

A New Role for the Nation

Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

- how the United States grew into a superpower after the Great Depression and World War II
- about postwar America, its culture, and its fight for civil rights

Here are some ways that you can help your child learn:

Talk About It

Chapter 16: Becoming a World Power

Good times, hard times The people of the United States enjoyed good times and hard times in the early 20th century. Talk about the importance of the economy and jobs for preserving “good times.” Discuss the fears and sacrifices that come with being at war.

Chapter 17: Americans Face Changes

Justice and equality Discuss a newspaper or a magazine story that shows someone fighting for a better quality of life. What basic rights should each person have? Why is it important to be able to vote in an election? Why is it important to be treated with respect? Ask your child to share experiences when he or she was not treated fairly. How did this make your child feel?

Make It

A film review Many film productions vividly capture the drama of the pre- and postwar years of the 20th century. Check your local television listings for films about the postwar years. Or, you may visit a movie rental store or your local library to rent titles. Ask a librarian or a sales clerk to guide you. Then help your child write a short review.

Read to Learn More About It

Days of Courage: The Little Rock Story, by Richard Kelso. Chronicles the experiences of the “Little Rock nine,” the first African American students to integrate Arkansas schools.

Dorothea Lange, by Robyn Montana Turner. The black-and-white photographs by Dorothea Lange focused on the suffering people experienced during the Depression.

Martin Luther King, Jr., by Jean Darby. A biography of the civil rights leader who practiced nonviolent protest.



Technology

Check out
www.eduplace.com/parents/hmss05/
for more information.