

8th Grade Social Studies Summer Homework Description

Hi students! I am Mrs. Montoya and I am extremely excited to meet you in August and for our year together. In 8th grade, we study the first half of American history. We start off learning about the Native Americans, and from there will cover the following topics: Colonial life, the American Revolution, the Constitution, Westward Expansion, Slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Industrial Revolution and Personal Financial Literacy.

In order to be fully prepared for the first few weeks of class, please come back to school with the following assignment completed.

#1: Answer the question: **What does it mean to be an American to you?**

This is a complex question but I want you to think about your identity and how America influences who you are and how you feel about living in this country. Even if you were not born here or if you have only been in the country for a short amount of time, please think about how America has affected your life and the life of your family.

Students can answer this in anyway they choose! They can write a 5 paragraph essay, draw or paint a picture, make a comic book, write a song, make a poster, write a poem, make a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation, make a movie etc. Feel free to be as creative as you want. Be sure your "answer" includes the answer to the following questions:

- What words do you think of when you hear the word American?
- What are your values? What is important to you?
- What do you like or admire most about America?
- What frustrates you about America?
- How has living in this country shaped who you are? (What you do in your free time? How do you view the rest of the world? What types of food do you eat? What language(s) do you speak? Etc.)

2.) In Social Studies we will learn about the four social sciences of social studies:

-History: The study of past events

-Geography: The study of the details of the earth's surface including the land, bodies of water, climate, plants, animals and of course- people

-Civics: The study of the rights and responsibilities of citizens and of how governments work

-Economics: The study of the process of how goods and services are created, sold, bought or exchanged

Throughout the summer, record three examples OF EACH from your life. See examples below:

History: One day my grandpa explained to me why our family moved to Denver and I learned that they moved here because he got a job in Durango (family history). OR I read an article that explained how the ancient Egyptian farming methods are still used along the Nile today (world history).

Geography: On June 14, my family took a road trip to Colorado Springs and one of the differences between Denver and Colorado Springs is that the mountains are much closer to the city in Colorado Springs.

Civics: In July, my family used our right to protest against OR I read an article about how the Colorado State government passed a new law about...

Economics: In July my parents started paying me for cutting the grass. I decided to make a budget and save 20% of the money I earned over the summer.