

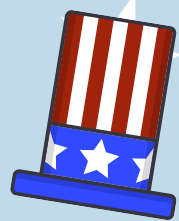
HISTORICAL THINKING SKILLS

Themes of AP US History

These themes focus on major historical issues and changes, helping students connect the historical content they study to broad developments and processes that have emerged over centuries in what has become the United States.

1 AMERICA & NATIONAL IDENTITY

What does it mean to be an American? From where & why do Americans share common values? This theme focuses on citizenship, constitutionalism, foreign policy, assimilation, and American exceptionalism



2 WORK, EXCHANGE & TECHNOLOGY

How has the economy affected American growth domestically & internationally? This theme focuses on the factors behind the development of systems of economic exchange, particularly the role of technology, economic markets, and government.



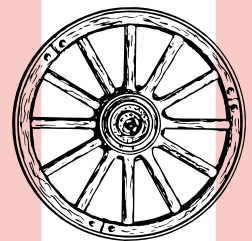
3 GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

How does the environment shape the United States? This theme focuses on how geography, and natural and human-made environments affect social and political development in the United States.



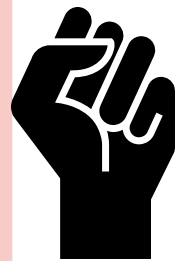
4 MIGRATION & SETTLEMENT

How does both forced and willing migration and immigration affect America? This theme focuses on why and how the various people who moved to and within the United States adapted to and transformed their new social and physical environments.



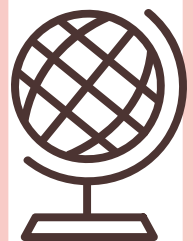
5 POLITICS & POWER

How have different social and political groups impacted the United States? This theme focuses on how different social and political groups have influenced society and government in the United States as well as how political beliefs and institutions have changed over time.



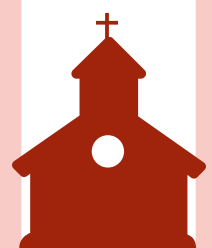
6 AMERICA & THE WORLD

How has the relationship between the United States and the world evolved? This theme focuses on the interactions between nations that affected North American history from the colonial period through the modern global community.



7 AMERICAN & REGIONAL CULTURE

How do regional identities effect American ideals of government and economic structures? This theme focuses on the how and why national, regional, and group cultures developed and changed as well as how culture has shaped government policy and the economy.



8 SOCIAL STRUCTURES

How do social norms evolve? This theme focuses on how and why systems of social organization develop and change as well as the impact that these systems have on the broader society.

