

APUSH Timeline Overview

Objectives/Purpose:

This course covers United States history from pre-Columbian times marked by the year 1491 all the way to the present. Pre-1607 and Post-1980 receive minimal coverage (5% of course and AP exam each) compared to other eras, but the survey spans all of these years... often in much detail. Before students begin the course, they will review and understand the importance of this timeline and the significance of the historical thinking skill of periodization. Throughout the course, students will understand placement (relative more than absolute) on the timeline and explain various forces such as causation as they analyze history. The timeline below also introduces the eras for each unit of study.

Directions:

1. Identify the significance of as many specific years as you can. Many of the years on this timeline represent major turning points. Can you explain why each is a major turning point?
2. Identify the eras highlighted as units, how would you characterize each one?

*One of the major historical thinking skills you will be addressing in your writing and analysis is the skill of **Periodization**. This skill "involves the ability to describe, analyze, and evaluate different ways that historians divide history into discrete and definable periods. Historians construct and debate different, sometimes competing models of periodization; the choice of specific turning points or starting and ending dates might accord a higher value to one narrative, region, or group than to another." (Source: 2015 revised APUSH framework)*

