

African American History

Theme: Identity

- In what ways and to what extent have gender, class, ethnic, religious, regional, and other group identities changed in different historical eras?

Theme: Peopling

- To what extent and why have people have migrated to, from, and within North America?

Theme: Politics and Power

- In what ways and to what extent have Americans agreed on or argued over the values that guide the political system, as well as who is a part of the political process?

Period 1: 1491-1607

1. Spanish and Portuguese exploration and conquest of the Americas led to widespread deadly epidemics, the emergence of racially mixed populations, and a caste system defined by an intermixture among Spanish settlers, Africans, and Native Americans.
2. Spanish and Portuguese traders reached West Africa and partnered with some African groups to exploit local resources and recruit slave labor for the Americas.
3. In the economies of the Spanish colonies, Indian labor, used in the *encomienda* system to support plantation-based agriculture and extract precious metals (e.g., silver), and other resources (e.g., sugar), was gradually replaced by African slavery.
4. Many Europeans developed a belief in white superiority to justify their subjugation of Africans and American Indians, using several different rationales.
5. In spite of slavery, Africans' cultural and linguistic adaptations to the Western Hemisphere resulted in varying degrees of cultural preservation and autonomy.
6. Zambo
7. Columbian Exchange

Period 2: 1607-1754

8. Unlike Spanish, French, and Dutch colonies, which accepted intermarriage and cross-racial sexual unions with native peoples (and, in Spain's case, with enslaved Africans), English colonies attracted both males and females who rarely intermarried with either native peoples or Africans, leading to the development of a rigid racial hierarchy.
9. The abundance of land, a shortage of indentured servants, the lack of an effective means to enslave native peoples, and a growing European demand for colonial goods led to the emergence of the Atlantic slave trade.
10. Reinforced by a strong belief in British racial and cultural superiority, the British system enslaved black people in perpetuity, altered African gender and kinship relationships in the

colonies, and was one factor that led the British colonists into violent confrontations with American Indians.

11. Africans developed both overt and covert means to resist the dehumanizing aspects of slavery. Resistance to slavery included rebellion, sabotage, and escape.
12. The demographically, religiously, and ethnically diverse middle colonies supported a flourishing export economy based on cereal crops, while the Chesapeake colonies and North Carolina relied on the cultivation of tobacco, a labor-intensive product based on white indentured servants and African chattel.
13. The colonies along the southernmost Atlantic coast and the British islands in the West Indies took advantage of long growing seasons by using slave labor to develop economies based on staple crops; in some cases, enslaved Africans constituted the majority of the population.
14. The presence of slavery and the impact of colonial wars stimulated the growth of ideas on race in this Atlantic system, leading to the emergence of racial stereotyping and the development of strict racial categories among British colonists, which contrasted with Spanish and French acceptance of racial gradations.
15. The growth of an Atlantic economy throughout the 18th century created a shared labor market and a wide exchange of New World and European goods, as seen in the African slave trade and the shipment of products from the Americas.
16. First Africans brought to American, 1619
17. middle passage
18. triangular trade

Period 3: 1754-1800

19. During and after the American Revolution, an increased awareness of the inequalities in society motivated some individuals and groups to call for the abolition of slavery and greater political democracy in the new state and national governments.
20. The constitutional framers postponed a solution to the problems of slavery and the slave trade, setting the stage for recurring conflicts over these issues in later years.
21. The expansion of slavery in the lower South and adjacent western lands, and its gradual disappearance elsewhere, began to create distinctive regional attitudes toward the institution.
22. Massachusetts Body of Liberties makes it the first colony to legalize slavery, 1641
23. Pennsylvania Gradual Emancipation Law, 1780
24. Northwest Ordinances
25. Three-Fifths Compromise and Slave Trade Compromise, 1787

26. Invention of the Cotton Gin, 1793

27. Toussaint L'Ouverture, 1797

Period 4: 1800-1848

28. Despite the outlawing of the international slave trade, the rise in the number of free African Americans in both the North and the South, and widespread discussion of various emancipation plans, the U.S. and many state governments continued to restrict African Americans' citizenship possibilities.

29. Resistance to initiatives for democracy and inclusion included proslavery arguments, rising xenophobia, anti-black sentiments in political and popular culture, and restrictive anti-Indian policies.

30. Many white Americans in the South asserted their regional identity through pride in the institution of slavery, insisting that the federal government should defend that institution.

31. Enslaved and free African Americans, isolated at the bottom of the social hierarchy, created communities and strategies to protect their dignity and their family structures, even as some launched abolitionist and reform movements aimed at changing their status.

32. Southern cotton furnished the raw material for manufacturing in the Northeast, while the growth in cotton production and trade promoted the development of national economic ties, shaped the international economy, and fueled the internal slave trade.

33. With expanding borders came public debates about whether to expand and how to define and use the new territories. (Should the territories be designated "slave" or "free"? Should the territories be designated Indian territory?)

34. The 1820 Missouri Compromise created a truce over the issue of slavery that gradually broke down as confrontations over slavery became increasingly bitter.

35. African Slave Trade outlawed, 1808

36. southern defense of slavery

37. Calhoun's Speech in the U.S. Senate, 1837

38. Slave Codes

39. American Colonization Society, 1817

40. Missouri Compromise, 1820

41. Denmark Vesey, 1822

42. Nat Turner, 1831

- 43. American Anti-Slavery Society, 1833
- 44. Liberty Party, 1840
- 45. William Lloyd Garrison
- 46. Sojourner Truth
- 47. Elijah Lovejoy
- 48. Frederick Douglass

Period 5: 1844-1877

- 49. Asian, African American, and white peoples sought new economic opportunities or religious refuge in the West, efforts that were boosted during and after the Civil War with the passage of new legislation promoting national economic development.
- 50. The acquisition of new territory in the West and the U.S. victory in the Mexican-American War were accompanied by a heated controversy over allowing or forbidding slavery in newly acquired territories.
- 51. The North's expanding economy and its increasing reliance on a free-labor manufacturing economy contrasted with the South's dependence on an economic system characterized by slave-based agriculture and slow population growth.
- 52. Abolitionists, although a minority in the North, mounted a highly visible campaign against slavery, adopting strategies of resistance ranging from fierce arguments against the institution and assistance in helping slaves escape to willingness to use violence to achieve their goals.
- 53. States' rights, nullification, and racist stereotyping provided the foundation for the Southern defense of slavery as a positive good.
- 54. National leaders made a variety of proposals to resolve the issue of slavery in the territories, including the Compromise of 1850, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and the *Dred Scott* decision, but these ultimately failed to reduce sectional conflict.
- 55. Lincoln's decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation changed the purpose of the war, enabling many African Americans to fight in the Union Army, and helping prevent the Confederacy from gaining full diplomatic support from European powers.
- 56. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, bringing about the war's most dramatic social and economic change, but the exploitative and soil-intensive sharecropping system endured for several generations.
- 57. Although citizenship, equal protection of the laws, and voting rights were granted to African Americans in the 14th and 15th Amendments, these rights were progressively stripped away through segregation, violence, Supreme Court decisions, and local political tactics.

- 58. peculiar institution
- 59. Free Soil Party, 1848
- 60. Compromise of 1850
- 61. Fugitive Slave Law, 1850
- 62. Underground Railroad, 1850-1860
- 63. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 1852
- 64. Kansas-Nebraska Act
- 65. *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, 1857
- 66. Harper's Ferry, 1859
- 67. Emancipation Proclamation, 1863
- 68. 13th Amendment, 1865
- 69. Black Codes
- 70. Freedman's Bureau, 1865-1872
- 71. 14th Amendment, 1868
- 72. 15th Amendment, 1870
- 73. Civil Rights Act of 1875
- 74. sharecropping (tenant farming)
- 75. Black Reconstruction
- 76. Ku Klux Klan
- 77. Redeemers
- 78. Compromise of 1877

Period 6: 1865-1898

- 79. Increased migrations from Asia and from southern and eastern Europe, as well as African American migrations within and out of the South, accompanied the mass movement of people into the nation's cities and the rural and boomtown areas of the West.

- 80. Immigrants sought both to “Americanize” and to maintain their unique identities; along with others, such as some African Americans and women, they were able to take advantage of new career opportunities even in the face of widespread social prejudices.
- 81. Increasingly prominent racist and nativist theories, along with Supreme Court decisions such as *Plessy v. Ferguson*, were used to justify violence, as well as local and national policies of discrimination and segregation.
- 82. Challenging their prescribed “place,” women and African American activists articulated alternative visions of political, social, and economic equality.
- 83. Colored Farmers’ Alliance, 1886
- 84. Jim Crow Laws
- 85. grandfather clause
- 86. *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 1896
- 87. Booker T. Washington
- 88. Atlanta Compromise, 1895
- 89. Ida Wells-Barnett

Period 7: 1890-1945

- 90. Although most African Americans remained in the South despite legalized segregation and racial violence, some began a “Great Migration” out of the South to pursue new economic opportunities offered by World War I.
- 91. The rise of an urban, industrial society encouraged the development of a variety of cultural expressions for migrant, regional, and African American artists (expressed most notably in the Harlem Renaissance movement); it also contributed to national culture by making shared experiences more possible through art, cinema, and the mass media.
- 92. The mass mobilization of American society to supply troops for the war effort and a workforce on the home front ended the Great Depression and provided opportunities for women and minorities to improve their socioeconomic positions. Despite U.S. contributions to the victory over fascism and new opportunities for women and minorities during the war, other wartime experiences, such as the internment of Japanese Americans, challenges to civil liberties, debates over race and segregation, and the decision to drop the atomic bomb raised questions about American values.
- 93. W.E.B. DuBois and the Niagara Movement, 1905
- 94. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 1909
- 95. Birth of a Nation, 1915

- 96. Harlem Renaissance
- 97. jazz
- 98. Marcus Garvey
- 99. A. Philip Randolph
- 100. Mary McLeod Bethune
- 101. Congress of Racial Equality, 1942

Period 8: 1945-1980

- 102. Following World War II, civil rights activists utilized a variety of strategies — legal challenges, direct action, and nonviolent protest tactics — to combat racial discrimination. Continuing white resistance slowed efforts at desegregation, sparking a series of social and political crises across the nation, while tensions among civil rights activists over tactical and philosophical issues increased after 1965.
- 103. Decision-makers in each of the three branches of the federal government used measures including desegregation of the armed services, *Brown v. Board of Education*, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to promote greater racial justice.
- 104. Desegregation of the Armed Services, 1948
- 105. *Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954
- 106. Southern Manifesto, 1954
- 107. Rosa Parks
- 108. Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955-56
- 109. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 110. Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), 1957
- 111. Integration of Little Rock High School, 1957
- 112. Civil Rights Act of 1957
- 113. Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), 1960
- 114. sit-ins
- 115. freedom rides, 1961
- 116. public order laws

- 117. James Meredith
- 118. March on Washington, 1963
- 119. Mississippi Summer Project (Freedom Summer), 1964
- 120. Civil Rights Act of 1964
- 121. March from Selma to Montgomery, 1965
- 122. Voting Rights Act of 1965
- 123. Watts, 1965
- 124. Black Power
- 125. Nation of Islam (Black Muslims)
- 126. Malcolm X
- 127. Stokely Carmichael
- 128. Black Panthers
- 129. Martin Luther King assassinated, 1968
- 130. race riots, 1968
- 131. Kerner Commission Report, 1968
- 132. George Wallace
- 133. *Bakke v. University of California*, 1978

Period 9: 1980 to the Present

- 134. Demographic changes intensified debates about gender roles, family structures, and racial and national identity.
- 135. cultural pluralism
- 136. Barack Obama