

U.S History

essential understanding

The history of the United States of America is steeped in controversy and triumph. From its beginnings as thirteen colonies to its role today as a super power people have fought and died for the principals and ideals it embodies. Others have fought and died to change the injustices and disgraces that were born and perpetuated throughout its history. We can gain a better appreciation of who we are today as a country by understanding where we were and how we got here.



“ We are not maker’s of history. We are made by history”

Martin Luther King Jr.

overview

Students in U.S history study the major turning points in American history. After a review of the nation’s beginnings and the impact of the Enlightenment on U.S. democratic ideals students will examine the westward migration of America and its impact on our country. Students will then trace the change in the ethnic composition of American society;

the movement toward equal rights for racial minorities and women; and the role of the United States as a major world power. Students will consider the major social problems of our time and trace their causes in historical events. They learn that the United States has served as a model for other nations and that the rights and freedoms we enjoy are not accidents, but the results of a defined set of political principles that are not always basic to citizens of other countries.

guiding question 1: How did the progressive movement change industry and the lives of the working class?

lessons

- _____ Progressive era
- _____ Conditions in the early 1900's
- _____ Righting for change

group work

_____ As a group, find a movement that was taken up during the progressive era to improve the conditions of workers or lives of peoples in cities. Research and prepare a presentation about your findings. Be sure to include the following in your discussion:

- Conditions before the change
- Who and how the change was brought about
- Challenges that occurred during the fight to change conditions
- How the change benefited the nation and its citizens.

Due February 23/24

individual work

- _____ Create a timeline of the progressive era from 1900-1920. Due February 6/7
- _____ Define the following terms and identify the following people. Due February 9/10

Progressive era Muckrakers Prohibition Woman's Suffrage
Theodore Roosevelt William Howard Taft Robert La Follette Upton Sinclair

_____ Watch "America the Story of Us" Episode 8 "Boom" Answer questions about the video.
Due February 13/14

_____ Read sections of chapter 13 of “A Patriots History of the United States” and participate in socratic dialogues. Due February 16/17

assessment

_____ Take 15 question assessment on the progressive era in class February 27/28