

Women in U.S. 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: 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

Required Information

1. European attempts to change American Indian beliefs and worldviews on basic social issues such as religion, gender roles and the family, and the relationship of people with the natural environment led to American Indian resistance and conflict.

Period 2: 1607-1754

Required Information

2. Spanish colonizing efforts in North American, particularly after the Pueblo Revolt, saw an accommodation with some aspects of American Indian culture; by contrast, conflict with American Indians tended to reinforce English colonists' worldview on land and gender roles.
3. 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.

Period 3: 1754-1800

Required Information

4. Enlightenment ideas and women's experiences in the movement for independence promoted an ideal of "republican motherhood," which called on white women to maintain and teach republican values within the family and granted women a new importance in American political culture.

Optional Information for Use as Illustrative Examples

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

Period 4: 1800-1848

Required Information

8. The Second Great Awakening, liberal social ideas from abroad, and Romantic beliefs in human perfectibility fostered the rise of voluntary organizations to promote religious and secular reforms, including abolition and women's rights.
9. Various groups of American Indians, women, and religious followers also developed cultures reflecting their interests and experiences, as did regional groups and an emerging urban middle class.
10. Increasing numbers of Americans, especially women in factories and low-skilled male workers, no longer relied on semi-subsistence agriculture but made their livelihoods producing goods for distant markets, even as some urban entrepreneurs went into finance rather than manufacturing.
11. The market revolution helped to widen a gap between rich and poor, shaped emerging middle and working classes, and caused an increasing separation between home and workplace, which led to dramatic transformations in gender and in family roles and expectations.

Optional Information for Use as Illustrative Examples

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

Period 5: 1844-1877

Required Information

18. The women's rights movement was both emboldened and divided over the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution.

Optional Information for Use as Illustrative Examples

19. Susan B. Anthony
20. Victoria Woodhull

Period 6: 1865-1898

Required Information

21. 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.
22. In a urban atmosphere where the access to power was unequally distributed, political machines provided social services in exchange for political support, settlement houses helped immigrants adapt to the new language and customs, and women’s clubs and self-help groups targeted intellectual development and social and political reform.
23. Challenging their prescribed “place,” women and African American activists articulated alternative visions of political, social, and economic equality.

Optional Information for Use as Illustrative Examples

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

Period 7: 1890-1945

Required Information

32. In its transition from a rural, agricultural society to an urban, industrial society, the U.S. offered new economic opportunities for women, internal migrants, and international migrants who continued to flock to the United States.
33. 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.
34. 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.

Optional Information for Use as Illustrative Examples

35. 19th Amendment, 1920

36. Margaret Sanger

37. flappers

38. Rosie the Riveter

Period 8: 1945-1980

Required Information

39. Activists began to question society's assumptions about gender and to call for social and economic equality for women and for gays and lesbians.

40. Although the image of the traditional nuclear family dominated popular perceptions in the postwar era, the family structure of Americans was undergoing profound changes as the number of working women increased and many social attitudes changed.

Optional Information for Use as Illustrative Examples

41. *The Feminine Mystique*, 1963

42. Equal Pay Act, 1963

43. Title VII, 1964

44. National Organization for Women (NOW), 1966

45. Equal Rights Amendment, 1972

46. *Roe v. Wade*, 1973

47. Phyllis Schlafly

48. Right-to-Life Movement

Period 9: 1980 to the Present

Required Information

49. Demographic changes intensified debates about gender roles, family structures, and racial and national identity.

Optional Information for Use as Illustrative Examples

50. glass ceiling

51. Nancy Pelosi