Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Value Shifts in American Culture**  Hon 11

**Puritanism came FIRST**→hard times→God-centered (look for answers from God)→ unknown is defined as God→Salem witch trials

**Age of Reason came NEXT**→easier times→human-centered→logical analysis of the environment (look for answers in human intellect and reasoning ability—result is an emotional emptiness; nothing to explain why there is evil or happiness)→ unknown is only that which reason hadn’t discovered)→ **American Independence (1776)**

**Romanticism came NEXT (1820-1865)**→times of growth and change→imagination (mind or soul)-centered (soul is human’s emotional center, that inner self that causes humans to act and react emotionally)→ Search for answers in the unknown (Unknown is what can’t be explained—no God and reason and science can’t explain can’t explain everything; grew also out of the physical wilderness, unexplored territory of the West—including Louisiana territory. The geographical wilderness causes humans to reflect on the spiritual wilderness)→analysis of emotions and unconscious→**Civil War**

*The Age of Romanticism begins when the United States has established itself as a nation and has time to think romantically. People feel* ***SAFE🡪 SAFETY allows for IMAGINATION to flourish.***

From our textbook: “*American Romanticism can best be described as a journey away from the corruption of civilization and the limits of rational thought and toward the integrity of nature and the freedom of the imagination.”*

**Realism came NEXT (1865-1914) )**→Civil War was the first *documented* war in history (via pictures)🡪 war revealed “humanity’s basic evil” (p.415 in text)🡪 lead to the rise of Realism, which “…dominated American fiction from the late nineteenth century to the middle of the twentieth century. Realists sought to accurately portray real life, without filtering it through personal feelings, romanticism or idealism” (419).

**During this time period, Naturalism took root as well🡪** “Naturalists tended to look at human life as a grim, losing battle. Their characters often had only limited choices and motivations. In the eyes of some naturalist writings, human beings were totally subject to the natural laws of the universe; like animals, they lived crudely, by instinct, unable to control their own destinies.”

**Comparison Chart**

***Tracking changes from era to era***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Puritan Text***  *“Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God”* | ***Romantic Text***  *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* | ***Realist Text***  *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* | |
| ***Environmental Factors*** |  |  |  |
| ***Values determined*** |  |  |  |