

# Eighth Grade Social Studies Discovery Education Interactive Investigations

Discovery Education (DE) partners with 201 schools districts in Tennessee; providing services to 1116 schools. The TGA wants to highlight some special features available of those online services provided. These DE resources are curated via Greentech Media are available even though you should use a DE account to access them. For those that have a DE account the Interactive Investigations Library can be found [HERE](#) (Login required).

## Colonialism (1600-1750)

**Colonial Life** Your mission is to get to know four individuals who might have lived in colonial America and then explore the perspectives you think each would have on the issues of the day.

[Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

**Life in the New England Colonies** Life in colonial New England was challenging. The colonists worked to support themselves while they developed their governments and refined their ideas about their religions. In this activity, you will use the Historical Perspectives interactive tool to explore the perspectives of four individuals who might have lived during this time and faced these challenges.

[Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

**Staking a Claim in North America** What were the economic, political, and religious motivations that drove European countries to establish colonies in North America? Your mission is to trace the spread of European colonies across the North American continent, and to understand the motives that led the European countries to establish these colonies. [Teacher Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

**The Colonies Move Toward Self-Government** As the colonies became more settled, issues surrounding the relationships between England, the colonies, and Native Americans became more complex. In this activity, you will use the interactive Historical Perspectives tool to analyze some issues faced by people living in the American colonies during the mid-1700s. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

**The Pennsylvania Frame of Government** How did the Pennsylvania Frame of Government shape ideas about democratic government and religious freedom in early America? In this activity, you will answer this question by using evidence from the document to write the script for a discussion or to create a poster about democracy and religious freedom. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

**The Three Regions of the Thirteen Colonies** The New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies were very different. Which colonial region would be the most promising for a new settler? Your mission is to answer this question by determining the differences between the colonial regions after analyzing data about each region's population and economy. **(Guides not available)**

## Development of a New Nation (1720-1787)

**Declaration of Independence** What did it mean to the colonists to become an independent nation? In this investigation, you will analyze sections of the Declaration of Independence and explain how they represent the colonists' ideas about the role of government. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

**Fighting for Independence** Investigate the key events and major battles of the American Revolution to understand how and why the Americans won their independence. What gave the United States the edge over Great Britain in the Revolutionary War? [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

**Road to Revolution** Why did the relationship between the British government and the American colonies fall apart during the period 1763 to 1775? In this activity, you will use the Interactive Timeline to investigate the tensions that arose between the British government and its American

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subjects. Then, you may communicate your understanding of the historical events through a comic strip, blog, journal entry, skit, or other presentation. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[The Real Impact of the Revolution](#) Your mission is to analyze data from the era following the American Revolution to find out how much the revolution changed American society. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

## The Constitution and Foundation of the American Political System (1777-1789)

[Constitution](#) What are the basic characteristics of the United States government; as described in the Constitution? In this investigation, you will analyze the main parts of the Constitution and explain the purpose of each. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[Jefferson vs. Hamilton](#) In this Enduring Debate, you will learn about Thomas Jefferson's and Alexander Hamilton's opposing views on federal power and share your thoughts on the role of national government. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[Locke vs. Hobbes](#) What is the role of the individual in society? [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[The New Nation](#) In this investigation, you will read the opinions of four individuals who might have lived in the colonies during the 1780s. Then, you will identify how you think each person would respond to three key issues of the day and compare your answers with the historically likely perspectives on each issue. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

## Growth of the Young Nation (1789-1849)

[Exploring the Louisiana Purchase](#) How did the Louisiana Purchase change the United States? In this investigation, you will use the Timeline Map interactive tool to trace the journey made by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and to analyze the information they gained about the new land obtained from the Louisiana Purchase. [Teacher Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[Industry and Immigrants Change American Cities](#) In this Historical Perspectives investigation, your mission is to analyze three important issues related to urbanization and immigration in the United States from four different perspectives. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[Reform Movements from 1830 to 1860](#) How did the reform movements of 1830-1860 change American society? In this investigation, you will use the Map-Guided Inquiry interactive tool to explain how the most influential reform movements changed American society. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[The Roots of Native American Removal](#) What problems were created when settlers pushed into Native American lands from eastern states? In this investigation, you will use the Timeline Map interactive tool to analyze the interactions between Native Americans and European settlers in what is now the southeastern United States. [Teacher Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[The Second Wave of Westward Expansion](#) Which people most benefited from U.S. expansion across the West? In this investigation, you will use the interactive Map-Guided Inquiry tool to study facts about this time period to determine which groups of people benefited most. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

# Eighth Grade Social Studies Discovery Education Interactive Investigations

[Washington's Farewell Address to the Nation](#) When George Washington completed his last term as president, he published a letter about the issues that concerned him. Why is Washington's Farewell Address still important today? In this investigation, you will use the interactive Source Analysis tool to analyze the address and determine which issues he discussed are still relevant today. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[Westward Expansion](#) What were the economic, political, and other motivations that drove the United States to expand to the Pacific coast? Your mission is to examine the changes made to U.S. borders between 1830 and 1853 and explain what motivated these changes. [Student Guide](#) [Teacher's Guide](#)

## The United States' Role on the World Stage (1789-1849)

[King Andrew the First](#) What was the cartoonist's message in King Andrew the First? In this investigation, you will use the Source Analysis tool to identify important details in a famous political cartoon about Andrew Jackson. You will then analyze the cartoon, interpret its meaning, and respond to its message. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[Perspectives on the War of 1812](#) In this Historical Perspectives interactive, you will hear four different accounts of relations between the United States and Great Britain and analyze the events that led to the War of 1812. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[The Monroe Doctrine](#) What was the Monroe Doctrine? In this investigation, you will analyze the Monroe Doctrine to understand how it established a U.S. foreign policy. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

## The Sectionalism of the American North, South, and West (1800-1850)

[Challenges and Opportunities for the Expanding Nation](#) What challenges and opportunities confronted Americans who settled in new states and territories after 1812? In this investigation, you will use the Map-Guided Inquiry interactive tool to examine whether the benefits of expansion outweighed the difficulties. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[Same Nation, Different Worlds](#) The first half of the 1800s was characterized by increasing conflict between the Northern and Southern regions of the United States. What made these regions so different from one another? Your mission is to investigate and analyze the economic differences between the North and South before the Civil War. [Student Guide](#) [Teacher's Guide](#)

## Slavery in America (1800-1850)

[Life in Slavery](#) What was life like for slaves in the South? How did abolitionists make Americans aware of slaves' living conditions? In this investigation, you will examine an abolitionist print from 1830 to explain how it demonstrates the realities of slave life and verifies the testimonies of former slaves. [Student Guide](#) [Teacher's Guide](#)

[The Impact of the Cotton Gin](#) How could a simple invention increase the political power of the South within the United States? In this Data Analysis, you will analyze the social and economic impacts of technological advancements in cotton production in the 1800s. [Student Guide](#) [Teacher's Guide](#)

[Triangular Trade](#) How did international trade shape U.S. history? In this investigation, you will use the Map-Guided Inquiry interactive tool to examine changes in trade patterns over time. [Teacher Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

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## Civil War (1830-1865)

[A Nation Divided](#) Your mission is to analyze three important issues impacting the United States in 1860 from four different perspectives. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[The Course of the Civil War](#) What tactics did the Northern generals and Abraham Lincoln use to win the Civil War in spite of many lost battles? In this investigation, you will use the Timeline Map interactive tool to examine the major movements of the Union and the Confederate armies from 1861 to 1865 and trace the advantages and disadvantages each side had as the war proceeded.

[Teacher Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

## Reconstruction (1865-1877)

[The Civil Rights Amendments](#) How did the Civil War and the passage of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments change the legal status of African Americans? Analyze the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution to determine how they changed the civil and political roles of African Americans. [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[African Americans in Congress](#) African Americans held only 2 percent of the congressional offices in 1875. How long would it take for that number to reach just 3 percent? Your mission is to investigate how the participation of African Americans in Congress changed following the Civil War.

[Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[Unity and Division](#) Find out how two presidents, Congress, and the people of the North and South tried to steer the process of reuniting the nation after the Civil War. Was Reconstruction mostly a success or mostly a failure? [Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

[The Compromise of 1877](#) The Compromise of 1877 settled a split presidential election without resorting to constitutional law or the courts. How did this split election lead to the end of Reconstruction? Your mission is to analyze the factors that led to the Compromise of 1877.

[Teacher's Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)

## Westward Expansion after the Civil War (1865-1890)

[The Making of the West](#) The western United States changed dramatically during the final part of the 19th century. This leads us to consider what the population of the West was really like during the time period. Your mission is to analyze the growing population of the western United States during the first half of the 1800s, as well as the reasons for this population boom. [Teacher Guide](#) [Student Guide](#)