

Grade 7 History Standards: United States History 1865 to the Present

USII.2a

1. Geography The following are physical features/climate of the Great Plains:
 - flatlands that rise gradually from east to west
 - land eroded by wind and water
 - low rainfall
 - frequent dust storms
2. Technological advances: Because of new technologies, people saw the Great Plains not as a "treeless wasteland" but as a vast area to be settled. The following are inventions/adaptations that helped the Great Plains:
 - barbed wire
 - steel plows
 - dry farming
 - sod houses
 - beef cattle raising
 - wheat farming
 - windmills
 - railroads

**During the 19th century, people's perception and use of the Great Plains changed. Technological advances allowed people to live in more challenging environments.*

USII.2b

3. Transportation of resources: Advances in transportation linked resources, products, and markets. Examples of transportation of resources:
 - moving natural resources (i.e., copper and lead) to eastern factories
 - moving iron ore deposits to sites of steel mills (i.e., Pittsburgh)
 - transporting finished products to national markets
4. Manufacturing areas: textile industry (New England), automobile industry (Detroit), Steel industry (Pittsburgh)
**Advances in transportation linked resources, products and markets. Manufacturing areas were clustered near centers of population.*

USII.2c

A state is an example of a political region. States may be grouped as part of different regions, depending on the criteria used.

5. Northeast: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
6. Southeast: Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas
7. Midwest: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota
8. Southwest: Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona
9. Rocky Mountains: Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho
10. Pacific: Washington, Oregon, California
11. noncontiguous: Alaska, Hawaii

Cities serve as centers of trade and have political, economic, and cultural significance

12. Cities grouped by regions:
 - Northeast: New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia
 - Southeast: Washington, D.C., Atlanta, New Orleans
 - Midwest: Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit
 - Southwest: San Antonio, Santa Fe
 - Western (Rocky Mountains): Denver, Salt Lake City
 - Pacific: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle
 - Noncontiguous: Juneau, Honolulu

USII.3a

The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the US Constitution address the issue of slavery and guarantee equal protection under the law.

13. Basic provisions of the Amendments

- The 13th Amendment bans slavery in the US and all of its territories.
- The 14th Amendment grants citizenship to all persons born in the and guarantees equal protection under the law.
- The 15th Amendment ensures all citizens the right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

USII. 3b

The Reconstruction policies were harsh and created problems in the South. Reconstruction attempted to give meaning to the freedom that former enslaved African Americans had achieved.

14. Reconstruction policies and problems

- Southern military leaders could not hold office.
- African Americans could hold public office.
- African Americans gained equal rights as a result of the **Civil Rights Act of 1866**, which also authorized the use of federal troops for its enforcement.
- Northern soldiers supervised the South.
- The Freedmen's Bureau was established to aid former enslaved African Americans in the South.
- Southerners resented Northern "carpetbaggers," who took advantage of the South during Reconstruction.
- Southern states adopted Black Codes to limit the economic and physical freedom of former slaves.

15. End of Reconstruction

- Reconstruction ended in 1877 as a result of a compromise over the outcome of the election of 1876.
- Federal troops were removed from the South.
- Rights that African American had gained were lost through "Jim Crow" laws.

USII 3c

The actions of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and Frederick Douglass created lasting impacts.

16. Abraham Lincoln

- Reconstruction plan calling for reconciliation
- Preservation of the Union was more important than punishing the South

17. Robert E. Lee

- Urged Southerners to reconcile with Northerners at the end of the war and reunite as Americans when some wanted to continue to fight
- Became president of Washington College, which is now known as Washington and Lee University

18. Frederick Douglass

- Fought for adoption of constitutional amendments that guaranteed voting rights
- Was a powerful voice for human rights and civil liberties for all

USII. 4a

New opportunities and technological advances led to westward migration following the Civil War.

19. Reasons for westward expansion:

- opportunities for land ownership,
- advances in technology including the Transcontinental Railroad)
- possibility of wealth created by the discovery of gold and silver
- desire for adventure
- a new beginning for former enslaved African Americans

20. **Impact on American Indians**

- **Opposition by American Indians to westward expansion (Battle of Little Big Horn, Sitting Bull, Geronimo)**
- **Forced relocation from traditional lands to reservations (Chief Joseph, Nez Perce')**
- **Reduced population through warfare and disease (Battle of Wounded Knee)**
- **Assimilation attempts and lifestyle changes (e.g., reduction of buffalo population)**
- **Reduced their homelands through treaties that were broken**

USII.4b

Population changes, growth of cities, and new inventions produced interaction and often conflict between different cultural groups. Population changes growth of cities and new inventions produced problems in urban areas.

21. Reasons for increased immigration after the Civil War:

- hope for better opportunities
- desire religious freedom
- desire for adventure
- escape from oppressive governments

22. Reasons why cities grew and developed even further after the Civil War:

- specialized industries including steel [Pittsburgh] and meat packing [Chicago]
- immigration to America from other countries
- movement of Americans from rural to urban areas for job opportunities

23. Rapid industrialization and urbanization led to overcrowded immigrant neighborhoods, and tenements. Efforts to solve immigration problems included:

- Settlement Houses (such as the Hull House founded by Jane Addams) were formed.
- Political machines gained power by attending to the needs of new immigrants with help, such as jobs and housing

24. Discrimination against immigrants

- Chinese
- Irish

25. Challenges faced by cities

- tenements and ghettos
- and political corruption by political machines

USII.4c

Discrimination against African Americans continued after Reconstruction.

26. Racial segregation

- based upon race
- directed primarily against African Americans but other groups were also kept segregated.
- American Indians were not considered citizens until 1924.

27. "Jim Crow" laws

- passed to discriminate against African Americans
- made discrimination practices legal in many communities and states
- were characterized by unequal opportunities in housing, work, education, and government

28. African Americans differed in their responses to discrimination and "Jim Crow"

- Booker T. Washington believed equality could be achieved through vocational education. He accepted social separation (segregation).
- W.E.B. Du Bois did not agree with segregation; he believed in full political, civil, and social rights for African Americans. Between the Civil War and World War I, the U.S. was transformed from an agricultural to an industrial nation.

USII.4d

29. Inventions after the Civil War accounted for great change and industrial growth

- lighting and mechanical uses of electricity--Thomas Edison
- telephone service--Alexander Graham Bell

30. Reasons for the rise and prosperity of big businesses:

- national markets were created by transportation advances
- lower-cost production of goods
- advertising
- Three captains of industry were John D. Rockefeller (oil), Andrew Carnegie (steel), Cornelius Vanderbilt (Railroads and shipping) and Henry Ford (automobile).

31. Factors resulting in growth of industry:

- inventions
- availability of work force due to immigration
- financial resources
- access to raw materials and energy

32. Examples of big business:

- Railroads
- oil,
- steel

33. After the Civil War there were changes in farm and city life:

- Mechanization like the reaper had reduced farm labor needs and increased production.
- Industrial development in cities created increased labor needs.
- Industrialization provided access to consumer goods like the use of the mail order catalog

USII.4e

The effects of industrialization led to the rise of organized labor and workplace reforms

34. Industrialization also had some negative effects:

- child labor
- low wages
- long hours
- unsafe working conditions

35. Industrialization also led to the rise of organized labor

- formation of unions: Growth of American Federation of Labor
- strikes: aftermath of the Homestead Strike

36. The Progressive Movement in business led to workplace reforms such as:

- improved safety conditions
- reduced work hours
- restrictions on child labor

37. Women's suffrage
- led to increased educational opportunities for women
 - attained voting rights
 - passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution
 - Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton worked for women's suffrage.
38. The Temperance Movement was composed of groups opposed to the making and consuming of alcohol. It was supported by the 18th Amendment that prohibited the manufacture, sale, and transport of alcoholic beverages.

USII.5a

The US emerged as world power as a result of victory over Spain in the Spanish American War. Economic interests and public opinion often influence US involvement in war.

39. Reasons for the Spanish American War:
- Protection of American business interests in Cuba
 - American support of Cuban rebels to gain independence from Spain
 - Rising tensions as a result of the sinking of the US Maine in Havana Harbor
 - Exaggerated news reports of events (Yellow Journalism)
40. Results of the Spanish American War:
- The US emerged as a world power
 - Cuba gained independence from Spain
 - The US gained possession of the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico

T. Roosevelt expanded the Monroe Doctrine as a way to prevent European involvement in the affairs of Latin American countries

41. The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine
- asserted the United States' right to interfere in economic matters of other nations in the Americas
 - claimed the United States' right to exercise international police power
 - advocated Big Stick Diplomacy (building the Panama Canal).

USII.5c

The US involvement in World War I ended a long tradition of avoiding involvement in European conflicts and set the stage for the US to emerge as a global superpower later in the 20th century.

42. Reasons for US involvement in World War I:
- Inability to remain neutral
 - Germans sank the Lusitania (British passenger ship)
 - US economic and political ties to Great Britain
43. Major Allied Power in World War I: (1) British Empire, (2) France, (3) Russia, (4) Serbia, (5) Belgium, (6) US
44. Central Powers in World War I: (1) Germany, (2) Austria-Hungarian Empire (3) Bulgaria, (4) Turkey (Ottoman Empire)
45. U.S. leadership as World War I ended:
- At the end of the war President Woodrow Wilson prepared a peace plan known as the Fourteen Points that called for the formation of the League of Nations, a peace-keeping organization.
 - The US decided not to join the League of Nations because the US Senate failed to ratify the Treaty of Versailles

USII.6a

Technology extended progress into all areas of American life, including neglected rural areas by the early 20TH century

46. Results of improved transportation brought by affordable automobiles:
 - creation of jobs,
 - greater mobility
 - growth of transportation-related industries (road-construction, oil, steel, automobile)
 - movement to suburban areas
47. The Wright brothers invented the airplane.
48. Use of the assembly line
 - Henry Ford, automobile
 - Rise of mechanization
49. Communication changes:
 - increased availability of telephones
 - development of the radio (Guglielmo Marconi)
 - broadcast industry (David Sarnoff)
 - development of the movies
50. Ways Electrification changed American life:
 - labor-saving products (washing machines, electric stoves, water pumps)
 - electric lighting
 - entertainment (i.e., radio)
 - improved communication

USII.6b

Reforms in the early twentieth century could not legislate how people behaved. Prohibition was imposed by a constitutional amendment (18th).

51. Results of Prohibition:
 - speakeasies were created as places for people to drink alcoholic beverages
 - bootleggers smuggled illegal alcohol and promoted organized crime.
 - Repealed by the 21st Amendment

Economic conditions and violence led to the migration of people in the early twentieth century.

52. The Great Migration north and west occurred in the early 20th century.
 - jobs for African Americans in the South were scarce and low paying
 - African Americans faced discrimination and violence in the South
 - African Americans also faced discrimination and violence in the North
 - African Americans moved to northern and Midwestern cities in search of better employment opportunities

The 1920s and 1930s were important decades for American art, literature, and music.

USII.5c

53. Cultural climate of the 1920s and 1930s:
 - Art: Georgia O'Keefe (artist known for urban scenes and, later, paintings of the southwest)
 - Literature: F. Scott Fitzgerald (a novelist who wrote about the Jazz Age of the 1920s) and John Steinbeck (novelist who portrayed the strength of poor migrant workers during the 1930s)
 - Music: Aaron Copland and George Gershwin, composers who wrote uniquely American music

54. Harlem Renaissance: African American artists, writers, and musicians based in Harlem revealed the freshness and variety of African American culture. The leaders of the Harlem Renaissance drew upon the heritage of black culture to establish themselves as powerful forces for cultural change. The popularity of these artists spread to the rest of society.
- Art: Jacob Lawrence (painter who chronicled the experiences of the Great Migration north through art)
 - Literature: Langston Hughes (poet who combined the experiences of African and American cultural roots)
 - Music: Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong (jazz composers), Bessie Smith (blues singer)

USII.6d

The optimism of the 1920s concealed problems in the American economic system and attitudes about the role of government in controlling the economy. The Great Depression had a widespread and severe impact on American life.

55. Causes of the Great Depression:
- People over speculated on stocks, using borrowed money that they could not repay when stock prices crashed
 - The Federal Reserve failed to prevent the collapse of the banking system
 - High tariffs strangled international trade
56. Impact of the Great Depression on Americans:
- A large number of banks and businesses failed
 - One-fourth of workers were without jobs
 - Large numbers of people were hungry and homeless
 - Farmers' incomes fell to low levels
57. Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal used government programs to help the nation recover from the Depression. Major features of the New Deal:
- Social Security
 - Federal work programs
 - Environmental improvement programs
 - Farm assistance programs
 - Increased rights for labor

USII.7a

Political and economic conditions in Europe following WWI led to the rise of fascism and to WWII.

58. Causes of World War II:
- Political instability and economic devastation in Europe resulting from World War I
 - Worldwide depression
 - High war debt owed by Germany
 - High inflation
 - Massive unemployment
 - Rise of Fascism
 - Fascism is a political philosophy in which total power is given to a dictator and individual freedoms are denied and, often racism and nationalism are emphasized
 - Fascist dictators included Adolf Hitler (Germany), Benito Mussolini (Italy), Hideki Tojo (Japan).
 - These dictators led the countries that became known as the Axis Powers.
59. The Allies: Democratic nations (US, Great Britain, Canada). The Soviet Union joined the Allies after being invaded by Germany.
60. Allied leaders: Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman (US), Winston Churchill (Great Britain), Joseph Stalin (Soviet Union)
61. As conflict grew in Europe and Asia, American foreign policy evolved from neutrality to direct involvement.
- Isolationism (The Great Depression and the legacy of World War I)
 - Economic aid to the Allies
 - Direct involvement in the war
62. War in the Pacific:
- Rising tension developed between the US and Japan because of Japanese aggression in East Asia.
 - On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the US at Pearl Harbor without warning.

- The US declared war on Japan.
- Germany declared war on the US.

USII.6b

63. Major events and turning points of World War II:
- Germany invaded Poland, setting off war in Europe. The Soviet Union also invaded Poland and the Baltic nations.
 - Germany invaded France, capturing Paris.
 - Germany bombed London and the Battle of Britain began.
 - The US gave Britain war supplies and old naval warships in return for military bases in Bermuda and the Caribbean.
 - Japan bombed Pearl Harbor.
 - After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Germany declared war on the US.
 - The US declared war on Japan and Germany.
 - The US was victorious over Japan in the Battle of Midway. This victory was the turning point of the war in the Pacific.
 - Germany invaded the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union defeated Germany at Stalingrad, marking the turning point of the war in Eastern Europe.
 - American and Allied troops landed in Normandy, France, on D-Day to begin the liberation of Western Europe.
 - The US dropped two atomic bombs on Japan (Hiroshima and Nagasaki) in 1945, forcing Japan to surrender and ending World War II.
64. The Holocaust:
- the systematic attempt to rid Europe of all Jews
 - anti-Semitism
 - Aryan supremacy,
- Tactics:
 - the imprisonment and killing of Jews and others in concentration camps
 - Boycott of Jewish stores
 - Threats
 - Segregation
- . The Allied forces liberated Jews and others who survived in concentration camps.

USII.7c

World War II affected every aspect of American life. Americans were asked to make sacrifices in support of the war effort and the ideas for which we fought.

65. The Great Depression ended due to America's involvement in World War II. Factories and workers were needed to produce goods to win the war.
66. Thousands of women took jobs in defense plants during the war (Rosie the Riveter).
67. The need for workers temporarily broke down some racial barriers (example: hiring in defense plants), although discrimination against African Americans continued.
68. Americans at home supported the war (WWII) by conserving and rationing resources.
69. Many Japanese Americans served in the armed forces during WWII. However, other Japanese were often treated with distrust and prejudice and forced into internment camps.

USII.8a

Learning from the mistakes of the past, the U.S. accepted its role as a world superpower, helping to rebuild Europe and Japan and taking the leading role in establishing the United Nations.

70. After the war (WWII), much of Europe was in ruins. Soviet forces occupied most of Eastern and Central Europe. The US felt it was in its best interest to rebuild Europe and prevent political and economic instability.
71. Rebuilding efforts

- The US instituted George C. Marshall's plan to rebuild Europe (the Marshall Plan). It provided massive financial aid to rebuild European economies and prevent the spread of communism.
- After the war (WWII), Germany was partitioned into East and West Germany. West Germany became democratic and resumed self-government after a few years of American, British, and French occupation. East Germany remained under the domination of the Soviet Union and did not adopt democratic institutions.
- Following its defeat in WWII, Japan was occupied by American forces. It soon adopted a democratic form of government, resumed self-government, and became a strong ally of the US.

72. The United Nations was formed near the end of WWII to create a body for the nations of the world to try to prevent future global wars.

USII.8b

73. Americans prospered after World War II due to an expanding economy stimulated by America's involvement in the war. Reasons for rapid growth of American economy following World War II:

- With rationing of consumer goods over, business converted from production of war materials to consumer goods.
- Americans purchased goods on credit.
- The workforce shifted back to men, and most women returned full-time to family responsibilities.
- Labor unions merged and became more powerful; workers gained new benefits and higher salaries.
- As economic prosperity continued and technology boomed, the next generation of women re-entered the labor force in large numbers.

USII.8c

Since World War II, the U.S. has been directly involved in various conflicts that reflected the divisions created by Cold War tensions and hostilities. The tension between the free world and the communist world caused divisiveness at home and abroad. The Cold War was the central organizing principle in foreign affairs for 40 years

74. A Cold War is a state of tension between the U.S. and the Soviet Union without actual fighting. It divided the world into two camps.

75. The origins of the Cold War:

- Differences in goals and ideologies between the U.S. and the Soviet Union (the two superpowers). The U.S. was democratic and capitalist. The Soviet Union was dictatorial and communist.
- The Soviet Union's domination over Eastern European countries
- The American policy of containment tried to stop the spread of communism.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) versus the Warsaw Pact

76. Major conflicts in the post-world War II era:

- South Korea and the US resisted Chinese and North Korean aggression. The conflict ended in a stalemate.
- The Cuban Missile Crisis occurred when the Soviet Union placed missiles in Cuba. The Soviets removed the missiles in response to a US blockade.
- The US intervened to stop the spread of communism into South Vietnam (Domino Theory). Americans were divided over whether the US should be involved militarily in Vietnam. The conflict ended in a cease-fire agreement in which U.S. troops withdrew.

77. The collapse of Communism in Europe occurred with:

- the breakup of the Soviet Union into independent countries
- the destruction of the Berlin Wall. (USII.7c)

78. New challenges between the end of World War II and the present

- Role of U.S. military intervention
- Environmental challenges
- Global issues, including trade, jobs, diseases, energy

USII.8d

Changing patterns in American society post-WWII changed the way most Americans lived and worked.

79. Factors leading to changing patterns in US society after WWII:
- Strong economy (healthy job market, increased productivity, and a demand for American products)
 - Greater investment in education
 - "The Baby Boom" which led to changing demographics
 - Interstate highway system
 - Evolving role of women (expected to play supporting role in the family, but increasingly working outside the home)
 - Role of Eleanor Roosevelt in expanding human rights
 - African Americans' aspirations for equal opportunities
80. Policies and programs which expanded educational and employment opportunities:
- G. I. Bill of Rights gave educational, housing, and employment benefits to WWII veterans.
 - Truman desegregated the armed forces.
 - Civil Rights legislation led to increased educational, economic, and political opportunities for women and minorities.

USII.8c

Between the end of WWII and the present the world has been marked by an increase in globalization and interdependence.

81. Impact of Globalization.
- Globalization is the linking of nations through trade, information, technologies, and communication.
 - Globalization involves the increased integration of different societies.
 - Impact of globalization on American life
 - Improvement of all communications (e.g. travel, telecommunications/internet)
 - Availability of a wide variety of goods and services
 - Outsourcing of job

USII.9a

The Civil Rights Movement resulted in legislation that ensured constitutional rights to all citizens of the US regardless of race.

82. Some effects of segregation:
- Separate educational facilities and resources for white and African American students
 - Separate public facilities (i.e., restrooms, drinking fountains, restaurants)
 - Social isolation of races
83. The Civil Rights Movement
- There was opposition to Plessy v. Ferguson ("separate but equal") during the Civil Rights Movement
 - Brown v. Board of Education (desegregation of schools)
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. (passive resistance against segregated facilities; "I have a dream" speech)
 - Rosa Parks (Montgomery bus boycott)
 - Organized protests (Freedom Riders, sit-ins, marches) during the Civil Rights Movement
 - Formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
 - The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed by Congress.
 - The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed by Congress.

Women activists were inspired by the achievements of the Civil Rights movement and took action to gain equality for themselves, particularly in the workplace.

84. Changing role of women
- Workplace disadvantages
 - Discrimination in hiring practices against women
 - Lower wages for women than for men doing the same job

- Improved conditions:
 - National Organization for Women (NOW)
 - Federal legislation to force colleges to give women equal athletic opportunities
- The Equal Rights Amendment, despite its failure, and a focus on equal opportunity employment created a wider range of options and advancement for women in business and public service

USII.9b

After World War II, Americans turned their energies to the development of peacetime technologies. New technologies in communication, entertainment and business have dramatically affected American life.

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|---|---|
| <p>85. Industries benefiting from new technologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airline industry (jet engines) • Automobile industry and interstates highway system • Entertainment and news media industry • Exploration of Space • Computer industry • Satellite system-telecommunications (pagers, cell phones, television) • Internet | <p>86. Impact of new technologies on American life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased domestic and international travel for business and pleasure • Greater access to news and other information • Cheaper and more convenient means of communication • Greater access to heating and air-conditioning • Decreased regional variation, resulting from nationwide access to entertainment and information provided by national television and radio programming, Internet services, computer games |
|---|---|

USII.9c

Representative citizens have influenced Americans scientifically, culturally, academically, and economically.

87. **Science**
- Charles Drew--Medicine (plasma)
 - J. Robert Oppenheimer—Physics (Manhattan Project Team)
88. **Culture**
- Frank Lloyd Wright—Architecture
 - Martha Graham—Dance
89. **Academics**
- Henry Louis Gates—History
 - Maya Angelou—Literature
90. **Economics**
- Bill Gates—Computer technology (Microsoft)
 - Ray Kroc—Franchising (McDonalds)