

# American History Before 1865



## Course Overview

In this program, students undertake the first course in a two-year detailed survey of the history of the United States. Building on the award-winning series from Oxford University Press, *A History of US*, K12's online lessons and assessments guide students through critical episodes in the story of America. Students will:

- Study the development of various Native American civilizations
- Learn about European exploration and the growth of

the thirteen colonies

- Investigate in detail the causes and consequence of the American Revolution
- Examine the Constitution and the growth of the new nation
- Become familiar with Jacksonian democracy, westward expansion, and Manifest Destiny
- Study the causes and consequences of the Civil War

## Course Outline

### The Earliest Americans

- Describe current theories of migration from Asia to the Americas
- Identify characteristics of major societies in North America before 1492
- Compare and contrast types of shelter and acquisition of food
- Compare and contrast customs and beliefs
- Describe the roles and duties of men and women
- Describe major accomplishments of Native Americans in North America before 1600
- Review and practice use of maps, globes, latitude, and longitude
- Identify and locate on a map the major physical features of North America
- Locate on a map the Bering Sea and land bridge
- Trace the migration routes of early Native Americans
- Identify and describe major climate regions of the United States
- Describe the impact of climate and geography on the way Native Americans lived
- Give examples of the ways in which Native Americans traded with each other
- Analyze the change in economics and ways of life that occurred as a result of the Spanish introduction of the horse to North America

### European Exploration

- Describe the reasons for European exploration in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries
- Identify the technological advances that allowed exploration
- Identify Spain, France, Holland, and England as the major countries involved in exploration
- Identify major explorers and their accomplishments
- Analyze the effect of exploration on Native American and European societies
- Describe the beginning of African slavery in the Americas

- Use a variety of maps and explain their purposes
- Identify on a map the routes and land claims of European explorers
- Describe motives for exploration
- Identify cultural clues to the history of a place
- Explain the different ways Native Americans and Europeans viewed the concept of land ownership
- Describe the economic goals of European explorers
- Analyze the reasons for the use of slave labor in the Americas

### Thirteen Colonies, Part 1

- Compare and contrast the early English colonies of Jamestown, Plymouth, and Massachusetts Bay
- Identify the House of Burgesses and the Mayflower Compact as the beginnings of representative government in the colonies
- Give examples of cooperation between Native Americans and colonists
- Describe the beginnings of African slavery in the colonies
- Recognize the characteristics and accomplishments of the West African kingdoms before 1600
- Use a variety of maps to locate places and make comparisons
- Determine the significance of relative location
- Identify physical characteristics of the eastern seaboard
- Describe and apply the concept of region in terms of the Chesapeake and New England
- Describe the migration of Puritans and of Africans to the colonies
- Explain the influence of geography and climate on the ways of life of the people who settled in the Chesapeake and New England regions
- Describe the reasons for the development of small farms and plantations
- Explain the reasons for indentured servitude and slavery
- Describe the significance of the House of Burgesses

# American History Before 1865

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and the Mayflower Compact as they relate to self-government

## Thirteen Colonies, Part 2

- Identify the major groups and individuals responsible for the founding of the thirteen colonies, and describe the reasons for the founding of the colonies
- Compare and contrast the southern, middle, and New England regions
- Describe life in the colonies for members of various social groups
- Give examples of conflict between colonists and Native Americans before 1775
- Give examples of religious toleration and intolerance in the colonies before 1775
- Locate on a map the major physical features of the North American eastern seaboard
- Locate major cities of colonial times on a map
- Define *region*, and explain the division of southern, middle, and New England colonies
- Describe the characteristics of the major culture groups that populated the thirteen colonies
- Explain the effect of geography and climate on the development of the thirteen colonies
- Describe the magnitude of African migration to the colonies before 1775
- Describe the economic systems that developed in the thirteen colonies
- Explain the routes, products, and motives for triangular trade
- Give examples of representative government in the colonies
- Give examples of separation of church and state in the colonies

## Road To Revolution

- Describe the factors leading to the French and Indian War and the territorial changes that resulted from it
- Recognize the problems Britain faced at the end of the French and Indian War
- Define *salutary neglect*, and describe its consequences before 1763
- Identify chronologically major examples of conflict and misunderstanding between colonists and the British government between 1763 and 1775
- Identify individuals who led the revolutionary movement
- Describe the significance of political organization and cooperation between 1763 and 1776
- Define *patriot* and *loyalist*
- Identify on a map the major sites of the French and Indian War
- Compare historical and contemporary maps

- Practice using map scales
- Define and give examples of free market and private property issues between 1763 and 1776
- Trace the steps the colonies took toward self-government and independence before 1776
- Explain the origins of *no taxation without representation*
- Recognize the main arguments and influence of *Common Sense*
- Identify the Declaration of Independence as a key document in American history and political thought, and explain its main arguments
- Recognize the origins of the theories presented in the Declaration of Independence

## The American Revolution

- Describe the roles of major military and political leaders during the American Revolution
- Recognize the contributions of France and other nations and foreign individuals to the American Revolution
- Describe the roles of women and African Americans in the American Revolution
- Describe the impact of the war on families and the economy of the new nation
- Explain the problems the new government faced in financing the war and maintaining a military
- Give examples of the social, political, and economic impacts of the American Revolution
- Locate major battles of the American Revolution on a map
- Explain the importance of relative location in developing strategies
- Describe the economic problems and solutions the nation faced during the American Revolution
- Identify ways in which the ideals of democracy were expanded or restricted during the American Revolution

## The Constitution

- Describe the development and significance of state constitutions written during the American Revolution
- Explain the importance of the land policies under the Articles of Confederation
- Recognize the Articles of Confederation as the government of the United States before 1789 and describe its weaknesses
- Identify the major individuals involved in the writing and ratification of the US Constitution
- Locate the Northwest Territory on a map, and describe its major features
- Analyze the importance of the Northwest Territory
- Explain why people wanted to migrate to the Northwest Territory

# American History Before 1865

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- Describe the economic factors in the migration to the Northwest Territory
- Describe the economic factors involved in the decision to write a new constitution in 1787
- Describe earlier concepts of government that influenced the writing of the US Constitution
- Explain the role of compromise in establishing the United States government
- Describe the role and powers of the three branches of government
- Define and describe the system of *checks and balances* and the concept of *separation of powers*
- Define *federalism*
- Describe the principles of the Bill of Rights
- Give examples of the ways in which democracy has expanded or been restricted over time
- Define First Amendment rights
- Summarize the duties and responsibilities of citizens

## A New Nation

- Identify George Washington as the first president and describe his contributions
- Identify the first six presidents and give examples of their accomplishments and problems
- Summarize the problems faced by Native Americans as the United States expanded
- Explain the causes and results of the War of 1812
- Locate the Louisiana Territory on a map and list the states that were formed from it
- Identify the physical characteristics of the Louisiana Territory
- Trace the route of the Lewis and Clark expedition
- Identify the states added to the Union between 1790 and 1815
- Explain the role of trade in foreign policy decisions between 1789 and 1815
- Describe the economic results of the War of 1812
- Describe the role of compromise in establishing the new nation
- Identify the precedents set by George Washington in defining the role of the president
- Explain major constitutional issues that faced the first three presidents
- Analyze “The Star-Spangled Banner”

## A New Age and New Industries

- Identify Andrew Jackson, and describe the significance of his election in terms of the expansion of democracy
- Become familiar with the eight presidents who served between Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln
- Describe new forms of transportation between 1800 and 1860 and their influence on the nation and on people’s lives

- Recognize the innovations in industry, agriculture, and communications between 1790 and 1860 and their influence on the nation and on people’s lives
- Describe the potential benefits and problems of growing cities of the early nineteenth century
- Recognize the importance of natural resources in patterns of settlement and conflict
- Use a variety of maps to assess changes over time
- Make connections between geographic factors and economic decisions
- Explain the role of labor in the development of economic systems
- Identify individuals who helped expand the ideals of democracy
- Recognize limitations on democracy in the early nineteenth century

## Americans Take New Land

- Explain Manifest Destiny
- Identify the major immigrant groups of the early nineteenth century and describe their experience
- Identify individual and group motives for going West, and describe the experience of the pioneers
- Assess the impact of westward expansion on Native Americans and on slavery
- Describe the ways in which new territories were acquired between 1783 and 1860
- On a map, locate and identify the states added to the United States between 1815 and 1860
- Describe the physical features of the territories gained between 1815 and 1860
- Explain the shifting regions of the United States as the nation grew
- Identify push and pull factors in the migrations of the early nineteenth century
- Trace migration routes of the time
- Relate physical geography and climate to the ways in which people can make a living
- Explain the role of profit motive in U.S. expansion
- Give examples of economic interdependence
- Describe the law of supply and demand as it relates to resources and opportunity
- Give examples of the ways in which democracy was expanded or restricted between 1800 and 1850

## Reform and Reflection

- Describe the goals, achievements, and difficulties of major reform movements before 1860
- Give examples of nationalism in American literature and art of the early nineteenth century
- Identify individuals who helped expand the ideals of democracy

# American History Before 1865

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## Slavery and Sectionalism

- Explain the growing divisions between North and South between 1820 and 1860
- Describe the goals, achievements, and problems of the abolition movement
- Describe the shifting regions of the United States as cotton and slavery moved West
- Explain the role and nature of slavery in the economic system of the South
- Identify individuals who played a role in expanding or restricting the ideals of democracy

## The Road to Civil War

- Trace the sequence of events between 1850 and 1861 that increased sectional tension and led to the Civil War
- Identify the changing regions of the United States in the years before the Civil War
- Use maps to identify the provisions of major legislation between 1820 and 1860
- Describe the arguments over the nature of federalism in the years before the Civil War
- Identify individuals who worked to expand democracy between 1850 and 1861

## The Civil War

- Identify major political and military leaders on both sides of the Civil War
- Recognize the major strategies, battles, and outcomes of the Civil War
- Summarize the reasons for and results of the Emancipation Proclamation
- Describe the roles of women and African Americans in the war effort
- Describe the human and economic cost of the war and its effect on families, slaves, and soldiers
- Use maps to locate major battles and strategies of the Civil War
- Recognize the significance of relative location in battle plans
- Identify the Emancipation Proclamation and the thirteenth Amendment in expanding democracy
- Recognize key passages of the Gettysburg Address and Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address
- Analyze the words of selected Civil War songs
- Become familiar with selected monuments

## Reconstruction

- Describe the impact of Abraham Lincoln's assassination on the effort to rebuild the nation
- Discuss the successes and failures of Reconstruction in terms of the economic, political, and social problems facing the nation between 1865 and 1877

- Describe the ways in which human actions during the Civil War affected the South's agriculture and economy long after the war
- Analyze graphs of economic output before, during, and after the war
- Explain the origins and purpose of the sharecropping system
- Summarize the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments

## Lesson Time and Scheduling

Total lessons: 180.

Lesson Time: 60 minutes.

## Standard Curriculum Items

US/world map

*Understanding Geography—Map Skills and Our World (Level 5)*

*A History of US: The First Americans* by Joy Hakim (Oxford University Press, 1999)

*A History of US: Making Thirteen Colonies* by Joy Hakim (Oxford University Press, 1999)

*A History of US: From Colonies to Country, Vol. 3* by Joy Hakim (Oxford University Press, 1999)

*A History of US: The New Nation, Vol. 4* by Joy Hakim (Oxford University Press, 1999)

*A History of US: Liberty for All, Vol. 5* by Joy Hakim (Oxford University Press, 1999)

*A History of US: War, Terrible War, Vol. 6* by Joy Hakim (Oxford University Press, 1999)