

Overarching Questions

Identity

- How and why have debates over American national identity changed over time?
- How have gender, class, ethnic, religious, regional, and other group identities changed in different eras?

Work, Exchange and Technology

- How have changes in markets, transportation, and technology affected American society from colonial times to the present day?
- Why have different labor systems developed in British North America and the United States, and how have they affected U.S. society?
- How have debates over economic values and the role of government in the U.S. economy affected politics, society, the economy, and the environment?

Peopling

- Why have people migrated to, from, and within North America?
- How have changes in migration and population patterns affected American life?

Politics and Power

- How and why have different political and social groups competed for influence over society and government in what would become the United States?
- How 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?

America in the World

- How have events in North America and the United States related to contemporary developments in the rest of the world?
- How have different factors influenced U.S. military, diplomatic, and economic involvement in international affairs and foreign conflicts, both in North America and overseas?

Environment and Geography

Physical and Human

- How did interactions with the natural environment shape the institutions and values of various groups living on the North American continent?
- How did economic and demographic changes affect the environment and lead to debates over use and control of the environment and natural resources?

Ideas, Beliefs, and Cultures

- How and why have moral, philosophical, and cultural values changed in what would become the United States?
- How and why have changes in moral, philosophical, and cultural values affected U.S. history?