

AP United States History (APUSH) Summer Reading Assignment --- 2023

The learning objectives for AP U.S History are organized in a framework that encourages you to engage with American history through the perspective of **time periods and themes**. Evaluating historical content in this manner will help you to recognize and identify broad, recurring concepts, trends, and processes. In the AP course you will further develop your ability to make connections between the trends and processes that have emerged over centuries of America's development. Making these connections will enable you to fully grasp the "big picture" of U.S history. To fully understand history at the AP level, you will need to think analytically and critically. To effectively do this, you need to consistently utilize the **historical reasoning skills of causation, comparison, and change and continuity over time**.

AP US History Key Themes

American and National Identity -- This theme focuses on the development and evolution of the American identity and American values. Covered within this theme are the circumstances, events, and people who have influenced, changed, or expressed what it means to be "American".

Politics and Power – This theme focuses on the role of government in society and its potential as an agent of change. This includes the mechanisms for creating, implementing, or limiting participation in the political process and the resulting social, political, and economic effects. Within this theme are the individuals and/or groups who have defined or redefined our rights, liberties, and the parameters of citizenship.

Work, Exchange, and Technology– This theme focuses on the factors behind the development of systems of economic exchange. Included in this theme are the ways that different economic and labor systems, technological innovations, and government policies have shaped the American economy and society.

American and Regional Culture – This theme focuses on how and why national, regional, and group cultures developed and changed as well as how culture has shaped government policy and the economy.

Social Structures– 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 economy.

Migration and Settlement– This theme focuses on why and how the various people who moved to and within the United States both adapted to and transformed their new social and physical environments. Included within this theme is an exploration of the beliefs, traditions, religions, and technologies that immigrants, migrants, and annexed peoples brought with them and the impact these factors had on America.

Geography and the Environment – This theme focuses on the role of geography, both the natural and human-made, on social and political developments within the United States.

America in the World – This theme focuses on the interaction between America and other nations and the impact that those interactions have had on the course of American history.

AP Historical Reasoning Skills

Causation (cause & effect)

Comparison (similar to and different from)

Change and continuity over time

The first time period under study in September is **Period Six: 1877 to 1917**. This period covers the economic, social, cultural, and political trends that developed between Civil War Reconstruction and the First World War. There are three key concepts covered within this time period.

Key Concept 6:1 – Technological advances and innovations, large-scale production methods, and the opening of new markets encouraged the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States. As a result, new relationships emerged between laborers and management and issues of safety, fairness, and economic parity surfaced. The new corporate framework fostered an increased focus on education and the rise of a distinctive middle class.

Key Concept 6:2 -- The migrations that accompanied industrialization transformed both rural and urban areas of the United States causing dramatic social and cultural changes. Debates over assimilation and Americanization cause public division.

Key Concept 6:3 – The Gilded Age produced new cultural and intellectual movements, public reform efforts, and political debates over the role of government and the formulation of social and economic policies. Resulting from differing interests and concerns, political ideologies diverged along rural, urban, laborer, and managerial lines.

Summer Reading Assignment :

- With the key concepts in mind, you are to read the following chapters in the textbook, *America's History, Eighth Edition* by Edwards, Hinderaker, Self, and Henretta.
 - You can access a pdf copy of the textbook [here](#)
 - Chapter 17, textbook pages 544-571 (The PDF page numbers are 598-625)
Industrial America: Corporations and Conflicts
- You are to take **comprehensive notes** sorting & cataloging the historical content into the "Key Themes of U.S History" described on the previous page.
- Although you may utilize whatever note-taking method you prefer, your notes should clearly indicate how the **content connects to a theme**. Note: Every theme may not be addressed in the chapter under review.
- While reading, you need to **think critically** about the historical conditions that are developing as the nation approaches the twentieth century. To do this effectively, you need to utilize the AP historical reasoning skills.
- **Annotate your notes making observations and drawing conclusions** about **how and why** the history being revealed represents changes from and/or continuities with or similarities to or differences from what you already know. Also evaluate **how and why** the history being revealed might be the effect/result of past events or situations and **how and why** the history being revealed might cause the United States to move in a new direction.

Your analysis of the time period and themes will be assessed with a reading check quiz within the first full week of school (It will not be the first day). Success on the reading check quiz, formatted as short answer questions, requires that you have framed your analysis and evaluation of the time period using the AP historical reasoning skills of comparison, causation, and/or change and continuity over time.

Please feel free to email me at mangarelli@cranfordschools.org during the summer if you have a question or need something clarified.

Stay safe and enjoy your summer. I look forward to having you in the AP US History class with me in September.