

# Themes of World History

## *How can a thematic approach help us make sense of world history?*

### PREVIEW

Carefully watch the audio slideshow. Then match each of the statements below with the correct theme from the list.

**cultural interaction**  
**political structures**

**economic structures**  
**social structures**

**human-environment**  
**interaction**

1. Heavy taxes and lack of jobs led many southern Italians to emigrate to the United States, Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela.
2. Immigrants often faced discrimination in their new countries because of their race or ethnicity.
3. Many immigrant families worked together to build new businesses after they got established.
4. United States politicians passed many laws in the late 1800s to limit the number of immigrants from certain countries.
5. When the Irish potato crop failed in the 1840s and 1850s, more than 1.5 million people left Ireland for the United States.

### READING NOTES

#### Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

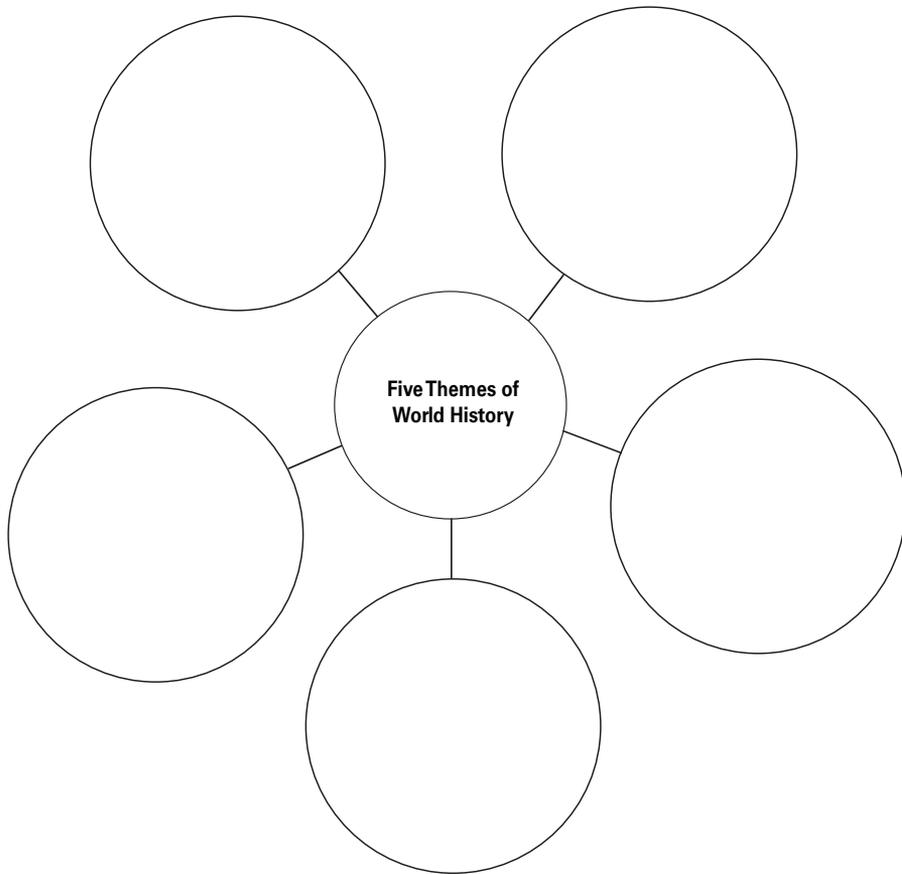
primary source      point of view      chronology  
secondary source      bias

#### Section 2

1. What kinds of objects can be considered historical evidence?
2. How are primary and secondary sources different?
3. When might a historian's point of view become bias?
4. Why do historians find periodization useful for the study of history?
5. Why do historians apply spatial frames to the study of history?

**Section 3**

In each circle, write one of the major themes of world history and two examples of that theme.



**P R O C E S S I N G**

1. Use the Internet or other resources to make copies of 2-3 images that illustrate each of the five historical themes:
  - cultural interaction
  - political structures
  - economic structures
  - social structures
  - human-environmental interaction
  
2. Use your images to create a collage on the cover of your notebook. Arrange your images in a way that will help remind you about these five themes as you continue your study of history.