

Women in U.S. History

Theme: Culture and Society

- Explain how ideas about women’s rights and gender roles have affected society and politics.

Theme: Politics and Power

- Explain how popular movements, reform efforts, and activist groups have sought to change American society and institutions.

Period 1: 1491-1607

Required Information

1. In their interactions, Europeans and Native Americans asserted divergent worldviews regarding issues such as religion, gender roles, family, land use, and power.
 - As European encroachments on Native Americans’ lands and demands on their labor increased, native peoples sought to defend and maintain their political sovereignty, economic prosperity, religious beliefs, and concepts of gender relations through diplomatic negotiations and military resistance.
 - Africans developed both overt and covert means to resist the dehumanizing aspects of slavery and maintain their family and gender systems, culture, and religion.

Period 2: 1607-1754

Required Information

2. Like other European empires in the Americas that participated in the Atlantic slave trade, the English colonies developed a system of slavery that reflected the specific economic, demographic, and geographic characteristics of those colonies.
 - Africans developed both overt and covert means to resist the dehumanizing aspects of slavery and maintain their family and gender systems, culture, and religion.

Period 3: 1754-1800

Required Information

3. The desire of many colonists to assert ideals of self-government in the face of renewed British imperial efforts led to a colonial independence movement and war with Britain.
 - The effort for American independence was energized by colonial leaders such as Benjamin Franklin, as well as by popular movements that included the political activism of laborers, artisans, and women.
 - In the face of economic shortages and the British military occupation of some regions, men and women mobilized in large numbers to provide financial and material support to the Patriot movement.
4. The ideals that inspired the revolutionary cause reflected new beliefs about politics, religion, and society that had been developing over the course of the 18th century.
 - In response to women’s participation in the American Revolution, Enlightenment ideas, and women’s appeals for expanded roles, an ideal of “republican motherhood” gained popularity. It called on women to teach republican values within the family and granted women a new importance in American political culture.

Optional Information

5. republican motherhood
6. Mercy Otis Warren
7. Abigail Adams

Period 4: 1800-1848

Required Information

8. Increasing numbers of Americans, many inspired by new religious and intellectual movements, worked primarily outside of government institutions to advance their ideals.
 - A women's rights movement sought to create greater equality and opportunities for women, expressing its ideals at the Seneca Falls Convention.
9. The changes caused by the market revolution had significant effects on U.S. society, workers' lives, and gender and family relations.
 - Increasing numbers of Americans, especially women and men working in factories, no longer relied on semi-subsistence agriculture; instead they supported themselves producing goods for distant markets.
 - Gender and family roles changed in response to the market revolution, particularly with the growth of definitions of domestic ideals that emphasized the separation of public and private spheres.

Optional Information

10. Seneca Falls Convention, 1848
11. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
12. Lucretia Mott
13. Dorothea Dix
14. Lowell system
15. cult of domesticity

Period 5: 1844-1877

Required Information

16. Reconstruction and the Civil War ended slavery, altered relationships between the states and the federal government, and led to debates over new definitions of citizenship, particularly regarding the rights of African Americans, women, and other minorities.
 - The women's rights movement was both emboldened and divided over the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution.

Optional Information

17. Susan B. Anthony

18. Victoria Woodhull

Period 6: 1865-1898

Required Information

19. Dramatic social changes in the period inspired political debates over citizenship, corruption, and the proper relationship between business and government.
- Many women sought greater equality with men, often joining voluntary organizations, going to college, promoting social and political reform, and, like Jane Addams, working in settlement houses to help immigrants adapt to U.S. language and customs.

Optional Information

20. Wyoming grants women the right to vote 1870
21. National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), 1869
22. American Women Suffrage Association (AWSA), 1869
23. Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), 1874
24. Jane Addams
25. Lillian Wald
26. Ida Wells-Barnett
27. Mother Jones

Period 7: 1890-1945

Required Information

28. The United States continued its transition from a rural, agricultural economy to an urban, industrial economy led by large companies.
- By 1920, a majority of the U.S. population lived in urban centers, which offered new economic opportunities for women, international migrants, and internal migrants.
29. In the Progressive Era of the early 20th century, Progressives responded to political corruption, economic instability, and social concerns by calling for greater government action and other political and social measures.
- Some Progressive Era journalists attacked what they saw as political corruption, social injustice, and economic inequality, while reformers, often from the middle and upper classes and including many women, worked to effect social changes in cities and among immigrant populations.
30. Popular culture grew in influence in U.S. society, even as debates increased over the effects of culture on public values, morals, and American national identity.

- In the 1920s, cultural and political controversies emerged as Americans debated gender roles, modernism, science, religion, and issues related to race and immigration.
- On the national level, Progressives sought federal legislation that they believed would effectively regulate the economy, expand democracy, and generate moral reform. Progressive amendments to the Constitution dealt with issues such as prohibition and woman suffrage.

31. U.S. participation in World War II transformed American society, while the victory of the United States and its allies over the Axis powers vaulted the U.S. into a position of global, political, and military leadership.
- Mobilization and military service provided opportunities for women and minorities to improve their socioeconomic positions for the war's duration, while also leading to debates over racial segregation. Wartime experiences also generated challenges to civil liberties, such as the internment of Japanese Americans.
 - The United States and its allies achieved military victory through Allied cooperation, technological and scientific advances, the contributions of servicemen and women, and campaigns such as Pacific "island-hopping" and the D-Day invasion. The use of atomic bombs hastened the end of the war and sparked debates about the morality of using atomic weapons.

Optional Information

32. 19th Amendment, 1920

33. Margaret Sanger

34. flappers

35. Rosie the Riveter

Period 8: 1945-1980

Required Information

36. Responding to social conditions and the African American civil rights movement, a variety of movements emerged that focused on issues of identity, social justice, and the environment.
- Feminist and gay and lesbian activists mobilized behind claims for legal, economic, and social equality.
37. New demographic and social developments, along with anxieties over the Cold War, changed U.S. culture and led to significant political and moral debates that sharply divided the nation.
- a Feminists and young people who participated in the counterculture of the 1960s rejected many of the social, economic, and political values of their parents' generation, introduced greater informality into U.S. culture, and advocated changes in sexual norms.

Optional Information

38. *The Feminine Mystique*, 1963

39. Equal Pay Act, 1963

40. Title VII, 1964
41. National Organization for Women (NOW), 1966
42. Equal Rights Amendment, 1972
43. *Roe v. Wade*, 1973
44. Phyllis Schlafly
45. Right-to-Life Movement

Period 9: 1980 to the Present

Required Information

46. The U.S. population continued to undergo demographic shifts that had significant cultural and political consequences.
 - a Intense political and cultural debates continued over issues such as immigration policy, diversity, gender roles, and family structures.

Optional Information

47. glass ceiling
48. Nancy Pelosi