

The Making of America, 1789-1900

Personal Learning Checklist

This unit is worth 20% of your total GCSE.

This period study follows the unfolding narrative of the making of America from the inauguration of the first president in **1789** to the end of the **19th century** when the USA was set to become the world's dominant power.

You will need to understand how and why American **territory expanded** during these years and the **relationship** between this expansion and the cultures of **indigenous Americans**, **African Americans** and **white Americans**.

Section	Content	RAG	Revised?
America's expansion 1789-1838	How and why did the USA expand, from 1789 to 1838?		
	How did southern cotton plantations and slavery expand, 1793 – 1838?		
	How were the indigenous people removed from the east, 1830 – 1838?		
The West 1839 - 1860	What was the culture of the Plains Indians like?		
	Who were the Lakota Sioux?		
	What were the journeys of early migrants to California and Oregon like?		
	What was the impact of the Californian Gold Rush (1848-9)?		
	What were the consequences of the Pikes Peak Gold Rush (1858-9)?		
Civil War and Reconstruction 1861 - 1877	Why were there divisions over slavery?		
	What caused the Civil War?		
	What were African American experiences of the Civil War like?		
	What was Reconstruction?		
	What were the lives of African-Americans like after the Civil War?		
Settlement and conflict on the Plains, 1861 - 1877	What were the causes of white American exploitation of the Plains: railroads, ranches, cow towns?		
	Who were the homesteaders? What was life like on the Plains?		
	What happened during the Indian Wars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Crow's War (1862) • Red Cloud's War (1865-68) • Great Sioux War (1876-77) 		
American cultures 1877-1900	What changes were made to the Plains Indians' way of life? (Including the impact of reservations and the destruction of the buffalo.)		
	What impact did the economic, social and political changes have on the lives of African Americans?		
	How did big business and cities grow?		
	What was mass migration like?		