

APUSH Themes in Student Language

American and National Identity [NAT]

What factors have shaped American beliefs, personality, and values?

- Inalienable rights
- Civil liberties and civil rights
- America's rise to power
- Cultural diversity v. assimilation

Politics and Power [POL]

Different groups of Americans have changed America over time:

- political leaders
- social movements
- relationship of government to the people

Geography and the Environment [GEO]

Explain how geography and the environment have shaped different communities, and analyze how competition for natural resources has affected groups/governments.

America in the World [WOR]

1.0 – Infancy to teenage years

- The United States is figuring out how to engage with other countries, and deal with conflict and success.

2.0 – Adulthood

- The United States has to decide how to lead and deal with decision-making, and the potential consequences of those decisions.

Migration and Settlement [MIG]

Why did people come to the United States and how did they adjust to their new life? How did they change the United States socially and physically?

Exchange, Work, and Technology [WXT]

The theme focuses on the development of economics as a system in three ways:

1. how people work and how work affects their lives
2. the relationship between government and money, trade, labor, and the economy
3. the impact of technology and invention on the economic system and society

Society and Culture [CUL]

Culture and society is about how people, religion, race, ethnicity, and gender roles have shaped America.