

Simple Solutions Level 8 Social Studies Topic Guide

The Social Studies topics listed below are introduced and systematically revisited throughout Level 8 and in subsequent *Simple Solutions Social Studies* books.

Topic	Lesson
Introduction to Social Studies.....	1, 8
Map Skills and Comprehension.....	2–4
Physical Features of the U.S.	5–7
Timelines	9
Economics.....	10–14
Types of Government.....	15–16
Major Religions	17–18
Thirteen Colonies.....	19–25
Overview, Great Awakening, relations with Native Americans, indentured servitude and slavery, government, economy, Enlightenment	
French and Indian War.....	26–27
Causes of the American Revolution.....	28–33
Proclamation of 1763, Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Quartering Act, Townshend Acts, Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party, First Continental Congress	
Revolutionary War.....	34–39
Declaration of Independence	36
Checks and Balances / Separation of Powers	40
State Constitutions	41
Articles of Confederation.....	42–44
Building a New Government.....	45–51
Plans and compromises, historical influences, structure, federalism, Federalists versus Anti-Federalists, Constitution, Bill of Rights	
Early U.S. Government.....	52–58
Washington Presidency, Judiciary Act of 1789, Hamilton and the National Bank, Federalists versus Democratic- Republicans, neutrality, Marbury v. Madison	

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Topic	Lesson
Expansion	59–66
Louisiana Purchase, War of 1812, sectionalism, Jackson presidency, Democrats versus Whigs, Indian Removal Act and Trail of Tears, Women of the West, Texas Revolution, Mexican–American War	
Divergence of the North from the South	67–73
Industrial Revolution, transportation infrastructure, immigration, free blacks, abolitionism, women’s rights, transcendentalism.	
Divergence of the South from the North	74–80
Cotton, slavery, slave codes and Fugitive Slave Act, abolitionism, propaganda, free blacks, whites in the South	
Causes of the Civil War	81–86
Sectionalism, disagreements over slavery, Missouri Compromise, Kansas–Nebraska Act, Dred Scott v. Sandford, election of Lincoln	
Civil War	87–95
Secession, Fort Sumter, profiles of Grant and Lee, campaigns in the East and West, Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg, final battles, assassination of Lincoln, Women in the Civil War	
Reconstruction	96–101
Thirteenth Amendment, black codes, Radical Republicans, Jim Crow laws, Ku Klux Klan, Fourteenth Amendment, Fifteenth Amendment	
Growth of the Nation	102–105
Homestead Act, Industrial Revolution, labor unions, Gilded Age, growth of cities	
Ongoing Review	106–140