

Teaching Unit: *America Claims an Empire*

Essential Understandings

(THEMES: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS, WAR & DIPLOMACY, GLOBALIZATION)

Prior to American involvement in both the First and Second World Wars, the United States adopted an official policy of neutrality.

The United States entered the First World War not only “to make the world safe for democracy”, as President Wilson claimed, but also to safeguard American economic interests.

It was the strength of the opposition forces, both liberal and conservative, rather than the ineptitude and stubbornness of President Wilson that led to the Senate defeat of the Treaty of Versailles.

As a result of its role in World War I, the United States emerged as a dominant global power.

War produces unpredictable results.

The treaty ending World War I planted the seeds for WWII.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Analyze the American decision to declare war on Germany in 1917.

Identify the causes of WWI.

Analyze the effects of WWI on the economic, political and social aspects of American society.

Identify American goals for WWI and determine to what extent those goals were achieved.

Compare the debates that took place over American expansionism in the 1840s with those that took place in the 1890s.

Explain the significance of the Spanish-American War.

Compare and contrast the foreign policies of Presidents Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson.

Assess the validity of various historical statements:

Example: Both the Mexican War and the Spanish-American War were premeditated affairs resulting from deliberately calculated schemes of robbery on the part of a superior power against weak and defenseless neighbors.

Analyze to what extent late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century United States expansionism was a continuation of past United States expansionism and to what extent it was a departure.

Teaching Unit: *The Roaring 20s*

Essential Understandings

The 1920s were a period of tension between new and changing attitudes on the one hand and traditional values and nostalgia on the other.

Social dislocations resulting from wartime conditions frequently bring lasting change within a society.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Analyze primary source documents.

Determine the historical significance and accuracy of primary source information.

Identify the dichotomy of the 1920s.

Describe the social tensions that arose in the US after WWI.

Teaching Unit: *The Great Depression*

Essential Understandings

(THEMES: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS, DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES, ENVIRONMENT, REFORM)

The economic policies of the federal government from 1921 to 1929 were responsible for the nation's depression of the 1930s.

Wage cuts, growing unemployment, and lower farm prices brought widespread suffering to many Americans.

The federal government began to play a more active role in the economy as a result of the Great Depression.

People looked to the government for support.

While increasing the role of the government in the economy, New Deal policies also preserved democracy and the free enterprise system.

The New Deal dramatically changed the relationship between the federal government and the American people.

The Great Depression had a widespread and severe impact on American life.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Analyze the responses of Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt to the Great Depression.

Determine the success of New Deal programs in solving the problems of the Great Depression.

Analyze the ways in which the Great Depression altered the American social fabric in the 1930s.

Analyze primary source documents (photographs)

Identify the causes of the Great Depression.

Describe the legacy of the New Deal.

Teaching Unit: ***World War II***

Essential Understandings

(THEMES: WAR & DIPLOMACY, GLOBALIZATION, AMERICAN DIVERSITY, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS, CULTURE, AMERICAN IDENTITY)

Prior to American involvement in both the First and Second World Wars, the U.S. adopted an official policy of neutrality.

Certain economic and political conditions may lead to totalitarian governments.

Aggression and intolerance are characteristics of totalitarian governments.

The U.S. slowly moved from neutrality to active support of the Allies.

The impact of war mobilization changed the U.S. economy.

War mobilization altered the role of women in the work force.

War accentuated existing racial and ethnic divisions.

The war expanded the role of government in American life.

WWII changed the nature of warfare.

The U.S. became the world's leading superpower after WWII which brought burdens and responsibilities.

The legacy of WWI ultimately led to WWII.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Identify the reasons for a change in United States foreign policy between 1920 and 1941.

Analyze primary and secondary source documents and use that knowledge to take a position on the necessity of the United States dropping an atomic bomb on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Identify major battles of WWII and determine their significance to the outcome of WWII.

Describe the ways in which WWII changed the nature of warfare.

Describe the ways in which the role of women changed during WWII.

Explain how WWI paved the way for WWII.

Debate the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII.

Analyze the political and social effects of WWII.

Describe the impact of WWII on minority groups in America.

Teaching Unit: *The Cold War*

Essential Understandings

(THEMES: WAR & DIPLOMACY, GLOBALIZATION, CULTURE)

The U.S. could no longer endorse an isolationist foreign policy.

The U.S. became the world's leading superpower after WWII which brought burdens and responsibilities.

Diplomatic relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union quickly broke down after the war.

The ideological beliefs and concerns created different goals for the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

American foreign policy in the postwar years was based on containment of Communism.

The Cold War often exploded and created "hot spots."

Wars such as those in Korea and Vietnam were a result of American Cold War policy of containment.

The collapse of the Soviet Union brought an end to the Cold War that had dominated American policy for forty years.

Social dislocations resulting from wartime conditions frequently bring lasting change within a society.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Explain the policy of containment, and analyze its effectiveness during the Cold War.

Analyze the response of the Eisenhower administration in dealing with the Cold War and determine its effectiveness.

Analyze and respond to political cartoons about the Cold War.

Locate areas of conflict on maps and globes.

Draw conclusions and generalizations about data.

Explain cause and effect relationships.

Analyze American-Soviet relations in the decade following the Second World War.

Explain the appeal of McCarthyism in the US during the 1950s.

Identify the Cold War fears of the American people in the aftermath of WWII.

Analyze developments from 1941 to 1949 that increased suspicion and tension between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Evaluate the reputation of the 1950s as a decade of political, social, and cultural conformity.

Identify the major confrontations of the Cold War.

Teaching Unit: ***The 1960s***

Essential Understandings

(THEMES: REFORM, RELIGION, AMERICAN DIVERSITY, AMERICAN IDENTITY, CULTURE, POLITICS & CITIZENSHIP)

As the sole superpower, the U.S. struggles to establish a consistent policy in a rapidly changing and an increasingly interdependent world.

“Separate but equal is inherently unequal.”

U.S. Supreme Court decisions can promote social change.

Nonviolent protests and demonstrations produced changes.

The Federal government responded to calls for change.

The 1960s represent a period of profound cultural change.

Teaching Unit: ***Protest & Turmoil***

Essential Understandings

(THEMES: WAR & DIPLOMACY, GLOBALIZATION, CULTURE, REFORM, AMERICAN IDENTITY)

Nonviolent demonstrations and protests produced changes.

Productivity gains of the 1950s and 1960s slowed to the vanishing point during the 1970s.

The Vietnam War precipitated economic distortions.

The growth and optimism of the quarter-century since WWII came to an end with a stalemated, unpopular war and a stagnant economy.

The Vietnam War heightened social, political, and economic tensions in the United States.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Historical analysis of documents, records, and data.

Formulate historical questions and defend findings based on inquiry and interpretation.

Interpret ideas and concepts as expressed in print and non-print sources.

Analyze the Supreme Court decisions during the 1950s and 1960s and explain how they promoted change.

Analyze the extent to which American society in the 1960s was transformed by the Civil Rights movement, the antiwar movement, and the women’s movement.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Identify the ways in which American society was changed by the Civil Rights Movement, the antiwar movement, and the women’s movement.

Describe the causes and effects of the Vietnam War.

Analyze Supreme Court Case decisions.

Analyze the ways in which the Vietnam War heightened social, political, and economic tensions in the United States.

Analyze primary source documents.

Describe and account for the changes in the American presidency between 1960 and 1975, as symbolized by Kennedy’s “Camelot”, Johnson’s Great Society, and Nixon’s Watergate.

Teaching Unit: *From Reagan Onward*

Essential Understandings

Contemporary America refers to the time period from 1970 to the present.

There are philosophical differences about the role of government in managing the economy.

The trend of the Supreme Court has been toward conservative based decisions, with a few exceptions that reflect a more liberal philosophy.

Sub Topic:

Knowledge and Skills

Compare and contrast differing sets of ideas, values, personalities, behaviors, and institutions.

Select and defend positions.

Evaluate information for accuracy and separate fact from opinion.

Analyze Supreme Court Case decisions.

Identify the evolution of rights, freedoms, and protections through political and social movements.
