

African American History

Theme: American and National Identity

- Analyze relationships among different regional, social, ethnic, and racial groups, and explain how these groups' experiences have related to U.S. national identity.

Theme: Politics and Power

- Explain how popular movements, reform efforts, and activist groups have sought to change American society and institutions.

Theme: Work, Exchange and Technology

- Explain how different labor systems developed in North America and the United States, and explain their effects on workers' lives and U.S. society.

Theme: Culture and Society

- Explain how different group identities, including racial, ethnic, class, and regional identities, have emerged and changed over time.

Theme: Migration and Settlement

- Explain the causes of migration to colonial North America and, later, the United States, and analyze immigration's effects on U.S. society.
- Analyze causes of internal migration and patterns of settlement in what would become the United States, and explain how migration has affected American life.

Period 1: 1491-1607

Required Information

1. The Columbian Exchange and development of the Spanish Empire in the Western Hemisphere resulted in extensive demographic, economic, and social changes.
 - European traders partnered with some West African groups who practiced slavery to forcibly extract slave labor for the Americas. The Spanish imported enslaved Africans to labor in plantation agriculture and mining.
 - The Spanish developed a caste system that incorporated, and carefully defined the status of, the diverse population of Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans in their empire.
2. In their interactions, Europeans and Native Americans asserted divergent worldviews regarding issues such as religion, gender roles, family, land use, and power.
 - Extended contact with Native Americans and Africans fostered a debate among European religious and political leaders about how non-Europeans should be treated, as well as evolving religious, cultural, and racial justifications for the subjugation of Africans and Native Americans.

Optional Information

3. Zambo
4. Columbian Exchange

Period 2: 1607-1754

Required Information

5. Spanish, French, Dutch, and British colonizers had different economic and imperial goals involving land and labor that shaped the social and political development of their colonies as well as their relationships with native populations.
 - Spanish efforts to extract wealth from the land led them to develop institutions based on subjugating native populations, converting them to Christianity, and incorporating them, along with enslaved and free Africans, into the Spanish colonial society.
6. In the 17th century, early British colonies developed along the Atlantic coast, with regional differences that reflected various environmental, economic, cultural, and demographic factors.
 - The Chesapeake and North Carolina colonies grew prosperous exporting tobacco — a labor-intensive product initially cultivated by white, mostly male indentured servants and later by enslaved Africans.
 - The colonies of the southernmost Atlantic coast and the British West Indies used long growing seasons to develop plantation economies based on exporting staple crops. They depended on the labor of enslaved Africans, who often constituted the majority of the population in these areas and developed their own forms of cultural and religious autonomy.
7. Competition over resources between European rivals and American Indians encouraged industry and trade and led to conflict in the Americas.
 - An Atlantic economy developed in which goods, as well as enslaved Africans and American Indians, were exchanged between Europe, Africa, and the Americas through extensive trade networks. European colonial economies focused on acquiring, producing, and exporting commodities that were valued in Europe and gaining new sources of labor.
8. Like other European empires in the Americas that participated in the Atlantic slave trade, the English colonies developed a system of slavery that reflected the specific economic, demographic, and geographic characteristics of those colonies.
 - All the British colonies participated to varying degrees in the Atlantic slave trade due to the abundance of land and a growing European demand for colonial goods, as well as a shortage of indentured servants. Small New England farms used relatively few enslaved laborers, all port cities held significant minorities of enslaved people, and the emerging plantation systems of the Chesapeake and the southernmost Atlantic coast had large numbers of enslaved workers, while the great majority of enslaved Africans were sent to the West Indies.
 - As chattel slavery became the dominant labor system in many southern colonies, new laws created a strict racial system that prohibited interracial relationships and defined the descendants of African American mothers as black and enslaved in perpetuity.
 - Africans developed both overt and covert means to resist the dehumanizing aspects of slavery and maintain their family and gender systems, culture, and religion.

Optional Information

9. First Africans brought to American, 1619

10. middle passage

11. triangular trade

Period 3: 1754-1800

Required Information

12. The ideals that inspired the revolutionary cause reflected new beliefs about politics, religion, and society that had been developing over the course of the 18th century.
- During and after the American Revolution, an increased awareness of inequalities in society motivated some individuals and groups to call for the abolition of slavery and greater political democracy in the new state and national governments.
13. After declaring independence, American political leaders created new constitutions and declarations of rights that articulated the role of the state and federal governments while protecting individual liberties and limiting both centralized power and excessive popular influence.
- The Constitutional Convention compromised over the representation of slave states in Congress and the role of the federal government in regulating both slavery and the slave trade, allowing the prohibition of the international slave trade after 1808.
14. New forms of national culture and political institutions developed in the United States alongside continued regional variations and differences over economic, political, social, and foreign policy issues.
- The expansion of slavery in the deep South and adjacent western lands and rising antislavery sentiment began to create distinctive regional attitudes toward the institution.
15. In the decades after American independence, interactions among different groups resulted in competition for resources, shifting alliances, and cultural blending.
- As settlers moved westward during the 1780s, Congress enacted the Northwest Ordinance for admitting new states; the ordinance promoted public education, the protection of private property, and a ban on slavery in the Northwest Territory.

Optional Information

16. Massachusetts Body of Liberties makes Massachusetts the first colony to legalize slavery, 1641
17. Pennsylvania Gradual Emancipation Law, 1780
18. Northwest Ordinances
19. Three-Fifths Compromise and Slave Trade Compromise, 1787
20. Invention of the Cotton Gin, 1793
21. Toussaint L'Ouverture, 1797

Period 4: 1800-1848

Required Information

22. The nation's transition to a more participatory democracy was achieved by expanding suffrage from a system based on property ownership to one based on voting by all adult white men, and it was accompanied by the growth of political parties.
 - Regional interests often trumped national concerns as the basis for many political leaders' positions on slavery and economic policy.
23. While Americans embraced a new national culture, various groups developed distinctive cultures of their own.
 - Enslaved blacks and free African Americans created communities and strategies to protect their dignity and family structures, and they joined political efforts aimed at changing their status.
24. Increasing numbers of Americans, many inspired by new religious and intellectual movements, worked primarily outside of government institutions to advance their ideals.
 - Abolitionist and antislavery movements gradually achieved emancipation in the North, contributing to the growth of the free African American population, even as many state governments restricted African Americans' rights. Antislavery efforts in the South were largely limited to unsuccessful slave rebellions.
25. The United States's acquisition of lands in the West gave rise to contests over the extension of slavery into new territories.
 - As overcultivation depleted arable land in the Southeast, slaveholders began relocating their plantations to more fertile lands west of the Appalachians, where the institution of slavery continued to grow.
 - Antislavery efforts increased in the North, while in the South, although the majority of Southerners owned no slaves, most leaders argued that slavery was part of the Southern way of life.
 - Congressional attempts at political compromise, such as the Missouri Compromise, only temporarily stemmed growing tensions between opponents and defenders of slavery.

Optional Information

26. African Slave Trade outlawed, 1808
27. southern defense of slavery
28. Calhoun's Speech in the U.S. Senate, 1837
29. Slave Codes
30. American Colonization Society, 1817
31. Missouri Compromise, 1820
32. Denmark Vesey, 1822
33. Nat Turner, 1831

34. American Anti-Slavery Society, 1833

35. Liberty Party, 1840

36. William Lloyd Garrison

37. Sojourner Truth

38. Elijah Lovejoy

39. Frederick Douglass

Period 5: 1844-1877

Required Information

40. Popular enthusiasm for U.S. expansion, bolstered by economic and security interests, resulted in the acquisition of new territories, substantial migration westward, and new overseas initiatives.
- The U.S. added large territories in the West through victory in the Mexican-American War and diplomatic negotiations, raising questions about the status of slavery, American Indians, and Mexicans in the newly acquired lands.
41. Ideological and economic differences over slavery produced an array of diverging responses from Americans in the North and the South.
- The North's expanding manufacturing economy relied on free labor in contrast to the Southern economy's dependence on slave labor. Some Northerners did not object to slavery on principle but claimed that slavery would undermine the free labor market. As a result, a free-soil movement arose that portrayed the expansion of slavery as incompatible with free labor.
 - African American and white abolitionists, although a minority in the North, mounted a highly visible campaign against slavery, presenting moral arguments against the institution, assisting slaves' escapes, and sometimes expressing a willingness to use violence to achieve their goals.
 - Defenders of slavery based their arguments on racial doctrines, the view that slavery was a positive social good, and the belief that slavery and states' rights were protected by the Constitution.
42. Debates over slavery came to dominate political discussion in the 1850s, culminating in the bitter election of 1860 and the secession of Southern states.
- The Mexican Cession led to heated controversies over whether to allow slavery in the newly acquired territories.
 - The courts and national leaders made a variety of attempts to resolve the issue of slavery in the territories, including the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and the Dred Scott decision, but these ultimately failed to reduce conflict.
 - The Second Party System ended when the issues of slavery and anti-immigrant nativism weakened loyalties to the two major parties and fostered the emergence of sectional parties, most notably the Republican Party in the North.

43. The North's greater manpower and industrial resources, the leadership of Abraham Lincoln and others, and the decision to emancipate slaves eventually led to the Union military victory over the Confederacy in the devastating Civil War.
- Lincoln and most Union supporters began the Civil War to preserve the Union, but Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation reframed the purpose of the war and helped prevent the Confederacy from gaining full diplomatic support from European powers. Many African Americans fled southern plantations and enlisted in the Union Army, helping to undermine the Confederacy.
 - Lincoln sought to reunify the country and used speeches such as the Gettysburg Address to portray the struggle against slavery as the fulfillment of America's founding democratic ideals.
44. Reconstruction and the Civil War ended slavery, altered relationships between the states and the federal government, and led to debates over new definitions of citizenship, particularly regarding the rights of African Americans, women, and other minorities.
- The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, while the 14th and 15th amendments granted African Americans citizenship, equal protection under the laws, and voting rights.
 - Efforts by radical and moderate Republicans to change the balance of power between Congress and the presidency and to reorder race relations in the defeated South yielded some short-term successes. Reconstruction opened up political opportunities and other leadership roles to former slaves, but it ultimately failed, due both to determined Southern resistance and the North's waning resolve.
 - Southern plantation owners continued to own the majority of the region's land even after Reconstruction. Former slaves sought land ownership but generally fell short of self-sufficiency, as an exploitative and soil-intensive sharecropping system limited blacks' and poor whites' access to land in the South.
 - Segregation, violence, Supreme Court decisions, and local political tactics progressively stripped away African American rights, but the 14th and 15th amendments eventually became the basis for court decisions upholding civil rights in the 20th century.

Optional Information

45. peculiar institution
46. Free Soil Party, 1848
47. Compromise of 1850
48. Fugitive Slave Law, 1850
49. Underground Railroad, 1850-1860
50. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 1852
51. Kansas-Nebraska Act
52. *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, 1857
53. Harper's Ferry, 1859

54. Emancipation Proclamation, 1863
55. 13th Amendment, 1865
56. Black Codes
57. Freedman's Bureau, 1865-1872
58. 14th Amendment, 1868
59. 15th Amendment, 1870
60. Civil Rights Act of 1875
61. sharecropping (tenant farming)
62. Black Reconstruction
63. Ku Klux Klan
64. Redeemers
65. Compromise of 1877

Period 6: 1865-1898

Required Information

66. International and internal migration increased urban populations and fostered the growth of a new urban culture.
 - As cities became areas of economic growth featuring new factories and businesses, they attracted immigrants from Asia and from southern and eastern Europe, as well as African American migrants within and out of the South. Many migrants moved to escape poverty, religious persecution, and limited opportunities for social mobility in their home countries or regions.
 - Urban neighborhoods based on particular ethnicities, races, and classes provided new cultural opportunities for city dwellers.
67. Dramatic social changes in the period inspired political debates over citizenship, corruption, and the proper relationship between business and government.
 - The Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that upheld racial segregation helped to mark the end of most of the political gains African Americans made during Reconstruction. Facing increased violence, discrimination, and scientific theories of race, African American reformers continued to fight for political and social equality.

Optional Information

68. Colored Farmers' Alliance, 1886

69. Jim Crow Laws

70. grandfather clause

71. *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 1896

72. Booker T. Washington

73. Atlanta Compromise, 1895

74. Ida Wells-Barnett

Period 7: 1890-1945

Required Information

75. During the 1930s, policymakers responded to the mass unemployment and social upheavals of the Great Depression by transforming the U.S. into a limited welfare state, redefining the goals and ideas of modern American liberalism.
- Although the New Deal did not end the Depression, it left a legacy of reforms and regulatory agencies and fostered a long-term political realignment in which many ethnic groups, African Americans, and working-class communities identified with the Democratic Party.
76. Popular culture grew in influence in U.S. society, even as debates increased over the effects of culture on public values, morals, and American national identity.
- In the 1920s, cultural and political controversies emerged as Americans debated gender roles, modernism, science, religion, and issues related to race and immigration.
77. Economic pressures, global events, and political developments caused sharp variations in the numbers, sources, and experiences of both international and internal migrants.
- In a Great Migration during and after World War I, African Americans escaping segregation, racial violence, and limited economic opportunity in the South moved to the North and West, where they found new opportunities but still encountered discrimination.
78. U.S. participation in World War II transformed American society, while the victory of the United States and its allies over the Axis powers vaulted the U.S. into a position of global, political, and military leadership.
- Mobilization and military service provided opportunities for women and minorities to improve their socioeconomic positions for the war's duration, while also leading to debates over racial segregation. Wartime experiences also generated challenges to civil liberties, such as the internment of Japanese Americans.

Optional Information

79. W.E.B. DuBois and the Niagara Movement, 1905

80. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 1909

81. Birth of a Nation, 1915
82. Harlem Renaissance
83. jazz
84. Marcus Garvey
85. A. Philip Randolph
86. Mary McLeod Bethune
87. Congress of Racial Equality, 1942

Periods 8 and 9: 1945 to the Present

Required Information

88. Seeking to fulfill Reconstruction-era promises, civil rights activists and political leaders achieved some legal and political successes in ending segregation, although progress toward racial equality was slow.
 - During and after World War II, civil rights activists and leaders, most notably Martin Luther King Jr., combatted racial discrimination utilizing a variety of strategies, including legal challenges, direct action, and nonviolent protest tactics.
 - The three branches of the federal government used measures including desegregation of the armed services, *Brown v. Board of Education*, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to promote greater racial equality.
 - Continuing resistance slowed efforts at desegregation, sparking social and political unrest across the nation. Debates among civil rights activists over the efficacy of nonviolence increased after 1965.
89. Responding to social conditions and the African American civil rights movement, a variety of movements emerged that focused on issues of identity, social justice, and the environment.
90. Liberalism influenced postwar politics and court decisions, but it came under increasing attack from the left as well as from a resurgent conservative movement.
 - Liberal ideas found expression in Lyndon Johnson's Great Society, which attempted to use federal legislation and programs to end racial discrimination, eliminate poverty, and address other social issues. A series of Supreme Court decisions expanded civil rights and individual liberties.
 - Some groups on the left also rejected liberal policies, arguing that political leaders did too little to transform the racial and economic status quo at home and pursued immoral policies abroad.
 - The 1970s saw growing clashes between conservatives and liberals over social and cultural issues, the power of the federal government, race, and movements for greater individual rights.

Optional Information

91. Desegregation of the Armed Services, 1948

92. *Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954
93. Southern Manifesto, 1954
94. Rosa Parks
95. Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955-56
96. Martin Luther King, Jr.
97. Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), 1957
98. Integration of Little Rock High School, 1957
99. Civil Rights Act of 1957
100. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), 1960
101. sit-ins
102. freedom rides, 1961
103. public order laws
104. James Meredith
105. March on Washington, 1963
106. Mississippi Summer Project (Freedom Summer), 1964
107. Civil Rights Act of 1964
108. March from Selma to Montgomery, 1965
109. Voting Rights Act of 1965
110. Watts, 1965
111. Black Power
112. Nation of Islam (Black Muslims)
113. Malcolm X
114. Stokely Carmichael
115. Black Panthers

116. Martin Luther King assassinated, 1968
117. race riots, 1968
118. Kerner Commission Report, 1968
119. George Wallace
120. *Bakke v. University of California*, 1978
121. cultural pluralism
122. Barack Obama