

Social Studies TAKS

60% of the test is composed of maps, charts, & graphs. The key to success is to use the following three-step formula.

1. Cover up the question and answers.
2. Read everything that is in and around the map, chart, or graph.
3. Now read the question and the answers.

Twelve Key Dates

1492

Columbus lands in the Bahamas

1607

The first permanent English colony is founded in Jamestown, Virginia.

1776

The Declaration of Independence

1788

The United States Constitution,
written in 1787, is ratified.

1803

Thomas Jefferson makes the
Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon
of France.

1812-1814

The War of 1812

1861-1865

The Civil War

1898

The Spanish-American War

1914-1918

World War I

1929

The U. S. Stock Market crashes
and the Great Depression begins

1941-1945

World War II

9/11/01

Terrorists use commercial
air planes to destroy the
World Trade Center and
to damage the Pentagon.

Key Facts Chronologically

33,000 to 8,000 B.C.

the first humans cross the Bering
Strait from Asia to America

1215, King John signs the

Magna Carta, giving rights
to the English nobles.

1492

Columbus lands in the Bahamas

The Columbian Exchange

Europeans bring horses, sheep,
disease, and take back from
America tomatoes, potatoes,
and chocolate.

1517, Martin Luther begins

The Protestant Reformation

1607, the first permanent English colony is

Jamestown in Virginia

1619, the first elected
representative government is

The Virginia House of Burgesses

1620, Pilgrims sign the

Mayflower Compact,
establishing a colony ruled by law

1639, the first written constitution
in America was

The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

1689, the English Bill of Rights

extends full legal rights
to every Englishman.

1691, John Locke, commenting on
the English Bill of Rights

asserted that men are born with unalienable rights and are entitled to rebel against a ruler who does not honor those rights.

1754-1763

The French & Indian War

1763, King George III, by the
Proclamation of 1763,
told American colonists

not to go over the
Appalachian Mountains.

1776, Thomas Paine encourages
independence in a short
pamphlet called

Common Sense

1776, Thomas Jefferson lists the complaints & reasons for rebellion against George III in

The Declaration of Independence

1777, as a result of the patriots'
victory at Saratoga

the French openly support
the United States

1781, the United States ratifies its
first constitution, known as

The Articles of Confederation

1781, in the last major battle of the
Revolutionary War

Cornwallis surrenders to
Washington at Yorktown.

1783, the Treaty of Paris

end of Revolutionary War;
the United States gains
all the land east of the Mississippi

1787, the Northwest Ordinance

a plan to organize the territory
that will become Ohio, Michigan,
Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin

Federalists were those who

avored a strong
national government

Anti Federalists were

fearful that the national
government would be too strong.

1787, the United States Constitution
is written, and in 1788

nine of the thirteen states ratify

1791, the first task of the new Congress is to guarantee individual rights by passing the first ten amendments to the Constitution, known as

The Bill of Rights

Marbury v. Madison was an important court case that

gave the Supreme Court the right to
decide whether the President or
Congress acts Constitutionally.

In 1803, Thomas Jefferson, in a deal with Napoleon of France, made the

Louisiana Purchase

In 1812, because the British were kidnapping (impressment) our sailors and encouraging Indians to attack our settlers in the West

the United States declared
war on Great Britain.

In 1820, by the
Missouri Compromise

Maine becomes a free state,
Missouri a slave state,
and new states in the territory
north of Missouri were to be free.

1823, the Monroe Doctrine states
that, now that Latin America
has been liberated,

foreign powers should
no longer attempt to colonize
in the western hemisphere.

1828, Andrew Jackson
is elected president

the “spoils system” begins.

In 1832, a tariff on imported goods angers South Carolina and leads to

the Nullification Crisis...a state
refusing to obey a law it interprets
as “unconstitutional.”

In the 1840s, a New York newspaper editor, trying to justify the westward expansion, claims that to extend the United States from Atlantic to Pacific is our

Manifest Destiny

In 1845, the United States annexes

Texas

In 1846, the United States
cuts a deal with Great Britain
and acquires

The Oregon Territory (Washington, Oregon, Idaho)

In 1848, by the Treaty of
Guadalupe-Hidalgo, the United
States gains from Mexico territory
that will include seven states

New Mexico, Arizona, California,
Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming

In 1848, a convention in
Seneca Falls, New York
launches

The Women's Rights Movement

The Compromise of 1850

made California a state,
but enacted the Fugitive Slave Law

In 1857, in the Dred Scott case,
the Supreme Court ruled that

since he was not a citizen,
Dred Scott, a slave,
could not sue for his freedom.

In 1859, John Brown, a fierce abolitionist, in an attempt to gain arms and lead a slave rebellion,

raided the federal arsenal at
Harpers Ferry, Virginia.

On April 12, 1861, Confederate
forces fired on Fort Sumter in
Charleston, South Carolina

and the American Civil War began.

In 1862, as an incentive to speed up settlement in the West, the Homestead Act offered settlers

160 acres of land for \$15.

In 1863, the Emancipation
Proclamation, freed

all the slaves
in the Confederate states.

At Gettysburg in 1863,
Lee loses so many troops that

he is unable to
take the offensive again.

Just days after Gettysburg, in July
of 1863, Grant takes Vicksburg
and effectively

cuts the South in half.

In 1864, General Sherman lays waste to northern Georgia and parts of South Carolina in his

March to the Sea

In 1865, Lee surrenders to Grant at

Appomattox Courthouse

Shortly after Appomattox, Abraham
Lincoln is assassinated by

John Wilkes Booth

In 1865, the 13th Amendment

frees all slaves

Black codes are instituted
in the South

to discriminate against blacks.

1866, the 14th Amendment

grants citizenship to former slaves.

In 1867, the Reconstruction Act

puts federal troops in the South
to enforce government policies.

In 1869, the transcontinental
railroad is completed at

Promontory Point, Utah

1870, the 15th amendment

gives former slaves
the right to vote

1877, Rutherford B. Hayes,
in a compromise deal
to gain the presidency,

promises to give money to construct southern railroads and for flood control, to pull federal troops out of the South, and end Reconstruction.

1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act
prevents

further Chinese citizenship
or immigration.

1883, the Pendleton Act

requires examinations for jobs
with the federal government.

In 1896, the case of
Plessy v. Ferguson

legitimizes the concept of
“separate but equal.”

1898, the USS Maine

explodes in the harbor of
Havana, Cuba.

1904-1914

the United States constructs
the Panama Canal

Muckrakers are

people who expose corruption
in big business.

(Ida Tarbell and Lincoln Steffens)

1906, publication of Upton Sinclair's
novel *The Jungle*

leads to the Meat Inspection Act

1913, the 17th amendment

allowed citizens to vote
for their state's senators.

1917, after repeated warnings
by the United States,
Germany resumes

unrestricted submarine warfare.

The Zimmerman telegram
was

a message to Mexico asking for support of Germany and promising to help regain Mexican territory lost to the United States.

In 1917, the United States enters
World War I as a result of

propaganda;
the Zimmerman telegram;
unrestricted u-boat attacks

1919, the 18th amendment

prohibits the manufacturing and sale
of alcohol.

(the “Prohibition Era” begins)

1920, the 19th amendment

gives women the right to vote.

1929, The United States Stock Market

crashes
& the Great Depression begins.

1930s, the Great Plains States
experience drought and

become known as
the Dust Bowl.

December 7, 1941
the Japanese carry out
a surprise attack

on the American fleet
at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

1944, Congress passes the
Servicemen's Readjustment Act
also known as the "GI Bill" to

provide money for
college tuition and home building.

1945, on August 7th and 9th, the
United States dropped bombs on

Hiroshima and Nagasaki

1948, the Marshall Plan was
an aid program to help

European countries
after World War II.

1950-1953, North Korea invaded
South Korea and

the Korean War took place.

1954, Brown versus the Board of
Education overturns

Plessy v. Ferguson and leads to the integration of public schools.

1963, President Kennedy is
assassinated in Dallas by

Lee Harvey Oswald

1968, Martin Luther King in
Memphis & Robert F. Kennedy in
Los Angeles, are

assassinated.

1971, Title IX demands

equal expenditures for
women's athletics.

1973, The War Powers Act
demands that a President have

the approval of Congress to keep
American troops in a war situation
longer than 60 days.

1973, in the Supreme Court case of *Roe v. Wade*, it was decided that

a woman has the right
to an abortion.

1974, under threat of impeachment
and criminal indictment

President Nixon resigns.

1983, President Reagan proposes the Strategic Defense Initiative with space stations to intercept incoming missiles; this was popularly known as

“Star Wars”

1989, the Berlin Wall

is torn down.

1991, the United States declares
war on Iraq and

the Persian Gulf War begins.

1991, the Soviet Union

collapses.

1993, the North American Free
Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
establishes

a trading partnership among
Mexico, the U. S., & Canada

1998, the House of Representatives

impeaches Bill Clinton

1999, the U. S. Senate

acquits President Clinton.

2000, although Al Gore
wins the popular vote,

George W. Bush wins the electoral vote when the Supreme Court rules him the winner in Florida.

September 11, 2001

terrorists use commercial airliners
to destroy the World Trade Center
and to damage the Pentagon.

2001

In an attempt to retaliate against the
terrorists

the United States invades
Afghanistan and overthrows
the Taliban government.

2002, the United States decides
to invade Iraq in order to

overthrow Saddam Hussein.