

I.B. History of the Americas Summer Assignment

The purpose of the summer assignment in I.B. History of the Americas is to cover the United States' expanding global presence towards the end of the 19th century and into the early 20th century. In addition, the assignment will provide students a background on the causes of World War I and reasons for the United States' entry. It is also an opportunity to begin practicing the writing and historical thinking skills necessary to be successful in this class and on the I.B. Paper 2 & 3 exam. The assignment will be due on the first day of class and students will be expected to be able to carry a class discussion over the material.

Assignment #1 - American Becomes a World Power

The scope of the Summer Assignment will cover the years 1890 - 1898. It is designed to provide the students a foundation of knowledge to assist with their intensive study of WWI next year. Also, the students are being prepared for their End of Course STAAR test by reading about the United States expansion during the late 19th/early 20th century. Finally, it assists the students in preparing for our first IB unit in their junior year by examining the major historical period/events prior to the Great Depression.

Key Concept Addressed:

This is from the IB History Guide:

1. United States' expansionist foreign policies: political, economic, social and ideological reasons

Historical Thinking Skill Addressed:

Periodization

Assignment:

Students will need to complete the Defining the Period skill chart. When asked to define a historical period, we are asked to determine specific start and stop dates of events for the period under investigation. Many historical periods do not have clearly defined beginnings and endings; therefore, the task of defining the period is an important one and leads to much debate within historical scholarship. The chart will assist students in answering the short-answer questions which is the graded portion of the assignment.

Reading Chapter:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B8jhSU6rK-2bdVZncGhtb2JQaUU>

Defining the Period Skill Chart:

<https://docs.google.com/a/g.dentonisd.org/document/d/1ZW6vDrCcqTgxSrXDTeUJXpZ870Y1Pe6cVhHOTiDP4nQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Assignment #2 - The Spanish American War

Key Concept Addressed:

This is from the IB History Guide:

2. Spanish–American War (1898): causes and effects

Historical Thinking Skill Addressed:

Cause and Effect

Assignment:

Students will need to complete the Cause and Effect skill chart. When we are asked to identify the historical causation of an event, we are, essentially, being asked to identify the events that led up to the historical event under investigation as well as the results of the historical event under investigation. There can be both long-term and short-term causes and effects. Long-term events are those events that are further away from the historical event under investigation, and short-term events are those events that are more immediate to the historical event under investigation. The chart will assist students in answering the short-answer questions which is the graded portion of the assignment.

Reading Chapter:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B8jhSU6rK-2bbVpPVnZCRTIDams>

Defining the Period Skill Chart:

- 1) https://docs.google.com/a/g.dentonisd.org/document/d/1eemjdk0vGXWc_baYbVrf9Y4ZKMgqkqf7kNGPRkMuJql/edit?usp=sharing

Short Answer Questions

1. *Examine the reasons for the United States' foreign expansion in the late 19th/early 20th century.*
 - A. *Explain one specific economic reason for the United States' expansion in the late 19th century.*
 - B. *Explain one specific domestic change that led to the United States' expansion in the late 19th century.*
 - C. *Explain one specific ideological reason for the United States' expansion in the late 19th century.*
2. *Analyze the causes and impacts of the Spanish-American War.*
 - A. *Evaluate how United States foreign policy changed during the years 1880 to 1898.*
 - B. *Analyze one specific reason for the United States' involvement in the Spanish-American War.*
 - C. *Describe one political development that was the result of the Spanish-American War..*
3. *Analyze the arguments for and against American Imperialism after the Spanish-American War.*
 - A. *Identify one specific argument against the annexation of the Philippines.*
 - B. *Identify one specific argument for the annexation of the Philippines.*
 - C. *Identify one specific economic advantage of annexing the Philippines.*

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