

**Part 1: The World We Live In**

1. Why do most people feel that history is useless and boring? What is the proposed antidote in the *History At Our House* program?

Most people think history is useless and boring because they think it is merely “the study of the past.” There is no *use* to studying a past apart from the present we live in. It does not empower us. And thus the facts we learn feel boring. The *History At Our House* antidote is to approach history as the revelation and explanation of the world we live in. The goal is to show that the past is the cause and explanation of the present world we live in, and thus the source of powerful insight. **(4 pts: 1 pt for conventional view; 2 pts for revelation and explanation of the world; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

2. Label the major cultural *blocks* indicated that are part of the world we live in, and answer the prompts in the briefest way you can.

**Anglosphere (1pt)**  
 mother country: **England/Britain (1pt)**

**Iberosphere (1pt)**  
 European mother countries: **Spain & Portugal (2 pts)**

**Islamic World (1pt)**  
 concept of religious war in this block:  
**jihad (1pt)**

**Russia (1pt)**  
 former champion of: **communism (1pt)**

**(9 pts)**

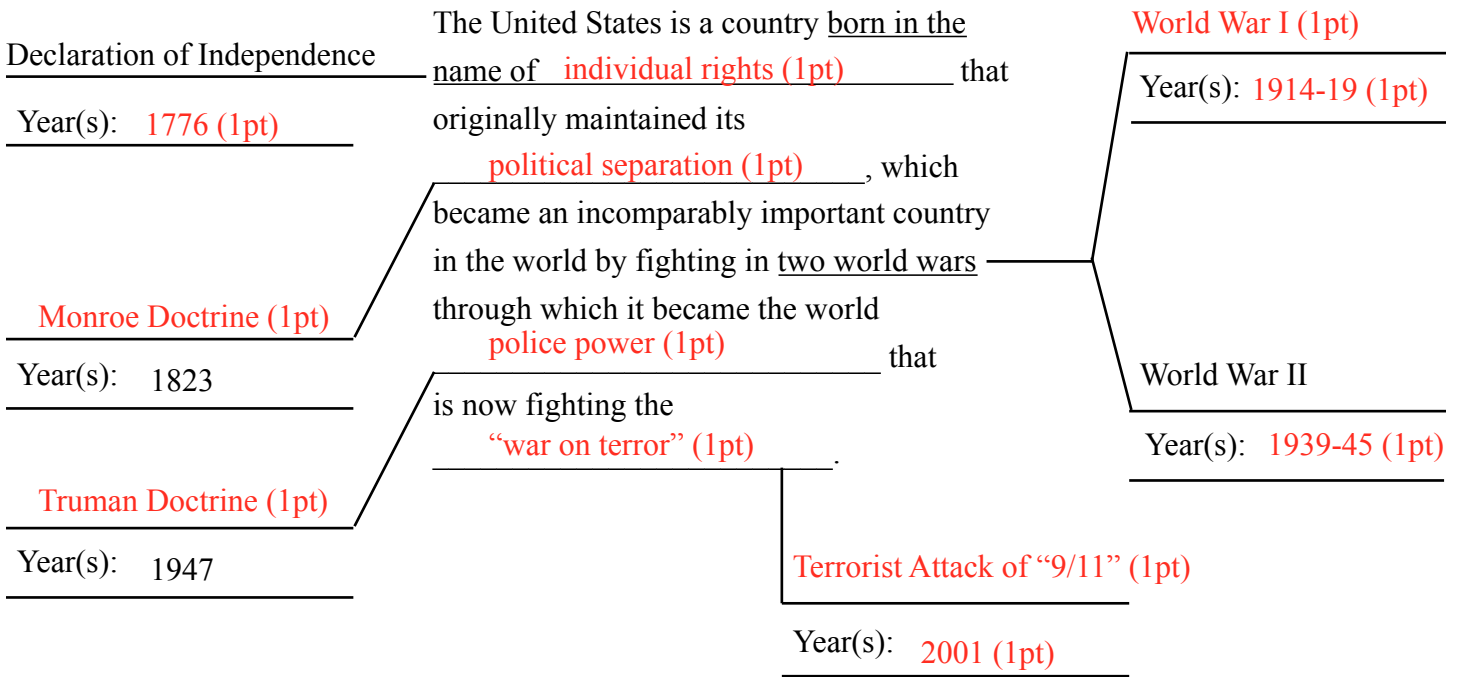
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**Part 2: The Cardinal Anchor Facts of American History**

3. What is the fundamental connection between past and present? Give an example of a such a connection. Do all historical events yield the same connection? What term is used to denote the facts that empower us to make the connections? And, finally what extra term focusses on the most powerful facts of all in this regard?

The fundamental connection between the past and present is that the past is the cause of the present. An example would be that America is locked in a War on Terror today because of “9-11.” This event occurred in 2001 (the past), but explains the present. Not all historical events yield this connection; in fact, most don’t. The facts that do are called “anchor facts” in the *History At Our House* program. They show us how the world we live in came to be this way. What is more, some facts do this so well and to such a degree that they help us develop a big picture understanding of history very rapidly. These especially powerful facts are “cardinal anchor facts.” (5 pts: 1 pt for the past as a cause; 1pt for any example connected to today; 1 pt for “anchor fact”; 1 pt for “cardinal anchor fact”; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)

4. Use the prompts below to write the information requested about the cardinal anchor facts of American history.



(12 pts)

**Total Points This Page: 17 pts**

5. Who was re-elected president by Americans on the slogan “*He has kept us out of war.*” What happened next that changed the course of history. What slogan lies at the heart of this transformation?

Woodrow Wilson was re-elected as president of the United States on the slogan “*He has kept us out of war.*” What happened next, however, is that Wilson lead America into World War I anyways. This began America’s transformation into the world police power, as it was the first instance of America joining a European war, despite the traditional political separation embodied by the Monroe Doctrine. The slogan that is the symbol of this change is “*The world must be made safe for democracy.*” Wilson was assigning to America and entirely new mission apart from self-defense. **(5 pts: 1 pt for Woodrow Wilson; 1 for entering WWI; 1pt for significance of entry, i.e. how this changed the course of history; 1 pt close approximation of the quote; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

6. What global security situation arose *after* World War II? How did Harry Truman respond? And, how did this response lead to the modern-day “War on Terror.”?

After the defeat of Germany and Japan in WWII, a new global security situation arose. Russia (at that time known as the “Soviet Union”), which had previously been allied with America against their commons enemies, became America’s enemy. It had a communist government, and intended to impose this oppressive form of government as widely as possible, especially in Europe. American president Harry Truman chose to respond to this challenge by enunciating the Truman Doctrine that would make America the *world police power* to stop the spread of communism. This caused America to begin policing the Middle East against communism, against which Jihadists (adherents of “holy war”) within Islamic culture have responded by acts of terrorism against America, leading to the “War on Terror.” **(6 pts: 1 pt for Russia; 1 pt for communism; 1 pt for Truman Doctrine; 1 pt for policing the Middle East; 1 pt for Jihadism; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

**Total Points This Page: 11 pts**

**Part 3: Two Dimensions and Two Stories**

7. American history can be usefully divided into what two *eras*. What are they, and what are the two differences between them? What two anchor facts mark the transition that does not have to do with world wars?

The two eras of American history can be denoted as “Early” and “Modern”—with other names being possible, of course. The first difference between early America and modern America is that early America was politically separate from the rest of the world and modern America is the world police power, and thus politically interconnected with the world. The second difference is that early America had slavery and freedom, while modern America is a country of civil rights. The transition from early to modern American culture occurs with the abolition of slavery following the Civil War (1861-5) as part of the Reconstruction Period (1865-77).

**(7 pts: 1 pt for “early” and “modern”; 2 pts for political separation vs. world police; 2 pts for slavery vs. civil rights; 1pt for Civil War and Reconstruction; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

8. To what other cultural block is the United States *most* connected, based on the anchor facts we have studied so far? Explain your answer briefly using at least three anchor facts.

Based on the anchor facts of American history, we can see that the United States is most connected to Europe. We see this in the Declaration of Independence, which announces the separation of America from Europe in 1776, and the Monroe Doctrine which enshrines that separation in 1823. We see it in terms of reconnection in WWI (1914-19), which is increased in WWII (1939-45), and which is enshrined as a marriage of two civilizations in effect with the Truman Doctrine, whereby America became Europe’s guardian (1947).

**(5 pts: 1 pt for Europe; 3 pts for three of the five relevant anchor facts in relation to the theme; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

**Total Points This Page: 12 pts**

**Total Points on Test: 53 points**