

# REFLECTION COMPANION

## History of the United States

History lives in all of us. What happened in the past impacts our present—and our future.

In this course, your mission is to learn about historical events and people. But not just what happened and who was there. What matters is *how* and *why*.

Try to imagine yourself in the past. Put yourself in the shoes of those who came before you. How would you have reacted? Think about your own opinions and emotions. When you understand yourself, you can understand your ancestors.

Reflection provides powerful opportunities for you to increase comprehension. It also helps you improve your critical thinking skills.

As you work through this course, take the time to reflect on the questions at the end of each section. Use this companion to record your responses.

See how your answers relate to modern life and your own experiences.

### Colonial Society

What caused the Consumer Revolution?  
How did it change American life?

### A New Nation

What role did compromise play in  
the creation of the United States?

### The American Revolution

In what ways did the Revolutionary War disrupt  
life for the people living in North America?

### The Early Republic

How did attitudes about race, class, and gender influence the United States after the American Revolution?

### Democracy in America

What issues motivated new political parties?

### The Sectional Crisis

What was more significant, the Dred Scott decision or the Kansas-Nebraska Act?

### The Civil War

How did life change for Black Americans after the Civil War?

### The Reconstruction Era

How did Reconstruction change the lives of Americans—particularly those formerly enslaved in the South?

### American Imperialism

Over the years, how as the immigrant experience changed for people coming to America? And how have Americans' attitudes toward immigrants changed?

### The Progressive Era

Who benefited from the successes of Progressive Era efforts? And who suffered from the failures of those efforts?

### World War I & Aftermath

How did World War I change American race relations?

### The Great Depression

Think about how the Hoover administration responded to the Great Depression. In contrast, think about how the Roosevelt administration responded. Which approach do you think had a larger impact on people's lives? And how do these presidents' actions continue to impact people's lives today?

### World War II

During World War II, many Japanese American citizens were held in internment camps. So were Germans and Italians living in the United States. After the war, Black Americans and women still faced many of the same obstacles they faced before the war. What did these circumstances say about discrimination in America?

### The Cold War

Foreign policy concerns often shifted attention away from domestic problems in the United States. How did that affect Americans?

### The 1960s

What lessons from the civil rights movement of the 1960s apply to civil rights today?

### Conflicts and Power Shifts

How did the rise of the New Right impact different groups of Americans?

### The War on Terror

How have the War on Terror and other events of the past 40 years affected you? How have they changed the world you live in today?



Congratulations on completing all  
your reflection questions!

Continue to think about how history influences the present.  
And consider what we can all learn from the past.