

	When	What/Who /Where from/Where	Key-words
<b>COLONIAL PERIOD</b>	1620	The Pilgrim Fathers: English Puritans (protestants) opposed to the Anglican King (protestant but not anti-papist enough for them)  It was “the Land of Opportunity” (cf. the American Dream, the myth of the self-made man”)	<b>fanatics in search of freedom</b> of religion (were persecuted for religious and political reasons in England) -  - “ <b>The Promised Land</b> ”, “ <b>the cornucopia</b> ” “ <b>the land of milk and honey</b> ” were Biblical references. They are deeply rooted in the American psyche. Those migrants identified themselves to the biblical episode describing the Jewish people fleeing Egyptian imprisonment (the promised land is a land that sets you free)
<b>THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION</b>	1776 Independence 1787 1789: Bill of Rights	Bill of Rights (la charte des droits) : The first ten amendments to the US Constitution: set in stone the US fierce attachment to civil liberties	They guarantee a number of basic rights: <b>First amendment to the constitution:</b> freedom of speech <b>Second amendment:</b> right to organize private militias and right to bear arms
<b>MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY</b>	1845: Potato blight Irish famine	Irish wave of Immigration	The Irish were Catholics anti-papism : the anti-catholic sentiment among protestants
<b>THE CIVIL WAR</b>	1861-1865	The abolitionists of the North led by President Abraham Lincoln against the anti-abolitionists of the Deep South (South-East plantation states)	The Union (the Yankees) defeated the Confederation and <b>abolished slavery</b> . The economy: the industrial North defeated the agrarian South that, all of a sudden, had to face new labour costs. Till then, plantations had benefited from the cheap slave labour
<b>RECONSTRUCTION</b>	After 1865	The Whites never completely recovered from the abolition of slavery. Felt deep resentment and bitterness towards the Yankees and got their revenge on the Blacks	<b>The Jim Crow Laws:</b> the <b>segregation laws</b> that "replaced" slavery in the organization of Southern society <b>The Ku Klux Klan</b> was a white supremacist protestant fraternity that organized the <b>lynching of black people</b> in much of the 20th century
<b>TURN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY TILL 1924</b>	1880-1924  <b>1924 Immigration Act:</b>	-Massive wave of immigration from Europe, especially Southern and Eastern Europe Italians, Greeks and Slavs that fled poverty Jews from Russian and Slavic countries that fled pogroms.  -Tightening of the immigration policy: reduced immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe and confirmed ban on Asian immigration	<b>Ellis Island:</b> in the NYC harbour: Facilities set up to process the thousands of newcomers arriving from Europe. They were screened for diseases (TB, trachoma...) and quarantined. + administrative procedure too
<b>SECOND WORLD WAR</b>		Jews fleeing Nazism	
<b>SECOND HALF OF TWENTIETH CENTURY</b>	late 1940's and 1950'S	The Cold War: <b>McCarthyism:</b> Under a commission chaired by Senator McCarthy, the USA blacklisted artists with communist affinities because they were supposedly "Anti-American".	<b>witch-hunt</b> <b>the Hollywood blacklist</b> <b>the Red Scare</b> <b>Commies</b> (short for Communists)
<b>THE END OF SEGREGATION</b>	1955 till 1965	The Deep South Movement of desegregation	Black figures of <b>the Civil Rights Movement:</b> Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King: <b>Passive resistance</b> , sit-ins...

	When	What/Who /Where from/Where	Key-words
		Ended uner Pst Lyndon Johnson with the Civil Rights Act that guaranteed the Blacks' right of vote	Malcolm X: advocated violent action
<b>AFFIRMATIVE ACTION</b>	1970s	For African-American people: In order to redress past injustice, fight prejudice and ensure equal opportunities,	quotas of African-Americans were introduced to guaratee access to universities and public jobs  [However, <b>affirmative action</b> in the past couple of decades has been questioned, notably by other minorities (Asians) who consider it as unfair as, in some cases, it mechanically reduces their own access to university]
<b>THE MEXICAN NEIGHBOUR</b>	1970's onwards	Mexicans lured by US jobs. The US is still a Land of Opportunities	Chicanos <b>wetbacks</b> : because they swam across the Rio Grande to immigrate illegally <b>a coyote pron [I]</b> : a smuggler (that smuggles migrants to the USA)
		Maquiladoras: In parallel, factories with cheap Mexican labour developed on the US border (Mexican side) for easy exports back to the US	<b>to relocate</b> : délocaliser to move a plant/manufacturing facilities) abroad to lose jobs to... (another country)
	2012-2014	Under President Barack Obama (2008-2016)	<b>Obama</b> authorized <b>undocumented Mexican workers with children born on US soil</b> to be <b>eligible for citizenship</b> or permanent resident status  Donald Trump peddles anti-immigrant ire: calls all Mexicans "rapists"
	2016-2020 (see above- « 2014 »)	President Trump promised to build a wall on the Mexican border and to send the bill to Mexico. Parts of the wall already existed, parts of the wall were built since Trump's election. But it is not complete yet.  Trump repealed ( <i>abroge</i> ) the Dreamer program for the children of undocumented immigrants (mostly from latin America)	<b>Dreamers</b> : Name given to the foreign-born children of undocumented immigrants. <b>DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival)</b> : name of Obama's dreamer program to give Dreamers permanent residency in the USA  <b>The caravan: Autumn 2018</b> : a caravan of migrants crossed central America and Mexico and many arrived at the US border. As a massive group of people, these would-be immigrants hoped to resist smugglers and attacks by criminal gangs better. I advise you to read Jeanine Cumlmins' recent novel <i>American Dirt</i>
<b>NATIVISM – TRUMP BEORE TRUMP</b>	2008-2011	Donald Trump floated a rumour, that quickly turned into a conspiracy theory. According to Trump, Obama was not a legitimate candidate as, supposedly he had lied about his place of birth and was not a true American. Trump repeatedly asked Obama to release his birth certificate to prove he was born in Hawaii (US territory). He kept calling him Barack Hussein Obama, insisting on the Moslem-sounding middle name. This conspiracy theory lasted three years.	<b>Nativism</b> : the American name for nationalism and xenophobia (ironic when you think that the country was built by successive waves of immigrants)  " <b>birtherism</b> ": the colloquial term coined just on the occasion of the conspiracy (the target being Barack Obama): Same idea as <b>nativism</b>
<b>POPULATION PROJECTIONS</b>		The Latino vote is becoming crucial in US election	Latinos will represent 30% of the US population by 2050
	1976-79	Vietnamese fleeing communist-led Vietnam after the Americans lost the Vietnam war	<b>the Boat people</b> : a wave of illegal immigrants crossing the Pacific ocean on overcrowded makeshift boats
<b>9/11</b>	till now	September 11, 2001: The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in downtown NYC are attacked by jetliners. Worst foreign attack on American soil.	<b>Patriot Act: Stepped up security tremendously but curtailed civil liberties</b> Gave a free hand to security agencies (cf. NSA) to wiretap private telephone communications and to monitor the web. <b>Guantanamo prison</b> (on the US naval base in Cuba): imprisonment without trial . Obama had promised to close it before the end of his term of office. Never delivered on his promise. Anti-Muslim sentiment has spread in the population (see Trump and Obama above)

