups and institutions meet the needs of individuals and societies.</p> <p>E.8.6 Describe and explain the influence of status, ethnic origin, race, gender, and age on the interactions of individuals.</p> <p>E.8.7 Identify and explain examples of bias, prejudice, and stereotyping, and how they contribute to conflict in a society.</p> <p>E.8.8 Give examples to show how the media may influence the behavior and decision-making of individuals and groups.</p> <p>E.8.10 Explain how language, art, music, beliefs, and other components of culture can further global understanding or cause misunderstanding.</p> <p>E.8.11 Explain how beliefs and practices may lead to conflict among people of different regions or cultures and give examples of such conflicts that have and have not been resolved.</p>	<p>E.8.5. Knows how the needs of individuals and society are met.</p> <p>E.8.6. Knows factors that influence individual interactions.</p> <p>E.8.7. Knows how bias, prejudice and stereotypes cause conflict in society.</p> <p>E.8.8. Knows how the media influences decision-making of society.</p> <p>E.8.10. Knows that differences in cultures may lead to understanding or misunderstanding among people.</p> <p>E.8.11. Knows how socio-economic factors may lead to conflict among people</p>

**GRADE 8**  
**SOCIAL STUDIES - BENCHMARKS BY UNIT**

<b>Unit: Economics</b>	
Econ D.8.1	Understands the benefit and uses of money.
Econ D.8.2	Understands the basic economic concepts
Econ D.8.8	Knows the risks and rewards involved with starting a business.
Econ D.8.9	Knows the factors that influence the wages of workers.
Econ D.8.10	Knows the roles of economic institutions.
Econ D.8.11	Knows how personal economic decisions have a global impact.
<b>Unit: Review (Revolutionary War through Westward Expansion)</b>	
His B.8.1	Knows how the past can be interpreted using a variety of primary sources.
Pol Sci C.8.2	Understands important political documents and their function in the American political system.
<b>Unit: Current Events (on-going)</b>	
Geo A.8.11	Knows how current global issues are related to the interaction among people, places, and environments.
His B.8.9	Knows the need for laws and policies to regulate science and technology.
Econ D.8.3	Understands Wisconsin's role in the national and global markets.
Beh Sci E.8.8	Knows how the media influences decision-making of society.
<b>Unit: A Dividing Nation</b>	
Pol Sci C.8.7	Understands and defends a position on an issue of concern.
Beh Sci E.8.5	Knows how the needs of individuals and society are met.
Beh Sci E.8.10	Knows that differences in cultures may lead to understanding or misunderstanding among people.
<b>Unit: Civil War</b>	
His B.8.2a	Uses cause and effect arguments to demonstrate how significant events have influenced the past and present world history.
His B.8.1	Knows how the past can be interpreted using a variety of primary sources.
Econ D.8.6	Understands various points of view concerning economic issues.
Beh Sci E.8.6	Knows factors that influence individual interactions.
<b>Unit: Reconstruction Era (a week)</b>	
His B.8.4	Knows how perspectives of historical events vary based on the role of the individual.
Pol Sci C.8.8	Knows ways advocates participate in public policy debates.
<b>Unit: Tensions in West (search for more benchmarks)</b>	
His B.8.4	Knows how perspectives of historical events vary based on the role of the individual.
Econ D.8.10	Knows the roles of economic institutions.
<b>Unit: Rise of Industry</b>	
Geo A.8.10	Knows how major discoveries in science and technology impact the physical and human environment
Econ D.8.2	Understands the basic economic concepts.
Econ D.8.4	Knows how capital investments affect standard of living and quality of life.
Econ D.8.8	Knows the risks and rewards involved with starting a business.

Unit: Immigration (repeated benchmarks)	
His B.8.1	Knows how the past can be interpreted using a variety of primary sources.
Beh Sci E.8.11	Knows how socio-economic factors may lead to conflict among people.
Unit: Progressive (Civics/Government)	
Geo A.8.4	Knows the cause and effect relationship between Wisconsin history and the use of environmental resources
His B.8.5	Uses historical evidence to determine and support a position about important political values.
Pol Sci C.8.1	Understands the basic principles of democracy.
Pol Sci C.8.4b	Understands federalism.
Pol Sci C.8.6	Understands the role of political parties and interest groups in American politics.
Econ D.8.5	Understands services provided by the government.