

History and Government of the United States

All questions require at least
THREE sentences on own paper.

PLACES & TERMS

migration movement of people from one place to another

Columbian Exchange movement of plants, animals, and diseases between the Eastern and Western hemispheres

Louisiana Purchase territory between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains purchased by the United States from France

frontier free, open land that had been available for settlement in the West

suburb community on the outskirts of a city

representative democracy

government where the people rule through elected representatives

Creating a Nation

What is the Columbian Exchange?

The United States occupies about two-fifths of the North American continent. It is rich in natural resources. It has a moderate climate, fertile soil, and abundant water supplies. This natural wealth has attracted waves of immigrants seeking a better life. So is the constant **migration**, or movement, of people within the country.

The first inhabitants of North America were nomads who came from Asia at least 14,000 years ago. These Native American peoples developed separate cultures over the centuries. They alone occupied the land until Europeans began to explore in the 15th century.

In the early 1600s, the French settled along the northern Atlantic Coast and the St. Lawrence River in what is now Canada. During the 1600s and 1700s, the English colonized the Atlantic coast from present-day Maine south to Georgia.

European colonies often *displaced* Native Americans. The coming of Europeans also began the **Columbian Exchange**. This was the movement

of plants, animals, and diseases between the Eastern and Western hemispheres.

In 1763, Great Britain gained control of all of North America east of the Mississippi. But its control did not last long. Britain's 13 American colonies began to resent policies forced on them by a distant government. Their protests led to the American Revolution (1775–1783) and the founding of the United States.

In 1803, the United States nearly doubled in size. The government purchased the vast plains region between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains from France. This territory became known as the **Louisiana Purchase**.

Immigrants from western Europe arrived in great numbers in the early 1800s. Meanwhile, people were placing loyalty to their region, or section, above loyalty to the nation. In 1861, these tensions led to a bloody, four-year civil war.

1. What nearly doubled the size of the United States in 1803?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

An Industrial and Urban Society

When was the frontier filled?

Millions of Americans were on the move in the second half of the 19th century. Pioneers *blazed* trails across prairie, plains, and mountains.

To make way for white settlers, the U.S. government removed Native Americans. In 1869, a transcontinental railway was completed. Railroads then brought people to the West. They also took western cattle and products to markets in the East. By 1890, the free, open land that had been available for settlement—the frontier—was now filled.

As the West was being settled, immigrants mainly from western and eastern Europe poured into the United States. Both the recent immigrants and large numbers of Americans from rural areas went to the cities to work in the growing industries. The United States was being transformed from a rural, agricultural nation to an urban, industrialized one.

2. How did the United States change in the 19th century?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

World Power and Domestic Change

What was the Cold War?

The United States had tried to avoid foreign involvement as it grew. Its many natural and human resources had made it almost self-sufficient. Also, it was protected from foreign conflicts by two oceans. But a global economic depression and two world wars brought changes.

The last half of the 20th century was a time of social change. Large numbers of people began moving from cities to surrounding suburbs. These are communities on the outskirts of cities. These years also saw much social unrest. During the 1960s and 1970s, the civil rights and women's rights movements worked for equality for all.

The U.S. economy boomed despite some periods of economic downturn. Providing services and information technology soon passed industrial production in importance.

American political influence was also spreading around the world. During the Cold War (1945–1990), the United States became the leader of the world's non-Communist nations. When communism in Europe collapsed in 1991, the United States became the world's only superpower.

3. How did the United States avoid foreign conflict at first?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.

Governing the People

What is a federal republic?

One of the strengths of the United States is the political system created by the U.S. Constitution. It was adopted in 1787. The United States is a representative democracy in which the people rule through elected representatives.

There are three separate and equal branches of the federal government. The executive branch, headed by the president, carries out the laws. The legislative branch makes the laws. The judicial branch interprets the laws.

4. What is the responsibility of the executive branch?

Answer in at least THREE SENTENCES on own paper.