

I N Q U I R Y H I S T O R Y
EXPLORING AMERICA'S HISTORY THROUGH COMPELLING QUESTIONS

TEACHER'S GUIDE
SIMPLIFIED – UNITS 1-8



U p d a t e d D e c e m b e r 2 8 , 2 0 2 2



1-1: Pre-Columbian Societies

Is popular culture's portrayal of Native Americans as noble savages accurate?

TOPICS:

- Bering Land Bridge
- Variation in Societies
- Maya
- Inca
- Aztec
- North America

BIG IDEA: Native American societies were enormously varied, ranging from small nomadic bands to elaborate societies with enormous cities. Generally, cultures derived their characteristics from the surrounding natural environment.

The very first humans to live in North and South America arrived during the Ice Ages when sea levels were lower and the land between Asia and Alaska was exposed. They were nomads following game animals. Over the centuries, descendants of these first inhabitants spread throughout the rest of the Americas.

Their societies evolved into a myriad of distinct cultures with unique languages, religions and folkways, often influenced by the particular geography and climate where they lived.

In Central and South America, as well as in Mexico, large, powerful, complex societies developed that featured massive cities and written language. The Maya in southern Mexico and Central America built pyramids and a complex calendar system. However, their culture had disappeared before the arrival of the Europeans.

In South America, the Inca developed a complex system of roads to connect distant regions of their empire. They were excellent builders and cut stones so precisely that their cities, such as Machu Picchu, have lasted for centuries without mortar to hold them together.

In central Mexico the Aztec Empire built the massive city of Tenochtitlan that stood at the site of modern Mexico City. The Aztec religion included the practice of human sacrifice, which horrified Spanish conquistadors who met them.

In North America, societies varied greatly. Two regions show the differences: In the Southwest people grew corn, built homes from adobe or carved homes out of cliffs. In the Northeast, people hunted, fished and farmed, and built permanent homes out of wood. These included the people that English settlers first met when they arrived in New England and Jamestown. Some of their cultures had well developed political systems, such as the Iroquois League.

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Maya
Inca
Aztec

LOCATIONS

Bering Land Bridge

TOPICS:

- Columbian Exchange Overview
- Foods
- Animals
- Diseases
- People

BIG IDEA: The conquest of the Americans led to a major change in world history as plants, animals, microbes, people and ideas were exchanged.

The Columbian Exchange is the name historians give to all the plants, animals, diseases, people and ideas shared between the Old World of Europe, Asia and Africa and the New World of the Americas after first contact was made by Christopher Columbus in 1492. Since this exchange was enormously influential, 1492 is an important turning point in world history.

Sugar and rice were brought from the Old World to the New. Tobacco, potatoes, tomatoes and chocolate were New World crops brought to the Old World.

Domesticated animals such as horses, pigs, cows, sheep, goats and chickens were brought to America. Europeans also brought earthworms, which transformed the forests and fields of the Americas.

Most significantly for Native Americans was the exchange of diseases. Smallpox came from Europe and devastated Native American populations. It is estimated that 90% of Native Americans died from introduced diseases.

People were also part of the Columbian Exchange. Some came by choice, such as the Spanish, French and eventually the British colonists. Others did not come by choice, such as the African slaves. Once in America, some remained racially segregated whereas in other colonies they intermarried. The Spanish developed a caste system based on the purity of one's heritage, with those of pure Spanish ancestry at the top, and those of pure African ancestry at the bottom.

KEY CONCEPTS

The Columbian Exchange

TOPICS:

- Names for the British Isles
- First English Explorers
- Privateers
- Roanoke
- Joint-Stock Companies
- Jamestown
- Tobacco
- Powhattan
- The House of Burgesses

BIG IDEA: The English developed their first colony in America at Jamestown. It was a business venture that nearly failed until the colonists discovered that they could grow and export tobacco.

Although the land that is now the United States was occupied by Native Americans, and settled by Europeans, Africans, and Asians from many places, the United States as a nation has its roots in settlement from England. The English were late arrivals in America. The Spanish and French had already established colonies in the Americas and had been there for more than 100 years before the arrival of the first English colonizers.

Spain had been the most powerful nation in Europe for many years due in large part to the riches discovered in the Americas. However, when the Spanish tried to invade England, her giant navy was sunk in a storm and defeated in battle. It was an important turning point in European and American history.

The English started attacking Spanish ships carrying gold, silver, and other treasure from America back to Europe. Many of these attackers were privateers who later helped found the first English settlements in America.

The first English settlement in America was at Roanoke, but it failed. No one knows exactly what happened to the settlers since they all disappeared.

English businessmen pooled their resources to form joint-stock companies to share in the cost and risk of investing in America. The first such company paid for the establishment of Jamestown in Virginia.

Jamestown was a failure in the beginning. The settlers did not know how to farm so they starved. Only with help from the local Native Americans did some settlers survive. However, they discovered that they could grow tobacco, which they could sell back in Europe. Tobacco made Jamestown and the surrounding Chesapeake Bay region profitable.

The area around Jamestown was settled by the Powhatan Native American people. They had a tense relationship with the English settlers. Sometimes they helped the settlers, but when the English took Native lands they went to war.

An important tradition established in the Chesapeake Bay region was the House of Burgesses. Neither England nor Virginia were democracies since the poor had little influence in both societies. However, the wealthy plantation owners in Virginia meet regularly to make laws for their colony. This House of Burgesses helped establish a tradition of self-rule that the colonists were willing to fight for in the 1770s.

IDEAS

- Spanish Armada
- Joint-Stock Company
- Primogenitor
- Tobacco
- Absolute Monarchy
- Limited Monarchy
- Divine Right

PEOPLE & GROUPS

- Privateers
- Francis Drake
- Walter Raleigh
- John Smith
- John Rolfe
- Powhatan
- Pocahontas
- Virginia House of Burgesses

EVENTS

- Starving Time
- Anglo-Powhatan Wars

BUSINESSES

- Virginia Company of London

LOCATIONS

- London
- United Kingdom
- Roanoke
- Jamestown

3-2: Leading to the Revolution

How did the colonists stop being British and start being American?

TOPICS:

- The Enlightenment
- The Trial of John Peter Zenger
- A Tradition of Rebellion
- Smuggling
- The Stamp Act
- The Sons and Daughters of Liberty
- Committees of Correspondence
- The Boston Patriots
- The Townshend Acts
- The Boston Massacre
- Tea
- The Intolerable Acts
- Lexington and Concord

BIG IDEA: The English settlers in America chose to declare and fight for independence after a long series of conflicts with their government. Most of these centered around economic issues and their right to participate in government. Americans were influenced by Enlightenment ideas.

In the years before American independence, an intellectual movement called the Enlightenment swept Europe and America. Philosophers proposed new ideas about government, including questioning the right of kings to rule and suggesting that all humans were born with basic rights. Many of these ideas were later used to justify the Declaration of Independence and formed the basis for the American system of government.

The Trial of Peter Zenger set an important precedent in America regarding the freedom of the press.

Americans had a long tradition of rebelling against governments they felt were unjust. Rebellions had taken place in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina during the colonial period. Americans also had a long history of ignoring laws they did not like. Smuggling to avoid paying tariffs or to avoid mercantilist laws was commonplace. For many years, British officials had not enforced trade laws in America since enforcement cost more than the potential tariff revenue the government might receive.

After the Seven Years War, the British government needed money and decided to start taxing the American colonists. This was not well received in America. A series of laws passed by the British Parliament were protested in the colonies. Most importantly, Americans believed that it was not fair to tax them without allowing them representation in Parliament.

American patriots organized groups such as the Sons and Daughters of Liberty and Committees of Correspondence to organize protests, boycotts and to share revolutionary ideas. They served as an important first step toward national government by setting and enforcing policy.

The Revolution started in Boston, Massachusetts. This is where the most dramatic protests happened, such as the Boston Massacre and Boston Tea Party. The British closed the port of Boston and Boston area patriots formed militias to prepare for war. The fighting itself started when British troops tried to capture a stockpile of weapons in the town of Concord a few miles from Boston.

The first battles of the American Revolution in April 1775 are called the Shot Heard 'Round the World because they inspired other revolutionary movements, such as those in Haiti and France.

PEOPLE & GROUPS

John Locke
Cotton Mather
Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Montesquieu
John Peter Zenger
Nathaniel Bacon
Governor Berkeley
Regulators
Paxton Boys
Sons of Liberty
Daughters of Liberty
Committees of Correspondence
Samuel Adams
John Adams
John Hancock
Paul Revere
Crispus Attucks
Minutemen

KEY CONCEPTS

Libel
Mercantilism
Duties
Salutary Neglect
Tar and Feathering
No Taxation Without Representation

DOCUMENTS

Circular Letter
Paul Revere's Ride

LOCATIONS

North Bridge

LAWS & RESOLUTIONS

Magna Carta
Stamp Act
Quartering Act
Declaratory Act
Coercive Acts
Quebec Act
Intolerable Act
Suffolk Resolves

EVENTS

Age of Reason
Enlightenment
Bacon's Rebellion
Stamp Act Congress
Boston Massacre
Boston Tea Party
Battle of Lexington
Battle of Concord
Shot Heard 'Round the World

TOPICS:

- The First Continental Congress
- Thomas Paine’s Common Sense
- The Declaration of Independence
- What the Founding Fathers Said
- The Signatures

BIG IDEA: American leaders did not want to declare independence right away and tried unsuccessfully to resolve their differences with the government in England. The Declaration of Independence laid out the philosophical reasons for independence and remains a seminal document in American history.

Leaders from the colonies gathered in Philadelphia in 1774 at the First Continental Congress to try to find ways to negotiate with the British government and solve their growing problems. They wrote a petition to the King and resolved to meet again. Their petition was ignored by both Parliament and the King.

Thomas Paine wrote a bestselling book making the case for independence entitled Common Sense. He used enlightenment ideas to explain why the British government had no moral authority over the colonies.

When colonial leaders met in 1776 at the Second Continental Congress, fighting had already begun in Boston. This time, the delegates voted to declare independence. They appointed a committee to write a document explaining their justification for this bold move. Ben Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson all served on the committee. Jefferson wrote most of the document.

The Declaration of Independence included some of the most important ideas about the meaning of the United States. In it, the Founding Fathers declared that “all men are created equal.”

John Hancock was the president of the Second Continental Congress and signed it first. Washington did not sign the document. He had been appointed to lead the Continental Army.

DOCUMENTS

Declaration and Resolves
Petition to the King
Common Sense
Declaration of Causes
Olive Branch Petition
Declaration of
Independence
When in the Course of
human events...
Preamble

PEOPLE & GROUPS

Thomas Paine
George Washington
Richard Henry Lee
Thomas Jefferson
John Hancock

EVENTS

First Continental Congress
Second Continental
Congress
July 4, 1776

TOPICS:

- Strengths and Weaknesses
- Patriots, Loyalists, and Fence-Sitters
- The Home Front
- Early Battles
- The Battle of Saratoga
- Valley Forge
- Benedict Arnold
- The French Alliance
- Yorktown
- The Treaty of Paris

BIG IDEA: The War for Independence was long and difficult. Eventually with the help of the French, Washington's army was able to force the British to surrender and recognize American independence.

The British and Americans started the War for Independence with distinct strengths and weaknesses. The British were a powerful nation with the world's largest army and navy. The Americans knew the territory and were fighting a war for a cause. The British had to win. The Americans simply had to not lose and last long enough for the British to tire of the fight.

About 1/3 of Americans were patriots. About 1/3 were loyalists. Another 1/3 had no particular preference. After the war, many loyalists were treated badly, lost their property, and moved to Canada.

The economy and the lives of citizens were interrupted by the conflict. Homes were burned and farms plundered. The British blockaded American ports.

Women supported the war by making clothing and by providing support services to the Continental Army, most famously as spies. They also took over the running of farms and businesses while their husbands were in the army.

The battles of the War for Independence were mostly victories for the British. In the early years of the war the Americans managed to resist and survive without complete destruction, which served as a moral victory and encouraged perseverance.

The British wanted to split the Southern Colonies from New England by controlling the Hudson River Valley in New York. This did not go well as the Americans defeated the British at Saratoga, the turning point of the war. The victory at Saratoga prevented the British from capturing all of New York and also convinced the French to join the war in support of the Americans.

George Washington's army spent the Winter of 1777 at Valley Forge where they learned tactics from European noblemen who came to help the Americans.

Benedict Arnold became America's first great villain by trying to turn over the fort at West Point to the British. His plot was uncovered and he fled.

The French provided critical support at the end of the war by blocking the British escape from Yorktown with their warships. Washington's army forced the British to surrender.

The Treaty of Paris of 1783 concluded the war. Britain recognized American independence and gave the United States all territory south of Canada and west as far as the Mississippi River.

PEOPLE & GROUPS

Hessian
 Loyalists
 Tories
 Patriots
 Horatio Gates
 Baron von Steuben
 Benedict Arnold
 John André
 Marquis de Lafayette
 Rochambeau
 Lord Cornwallis

LOCATIONS

Valley Forge
 West Point

KEY CONCEPTS

Homespun
 British Strategy
 French Alliance

TREATIES, LAWS & POLICIES

Treaty of Paris of 1783

EVENTS

Bunker Hill
 Crossing the Delaware
 Battle of Saratoga
 Yorktown

4-1: Effects of the Revolution

Was the American Revolution actually revolutionary?

TOPICS:

- The Meaning of the Declaration
- The Soldiers
- The Loyalists
- African Americans
- Women
- Native Americans
- Yeomen and Artisans
- The Age of Revolution

BIG IDEA: The American Revolution led to different outcomes for different groups of people. It was good for landowners and artisans, but not good for loyalists, slaves and Native Americans.

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in American history. The introduction laid out basic ideas about human freedom and the meaning of America. Over time we have expanded our idea of what the Declaration means and who it applies to. For example, in the beginning the phrase “all men are created equal” only applied to White men who owned property. Today, we include men and women of all races and all stations in life.

Soldiers who fought in the War for Independence had a difficult time. In the beginning of the war, the American army was made up of various volunteer militias. As the war progressed, Washington fashioned a professional army, but they were poorly paid and poorly equipped by Congress and mutinies and desertion were common. At the end of the war, the army was a powerful force and the people and the government were suspicious that military officers might try to take power for themselves.

Loyalists were treated poorly throughout the war and especially afterward. Many fled to Britain or Canada.

The Revolution was not an advancement in freedom for African Americans. The British offered freedom for slaves who agreed to fight for the British army, so the Americans were effectively fighting to perpetuate slavery. There was a rise in the population of free African Americans in the North during the war and institutions such as churches developed. The ideas of liberty expressed in the Declaration were embraced by African Americans in later generations who used it as a rallying cry for emancipation and civil rights.

Although women contributed a great deal to the success of the war effort, they were not included in the new governments that followed. Women did become the primary teachers of revolutionary ideas to their children, thus gaining the position of preservers and perpetuators of the essential nature of the American experiment.

Native Americans lost badly. Tribes had almost universally supported the British who had promised to help secure their land rights against encroaching American settlers. The British loss contributed to efforts by Native American leaders to form intertribal alliances between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River area against the new American nation.

Because the Founding Fathers gave voting rights to White men who owned land, small farmers came out of the Revolution as victors. Artisans such as silversmith Paul Revere also came out of the Revolution well. Of course, most of the Founding Fathers were wealthy landowners and they also benefited from the Revolution.

KEY CONCEPTS

Republican Motherhood

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

African Methodist Episcopal Church

Yeoman Farmer

TOPICS:

- State Constitutions
- The Articles of Confederation
- Success Under the Articles of Confederation
- The Economic Crisis of the 1780s
- Shays’ Rebellion

BIG IDEA: For the first few years of American independence, the federal government was weak and ineffective at dealing with major problems. A rebellion in Massachusetts eventually pushed leaders to seek a new system of government.

During the War for Independence the states and Congress formed new systems of government. These formed the basis for ideas that would eventually become part of the Constitution.

The national government was organized under a set of rules called the Articles of Confederation. It emphasized state power, giving only limited responsibility to the national congress. This was because the Revolution had been prompted by conflicts with a powerful national government in Britain that Americans believed had too much authority. Having a weak central government led to problems down the road.

There were some important political agreements made during the Articles of Confederation government. Most notably, Congress agreed to a set of laws laying out the process for the lands of the Old Northwest (today’s Midwest) to become states. Within these laws were the seeds of the Civil War since they banned slavery in the territory. The laws ignored Native Americans.

An economic crisis in the 1780s increased social problems and showed the weaknesses of the government. In Massachusetts, poor farmers could not afford to pay back loans and found themselves in danger of losing land or going to debtor’s prison. Daniel Shays led a rebellion of these farmers against that state government. His rebellion failed, but it showed the rift between the wealthy who dominated government, and the people. It also showed the need for a strong federal government to maintain domestic security.

KEY CONCEPTS

Unicameral

LOCATIONS

Northwest Territory

LAWS

Constitution

Articles of Confederation

Ordinance of 1784, Land

Ordinance of 1785 and

Northwest Ordinance of

1787

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Daniel Shays

Shaysites

EVENTS

Economic Crisis of the 1780s

Shay’s Rebellion

TOPICS:

- The Founders
- Madison’s Framework
- Constitution Through Compromise
- We the People

BIG IDEA: The creation of the Constitution and our current system of government was due to problems that existed in the late 1780s and was the result of a series of compromises. The Founding Fathers tried to enshrine the ideals of the Revolution in a functioning system of government.

Colonial leaders met in Philadelphia to find solutions to the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation. Their first important decision was to discard the Articles altogether and start over.

George Washington served as the Constitutional Convention’s president, but James Madison was the intellectual leader and primary author of the new system of government.

One important debate was the nature of the legislature. Populous states wanted a legislature that would have representation based on population. Smaller states promoted a plan for equal representation for each state. The Great Compromise produced our current Congress with a House of Representatives and a Senate.

The Founding Fathers were concerned about too much democracy. They created the Electoral College as a forum for debate in the selection of the president, thus insulating the president from the fickle will of the people. Our strange system of electing presidents today in a winner-take-all system is due to this early decision.

The Constitution protected slavery. It included requirements that states help return runaway slaves and gave slaves states extra representatives in the House. Slaves could be counted as 3/5 of a person.

The Preamble lays out the purpose of government. Its opening words “We the People” emphasize the idea that government represents the people’s wishes and is chosen by the people.

KEY CONCEPTS

- Virginia Plan
- Separation of Powers
- Bicameral
- Legislative Branch
- Executive Branch
- Judicial Branch
- New Jersey Plan
- Census
- Great Compromise
- Three-Fifths Compromise

EVENTS

- Constitutional Convention

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

- James Madison
- Alexander Hamilton
- Founding Fathers
- Senate
- House of Representatives
- President
- Electoral College

LAWS

- Fugitive Clause
- Supreme Law of the Land
- Preamble
- We the People

TOPICS:

- Ratifying the Constitution
- Federalists
- Anti-Federalists
- Ratification State by State
- Virginia, New York and the Federalist Papers
- The Bill of Rights

BIG IDEA: The debate about ratification of the new Constitution divided the nation's leaders but led to the creation of the Bill of Rights.

The Constitution could not take effect until 9 of the 13 states ratified it. This led to an important period during which the public debated the merits of the new form of government. Central to this debate was the balance of power between the states and the federal government. Also important was the idea of individual freedom and the power of government over people.

Federalists liked the new more powerful federal government. Alexander Hamilton and James Madison were Federalists. With John Jay they wrote the Federalists Papers to explain the virtues of the new Constitution. Their work remains an important explanation of the ideas that underlie our system of government.

Anti-Federalists saw the new Constitution as dangerous. They believed that states should hold more power than the federal government. Thomas Jefferson led this faction. Their most important objection was that the Constitution had no protections for individuals. The Federalists argued that separating power between three branches would prevent the government from becoming too powerful and taking away people's rights. However, the Anti-Federalists won the argument.

In the end, the Constitution was adopted as the Federalists wanted, and a Bill of Rights was added as the Anti-Federalists wanted. The Bill of Rights protects many of the basic freedoms that the British had violated before the Revolution. These include the right to free speech, press, religion, petition, and assembly. It guarantees the right to a trial by jury, protection from warrantless search and seizure and the right to own a gun.

KEY CONCEPTS

Federalism

LAWS

- Bill of Rights
- First Amendment
- Second Amendment
- Third Amendment
- Fourth Amendment
- Fifth Amendment
- Sixth Amendment
- Seventh Amendment
- Eighth Amendment
- Ninth Amendment
- Tenth Amendment

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

- Federalists
- Anti-Federalists

DOCUMENTS

- The Federalist Papers
- Federalist, Number 10

LOCATIONS

- First State

5-1: George Washington

Does Washington deserve the title "Father of our Country?"

TOPICS:

- Young Washington
- General Washington
- Washington as a Federalist
- Precedent
- Whiskey Rebellion
- Washington's Farewell
- Washington and Slavery

BIG IDEA: It is difficult to understate the importance of George Washington on the founding of the United States. He led the army in the War for Independence and served as the nation's first president.

George Washington had been a surveyor in Virginia. He was not poor, but not rich until he married into a wealthy family. He played an important part in the start of the Seven Years War, which gave him credibility with Congress who appointed him leader of the Continental Army during the Revolution.

Washington was not a brilliant military commander but was charismatic and inspired confidence and loyalty. Importantly, he respected the idea of civilian leadership and refused to become king, although he certainly could have used his army, and popularity to take power for himself.

Washington generally supported the Federalist idea of strong central government, although he did not like political parties and discouraged them during his eight years in the presidency.

Washington understood the importance of precedent and made careful choices as the first president. He created the cabinet of advisors, a tradition still in place today.

When farmers in the mountains of Virginia rebelled against a tax on whiskey, Washington led an army to put down the rebellion, thus reinforcing the new federal government's power.

At the end of two terms Washington refused to be elected again. This created an important tradition that was respected for almost 200 years. When leaving office, he gave a farewell address that encouraged his countrymen to avoid forming political parties or engaging in alliances with foreign nations.

A persistent criticism of Washington is that he was a slave owner. However, Washington had mixed feelings about slavery. At the end of his life, he believed slavery should end and in his will he emancipated his slaves.

KEY CONCEPTS

Precedent

Emancipation

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Cabinet

EVENTS

Whiskey Rebellion

LAWS

22nd Amendment

SPEECHES

Washington's Farewell
Address

LOCATIONS

Mount Vernon

5-2: The First Political Parties

Why do we have two major political parties?

TOPICS:

- Alexander Hamilton
- Democratic-Republicans
- Washington, DC
- John Adams Presidency

BIG IDEA: The United States has had two major political parties from the very beginning. These developed around the competing ideas of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson.

As the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton proposed important plans to shape the American economy. His ideas reflected his idea that the federal government should be powerful. He wanted the federal government to absorb state debts. This helped northern states who still owed money after the Revolution. It also meant that people would support the federal government because they owned federal bonds.

Hamilton proposed chartering a Bank of the United States to hold federal funds. He believed this large bank would stabilize the economy. Hamilton believed the future of America was based on industry and trade. He wanted to increase tariffs on foreign products to protect American manufacturers. This would hurt Southerners who wanted to purchase imports. Hamilton believed in a loose interpretation of the Constitution. In his view, the Constitution enumerated powers but did not list every possible power of the government. Generally, Hamilton saw Great Britain as an ideal to copy. In his view, the chaos of the French Revolution was a bad example.

The Anti-Federalists changed their name to Democratic-Republicans and were led by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison who had grown to distrust Hamilton. They believed the ideal Americans were farmers who were self-sufficient. They saw the French as ideological brothers and distrusted the British. After all, Americans had just finished fighting a war with Britain. Jefferson and Madison were both Southerners and Hamilton's ideas about tariffs, the bank, and absorbing state debt all benefited northern states at the expense of Southerners. The Democratic-Republicans believed in a strict interpretation of the Constitution. They favored stated powers and feared a power-hungry federal government. In their view, if a power wasn't listed in the Constitution, the federal government did not have that power.

The new federal government moved to Washington, DC, a brand-new city created in the South. In the beginning, the city was mostly swamp. Adams was the first President to live in the White House.

When John Adams took over as second president, he wanted to continue Washington's tradition of staying above the growing debate between the two parties, but he failed and both sides turned against him. The XYZ Affair showed growing problems with France. Federalists in Congress passed laws to make criticizing the government a crime, which was a clear political move to silence opponents. In 1800, Democratic-Republicans engineered an electoral victory for Thomas Jefferson.

KEY CONCEPTS

Public Securities
Bonds
Subsidies
Tariffs
Protectionism
Strict Interpretation
Loose Interpretation
Political Party

EVENTS

French Revolution
Election of 1800
Burr-Hamilton Duel

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Alexander Hamilton
Secretary of the Treasury
Pierre Charles L'Enfant
Federalist Party
Democratic-Republican
Party
Aaron Burr

LOCATIONS

Washington, DC
District of Columbia

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

First Bank of the United
States

LAWS

Alien and Sedition Acts

5-3: The Early Supreme Court

Can a democracy function without a judiciary?

TOPICS:

- Marshall Court
- Marbury v. Madison
- McCulloch v. Maryland
- Gibbons v. Ogden

BIG IDEA: Because of the work of Chief Justice John Marshall, the Supreme Court emerged as a co-equal branch of government. Marshall also helped define the relationship between the federal government and the states.

The early Supreme Court was not considered an equal branch of government. This changed because of the work of Chief Justice John Marshall. The Marshall Court established three important precedents that have affected America's government in the centuries that followed.

The Marbury v. Madison case established the Court as a coequal branch of government and the idea that the Court can overturn acts of Congress and the President as unconstitutional.

The McCulloch v. Maryland case confirmed the authority of the federal government over states.

The Gibbons v. Ogden case clarified Congress's power to regulate business between states.

KEY CONCEPTS

Judicial Review
Federal Supremacy

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

John Marshall
Midnight Judges

COURT CASES

Marbury v. Madison
McCulloch v. Maryland
Gibbons v. Ogden

LAWS

Commerce Clause

5-4: Foreign Affairs & the War of 1812

How can a weak nation gain the respect of powerful neighbors?

TOPICS:

- Britain and France
- Jay's Treaty
- Pinckney's Treaty
- XYZ Affair
- Barbary Pirates
- Jefferson Embargo
- War of 1812
- Hartford Convention
- War of 1812 Effects

BIG IDEA: The young United States was often caught between the warring powers of Britain and France. American leaders had different ideas about who to support and often found themselves in conflicts they would rather have avoided. In the end, America fought a second war with Britain.

In its early years, the United States had problems with both Britain and France. These were the two most powerful European powers and were in conflict with one another. Americans wanted to do business and benefit from this war but had problems maintaining independence from foreign influence.

Britain continued to maintain forts in American territory in the West that they had promised to leave after the Revolution. They actively encouraged and supported Native Americans who opposed American expansion. The British navy impressed American sailors. To solve these problems, America negotiated Jay's Treaty. In return the United States agreed to pay back debts to British banks from before the Revolution. Democratic-Republicans saw this as giving in to the British.

America also negotiated Pinckney's Treaty with Spain to gain land in what is now Mississippi and Alabama and the right to carry out trade in New Orleans.

American diplomats were disrespected by French officials embarrassing John Adams. The result was a non-declared war with France as the French navy tried to stop Americans from trading with Britain.

President Jefferson sent the navy to the Mediterranean Sea to fight the pirates from the Barbary States of North Africa.

Jefferson also implemented an embargo against both British and French imports in an attempt to stop them from interfering with American shipping, but the embargo simply hurt business and was unpopular.

America ultimately fought a declared war against Britain in 1812. Impressment of American sailors and British support for Native Americans in the West led Congress to declare war. It was not universally popular in Congress or with the public. The United States invaded Canada, but it did not go well. British troops bombarded Fort McHenry in Baltimore, an event that was immortalized in The Star-Spangled Banner, and burned Washington, DC. The United States had some minor victories as well, including a decisive victory by Andrew Jackson's troops in New Orleans.

The War of 1812 led to the demise of the Federalist Party. At their convention in Hartford, talk turned to secession of New England. The war had been unpopular in New England since it was a center of trade with Britain. For most Americans, talk of secession simply sounded unpatriotic. Never again were the Federalists a force in national politics.

The War of 1812 concluded in a stalemate. The two sides agreed to the pre-war borders, so no land was exchanged. The Americans confirmed their independence and Andrew Jackson launched his political career.

KEY CONCEPTS

Right of Deposit
Impressment

LOCATIONS

Barbary States

EVENTS

XYZ Affair
Quasi-War with France
First Barbary War
Second Barbary War
Embargo of 1807
War of 1812
British attack on
Washington, DC
Hartford Convention
Battle of New Orleans

TREATIES

Jay's Treaty
Pinckney's Treaty
Treaty of Ghent

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

War Hawks
Francis Scott Key
Andrew Jackson

SONGS

The Star-Spangled Banner

TOPICS:

- Early 1800s Overview
- Canals
- First Railroads
- Inventors
- Factories
- Market Revolution
- Irish and German Immigration
- American System

BIG IDEA: The industrial revolution began in the early 1800s and led to major changes in transportation, communication, manufacturing, and the way the economy worked.

In the first half of the 1800s, the United States experienced a new sort of revolution. This change dealt with transportation, communication, and economics.

New forms of transportation made it much easier to move goods from one part of the country to another. Many canals were built, most importantly the Erie Canal. The Erie Canal opened in 1825 and connected New York City to the Great Lakes. After it opened, many people from New York and New England moved into the Midwest. The expansion of trade through New York City fostered growth and solidified it as America's largest city and the center of the nation's trade.

This time in history also saw the construction of the nation's first railroads. Although they were few in number, railroads later eclipsed canals as the primary means of moving people and products.

American inventors were especially prolific in the early 1800s. The steamboat which allowed ships to move upriver, the horse-drawn reaper that allowed farmers to harvest much larger fields, the riding plow that allowed the tilling of thick prairie soil, and interchangeable parts were all developed at this time.

The first factories developed in the early 1800s. Based primarily in New England near rivers where they could draw waterpower, the early factories produced textiles and employed young women who sometimes lived in company dormitories. The Lowell Mills were the most famous example of these.

All of these changes led to the market revolution. Because transportation was improved, products could be shipped far from where they were produced. Thus, instead of growing one's own food, or trading with neighbors, Americans could send products far away to sell, and buy things that were imported to their region.

Much of the labor in the nation's factories and building canals and railroads was done by immigrants. In the early 1800s, many were from Germany and Ireland. The Irish came to escape the Potato Famine and faced intense anti-Catholic nativist discrimination.

It was during this time that Senator Henry Clay proposed the American System. He wanted tariffs to protect American producers, a national bank to support business, and federal funding for roads, canals and other internal improvements that could foster growth. Southerners resisted a tariff signed by John Quincy Adams since it protected Northern producers but made imports to the South more expensive.

KEY CONCEPTS

Interchangeable Parts Corporation
Nativism
Textile Industry

**CANALS, ROADS
RAILROADS &
BUSINESSES**

Erie Canal
Cumberland Road
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
Western Union

LAWS & POLICIES

American System
Tariff of Abominations

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Dewitt Clinton
Robert Fulton
Cyrus McCormick
John Deere
Samuel Morse
Charles Goodyear
Eli Whitney
Elias Howe
Samuel Slater
Frances Cabot Lowell
Mill Girls
Known Nothing Party
Henry Clay

EVENTS

Industrial Revolution
Market Revolution
Great Irish Potato Famine

TOPICS:

- Romanticism
- Second Great Awakening
- New Religious Groups
- Transcendentalism
- Utopias

BIG IDEA: Romanticism and the Second Great Awakening brought new ideas from Europe to America which were manifested in art, literature, and religious practices. Americans developed their own new philosophy in Transcendentalism.

Romanticism was a new way of thinking about art, music and literature. It emphasized emotion rather than rational thinking. Begun in Europe, Americans embraced Romanticism. Authors wrote stories such as The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, novels like Moby Dick, and poems such as The Raven that used the natural world to reveal human experience and emotion. Artists of the Hudson River School painted beautiful pictures of landscapes that followed this same theme.

During the first half of the 1800s a religious revival swept through England and America. Travelling preachers promised listeners that God would soon be returning and the best way to bring about the second coming was to purify themselves and the world. In essence, people could bring God back by making Earth more God-like. They taught that every human had a spark of divinity and should make a personal connection with God.

This movement led to the development of many new religious groups, including the Mormons who eventually moved to Utah to escape persecution. The movement also brought more equality for women in religion since it emphasized individuals over church structure and leadership.

A unique American philosophy developed in the early 1800s called Transcendentalism. Founded by scholars in New England, this movement promoted the idea that people were inherently good and that by rejecting traditional ways of living and thinking people could rise above the distractions of modern life and find happiness and understanding. Thoreau lived in the woods by Walden Pond for a year to test this hypothesis.

Some social reformers believed they could create a perfect society from scratch. Multiple such experiments briefly flourished. Shakers believed in equality between the sexes and celibacy. The Oneida Community rejected marriage. Transcendentalists built Brook Farm. All the utopian communities failed eventually. It turned out that humans are not as perfect as dreamers hoped.

KEY CONCEPTS

Romanticism
Spark of Divinity
Pentecostalism
Postmillennialism
Hellfire and Brimstone
Transcendentalism
Utopia

EVENTS

Second Great Awakening
Camp Meetings
Mormon Trail

LOCATIONS

Burned Over District
New Harmony
Oneida Community
Brook Farm
Fruitlands

BOOKS & ESSAYS

Moby-dick
Book of Mormon
The American Scholar
Walden

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Washington Irving
James Fenimore Cooper
Edgar Allan Poe
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Emily Dickinson
Herman Melville
Hudson River School
Thomas Cole
Frederick Edwin Church
Albert Bierstadt
Charles Grandison Finney
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Joseph Smith
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Brigham Young
American Bible Society
The Transcendental Club
Margaret Fuller
Ralph Waldo Emerson
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Walt Whitman
Henry David Thoreau
Shakers
Mother Ann Lee

TOPICS:

- Seneca Falls
- Mental Health and Jail Reform
- Temperance
- Education Reform
- Reform and Second Great Awakening

BIG IDEA: The spirit of reform brought about by the Second Great Awakening led to movements to improve many areas of life including temperance, education, women's rights, mental health, and abolition.

Some serious social reform movements developed in the early 1800s. Women began organizing and advocating for equal rights. This was in part due to the rise of the idea that the Woman's Sphere was in the home. An outgrowth of the industrial revolution, this idea is still prevalent in American society. The suffrage movement began when reformers met at Seneca Falls, New York to organize. Their Declaration of Sentiments marks an important beginning for the effort by women to win the right to vote.

Dorothea Dix and Louis Dwight worked to improve conditions in mental asylums and jails.

A temperance movement developed to work toward a ban on alcohol consumption. Most members of the movement were practical, but Carrie Nation made headlines by attacking bars with her hatchet and Bible.

Horace Mann worked to reform schools. In the North, common schools were built to use taxpayer dollars to provide basic education for all children through eighth grade. Mann build normal schools to train teachers. Congress allocated funding for land to build universities in each state, the beginning of the public university system.

Much of the spirit of reform at this time was inspired by the Second Great Awakening's teaching that a pure society full of perfected people would hasten the return of God.

KEY CONCEPTS

Women's Sphere
 Cult of Domesticity
 Feminism
 Suffrage
 Universal Public Education

LOCATIONS

Normal Schools
 Common Schools
 Land-Grant Colleges

LAWS

Morrill Land-Grant Acts

DOCUMENTS

"Remember the Ladies!"
 Declaration of Sentiments

FASHION

Bloomers

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Abigail Adams
 Angelina and Sarah Grimke
 Harriet Wilson
 Lucretia Mott
 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
 Susan B. Anthony
 Amelia Bloomer
 Dorothea Dix
 Louis Dwight
 Lyman Beecher
 American Temperance Society
 Carrie Nation
 Horace Mann

EVENTS

Seneca Falls Convention
 Temperance
 Common School Movement

TOPICS:

- Era of Good Feelings
- Universal Malehood Suffrage
- Corrupt Bargain
- Jackson's Supporters

BIG IDEA: After the War of 1812, democracy changed in America. Instead of the realm of the elite and educated, all White men could vote and when Andrew Jackson was elected president in 1828 the old ways had clearly been swept aside in favor of the common man.

After the War of 1812, that nation experienced a short period in which there was only one viable national political party. Called the Era of Good Feeling, it lasted only one decade before the old Democratic-Republican Party split into the Democratic and Whig Parties.

It was at this same time that democracy expanded in the United States so that all White men could vote, regardless of wealth or property ownership. This was partially a result of the fact that many more people lived in cities and worked in factories. For them, owning land and farming was not a reality. Jefferson's dream of a nation of yeomen farmers died.

The election of 1828 featured John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay and Andrew Jackson. After a close vote in which no one won a majority, backroom wrangling led Clay to tell his supporters to vote for Adams, who won the presidency. Jackson's supporters called it the Corrupt Bargain and four years later he roared back and won election outright.

Jackson ushered in the first Democratic administration. His supporters included farmers and workers. He championed the common man. The Whigs were the party of the Eastern elites, the wealthy, and favored small government over Jackson's expansive use of power.

KEY CONCEPTS

Republicanism
Party Platform
Universal White Manhood
Suffrage
Jacksonian Democracy

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

James Monroe
Martin Van Buren
Democratic Party
Andrew Jackson
John Quincy Adams
Whig Party

EVENTS

Era of Good Feelings
Corrupt Bargain

COURT CASES

Amistad Case

TOPICS:

- Jackson vs. Ruling Class
- Nullification Crisis
- Bank War
- Jackson and Power
- Trail of Tears

BIG IDEA: Andrew Jackson was a major force in American politics. As a champion of the common man, he established the spoils system, used his veto power to end the National Bank and ignored the Supreme Court when he ordered the removal of Native Americans.

Andrew Jackson changed the presidency in many ways. First, he rewarded his political supporters by giving them jobs in the government, thus creating the spoils system we are accustomed to today. He was hated by the Washington social class. They saw him as crude, and he hated them back. He believed his wife had died of shame because of their personal attacks.

Jackson reaffirmed the power of the federal government over the states. During his time in office, Senator Calhoun of South Carolina tried to promote the idea that states could nullify laws passed by Congress. In this case, they wanted to nullify the tariff they hated. Jackson won the political argument and Calhoun backed down.

Jackson hated the Bank of the United States, which he viewed as a tool of the elites to control the masses. He used his veto power to destroy the bank, depositing federal funds in banks run by his friends. As critics had warned, Jackson's action caused a severe recession in the economy, but by then he was out of office and it was Martin Van Buren, Jackson's protégé who suffered the political fallout.

Sometimes called King Andrew by his critics, Jackson found both legal and illegal ways to get what he wanted. He used his constitutional veto power, such as in the case of the Bank, but also simply ignored the other branches of government when it suited him.

The most egregious case was when he disregarded a Supreme Court decision that had granted the Cherokee Tribe the right to keep its land and sent the army to move them to Oklahoma. The resulting Trail of Tears is rightly remembered as both a human tragedy and a gross violation of presidential power.

KEY CONCEPTS

Spoils System
Nullification

EVENTS

Petticoat Affair
Trail of Tears

COURT CASES

Cherokee Nation v. Georgia

TREATIES & LAWS

South Carolina Ordinance of
Nullification
Treaty of New Echota

PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Kitchen Cabinet
John C. Calhoun
Nicholas Biddle
King Andrew the First
The Great Compromiser
Black Hawk
Chief Osceola
Cherokee
Sequoia
John Ross

BANKS

Second Bank of the United
States
Pet Banks

7-1: Early Expansion

Why didn't Jefferson's vision of peaceful, scientific exploration typify the westward expansion of White America?

TOPICS:

- Louisiana Purchase
- Lewis and Clark
- 60 Years War
- Tecumseh
- Settlement of the Midwest
- Creek War

BIG IDEA: Native Americans had been fighting White expansion for many years. Their primary goal was preserving their land which was the principal factor in their decisions about who to side with in the Seven Years War, American Revolution, War of 1812, and in their own conflicts with White Americans.

Thomas Jefferson purchased Louisiana from France in 1803. The land he bought was much larger than the current State of Louisiana. In effect, Jefferson doubled the size of the country. To explore the land he had just purchased, he sent Lewis and Clark on a multi-year journey to the Pacific Ocean and back. Their Corps of Discovery was meant to map the land, study the animals and plants, and make friendly connections to the Native Americans. They were helped by Sacagawea, a young mother who helped translate along the way.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition may have been peaceful, but most encounters between White Americans and Native Americans were not. Natives had been fighting for 60 years to try to preserve their lands, and they mostly were losing. They had fought in the Seven Years War, the Revolution and during the War of 1812.

Between the Revolution and the War of 1812, Tecumseh and his brother "The Prophet" Tenskwatawa had tried to unite the tribes along the Mississippi River to form a wall against White expansion. They ended up fighting American troops at the Battle of Tippecanoe led by William Henry Harrison and lost. Tecumseh left for Canada, Harrison became popular and won the presidency, and White expansion continued.

Much of this fighting took place in the region we now call the Midwest, encompassing the states of Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin. Once Native Americans had been defeated and the Erie Canal opened, White settlers from New England, New York and Pennsylvania swarmed in. They all became states before the Civil War.

Creeks in the South also fought White advancement into their territory at the same time as the War of 1812. Like William Henry Harrison, Andrew Jackson fought them, won and later won the presidency as well.

EVENTS

Louisiana Purchase
 Battle of Tippecanoe
 Creek War
 Battle of Horseshoe Bend

TREATIES

Treaty of Greenville
 Treaty of Fort Jackson

PLACES

Prophetstown

PEOPLE

Meriwether Lewis
 William Clark
 Corps of Discovery
 Sacagawea
 Tecumseh
 Tenskwatawa
 William Henry Harrison
 Red Sticks

7-2: Texas & Mexico

When something is wrong but popular, how should individuals resist?

TOPICS:

- Texas Independence
- Annexation of Texas
- James K. Polk
- Oregon Territory
- Mexican-American War
- Impacts of the Mexican American War
- Gadsden Purchase

BIG IDEA: Americans who moved to Texas initiated a war for independence from Mexico, and later President Polk launched a war against Mexico that resulted in Mexico giving half of its land to the United States.

Texas was originally part of New Spain, and then Mexico after Mexico won independence. Mexico invited American settlers to move into Texas to increase the non-Native population. These were Tejanos, and they brought their slaves with them. When Mexico outlawed slavery, the Tejanos decided to fight for independence from Mexico. They did not want to give up slavery, they did not speak Spanish, and they were not Catholic.

The Texas Revolution was a success for the Tejanos. After the loss of the Alamo, they defeated Mexican dictator Santa Anna and forced him to recognize Texan independence. Sam Houston became the president of the new Republic of Texas. Almost immediately they asked Congress to annex the territory, but because of concerns about balancing slave and free states in the Senate, Texas remained independent for ten years.

Americans started to believe in the idea of manifest destiny. They thought that God wanted their nation to stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. They elected James K. Polk president in 1844. He was a strong believer in this idea and promised to annex Texas. He also promised to go to war with Great Britain over control of the Oregon Territory.

Polk did go to war with Mexico, but chose to settle with Great Britain peacefully. The Oregon Territory was divided. The modern states of Oregon and Washington became American territory. British Columbia is now part of Canada.

Polk annexed Texas and then instigated a war with Mexico by sending American troops across the Nueces River into land both the United States and Mexico claimed. Some Americans believed a war with Mexico was wrong, but many others wanted land in the West and supported the effort. The war went well. American troops invaded Mexico, defeated Santa Anna and forced him to give up the Mexican Cession, which makes up most or all of what is now the states of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah.

The Mexican-American War had some important impacts. Zachary Taylor who was the hero of the Mexican-American War was elected president. The young officers in the war later led the armies of the Civil War. Debate about expanding slavery into the new lands won from Mexico helped cause the Civil War.

The final piece of land that makes up the map of the United States we know today was the Gadsden Purchase. It was bought from Mexico in order to build a railroad along flat land between Texas and California.

PLACES

Texas
The Alamo
Lone Star Republic
Oregon Territory
Pacific Northwest
American Southwest
Rio Grande
Nueces River
Chapultepec
Mexican Cession
Gadsden Purchase

SLOGANS

Fifty-four forty or fight

LAWS & TREATIES

Spot Resolutions
Treaty of Guadalupe
Hidalgo

PEOPLE

Tejanos
Antonio Lopez de Santa
Anna
Sam Houston
Davy Crockett
James K. Polk
Californios
Zachary Taylor
John C. Fremont
Mestizo

EVENTS

Battle of San Jacinto
Texas Revolution
Mexican-American War

7-3 & 4: People of the West

How have the real and mythologized people of the West shaped our national identity?

TOPICS:

- Mountain Men
- Miners
- Boom Towns & Ghost Towns
- Ranchers
- Gunslingers
- Railroads
- Forts
- Homesteaders
- Hispanics
- Chinese in the West

BIG IDEA: There were many groups of people who defined the character of the West. Some of these people have become mythologized.

Mountain men were fur trappers and explorers who mapped the West. They met every year to share news and sell their furs. Some later became guides to show the way for pioneers.

Miners went to the West in search of gold, silver and copper. The 49ers went to California beginning in 1849 after gold was discovered. Some struck it rich, but many did not. Levi Strauss invented jeans to sell to miners who wore out their pants panning for gold. California grew tremendously because of this gold rush. Silver rushes in Nevada, copper rushes in Montana, and a gold rush in Alaska also drove increases in the populations of these future states.

In some places in the West, thousands of people flocked to a particular spot to dig in a mine. These sudden towns were places without the traditional structures like police, churches, and women who helped maintain civic order in the East. Stories from these towns gave rise to the legend of the Wild West. In some cases, when the gold or silver ran out, people simply left, leaving behind empty ghost towns.

Ranchers started rounding up the longhorn cattle of the Texas prairie, the descendants of cattle released by the Spanish. Cowboys drove herds of these cows north to the ends of the railroads where they were loaded up and shipped to Chicago. There the cattle were slaughtered and shipped to customers in the East. Within a few decades the railroads spread, farmers put up barbed wire, and the days of the cattle drives were over. The legend of the cowboy and the cattle drive come from this short era in history.

Gunslingers became a popularized character of the West. The mythologized cowboy with six shooters on both hips who stood up for justice and hunted down evildoers is based on some real characters from the real West, but is mostly a creation of Hollywood. This frontier myth is still an important idea in modern America. We like our pickup trucks and the lone hero who sets out on a quest to fight the good fight. There were some real outlaws in the West, most notably the James-Younger Gang, Billy the Kid and Butch Cassidy.

Railroads eventually stretched across the West. The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869. The western side was built mostly by Chinese immigrants. Other railroads soon followed.

The army built forts in the West. These served as trading hubs and stopping points for pioneers crossing the plains. The Homestead Act gave inexpensive land to anyone who could stay and survive as farmers in the West. This last group of people to move West were the ones who stayed and truly settled the West, because they came as families. Some were Exodusters, former slaves who struck out to make a new life on the prairie. Life on the plains was hard, and some didn't make it. Over time, farmers sold their land to bonanza farms and farming started to consolidate the same way industry was consolidating in the East. With the expansion of railroads, homesteaders could buy things from the East. Mail order catalogue companies such as Sears, grew up to provide for them.

Hispanics who found themselves in the United States after the Mexican-American War often lost their land to Whites. Some fought back, but they generally lost out as Whites pushed west.

Chinese immigrants who arrived in California for the gold rush, also lost out. Whites did not want to share claims to land and Chinese immigrants ended up working in industries that supported the miners, or on the railroads. The Chinese Exclusion Act ended all immigration from China in 1882.

KEY IDEAS

Panning
Wild West
Longhorn
Frontier Myth
Mail Order Catalog

PEOPLE

Mountain Men
John Colter
Jim Beckwourth
Jim Bridger
Jedediah Smith
Kit Carson
Prospector
Forty-Niner
Levi Strauss
Chisholm Trail
Cow Town
Joseph G. McCoy
Gunslinger
Wyatt Earp
Outlaw
James-Younger Gang
Jesse James
Billy the Kid
Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch
Exodusters
Buffalo Soldiers
Sodbusters
Laura Ingalls Wilder
Peons
Vaqueros
Gorras Blancas
Anti-Coolie Clubs

EVENTS

Rendezvous
California Gold Rush
Cattle Drive
Showdown at High Noon
Showdown at the OK Corral

PLACES

Sutter's Mill
Comstock Lode
Ghost Town
Promontory Point, Utah
Fort Laramie
Bonanza Farm
Barrios

TECHNOLOGY

Barbed Wire
Transcontinental Railroad

LAWS

Pacific Railway Act
Homestead Act
Sunday Laws
Greaser Laws
Chinese Exclusion Act

COMPANIES

Union Pacific Railroad
Central Pacific Railroad

BOOKS

Little House on the Prairie

7-5: The Indian Wars

Were the Indian Wars a triumph or a tragedy?

TOPICS:

- Causes of Conflict
- Sioux Wars & Custer
- Buffalo
- Dawes Act / Americanization
- Chief Joseph
- Wounded Knee
- Carlisle Indian School

BIG IDEA: The last violent conflicts between Whites and independent Native Americans were in the late 1800s on the Great Plains. Ultimately the army defeated the last of the tribes and forced them to move to reservations where official government policy attempted to destroy Native culture.

As White homesteaders moved into the Great Planes they encountered the last of the free Native American tribes. Some groups moved peacefully. The government promised money and land in the First Treaty of Fort Laramie. In the late 1800s, the army fought a series of wars with the tribes that did not agree to move.

The Sioux were a large confederation of tribes living in what is now the Dakotas and Montana. Violent conflicts between Sioux and White settlers led to the Sand Creek Massacre by the army. Treaties the Natives did sign were often broken. Eventually, the Sioux formed up into a massive fighting force under Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse. In 1876, the 7th Cavalry under the command of General Custer lost the Battle of Little Bighorn to this combined Sioux force.

Central to the life of the plains tribes was the buffalo. They used it for its meat, fur, bone, and it was central to their religion as well. Whites understood this and began to slaughter the buffalo on a massive scale. They correctly believed that if there were no buffalo, the Native Americans would not be able to survive and would be forced to move to reservations.

Congress passed the Dawes Act, which sought to make Native Americans live more like White Americans. It divided tribal lands into small portions so that individuals owned property instead of collective ownership by tribes. In most cases, the land set aside for reservations was not good for farming, and these nomads-turned-farmers struggled to survive. They became dependent on the government for supplies of food. Depression and alcoholism developed. The government succeeded in destroying Native cultural practices.

Chief Joseph led his Nez Perce tribe on a desperate trek to cross the border into Canada and escape reservation life. However, he and his people were starving in the cold while pursued by the army and were caught a few miles from the border. His surrender message is famous for its sadness.

The final violent conflict of the Indian Wars happened at Wounded Knee. A new religious movement had swept through Native American societies in the West promising that if they engaged in a Ghost Dance the Whites would disappear and the buffalo would return. A group of mostly women, children and old men engaged in this dance were slaughtered by the army in 1890.

In the following decades, boarding schools were opened where Native Children were taught English and White culture. The Carlisle Indian School was the most famous of these. It was not until the 1940s that this process of forced Americanization ended.

KEY IDEAS

Bison/Buffalo
Ghost Dance
Americanization

PLACES

Reservations
Black Hills
Indian Territory
Carlisle Indian School

TREATIES & LAWS

First Treaty of Fort Laramie
Second Treaty of Fort Laramie
Treaty of Medicine Lodge
Dawes Act

PEOPLE

Sioux
Sitting Bull
Crazy Horse
George Custer
Chief Joseph

EVENTS

Sand Creek massacre
Battle of Little Bighorn
Massacre at Wounded Knee

TOPICS:

- Slavery's Origins
- King Cotton
- Expansion of Slavery
- Slavery and Social Status
- Arguments for Slavery
- Free African Americans
- Abolition Movement
- Underground Railroad

BIG IDEA: Slavery was the root cause of the Civil War. As the nation grew, slavery also grew and formed the basis for much of the nation's wealth. The small abolition movement in the North slowly gained support and helped facilitate a system to help slaves escape to freedom in Canada.

Slavery had been a part of the American experience from almost immediately after the first British settlers arrived in Jamestown. Over time, economic and social pressures transformed the use of slave labor. By the mid-1800s, slavery was the primary source of labor south of the Mason-Dixon Line and slave codes had been passed that severely limited the rights and movement of slaves. Slaves had tried to revolt on numerous occasions, but each uprising led to more severe slave codes.

America was getting rich growing and selling cotton. Northern manufacturers produced textiles made from southern cotton and the South exported cotton to both the North and to Europe. It was so important to the overall economy that it was called King Cotton, and slaves did all the work cultivating it.

In the early years of the republic, the Founding Fathers had thought that slavery would die out. However, the invention of the cotton gin made processing cotton lucrative, and expansion into the Deep South increased the demand for slaves. Instead of disappearing, slavery became so central to the economy that few leaders in either the North or South could imagine a way to reasonably end it without massive disruption to the entire nation.

Slavery was central to the social order of the South. There were only a few wealthy Whites who owned slaves, so for the vast majority of other Whites, being superior to African Americans and having the possibility of someday being rich enough to purchase a slave was a mark of social standing.

Southerners argued that slaves were actually better off than the free workers of the industrial North since they were guaranteed housing, food, and work. Few were volunteering to trade places with the slaves, however, which is evidence that they probably didn't believe their own arguments.

There were a few free African Americans in the United States, mostly living in the North.

The abolition movement grew in the early 1800s alongside the temperance movement, transcendentalism and the other reform efforts that were inspired by the Second Great Awakening. Some had proposed purchasing slaves and sending them to Africa. The most vocal abolitionists were William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass. Abolition was not popular at first, and many abolitionists faced violence for their views. Harriett Beecher Stowe's book Uncle Tom's Cabin was a bestseller and convinced many Northerners that slavery was an evil institution. Her book was banned in the South.

In an effort to find freedom, some slaves ran away along a system of safe houses called the Underground Railroad. As part of a larger compromise, Congress passed a law that required Northerners to help capture runaway slaves. This infuriated moralistic Northerners.

PEOPLE

Abolitionist
 African Methodist Episcopal Church
 American Colonization Society
 David Walker
 Denmark Vesey
 Driver
 Eli Whitney
 Field Hand
 Frederick Douglass
 Free Blacks
 Harriet Beecher Stowe
 Harriet Tubman
 Henry Ward Beecher
 House Slave
 Liberty Party
 Nat Turner
 New England Anti-Slave Society
 Overseer
 Robert Purvis
 Scotch-Irish
 Sojourner Truth
 Wendell Philips
 William Lloyd Garrison

LAWS

Fugitive Slave Act
 Gag Rule
 Slave Codes

TEXTS

Appeal
 North Star
 The Liberator
 Uncle Tom's Cabin

KEY CONCEPTS

Chattel Slavery
 Emancipation
 King Cotton
 Manumission
 Peculiar Institution
 The Underground Railroad

INNOVATIONS

Cotton Gin

EVENTS

Antebellum Period
 Hattian Revolution

8-2: Westward Expansion

Did westward expansion cause the Civil War?

TOPICS:

- Free/Slave State Balance
- Missouri Compromise
- Wilmot Proviso
- Compromise of 1850
- Bleeding Kansas

BIG IDEA: Westward expansion increased conflicts about slavery as the addition of each new state threatened to upset the balance between free and slave states in the Senate. Politicians tried compromise and popular sovereignty to deal with this problem.

Expansion of settlement greatly increased tensions that led to the Civil War because it made the question of expansion of slavery an issue politicians could not ignore. Central to this question was the balance of power between slave states and free states in the Senate. The House of Representatives would always be unbalanced because the North was so much more populous, but for the 40 years leading up to the war, maintaining an equal number of slave and free states was essential to keeping the nation together.

The Missouri Compromise was brokered by Henry Clay in 1820. It banned slavery in new territories north of Missouri, while admitting Missouri and Maine as slave and free states. It was the first in a series of such compromises.

After the Mexican-American War, the greatest question was whether or not to allow slavery into the Mexican Cession. The proposed Wilmot Proviso specifically banned this, but it was not adopted. The fight over the Proviso led Northerners to believe that “slave power” was taking over the federal government.

The three great senators of the early 1800s, Clay, Calhoun and Webster forged the Compromise of 1850 to keep the nation together. It preserved the Union, but in the end, it made no one happy.

The idea of popular sovereignty was proposed as a way of taking the fight over the expansion of slavery out of Congress and giving it to the people. Under this proposal, the people of each new state would vote for themselves about the question of being a slave or free state. This was put to the test with the Kansas-Nebraska Act and led to a period of violence called Bleeding Kansas, a precursor to the Civil War. John Brown and Jesse James both got their first taste of violence in Kansas.

PEOPLE & GROUPS

Border Ruffians
Daniel Webster
Free Soil Party
Henry Clay
John Brown
John C. Calhoun
Republican Party
Stephen Douglas

KEY CONCEPTS

Popular Sovereignty
Secession
Slave Power

LAWS

Kansas-Nebraska Act
Missouri Compromise
Wilmot Proviso

EVENTS

Bleeding Kansas
Pottawatomie Creek
Massacre
Sack of Lawrence

LOCATIONS

36th Parallel

TOPICS:

- Fugitive Slave Act
- Lincoln-Douglas Debates
- Fights in Congress
- John Brown's Raid
- Election of 1860
- Secession

BIG IDEA: In the 1850s politicians tried but were unable to stop the increasingly divisive issue of slavery from leading to the outbreak of war between the slave states of the South and the free states of the North.

The Fugitive Slave Act required Northerners to help Southerners catch and return slaves trying to escape along the Underground Railroad. It was part of the Compromise of 1850. One slave, Dred Scott, went to court against his owner after having been brought to the North. He argued that because he was in a free state, he was free. The Supreme Court ruled in Dred Scott v. Sanford that he was not. This ruling effectively made slavery legal in all states and territories. It was terrifying for Northerners.

Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas held a series of famous debates in Illinois as they campaigned for the Senate. Lincoln lost the election, but the debates were republished widely since they were essentially a debate about the future of slavery. Douglas advocated for popular sovereignty. Lincoln argued that the nation could not survive half free and half slave. He predicted that it would become all one or all the other.

In Congress, politicians accused one another of inciting violence in Kansas, and fighting broke out on the floor of the Senate.

John Brown attacked the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry in an attempt to launch a general slavery uprising. His effort failed and he was captured, tried and executed for treason. In the process he became a martyr for the abolitionist cause. Northerners might have seen the Dred Scott case as evidence that slave power had taken over Washington, but Southerners believed John Brown's raid showed that abolitionists were willing to ignore the law and use violence to take away their slaves.

In the election of 1860, Abraham Lincoln won as the first Republican president. He did not appear on the ballot in any southern state. Southerners viewed his victory as evidence that the North would do anything to get its way and that the less populous South would be the losers in the end.

Eleven southern states seceded and formed the Confederate States of America. Four slave states chose not to secede and remained in the Union. Lincoln took office hoping to keep the nation together, but warned the South that if they insisted on leaving, it would mean war. When Southerners bombed Fort Sumter in South Carolina, the Civil War began.

PEOPLE & GROUPS

Charles Sumner
Constitutional Union Party
Dred Scott
Jefferson Davis
Martyr
Preston Brooks
Robert E. Lee
Roger Taney

COURT CASES

Dred Scott v. Sanford

LAWS

Fugitive Slave Act

EVENTS

Lincoln-Douglas Debates

LOCATIONS

Confederacy
Fort Sumter
Harper's Ferry

KEY IDEAS

A House Divided
Freeport Doctrine
Popular Sovereignty
The Better Angels of Our Nature

TOPICS:

- North/South Strengths & Weaknesses
- Blockade
- McClellan
- Effect on the North
- Foreign Policy
- Gettysburg and Vicksburg
- Lincoln's Reelection
- End of the War

BIG IDEA: The North and South both had advantages and weaknesses in the Civil War, but eventually the North's industrial might and willingness to persevere through a long and destructive war led to victory.

The North and South each had strengths and weaknesses going into the Civil War. The North was more populous, industrialized and wealthy. However, the North had to take the fight to the South and win. The South simply had to hold out until the North gave up. The Southerners saw themselves as fighting for their freedom, which was an ideological advantage in the beginning. Later in the war, Northerners saw their armies as marching to end slavery, a moral crusade of their own. Most of the nation's best generals were from the South. The lack of effective leadership made the North's efforts in the first years of the war mostly ineffective.

In order to prevent the South from exporting its cotton to Europe, the North implemented a blockade of Southern ports.

Both sides believed it would be a short war. After the first battles, it became clear that this would not be the case. Although the Union general McClellan was an excellent organizer and trained a professional army, he was hesitant to take it into battle and failed to destroy the smaller Confederate army early in the war even when he had the chance.

In the North, the war helped some become rich. Vast federal expenditures led to an increase in industrial output. Although many men volunteered at the start of the war, Lincoln instituted a draft as the war dragged on which led to rioting. In the South, a blockade by the Union navy choked off trade and led to hunger and food riots by southern women. In both the North and South, the wealthy found ways to avoid the fighting, while women found new roles in industry, farming and the war effort. Women founded the Red Cross during the war.

Southern leaders had hoped to use the cotton trade to convince England and France to recognize their independence. Lincoln successfully avoided this by exporting northern wheat and reminding the English that the South was fighting to preserve slavery, a practice the English had recently banned.

The turning point of the war was the Battle of Gettysburg. Although neither side won, Robert E. Lee lost more men than he could replace, and it was the last time he would attempt to take his army into the North or try to capture Washington, DC. At that same time, Union armies in the South captured Vicksburg, thus gaining control of the Mississippi River and dividing the South in half.

During the war, Lincoln won reelection. Although he had violated the Constitution, he won because the war was going well in 1864 and because democrats were split between those who supported the war, and those who wanted to make a deal for peace with the South.

It took two more years of fighting after Gettysburg to finally destroy the South. General Sherman marched his Union army through Georgia, destroying everything he could in the first example of modern total warfare. General Grant eventually destroyed the Confederate capital of Richmond and forced Lee to surrender.

PEOPLE & GROUPS

George McClellan
 Army of the Potomac
 American Red Cross
 Clara Barton
 Peace Democrats
 Ulysses S. Grant
 William Tecumseh Sherman

KEY IDEAS

Blockade
 Draft
 Inflation
 Anaconda Plan
 High Tide of the Confederacy
 Terms of Surrender
 Writ of Habeas Corpus

LOCATIONS

Confederacy
 Union
 Appomattox Court House
 Richmond

EVENTS

First Battle of Bull Run
 Draft Riots
 Battle of Gettysburg
 Battle of Vicksburg
 Food Riots
 Pickett's Charge
 Sherman's March to the Sea
 Siege of Petersburg

TOPICS:

- What they Fought For
- Emancipation Proclamation
- Gettysburg Address
- Second Inaugural Address
- Lincoln Assassination
- Impact of the Civil War

BIG IDEA: Northerners led by President Lincoln originally were fighting to preserve the Union. By the end of the war Lincoln had made ending slavery a part of the North's mission, giving the war a moral purpose.

The North and the South both believed their side was fighting for the right cause. Northerners fought the war to preserve the Union, and later to end slavery. Southerners believed they were fighting for freedom from a tyrannical North that was trying to take away their right to govern themselves. Both sides thought God was on their side.

Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation to start the end of slavery. It actually only freed slaves in territory that was actively rebelling, so it did nothing for slaves in the four border states, or in territory that the Union army had already captured. However, it inspired slaves in the South to run away, and gave the North a moral purpose for the war.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is remembered as one of the great speeches of American history. In it, he explained how the Civil War was an extension of the Revolution by connecting the present to the work of the Founding Fathers. The phrase "Four score and seven years ago..." refers to the Declaration of Independence.

In his Second Inaugural Address, Lincoln demonstrated his sense of forgiveness and a desire for a generous reconstruction of the South. He described the war as a punishment by god for the evils of slavery, and questioned whether anyone could truly claim to have god on their side.

Lincoln was assassinated two days after Lee surrendered. Instead of restarting the war, as those who conspired to kill him had hoped, it left a dangerous vacuum of leadership. Andrew Johnson, the vice president who took over, was from Tennessee and was hated by the Republicans who dominated Congress. They clashed repeatedly about the proper way to rebuild the South.

The Civil War had an enormous impact on the nation and its history. Never again would any state attempt to leave the Union. Millions of dollars were spent and hundreds of thousands of lives were lost. The war was fought mostly in the South, which was devastated. In contrast, the North grew and the industrial revolution went into overdrive. Most importantly, slavery ended. For the next decade, the North and South argued that the future of the South would look like and what would happen to the new freedmen and women.

PEOPLE & GROUPS

Copperhead Democrats
Freedmen
John Wilkes Booth
Orator
Radical Republicans
Thaddeus Stevens
Tyrant

KEY IDEAS

Compensate
Divine Providence
Ideology
Lost Cause
Sic Semper Tyrannis
Writ of Habeas Corpus

DOCUMENTS

Emancipation Proclamation

SPEECHES

Gettysburg Address
Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

LOCATIONS

Ford's Theater

EVENTS

Reconstruction

TOPICS:

- Reconstruction Overview
- Share Cropping
- Lincoln & Johnson
- Radical Reconstruction
- Amendments 13-14-15
- White Power in the South

BIG IDEA: After the war ended in 1865, Northerners tried unsuccessfully to remake Southern society. Although it is often said that the South won Reconstruction, three constitutional amendments were passed that ended slavery, gave citizenship to anyone born in the United States, and guaranteed the right to vote to all men.

After the war, Northerners got on with their lives. There was little evidence in the North that the war had even happened. In the South, most cities had been destroyed. Southerners were surrounded by newly freed former slaves. Reconstruction was very difficult for the South.

African Americans celebrated the end of the Civil War, but faced hardship. Many began looking for lost loved ones. Some hoped to have simple things such as a little land to live on. During the war General Sherman had promised "forty acres and a mule" but this did not happen. Most became share croppers, working land they did as slaves and giving a portion of their harvests as rent. Others worked someone else's land and paid rent. This new system was only a small step above slavery.

Leaders in the North had different ideas about the proper way to rebuild the South. Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, the new president, wanted to quickly bring the South back into the Union and forgive Southerners who had fought for the Confederacy. He pardoned Southern leaders and returned their property, with the exception of their slaves.

Radical Republicans in Congress wanted to punish Southern leaders and do more to change the social order of the South. They promoted African Americans and spent money to open schools to teach freedmen. They impeached President Johnson when he tried to stop them. He kept his job by one vote, but leadership of Reconstruction switched from the White House to Congress.

Three amendments to the Constitution resulted from the Civil War. The 13th Amendment ended slavery. The 14th Amendment gave citizenship to anyone born in the United States. The 15th Amendment gave all men the right to vote.

Despite these legal gains for African Americans, White southern leaders retook control of their states. They passed laws such as poll taxes and literacy tests. Terrorist groups such as the KKK effectively stopped African Americans from exercising their new freedoms. Reconstruction ended in 1877 when Republicans and Democrats compromised. Hayes was elected president as a Republican and northern troops left the South. Without the army to enforce the ideas of the Radical Republicans, White southern leaders reasserted control and implemented the Jim Crow system of segregation. Over time, Redeemers worked to change the meaning of the war. They deemphasized slavery and promoted the idea that Southerners were fighting for freedom. The South may have lost the war, but they won the peace.

PEOPLE & GROUPS

Andrew Johnson
 Carpetbaggers
 Charles Sumner
 Freedmen
 Ku Klux Klan (KKK)
 Radical Republicans
 Redeemers
 Rutherford B. Hayes
 Samuel Tilden
 Tenant Farmer
 Thaddeus Stevens

EVENTS

Presidential Reconstruction
 Radical Reconstruction

KEY IDEAS

Amnesty
 Forty Acres and a Mule
 Grandfather Clause
 Impeachment
 Literacy Test
 Lynch
 Pardon
 Poll Tax
 Share Cropping

LAWS

Amnesty Act
 Civil Rights Bill of 1866
 Compromise of 1877
 13th Amendment
 14th Amendment
 15th Amendment
 Jim Crow
 Lodge Force Bills

