

1: THE ORIGINS OF AMERICA

BIG IDEA: The United States is made up of many different people, but the origins of the nation lie in English settlements along the Atlantic coast in the 1600s. People came there for different reasons, and some were brought from Africa as slaves.

The English developed their first colony in America at Jamestown. It was a business venture that failed 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.

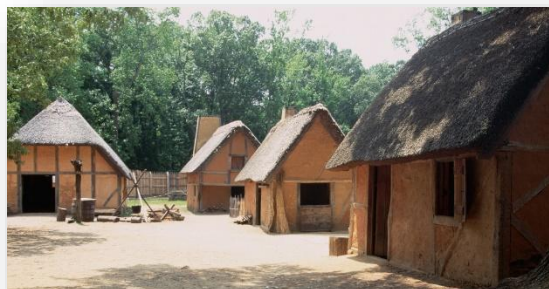
Work in the colonies was done both by indentured servants and eventually by African slaves. Merchants made a lot of money buying and selling slaves. They were an important part of the Triangle Trade. Slaves were purchased in Africa and brought to the Americas. Sugar, tobacco, cotton and other raw materials were loaded onto the ships in America and taken back to Europe. In Europe the ships were reloaded with finished products like furniture and guns, which were shipped off to Africa.

In time, slaves were seen as property the same as horses or wagons. Strict laws, or codes, were passed throughout the colonies defining the various rights slaves did not have and restricting aspects of their lives. Some slaves resisted, but these rebellions were always stopped, and resulted in the passage of more strict slave codes.

New England was settled by religious dissenters who wanted to create a new life for their families far from the control of the English church leaders. They created a society based on religion and towns rather than wealth and cash crop exports.

Plymouth was founded by separatists called Pilgrims. They were a small group but set an important precedent in America by agreeing to the Mayflower Compact and holding elections for community leaders. A much larger group came to nearby Massachusetts Bay Colony. They were Puritans rather than separatists. They believed in a covenant with God. They thought that if they were good Christians, God would reward them and make their colony prosper. They also believed their colony would be an example of a pure society on earth that everyone else could copy. They referred to it as a city upon a hill.

Between New England and the Chesapeake colonies that grew up around Jamestown, there were a variety of other English colonies. These were often more focused on trade and more tolerant of differences. In the interior, non-English groups settled who also left their mark on the nation.



VOCABULARY



IDEAS

Triangle Trade
Chattel Slavery
City Upon a Hill



LOCATIONS

Jamestown
Plymouth
Massachusetts Bay Colony
New York
Pennsylvania
Maryland
Georgia
Appalachian Mountains



PEOPLE & GROUPS

John Smith
House of Burgesses
Indentured Servants
Church of England
Separatists
Pilgrims
Massachusetts Bay Colony
Puritans
Quakers
Scotch-Irish



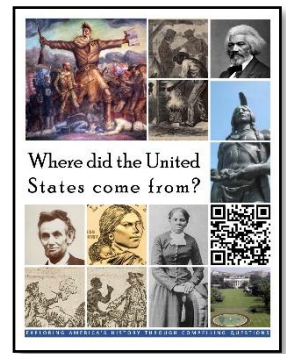
DOCUMENTS

Mayflower Compact

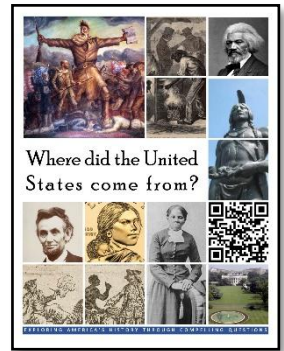


EVENTS

Thanksgiving



2: THE REVOLUTION & THE NEW GOVERNMENT



BIG IDEA: Americans declared and fought for independence for a variety of reasons. Enlightenment ideas about government and economic factors were both important. These ideas were later incorporated into a new system of government.

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 problems and their right to participate in government. Americans were influenced by Enlightenment ideas.



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 reasons for independence and remains an important document in American history.

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.

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.

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.

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

VOCABULARY



IDEAS

- Enlightenment
- Taxation without Representation
- Shot Heard 'Round the World
- Great Compromise



EVENTS

- Boston Massacre
- Boston Tea Party



PEOPLE & GROUPS

- Thomas Jefferson
- George Washington
- James Madison
- Founding Fathers
- Federalists
- Anti-Federalists



DOCUMENTS

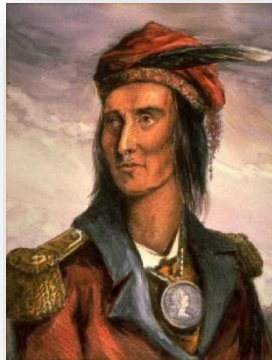
- Declaration of Independence
- Articles of Confederation
- Bill of Rights



3: WESTWARD EXPANSION

BIG IDEA: Since the first English settlements along the Atlantic Coast, White Americans spread westward and were involved in conflicts with both Native Americans and Mexicans who blocked the spread of the United States across the continent.

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 the Seven Years War, American Revolution, War of 1812, and in their own conflicts with White Americans.



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.

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.

There were many groups of people who defined the character of the West. Mountain men, miners were some of the first Whites to move into the West. Later ranchers and eventually pioneer farmers moved west. As Whites settled in new territories, railroads were built to connect them.

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.



VOCABULARY



IDEAS

Manifest Destiny



ANIMALS

Buffalo



PEOPLE & GROUPS

Lewis and Clark
Tecumseh
Homesteader
Sioux



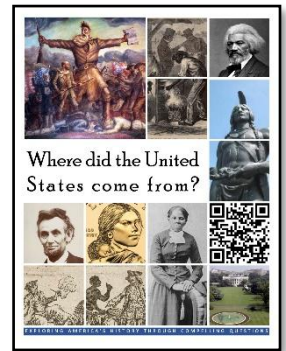
EVENTS

Louisiana Purchase
Texas Revolution
Mexican-American War
Battle of Little Big Horn
Wounded Knee



LOCATIONS

Louisiana Purchase



4: THE CIVIL WAR

BIG IDEA: In the 1800s, slavery divided America. In 1860 things fell apart and the northern states and southern states fought a long, bloody civil war. The North won, preserving the union and ending slavery. However, southern White leaders were able to maintain the social hierarchy that kept African Americans at the bottom of the social structure.

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.

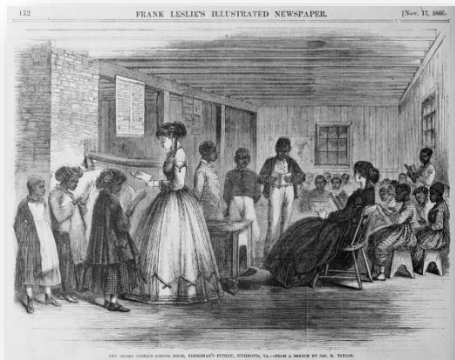
Westward expansion increased conflicts about slavery as the addition of each new state threatened to upset the balance between free and slave states in the Senate. Politicians tried compromise and popular sovereignty to deal with this problem.

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 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.

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.

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.



VOCABULARY



IDEAS

King Cotton
Abolition
Underground Railroad
Popular Sovereignty
Jim Crow



PEOPLE & GROUPS

John Brown
Abraham Lincoln
Robert E. Lee
Ulysses S. Grant
Share Croppers
Freedmen



LOCATIONS

Confederate States of America



EVENTS

Battle of Gettysburg
Reconstruction



DOCUMENTS

Emancipation Proclamation



SPEECHES

Gettysburg Address



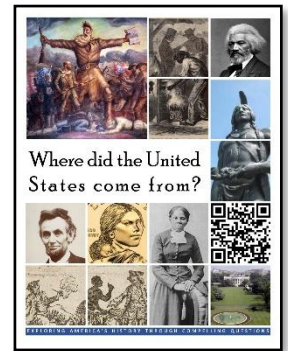
LAWS

13th, 14th and 15th Amendments

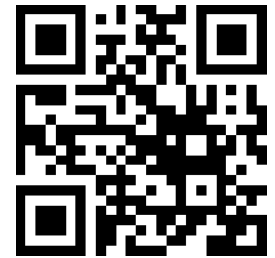


COURT CASES

Dred Scott v. Sanford



ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY



PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Pilgrims: English Separatists who founded the Plymouth Colony. They lived in the Netherlands briefly before coming to America on the Mayflower.

Puritans: English followers of John Calvin who wanted to fix problems with the Church of England. They founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony and were led by John Winthrop.

Thomas Jefferson: Author of the Declaration of Independence and later third president.

George Washington: Virginia planter, surveyor, officer in the Seven Years War, leader of the Continental Army in the Revolution, President of the Constitutional Congress and First President of the United States.

James Madison: Father of the Constitution and later 5th President.

Founding Fathers: The American leaders who led the nation through the Revolution, establishment of the new government, and in the first years of the Constitution. They include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton.

Abraham Lincoln: President during the Civil War. He started the process to end slavery. Many people think he was our nation's greatest president.



LOCATIONS

Jamestown: First successful English colony in America. Settled in 1607, John Smith helped save the settlers from starvation. Eventually the colony became financially successful when John Rolfe learned to grow quality tobacco in Virginia's soil.

Massachusetts Bay Colony: Colony created by Puritans in 1630. It was centered around the city of Boston and eventually absorbed Plymouth.

Confederate States of America: Also called the Confederacy – the slave-holding states from the South that seceded.



KEY CONCEPTS

Triangle Trade: The trade of slaves, raw materials and finished products between Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and the British Colonies.

Chattel Slavery: System of slavery in which the slaves are considered property with no individual rights.

No Taxation Without Representation: Idea that the government should not levy taxes unless the people who must pay those taxes have the opportunity to elect members of that government.

Manifest Destiny: Belief held by many Americans, especially in the 1800s that it was clear that the nation would spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. This belief fueled expansion, including migration of pioneers, war with Mexico and Native Americans, and a belief in the superiority of White, Christian culture.

Abolition: The movement to end slavery.

The Underground Railroad: The antebellum volunteer resistance movement that assisted slaves in escaping to freedom. Although it was not a railroad, the participants of the system used railroad terminology. Safe places for escaped slaves to stay were called stations and the people who guided the slaves were conductors.

Jim Crow: The nickname for a system of laws that enforced segregation. For example, African Americans had separate schools, rode in the backs of busses, could not drink from White drinking fountains, and could not eat in restaurants or stay in hotels, etc.



LAWS

Declaration of Independence: Statement passed by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776 officially stating that the United States was independent from Britain.

Constitution: The document that explains how the government works.

Bill of Rights: The first ten amendments to the Constitution. Ratified in 1791, they outline essential freedoms of all citizens.

Emancipation Proclamation: President Lincoln's official order freeing all slaves in the rebelling territories (but not in the Border States that had remained in the Union).

13th, 14th and 15th Amendments: The three amendments to the Constitution ratified after the Civil War during Reconstruction. They ended slavery, gave citizenship to anyone born in the United States, and gave voting rights to all men.



EVENTS

Enlightenment: Time period in Europe and America in the 1700s characterized by an increased interest in science, new ideas about government and power, and a focus on order inspired by Classical Greece and Rome

Shot Heard 'Round the World: Nickname for the opening battles of the American Revolution, so called because they inspired other Revolutionaries around the world.

July 4, 1776: The day the Declaration of Independence was signed. It is celebrated as America's Independence Day.

Louisiana Purchase: 1803 purchase of land from France by President Jefferson which doubled the size of the nation. It was an example of a loose interpretation of the Constitution despite Jefferson's preference for strict interpretation.

Texas Revolution: War between American-born Texans and the Mexican government under the command of Santa Anna in 1835 and 1836 that resulted in independence for Texas. It was fought largely due to disagreements about culture, language, religion and especially slavery.

Mexican-American War: War between the United States and Mexico between 1846 and 1848. It was a major victory for the United States and the subsequent Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo resulted in the Mexican Cession, the land that became the modern states of New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California and part of Utah.

Civil War: War between the Northern and Southern states from 1861-1865 about slavery. The North, or Union, won the war and slavery ended.

Battle of Gettysburg: The turning point battle of the war. Lee led his army into Pennsylvania hoping to force the North to give up but lost the battle.

Reconstruction: The time period after the Civil War ended when the North tried to remake the society of the South. During this time important amendments were passed, but in the end many things didn't change.