

Key Themes in History

What are the key themes of U.S. history?

PREVIEW

In the grid below, list something you know about U.S. history. Next to that item, list a question you have about that time in history. An example has been provided for you.

What I Already Know	Questions I Still Have
<i>The United States declared its independence on July 4, 1776.</i>	<i>Why did the United States want to be independent?</i>

READING NOTES

Section 1

1. Give at least two reasons why studying patterns of population is helpful in understanding U.S. history.

Section 2

1. Choose two leaders from U.S. history to research. In the space below, explain how each leader used or abused his or her power.

Section 3

1. Conduct research to find at least three nations the United States trades with today. List them in the space below.

2. Now research the goods or services the United States exchanges with those countries, and list them in the space below.

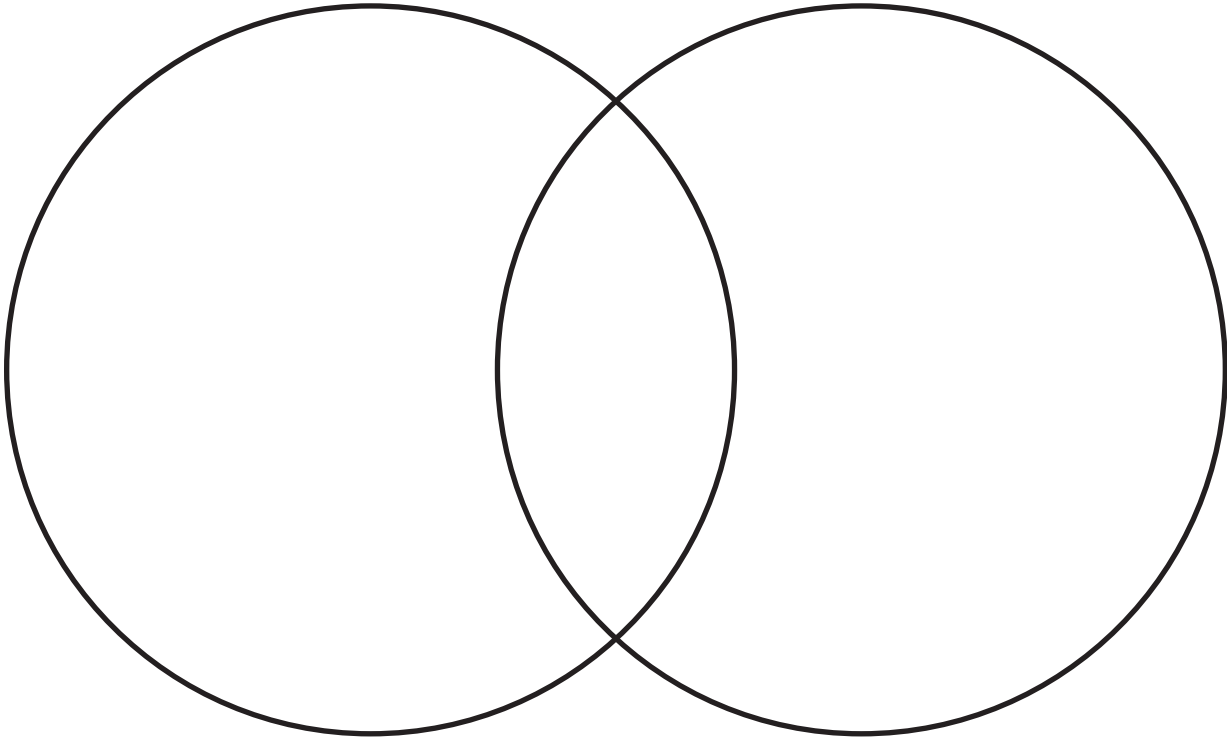
3. Why do you think trading with others is so important to the United States?

Section 4

1. In the space below, compare and contrast Andrew Carnegie with “Boss” Tweed.

Andrew Carnegie

“Boss” Tweed



Section 5

1. In the space below, describe your own identity. Discuss topics like:
 - where you are from.
 - what hobbies you enjoy.
 - what language(s) you speak.
 - what traditions you celebrate.

2. Create a self-portrait to illustrate your identity.

P R O C E S S I N G

Think about all seven of these themes. In the space below, answer the following questions:

- Which theme are you most interested in learning more about? Why?
- What do you think makes this theme a key theme for studying history?