P.I.E.C.E.S. CHARTS

PIECES is an acronym that we use in history to cover six main themes – Political Systems, Innovation and Technology, Economic Systems, Culture, Environmental Interaction, and Social Structures. PIECES help organize a specific time period, era, or civilization. We will be using these themes throughout our study of US History. Use the chart below to understand what can be discussed under the various themes. Keep this as a blank template so that you can refer back to it all year.

PIECES Theme	Region/era/civilization
POLITICAL STRUCTURES • Political structures • Legal systems and laws • Conflict and war • Government and leadership • Nationalism	
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY • Inventions • Science and mathematics • Weapons and tools • Machines • Medicine	
ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS • Geography • Natural resources • Disease • Human migration • Patterns of settlement • Pollution, deforestation, desertification • Flora, fauna, climate	
CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS • Art and architecture • Language and writing • Education systems • Religions and belief systems • Philosophies and ideologies	
ECONOMIC SYSTEMS • Labor systems • Agricultural production • Trade and commerce • Industrialization • Banking and currency • Wealth distribution	
SOCIAL STRUCTURES • Class structures • Gender roles and relations • Racial and ethnic makeup • Freedom and rights • Social mobility and barriers	

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS TOOL: HIPP!

H.I.P.P. is a helpful tool for analyzing documents! It helps you break down the document so that you can better understand what it is and what's going on.

H	HISTORICAL CONTEXT	• When was the document created? What was going on when the document was created? • Are there big events that might have motivated the author to create the document?
I	INTENDED AUDIENCE	• Who was the author's original audience? Who was meant to read, see, or hear the document? • How might that affect what is being said and how it is being said?
P	PURPOSE	• Why did the author create the document? • What's the main idea?
P	PERSPECTIVE	• What is the author's perspective (point of view)? • What is the author's position in society? Consider emotions, political views, religion, gender, etc…

PRACTICE:

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a *dream* today!"

Source: Martin Luther King, Jr., speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., August 28, 1963

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