

American History Honors Summer Assignment 2010

Dear Students,

Welcome to American History Honors! As part of the State of Louisiana's curriculum, the American History course in high school picks up where the course left off in middle school... with the Industrial Revolution. Therefore, periods of American history from pre-Colonial to Reconstruction will not be covered in this course. To best prepare you for literally jumping into the middle of history, we have composed a summer assignment. American History Honors, like all honors and AP courses, will require reading, research, and other tasks of you to complete independently; however, if you have any questions about the following assignment, please email one of the American History Honors teachers.

We look forward to a great school year! Enjoy your summer, but be sure to complete your summer assignment!

See you in August! ☺

Mr. Chatelain (dwayne.chatelain@zacharyschools.org),
Mr. Southall (ryan.southall@zacharyschools.org), and
Ms. Fink (erin.fink@zacharyschools.org)

Intro to the Industrial Revolution

The latter half of the 19th Century was one of great change in America. The Industrial Revolution, which began in Europe, was stretching across the Atlantic Ocean to America, and it would both positively and negatively alter the lives of business owners and workers. However, this revolution was changing more than just industry. The Industrial Revolution was also a period of great physical movement in America, as Americans migrated (both west and to urban areas) and as immigrants in two major waves (The Old and the New Immigration Periods) crossed the oceans. Not only was industry changing and were people migrating and immigrating during this period, but the South was changing, as well. Following the Civil War and Reconstruction, the South was different... It was a "New South." Industrialization not only came to northern cities, but it also came to the agrarian South. However, the social injustice of the South still remained. Slavery was no more, but racism found a new form in late 1800s Southern culture... This new form of racism came under the pledge of "separate but equal" and the infamous Jim Crow laws. The events of the late 1800s would usher in the new Century, giving rise to an imperial nation but also leaving room for Progressive reform.

Summer Assignment

Please read the collected excerpts** posted on the school's website and use those reading excerpts to answer the following questions in ONE or TWO COMPLETE paragraphs. Students must answer all three questions! **Students' written responses to these questions are due the first day of school, without exception!!!**

1. Identify some major themes of the Industrial Revolution post-Civil War. Identify some of the major problems that arose during this era.
2. Compare and contrast industrialization in the North to that in the South. How were they different? What were the pros and cons of each? **OR** Compare and contrast the social classes during the Industrial Revolution. How were they different? What were the pros and cons of each?
3. After reading these documents, how do the conditions of this era compare with today? Are there any lasting effects from this era still present today? How did this era influence today's culture?

****NOTE:** Be sure that you read all of the required reading excerpts for this assignment. Five excerpts are posted on the school's website for American History Honors in PDF format ("Industrial Rev", "Trusts-Robberbarons", "Muckrakers", "Jim Crow Perspectives", and "New South"). If you have trouble accessing any of the excerpts, please email the American History Honors teachers.