American History Since 1865

Course Overview
American History Since 1865 is the second and concluding course in a two-year survey of American history, with integrated topics in geography, civics, and economics. This course takes students from the post-Civil War era to recent times.

Rebuilding a Nation
When the Civil War ended in 1865, slavery had been abolished, the Constitution reigned supreme over individual states, and the nation had endured. But the costs of the war were terrible, and the problems to be solved were enormous. Reconstruction attempted to deal with those difficulties, but Abraham Lincoln's assassination, conflict between the executive and legislative branches of the government, and resistance in the South postponed real healing.

• Learning from History
• The Civil War
• Reconstruction: Andrew Johnson
• Bringing the Confederacy Back into the Union
• The Freedman's Bureau
• The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments
• Thaddeus Stevens and the Radical Republicans
• The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson
• Carpetbaggers and Scalawags
• Attempts to Deny Rights to African Americans

Changing and Growing
Homesteaders braved the hardships of the Great Plains, the Transcontinental Railroad united the nation physically and psychologically, and cowboys carved a lasting image in American lore, but the price was the devastation of the ways of life of many Native Americans. At the same time, immigrants swelled growing cities despite nativist prejudice, while corruption and inequality met opposition from writers and reformers.

• Westward Ho!
• Homesteading
• A Cowboy's Life
• The Transcontinental Railroad
• Effects of Settlement on Native Americans
• Chief Joseph: “I Will Fight No More Forever”
• The Growth of Cities
• Corruption and Crusaders
• Samuel Clemens/Mark Twain
• Immigration
• Resistance: Know-Nothings and the Chinese Exclusion Act
• Woman Suffrage: Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Writing an Essay
Practice writing skills in an essay.
• Finding and Organizing Information, Parts 1 and 2
• Organizing Information
• Writing the Essay

Freedom Denied
Jim Crow laws undid the post-Civil War gains of African Americans in the South, but courageous individuals fought local governments, the Supreme Court, and the public to help restore the American ideal that “all men are created equal.”

• Segregation: Jim Crow Laws, Lynching, and Poll Taxes
• Separate but Unequal: Plessy v. Ferguson
• Ida B. Wells
• Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois

Politics, Power, and the People
Entrepreneurs introduced a new kind of business and new power to the nation in the late 1800s. Hundreds of thousands of immigrants flooded into the United States to work in the factories and mills that the entrepreneurs built. Cities literally grew up as skyscrapers rose higher and higher. But many Americans were left out of the politics and prosperity.

• Andrew Carnegie: Steel and Philanthropy
• John D. Rockefeller: A Fortune in Oil
• J.P. Morgan: Banking and Finance
• Monopolies and the Sherman Antitrust Act
• Building Up
• “I Lift My Lamp”
• In Office
• A Third Party
• Money Matters
• Money Debates
• A Grand Campaign
• All Americans?

Making Things Better
Ever hopeful and confident, American individuals and organizations took on the challenges of a new society and endeavored to make life better for all. These people and organizations demanded better conditions and pay for workers, safer food, an end to child labor and corrupt business practices, and safeguards for the environment.