

**Oklahoma State Testing Program**  
**Performance-Level Descriptors**  
**Grade 8 U.S. History**

**ADVANCED:** Students demonstrate superior understanding of challenging subject matter. In addition to demonstrating a broad and in-depth understanding and application of all skills at the Proficient level, students scoring at the Advanced level will

- evaluate the importance of the foundations of the United States
- analyze the ideologies, causes and effects, and events that led to the American Revolution, as well as the contributions of key individuals
- summarize key contributions of significant individuals and groups involved in the major military and diplomatic events of the Revolutionary War that resulted in an independent nation
- analyze the creation of the American system of government
- analyze the political, economic, social, and geographic transformation of the United States during the early- to mid-1800s
- compare and contrast causes and effects, events, and the political and military leadership of the Civil War
- interpret, draw inferences from, and cite specific textual and visual evidence from primary and secondary sources

**PROFICIENT:** Students demonstrate mastery over appropriate grade-level subject matter and readiness for the next grade, course, or level of education. Students scoring at the Proficient level will

- describe and summarize the foundations of the United States
- explain the ideologies, causes and effects, and events that led to the American Revolution as well as the contributions of key individuals
- explain key contributions of significant individuals and groups involved in the major military and diplomatic events of the Revolutionary War that resulted in an independent nation
- describe the creation of the American system of government
- describe the political, economic, social, and geographic transformation of the United States during the early- to mid-1800s
- compare causes and effects, events, and political and military leadership of the Civil War era: 1850-1865
- interpret, explain, and cite specific textual and visual evidence from primary and secondary sources
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**LIMITED KNOWLEDGE:** Students demonstrate partial mastery of the essential grade-level knowledge and skills. Students at the Limited Knowledge level will

- identify the foundations of the United States
- recognize some key individuals and their contributions, and some causes and major events of the Revolutionary Era
- identify key parts of the American system of government and its creation
- demonstrate a basic knowledge of the political, economic, social, and geographic transformation of the United States during the early- to mid-1800s
- recognize some causes, major events, and political and military leaders of the Civil War
- identify and distinguish between primary and secondary sources

**UNSATISFACTORY:** Students have not performed at least at the Limited Knowledge level. Students at the Unsatisfactory level have not demonstrated grade-level knowledge and skills.