

Events and Eras in U.S. History

The following is a possible list of events and eras in U.S. history suitable for student study and based on the Minnesota U.S. history standards for high school students.

1. European exploration and colonization of the Americas and the consequences for Native Americans
2. The development of the colonies in North America and the enslavement of Africans
3. The impact of the Revolutionary War on groups within American society including loyalists, patriots, women, Euro-Americans, enslaved and free African-Americans, and Native Americans
4. The impact of territorial expansion on Native American nations, including federal and state Indian policies
5. The causes and consequences of the concept of Manifest Destiny and the Mexican-American War
6. The impact of innovation in industry, technology, and transportation before the Civil War and the consequences for various immigrant populations including the Irish, Germans, Scandinavians, and Chinese
7. The sources, characteristics and effects of cultural, religious, and social reform movements, including abolition, temperance, the women's rights movement, union organizing, etc.
8. Changes in American political life, including the spread of universal white male suffrage, restrictions on free African-Americans, and the emergence of a Two Party System
9. The impact of debates over slavery, the Southern secession movement, and the formation of the Confederacy
10. The differences in resources of the Union and the Confederacy, and the experiences of war on the battlefield and home front
11. The reasons for the different phases of Reconstruction and the successes and failures in transforming social and racial relations, including emancipation and the redefinition of freedom and citizenship
12. The effects of post-Civil War westward expansion, including conflicts with American Indian nations

13. How the rise of corporations, heavy industry and mechanized farming transformed the American economy and contributed to the rapid growth of cities
14. The transformation of urban life, including the impact of migration from farms, the development of urban political machines and their role in financing, governing, and policing cities
15. The massive wave of “new” immigration (1870 to World War I) and its impact on social patterns, conflicts, and ideas of national unity
16. The imposition of racial segregation, African-American disfranchisement, and the growth of racial violence in the post-reconstruction South, including the rise of “scientific racism” and the debates among African-Americans about how best to work for racial equality
17. The origins of labor unions, how the rise of industry changed the nature of work in factories, and the role of state and federal governments in labor conflicts (1870 to 1900)
18. The social, economic, and political changes that resulted from electoral politics and social movements, such as populism and temperance
19. The Spanish-American War and its effects on foreign policy, national identity, and the debate over the role of America as a power in the Pacific and Latin America
20. The problems of industrial capitalism, urbanization, and political corruption and how they were addressed by the Progressives
21. The successful campaign that led to the adoption of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote
22. The causes of World War I and its impact on American foreign and domestic policy
23. How developments in industrialization, transportation, communication, and urban mass culture change American life from the end of World War I to the Great Depression
24. Key social changes related to immigration, social policy, and race relations from the end of World War I to the Great Depression
25. The changing role of art, literature, and music in the 1920s and 30s
26. The causes of the Great Depression and how it affected Americans in all walks of life
27. How the Great Depression transformed American federalism
28. The international background of World War II and the debates over American involvement in the conflict, as well as the key leaders and events of the war years

29. The impact of World War II on groups such as women, African-Americans, and Japanese-Americans
30. The social transformation of the post-war United States, including the economic boom and its impact on demographic patterns, the role of labor, and multinational corporations
31. The events of the Cold War, including the causes and consequences of the Korean War
32. The domestic policies and civil rights issues of the Truman and Eisenhower administrations
33. Provisions of Kennedy's New Frontier and Johnson's Great Society
34. The impact of Nixon's foreign and domestic policies
35. America's involvement in the Vietnam War, including conscientious objection, war resistance, and the end of college exemptions from the draft.
36. The impact of the "rights revolution," including the civil rights movement, women's rights movements, the expansion of civil liberties, and environmental and consumer protection

HANDOUT 2

Survey Response Matrix

Questions	Person 1 Response	Person 2 Response	Person 3 Response	Person 4 Response
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

ACTION PLAN WORKSHEET

NAME: _____

Action Plan TOPIC/ISSUE: _____

Position:

Desired Impact:

Overview of the Plan:

Steps to carry out the plan of action:

1. Identify people/places/agencies that are working toward the same goal
2. Identify the opposing view
3. Reach out to the community—friends, family, neighborhood. Let them know what you're doing. Advertise.
4. Do the action
5. Clean up, take down posters, thank helpers, return borrowed materials