**Honors U.S. History**

**“The Story of Us – *Superpower*”**

Answer the following as you view the documentary:

1. Describe the post-war “inebriation” of America.
   1. ½ world’s oil
   2. 2/3 world’s gold
   3. Labor force
   4. Winning the war… character of country forged in war… a superpower
   5. Economy charged by war… the Greatest Generation… ambitious
   6. Avg. American family earns 15 times more than average in Europe
2. What threatened to pull America apart?
   1. Sheer size… 9 million square miles… infrastructure… only half roads are paved
3. How did President Eisenhower respond to the nation’s need for improved infrastructure?
   1. As young soldier he drove across the nation… took 62 days
   2. Created interstate highway system… makes this his mission in the 1950s.
4. Create a brief timeline of the history of travel in the United States.
   1. Rivers – steamboat – 1811
   2. Erie Canal – 1825 – links eastern seaboard to Great Lakes
   3. Transcontinental Railroad - 1869
5. What becomes the biggest engineering project in America’s history?
   1. Interstate highway system – costs $129 billion… 2.4 billion man-hours
6. How was this project similar to the railroads in the previous century?
   1. Built with manual labor and grit
   2. 200,000 miles of track in impossible terrain… innovation needed… nitroglycerin
7. Describe the interstate project.
   1. Largest earthmoving project in world history
8. How many miles of interstate are there in America today?
   1. 46,876 miles – enough to wrap twice around the world
   2. Reduced journey across country to four days… instead of 62 days
9. How many cars were manufactured in America in 1946?
   1. 2 million
10. Describe the “age of the automobile.”
    1. America had “love affair” with cars… enabled you to get anywhere affordably
    2. 1955 – Americans buying 8 million cars each year - $65 million annually
    3. 20,000 cars produced daily
    4. America makes 80% of world’s cars
11. What happened to many American towns in this era?
    1. Interstates create new routes… fundamentally changed Route 66…
    2. “Death by Interstate”
12. What was America’s next great invention?
    1. The Suburbs
13. What was the Baby Boom?
    1. Post-war birth rates increased dramatically
    2. 1946 – one baby born every ten seconds
14. How did the Baby Boom impact housing in America?
    1. Increased demand exponentially – 13 million homes built in decade after WWII
15. What was America’s most famous post-war housing? Describe it.
    1. 3,000 acres plowed daily for housing
    2. Farmland turned into family homes – neighborhoods
    3. Levittown in New York… Levitt and Sons built a house every 16 minutes
16. How did technology impact the way homes were built throughout U.S. history?
    1. Inspired by industrial age – 1840 Lowell Massachusetts
    2. Ford’s production line in 1918
    3. America started mass-producing homes
    4. Another Levittown built in Philadelphia and a third in New Jersey
    5. Family home for less than $8,000
    6. 1940 – only 40% owned homes… By 1960, 60% of Americans own a home
    7. The family home – air conditioning created in 1902
17. What is one of the common themes running through American history?
    1. Technological development
18. What was the impetus for the Apollo Space program?
    1. From aviation invented by the Wright Brothers – accelerated by two wars
    2. 1945 – journey across country reduced to six hours by air
19. Which president told the world that America would put a man on the moon first?
    1. Kennedy
20. How many Americans worked directly on Apollo 11?
    1. 400,000
21. How many gallons of fuel did it take to get to the moon?
    1. 1 million
22. “That’s one small step for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, one giant leap for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Neil Armstrong
    1. Man; mankind
    2. “The eagle has landed.”
    3. Landed six out of seven times on the moon – “Apollo” became a metaphor
23. What events had led up to that “summer night in 1969?”
    1. Lost Kennedy – John and Robert
    2. Dr. King’s assassination
24. What “fault line” was changing the nation in the 1960s?
    1. Civil rights
25. In what year did the first slaves arrive in Virginia?
    1. 1619
26. How many slaves were there in America by 1861?
    1. 4 million
27. How many were killed in the Chicago Race Riots in 1919?
    1. 38
28. How did WWII impact the civil rights movement in America?
    1. Broke down barriers
    2. Beginning of civil rights movement
29. What happened in July 1948 concerning race?
    1. Military desegregated
30. What motivated the civil rights movement of the 1960s?
    1. To right the wrongs of the past – Harriet Tubman – Underground Railroad
    2. Civil War – Civil Rights Acts had been deemed unconstitutional by SCOTUS
    3. television
31. Who was the voice of the civil rights movement?
    1. Dr. King
32. Why do you think he organized a march on Washington?
    1. A. Phillip Randolph had threatened FDR with a march – FDR had conceded
    2. National attention
33. What was part of the impact of Dr. King’s march on Washington?
    1. “Held a mirror up to the face of all Americans…”
    2. Let’s do what the Declaration actually said… the promise of 1776
    3. Civil Rights Act passed year after the march
    4. Problem with race does not disappear
34. What took place in July of 1945 in New Mexico?
    1. Testing of the atom bomb – Manhattan Project – Oppenheimer
    2. America created it first.
35. Who else had tested a “weapon of mass destruction” in 1949?
    1. Soviet Union
36. What was the Cold War?
    1. Ideological war between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.
    2. Arms race between the superpowers.
37. Describe the impact of the Cold War on domestic America.
    1. Paranoia and fear
    2. Duck and cover drills
38. How many defense contractors are working for the federal government by the mid-1950s?
    1. 40,000
39. What is an ICBM?
    1. Intercontinental Ballistic Missile – can travel 3,500 miles and destroy cities
    2. “This is a war that no one can win.”
40. Describe events in the 1960s that escalated tension between the two superpowers.
    1. U2 (1960)
    2. Bay of Pigs Incident
    3. Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)
    4. Senate hearing to reveal communists domestically