

**United States History II Honors  
Summer Assignment --- 2019**

The learning objectives for U.S History II Honors 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 Evaluating historical content in this manner will help you to recognize and identify broad, recurring themes, trends, and processes. In the Honors 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 an advanced level, you will need to think analytically and critically. To effectively do this you need to consistently utilize the historical thinking skills of causation, comparison, and change and continuity over time.

**Key themes of U.S History**

**American and National Identity (NAT)** -- 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 (POL)** – 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 (WXT)** – 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.

**Culture and Society (CUL)** – This theme focuses on the roles that ideas, beliefs, social customs, and creative expression have played in shaping the United States. Also addressed within this theme is how various identities, cultures, and values have been preserved or changed during different periods of America's development.

**Migration and Settlement (MIG)** – 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 (GEO)** – This theme focuses on the role of geography, both the natural and human-made, on social and political developments within the United States.

**American in the World (WOR)** – 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.

The first historical period under study in September is 1870 – 1900: Industrialization and Growth of the Cities. This period covers the economic, social, cultural, and political trends that developed between post -Civil War Reconstruction and the turn of the twentieth century. There are three key concepts covered within this period.

**Key Concept 1** –Technological advances, large-scale production methods, and the opening of new markets encouraged the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States

**Key Concept 2** -- The migrations that accompanied industrialization transformed both rural and urban areas of the United States causing dramatic social and cultural changes.

**Key Concept 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.

### **Historical Thinking Skills**

To fully understand history, you must think critically about the content you are reading. To do this effectively you need to utilize the “historical thinking skills” that are used by all historians. These skills include causation (cause & effect), change and continuity over time, and comparison (similar to and different from).

### **Summer Reading Assignment 2019: Due September 5, 2019**

1. With the key concepts in mind, you are to read **Chapters 24 & 25** in your textbook, *The American Pageant* by David Kennedy, Elizabeth Cohen, and Thomas Bailey.
2. You are to take comprehensive notes **sorting/cataloging** the historical content into the “Key Themes of U.S History” as described on the previous page.
3. Although you may utilize whatever note-taking method you prefer, your notes **MUST** clearly identify how the content connects to a theme. Note: Every theme may not be addressed in the chapters under review.
4. Additionally, 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 historical thinking skills. Within your notes make observations and draw conclusions about how the history being revealed in the new chapters represents “changes from and/or continuities with” or “similarities to or differences from” what you already know. If applicable, also comment on how the history being revealed in the new chapters might be the “effect/result” of past events/situations. Consider how the history being revealed in the new chapters might “cause” the nation/society/economy to move in a new direction.
5. **Your theme and skill-based understanding of the content in Chapters 24 & 25 will be assessed with a reading check quiz (formatted as short answer questions) within the first full week of school.**