State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness Modified (STAAR™ Modified) Performance Level Descriptors Grade 8 Social Studies

Performance Level Descriptors
Students achieving Level III: Advanced Academic Performance can • Analyze historical perspectives and their effect on major events and issues in U.S. history • Examine various sources to determine point of view • Analyze political and social factors that affected the development of representative government in the United States • Describe factors contributing to the development of the free enterprise system in the United States
Students achieving Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance can • Describe the impact of English colonialism, including mercantilism, political conflict, colonial grievances, and revolution • Explain the political development of the United States, including the influence of historical documents, significant individuals, representative government, constitutional principles, and the ideals of citizenship • Recognize the purpose of amending the U.S. Constitution • Explain the causes and effects of the Civil War, including slavery, the development of sectionalism, states' rights, and Reconstruction • Describe the economic, political, and social factors associated with U.S. expansion • Recognize geographic factors that influenced issues and events in the United States, including immigration, migration, population distribution, settlement patterns, and modification of the environment • Identify ways culture has influenced the development of the United States including the impact of immigrant groups, religion, reform movements, and fine arts • Describe tariff issues and internal improvements that contributed to the economic development of the United States • Explain the social and economic effects of technological and scientific innovations on the development of the United States
Students achieving Level I: Unsatisfactory Academic Performance can • Identify significant individuals, events, and issues in U.S. history • Define major social studies terminology • Identify and use social studies sources • Recognize significant eras and events in U.S. history