History and Culture of the US and Canada

Chapter 5

Section 1- History and Governments
History of the United States

• The First Americans
  – 15,000 years ago- Asian nomadic hunters followed herds across Bering Land Bridge
  – Eventually settled across Americas- became known as Native Americans
  – Developed multiple cultures based on local resources
History of the United States

• The Colonial Era
  – 1492- Columbus set out from Spain to reach Asia- landed in Caribbean
  – Spain set up colonies (overseas settlements tied to a parent company)
    • Got lots of $$$$ , colonies in South America, Mexico, and SW USA
  – French colonies- eastern Canada, Great Lakes, MS River valley
  – British- Atlantic coast
1763- British beat French in a war- won their colonies

British colonists became resentful of British taxes and trade policies

- Fighting broke out
- 1776- colonists declared independence- 1783, Britain recognized
History of the United States

• Expansion and Growth
  – After independence- controlled ME-GA
  – 1800s- expanded to Pacific coast
    • Treaties (or war) or annexation (declare ownership of a particular area)
  – Throughout 1800s- US population growth
    • High birthrate, better public health, millions of European immigrants
  – Economy changed- new farm machines, factories (Industrial Revolution), transportation
History of the United States

- Southern states - agriculture and slavery
- Northern states - industry
- 1861 - southern states withdrew from US
- Civil War - north led by president Lincoln (1860)
- War lasted 4 years - ended 1865
- 1800s - factories continued to develop, European immigrants worked them
History of the United States

• A World Leader
  – US military fought in WWI and WWII
    • US opposed oppressive regimes (governments)
    • Factories turned into war factories
  – After WWII, US and Soviet Union 2 major powers
    • Rivalry for leadership- Cold War- democracy/capitalism vs. communism
    • Ended when SU broke up in 1991- fall of Berlin Wall
History of the United States

– Blacks, Latinos, and women have gained many rights in US in 1900s
  • Leaders: MLK Jr, Cesar Chavez, Rosa Parks
– 2000- terrorism (violence against civilians by individuals or groups)- has become an issue
– 9/11/2001- 2 planes hit World Trade Towers in NYC, 1 hit Pentagon, 1 taken down in rural PA- 3k ppl died
  • US overthrew Taliban leaders in Afghanistan
  • Overthrew Saddam Hussein in Iraq