



Oklahoma National History Day

Grade 8 Topic List

Creating the United States:

The Foundation, Formation, and Transformation of the American Nation, 1754–1877

Social Studies Content Standards

1. Analyze the foundations of the United States by examining the causes, events, and ideologies, which led to the American Revolution.
2. Examine key military and diplomatic events of the Revolutionary War that resulted in an independent nation.
3. Examine the formation of the American system of government following the Revolutionary War and the creation of the Constitution of the United States as the supreme law of the land.
4. Examine the political and economic changes that occurred during the Early Federal Period.
5. Analyze the political and geographic changes that occurred during the Jeffersonian Era.
6. Examine the political, economic, and social transformation during the “Era of Good Feelings.”
7. Examine the political, economic, and social transformations of the Jacksonian Era.
8. Examine the political, economic, social, and geographic changes that occurred during the period of westward expansion.
9. Analyze the social and economic transformations of the early nineteenth century.
10. Analyze major political, economic, and social events that resulted in the Civil War.
11. Analyze the course and consequences of the Civil War.
12. Analyze the political, social, and economic transformations during the Reconstruction Era to 1877.

History Day Example Topics

- Pontiac’s War: American Indians driving the British away from the Great Lakes
- The Whiskey Rebellion: How Taxes and Transport Cost Led to Armed Insurrection
- The Federalist Papers: Building a Nation Through an Eighteenth-Century Flame War
- The Quebec Act, Protestant Imperial Expansion, and the Revolutionary War
- The Five Tribes and the Loyalist Cause
- Indian Removal and Western Expansion
- Andrew Jackson, the Second Bank of the United States, and the Panic of 1837
- Tecumseh and the Western Confederacy: Leading the Battle Against Westward Expansion
- The Fugitive Slave Act: How the South Violated the Rights of Northern States and Started the American Civil War
- The Five Nations and the American Civil War
- Cotton, the Internal American Slave Trade, and Western Expansion
- The Reconstruction Treaties and the Second Trail of Tears
- Assimilation: The New Federal Policy, Oklahoma, and the Indian Wars
- George Whitefield and the Great Awakening: Preaching Christianity to America’s Slaves
- South Carolina: Leader of the Secession Movement
- Ulysses S. Grant: Leading the Campaign to Take the Mississippi River
- Andrew Johnson and the Legacy of Reconstruction