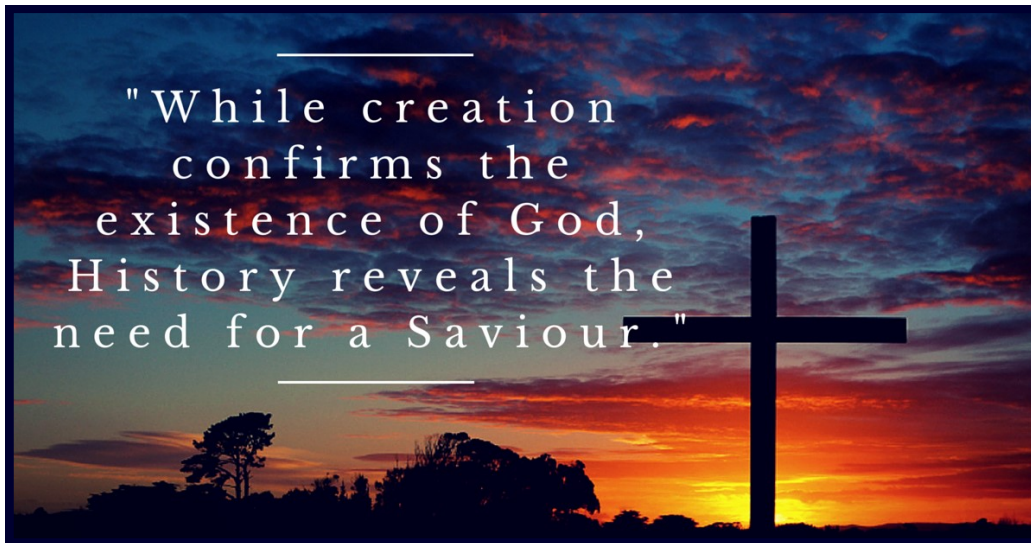




USA HISTORY

Activities Package: Themes and Truths



Learning Goals:

- ▶ To understand the essential themes of the course.
- ▶ To identify lasting truths revealed from the course.
- ▶ To understand that relationship between history and God's word.

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COURSE THEMES AND TRUTHS

Throughout this American History course you have studied many important events and evaluated the contribution of significant individuals. However, history is more than just facts. These facts create context to further evaluate who people are at their core and also the world that we live in. This activity is intended to help students focus on the central themes and truths covered throughout the course.

Course Themes

Carefully read the description of course themes below.

Throughout the course you completed many activity packages. Each of these packages covered a variety of different themes. What is a theme?

A theme is a central topic that can be derived from an event or development.

For example, there are several themes that can be highlighted after reviewing the package, "The American Civil War."



The American Civil War was a time of developing conflict, aggression and brutal warfare.

Prior to the war beginning, the North and South attempted various compromises to avoid conflict. However, as time progressed this balance became increasingly difficult to maintain and conflict began to arise (Compromise of 1850, stricter slave code laws etc.). Developing conflict transitioned into aggression in a variety of different forms (Bleeding Kansas, Raid on Harper's Ferry etc.). Once the war began, modern warfare and great animosity towards one another resulted in brutal warfare (Antietam, Gettysburg etc.). In the end, over 600,000 people would die from this conflict.

Course Truths

Carefully read the description of course themes below.


In addition to themes, each of the activity packages also contain many relevant truths. In the context of this history course, a truth is defined as:

A statement about the human condition or our world that is confirmed by evidence from the course. This truth applies to both the past and the present and can be positive or negative.

For example, when studying the Civil War, the following truth can be derived:

Humans are capable of doing incredibly horrible things to one another.

The American Civil War pitted Americans against one another; in some cases brother against brother. In addition, the strategies and technologies of war had also advanced in an effort to make killing more efficient. The Gatling Gun (early machine gun) was able to mow down opponents at an astonishing rate. Warfare has continued to advance throughout history. Today, chemical warfare is employed with devastating consequences. In both cases, humans are doing horrible things to one another. Although war may be necessary at times to suppress evil, that doesn't change the truth that it is horrible for those who experience it.

**Truth and the Bible**

Carefully read the about the relationship between historical truth and the Bible.

We live in a world where truth is increasingly becoming relative, meaning truth is whatever you want it to be. However, the Bible and natural law confirm that there are indeed definite truths. As previously discussed, truths can be derived from what we have studied in the course.

Humans are capable of doing incredibly horrible things to one another.

These different historical truths can be confirmed by the Bible. For example, the above truth is reinforced by the Bible verse below:

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned— Romans 5:12

The Civil War was an incredibly brutal war. This brutality is evident in the type of warfare, various battles, treatment of prisoners of war and, of course, through the nature of slavery itself. These horrible things occurred, ultimately, because there is sin in each one of us. We still witness sin in the world today; brutality reveals itself in many different forms. Human inability to eradicate sin confirms that this world needs a Saviour.

**Your Task**

Read the instructions listed below and complete each of the tasks.

History is much more than just facts and interesting stories; there is a much deeper meaning when we analyze the many themes and truths revealed from studying history. For each unit complete the following tasks:

1. Create a statement for each activity package that summarizes the main themes within the package. There should be three main themes for each package.
2. For each unit create a truth statement that you learned from studying the unit material. This truth statement should be supported by a story or verse from the Bible and must be applicable to both the unit and our world today.

Use the following pages to organize your statements on themes and truths.

COURSE THEMES AND TRUTHS

Unit One	
Activity Package	Main Themes:
The Original Colonies	This was a time of... 1. 2. 3.
Life in the Colonies	This was a time of... 1. 2. 3.
The Road to Revolution	This was a time of... 1. 2. 3.
The American Revolution	This was a time of... 1. 2. 3.
Unit Truth	
What is an enduring truth from the unit?	
Example from the unit?	
Supporting Bible verse or story?	

COURSE THEMES AND TRUTHS

Unit Two	
Activity Package	Main Themes:
The Antebellum Period	This was a time of... 1. 2. 3.
Unit Truth	
What is an enduring truth from the unit?	
Example from the unit?	
Supporting Bible verse or story?	

Unit Three	
Activity Package	Main Themes:
The American Civil War	This was a time of... 1. 2. 3.
Unit Truth	
What is an enduring truth from the unit?	
Example from the unit?	
Supporting Bible verse or story?	

COURSE THEMES AND TRUTHS

Unit Four	
Activity Package	Main Themes:
Post-Civil War America	This was a time of... 1. 2. 3.
Isolationism or Imperialism?	This was a time of... 1. 2. 3.
Unit Truth	
What is an enduring truth from the unit?	
Example from the unit?	
Supporting Bible verse or story?	
Unit Five	
Activity Package	Main Themes:
The Great War	This was a time of... 1. 2. 3.
The Roaring Twenties	This was a time of... 1. 2. 3.

COURSE THEMES AND TRUTHS

<p>A Time of Great Change</p>	<p>This was a time of...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
<p>The End of Isolationism</p>	<p>This was a time of...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
<p>Unit Truth</p>	
<p>What is an enduring truth from the unit?</p>	
<p>Example from the unit?</p>	
<p>Supporting Bible verse or story?</p>	

<p>Unit Six</p>	
<p>Activity Package</p>	<p>Main Themes:</p>
<p>The Cold War Begins</p>	<p>This was a time of...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
<p>The Civil Rights Era</p>	<p>This was a time of...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.

COURSE THEMES AND TRUTHS

<p>The Cold War Continues</p>	<p>This was a time of...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
<p>Conflict and Crisis</p>	<p>This was a time of...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
<p>A New America Emerges</p>	<p>This was a time of...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
<p>Unit Truth</p>	
<p>What is an enduring truth from the unit?</p>	
<p>Example from the unit?</p>	
<p>Supporting Bible verse or story?</p>	