

U.S. History Since Reconstruction
PISD Curriculum: Year at a Glance

Bundle	Title Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings	Guiding Questions
1	<p><i>Frontier Wars. 1860-1900</i> Westward expansion and the closing of the frontier greatly affected many different groups of people socially, politically, and economically.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did myths and realities of American Indians shape the development and culture of the U.S.? ▪ What was the short and long term effect of the Americanization process on the Native American population? ▪ What were the social, political, and economic effects of westward expansion and the closing of the frontier on different groups, including American Indians, farmers and settlers, immigrants, and entrepreneurs?
2	<p><i>Gilded Age</i> Free enterprise brings many opportunities. The government has changed its role in the economy over time. Labor unions brought significant progress for workers. Immigrants brought a rich heritage to the U.S., although they often met with criticism and resistance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did the Gilded Age encourage the growth of capitalism? ▪ What is the role of government in business? ▪ How was the growth of labor unions impacted? ▪ What was the immigrant experience in the U.S. and what have they contributed to the U.S.?
3	<p><i>Progressive Era</i> Social, political, and economic reforms had varying levels of success in protecting individual rights while advancing the development of the U.S.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What impact did government regulation have on business? ▪ What were the causes of inequities in U.S. society? ▪ How was the Progressive Era progressive? ▪ How did political changes give people more control of the government? ▪ What were the effects of the growth of labor unions? ▪ What were the short- and long-term effects of different reform movements? ▪ How did significant individuals influence the U.S. socially, economically, and politically? ▪ How did scientific ideas and innovations change the U.S.?
4	<p><i>Imperialism</i> To become a world power and advance their economic interests, the U.S. acquired new territories, invested in foreign countries and displayed increased military strength.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why and how did the U.S. emerge as a world power in the early 20th century? ▪ Which individuals significantly impacted the U.S. becoming a world power? ▪ What were the causes and short- and long-term effects of U.S. colonization?
5	<p><i>World War I</i> World War I contributed to the U.S. emerging as a world power even as the U.S. experienced demographic and economic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To what extent did World War I act as a transition for the U.S. to become more involved in world affairs? ▪ Was World War I an extension of Progressivism? ▪ From the U.S. point of view, what were the causes and effects of World War I, Wilson’s Fourteen Points, and the

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	shifts at home.	Treaty of Versailles? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did World War I affect the U.S. on the home front? ▪ How did U.S. demographics begin to change during World War I?
6	<i>The Roaring Twenties</i> The 1920s witnessed Americans struggling to make sense of a rapidly changing world with new opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did urbanization contribute to economic and social changes for African-Americans and women? ▪ Why did Prohibition, an amendment which had been sought since the 1830s, fail so miserably? What were the roles of growing consumerism, the automobile, media, advertising, and growing cities in this failure? ▪ To what extent was nativism, the growth of the Ku Klux Klan, and changes to the immigration policy a reaction to the social, political, and economic changes facing white males?
7	<i>The Great Depression</i> The Great Depression caused a significant shift in government involvement in the U.S. economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To what extent did the affluence of the 1920s cause the Great Depression? What were the biggest causes of the Great Depression? ▪ How did the Great Depression affect the U.S. economy and government? ▪ How successful were the New Deal programs? ▪ How do New Deal programs continue to affect the U.S. today? ▪ How did the New Deal change the relationship between the individual and his/her government?
8	<i>World War II</i> World War II strengthened the U.S.'s economy and firmly established the U.S. as an international superpower.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Was World War II a continuation of World War I? ▪ Why did the U.S. decide to enter World War II? ▪ How important was the U.S.'s contribution to World War II? ▪ How did World War II shape the U.S. on the home front? ▪ How did Europe's, East Asia's, and Southwest Asia's boundaries and governments change politically as a result of World War II? ▪ Was it necessary for Truman to drop an atomic bomb on Japan? Two bombs? ▪ To what extent have atomic weapons changed international relations and foreign policy?
9	<i>The Cold War</i> After World War II, the fear of communism was the single most significant factor in the U.S.'s foreign and domestic decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the conflict between capitalism and communism? ▪ To what extent did the fear of communism determine the U.S.'s national and international decisions? ▪ How influential and effective was the U.S. in containing and ending communism in countries around the world? ▪ How did nuclear capabilities impact world defense systems?

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What were causes and effects of U.S. prosperity in the 1950s? ▪ How have recent scientific discoveries impact world economies? ▪ How have 20th century constitutional amendments limited government and expanded democracy?
10	<p><i>Era of Social Change</i> The U.S. saw internal and external conflict as its citizens supported or protested the expansion of civil rights and wars against communism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What were the various styles of the Civil Rights leaders and organizations? ▪ How did the Civil Rights movement shape American culture and society? ▪ What was the impact of the counter-culture? ▪ How did the Vietnam War divide American society? ▪ How have Supreme Court cases expanded individual rights?
11	<p><i>TAKS Review / Conservatism</i> The U.S. has taken numerous steps at home and in interactions with other countries to promote the free enterprise system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did the Watergate incident impact our perception of the power of the president? Has the media reported on politics and politicians differently since Watergate? ▪ What was the domestic economic impact of Reaganomics? ▪ To what extent was the U.S. responsible for the end of the Cold War? ▪ How has their free enterprise system of economics informed U.S. foreign policy in the late 20th century, especially in communist countries, Desert Storm, environmental issues, and NAFTA?
12	<p><i>Bridge to the New Century</i> With increasing globalization, the U.S.'s decisions in terms of economy and politics as well as their cultural trends influence people far from their own borders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How is the current economic recession similar to and different than the Great Depression? The 1970's recession? ▪ To what extent has the election of an African-American president advanced civil rights in politics and culture? ▪ How much does the fear of terrorism shape U.S. domestic and foreign policy? ▪ How much does increasing globalization affect the U.S. economy? How much does the U.S.'s economy affect the world's economy? ▪ What role does the U.S. play in protecting the environment? ▪ How do new developments in science and technology within and outside of the U.S. affect the U.S. socially, economically, and politically?