



# U.S. History Student Questionnaire

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**2017  
Grade 8  
(Pilot)**

**Pilot**

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1. In which of the following grades have you learned about United States history? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Yes, I took a class or course mainly focused on United States history.	Yes, I took a class or course that included some United States history topics.	No, I did not take a class or course that taught United States history topics.	I don't remember.	
a. 5th grade	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH459699
b. 6th grade	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH459700
c. 7th grade	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH459701
d. 8th grade	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	VH459702

2. In your social studies class this year, how much have you studied the following periods of United States history? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Not at all	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	A lot	
a. The period before 1815 (for example, age of exploration, colonization, settlement, or American Revolution)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459720
b. 1815 to 1865 (for example, expansion, reform, sectionalism, or the Civil War)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459721
c. 1865 to 1945 (for example, Reconstruction, industrial growth, United States role in world events, immigration, the Great Depression, or the First and Second World Wars)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459722
d. 1945 to the present (for example, the Cold War, Civil Rights movement, women's rights movement, Vietnam War, or environmental movement)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459723

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3. During this school year, how often do you do each of the following? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Never	About once or twice a year	About once or twice a month	About once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. Read material from a United States history textbook	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459756
b. Read extra material about United States history not in the regular textbook (for example, newspapers, magazines, or online sources)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459757
c. Use primary sources (for example, letters, diaries, photographs, films, or essays written by people from the past)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459758
d. Discuss material about United States history with peers or teachers	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459760
e. Conduct research about United States history topics (for example, in a library or through interviews or observations)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459762
f. Listen to or watch movies, videos, or online content about United States history topics	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459763

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4. During this school year so far, how often have you done each of the following? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Never	Once	Two or three times	Four or five times	More than five times	
a. Gone on class field trips to learn about United States history topics	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459793
b. Given class presentations on United States history topics	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459794
c. Written about your opinion on historical issues (for example, in a letter, e-mail, or blog post)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459797
d. Taken part in historical debates or panel discussions	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459799
e. Taken part in role-playing, mock trials, or dramas about United States history topics	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459800

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5. During this school year, how often do you do each of the following when you study United States history? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Never or hardly ever	Once in a while	Sometimes	Often	Always or almost always	
a. Examine the causes and effects of important events in United States history	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459803
b. Examine how time periods in United States history are similar or different	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459806
c. Judge whether information from a source (for example, text, visual graphics, video, or audio) is accurate	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459808
d. Analyze the relationship between two historical events	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459866
e. Compare and evaluate different points of view about the past (for example, different ideas about what caused the Civil War)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459868
f. Come up with research questions about why or how something happened in the past (for example, what were the causes of the Great Depression)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459870
g. Take and defend a position about a historical issue (for example, how changes in transportation have affected the United States economy)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459871

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6. In your social studies class this year, how often do you get the following assignments? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Never or hardly ever	Less than half of the lessons	About half of the lessons	More than half of the lessons	All or almost all of the lessons	
a. Assignments that you have to complete together with other students	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH457532
b. Short written responses (for example, a paragraph or less)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH457533
c. Assignments that use different forms of media (for example, photos, videos, or music)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH457534
d. Long written responses (for example, several paragraphs)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH457540
e. Responses to questions based on information from several sources (for example, letters, cartoons, or maps)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH457542

7. Approximately how many hours a day do you spend on your **social studies** homework?

- (A) Less than 30 minutes a day
- (B) 30 minutes up to 1 hour a day
- (C) 1 up to 2 hours a day
- (D) 2 up to 3 hours a day
- (E) 3 up to 4 hours a day
- (F) More than 4 hours a day

8. When you study social studies, how often do you use computers or other digital devices to do the following? For this question, include both schoolwork and homework assignments. Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Never	About once or twice a year	About once or twice a month	About once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. Use games or apps in which you play a role (for example, an explorer, geographer, or historian)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459890
b. Organize information about United States history topics by creating tables, charts, or graphs	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459892
c. Create reports or projects about United States history using different forms of media (for example, a slide presentation that combines text and video clips)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459893
d. Participate in online discussions about United States history on a website (for example, in forums or social media)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459894
e. Use the Internet to look for evidence or sources (for example, text documents, photographic images, or films)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459895

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9. How much does each of the following statements describe a person like you? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Not at all like me	A little bit like me	Somewhat like me	Quite a bit like me	Exactly like me	
a. United States history is one of my favorite subjects to study.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459897
b. Schoolwork about United States history is easy for me.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459898
c. I enjoy doing schoolwork about United States history.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459901
d. I enjoy discussing United States history topics with others.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459905
e. I think that United States history schoolwork helps me understand what is happening in the world around me.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459906
f. I think that learning about United States history topics will be important for my future.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459907

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10. During this school year, how often do you do each of the following **outside of school**? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Never	About once or twice a year	About once or twice a month	About once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. Read books about history	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459947
b. Watch movies, videos, or TV programs about history	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459949
c. Play video games about history	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459950
d. Go to history museums or historical sites	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459952
e. Do online research related to historical topics	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459953
f. Visit websites about historical topics	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459954
g. Talk to friends or family about historical topics	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH459955

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11. Do you think that you would be able to do each of the following? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	I definitely can't	I probably can't	Maybe	I probably can	I definitely can	
a. Explain the causes and effects of important events in United States history	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460011
b. Explain how time periods in United States history are similar or different	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460016
c. Judge whether information from a source (for example, text, visual graphics, video, or audio) is accurate	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460017
d. Understand the relationship between two historical events	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460041
e. Compare and evaluate different points of view about the past (for example, different ideas about what caused the Civil War)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460042
f. Come up with research questions about why or how something happened in the past (for example, what were the causes of the Great Depression)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460043
g. Take and defend a position about a historical issue (for example, how changes in transportation have affected the United States economy)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460044

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12. How much does each of the following statements describe a person like you? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Not at all like me	A little bit like me	Somewhat like me	Quite a bit like me	Exactly like me	
a. I form opinions about historical events only after I have information from more than one source.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460068
b. I need to know the history leading up to an event to truly understand it.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460069
c. I want to know what lies behind the story when I study a conflict in history.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460071
d. I try to understand others better by imagining how things look from their perspective.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460074
e. I try to look at everybody's side of a disagreement before I make a decision.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460075
f. I believe that there is more than one side to every question, and I try to look at all of them.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH460076

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13. When you study United States history, how much does each of the following statements describe a person like you? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Not at all like me	A little bit like me	Somewhat like me	Quite a bit like me	Exactly like me	
a. I want other students to think I am a good student.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566228
b. I want to show others that my schoolwork is easy for me.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566229
c. I want to look smart in comparison to the other students in my class.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566233
d. I want to get better grades than most other students in my class.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566231

14. When you study United States history, how much does each of the following statements describe a person like you? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Not at all like me	A little bit like me	Somewhat like me	Quite a bit like me	Exactly like me	
a. I want to learn as much as possible in my class.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566242
b. I want to master a lot of new skills in my class.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566243
c. I want to become a better student this year.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566245
d. I want to get good grades in my schoolwork.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566246
e. I want to understand as much as I can in my class.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566244

15. How much does each of the following statements describe a person like you? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Not at all like me	A little bit like me	Somewhat like me	Quite a bit like me	Exactly like me	
a. I want other students to think I am a good United States history student.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566259
b. I want to show others that my United States history schoolwork is easy for me.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566260
c. I want to look smart in comparison to the other students in my social studies or United States history class.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566264
d. I want to get better United States history grades than most other students in my class.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566262

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16. How much does each of the following statements describe a person like you? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Not at all like me	A little bit like me	Somewhat like me	Quite a bit like me	Exactly like me	
a. I want to learn as much as possible about United States history in my class.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566275
b. I want to master a lot of new United States history skills in my class.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566276
c. I want to become a better United States history student this year.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566278
d. I want to get good grades in my United States history schoolwork.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566279
e. I want to understand as much as I can about United States history in my class.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH566277

17. How often do you receive help from a tutor, family member, or friend with social studies **outside of school or after school**?

- (A) Never
- (B) About once or twice a year
- (C) About once or twice a month
- (D) About once or twice a week
- (E) Every day or almost every day

18. In your social studies class this school year, how often have you done each of the following? Select **one** answer choice on each row.

	Never or hardly ever	Less than half of the time	About half of the time	More than half of the time	All or almost all of the time	
a. I came to my social studies class prepared.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH457921
b. I remembered and followed directions from my social studies teacher.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH457922
c. I started working on social studies assignments right away rather than waiting until the last minute.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH457923
d. I paid attention and resisted distractions during social studies class.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH457924
e. I stayed on task without reminders from my social studies teacher.	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	VH457925

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