

## American History for multi-grade elementary levels

### Timeline of US history

Make with white cardstock. Draw a black thick line through the middle long ways. As you add dates to your time line, mark with dots or brackets to the information you are adding. After your child reads a book or you learn something interesting about that time, make a small picture or write out in words what you have learned. Glue it to your cardstock sheet by the line.

In each section, I tried to have a child friendly movie available to watch. I then chose a couple of read aloud books to show what that time period was like that I will read with the children. I chose reader books for my children to do on their own. I didn't do all chapter books for the older children because they will be doing a lot of reading this year and I felt that they could use some "shorter" books to get the lesson idea across.

After we read our books, we will make a picture of words of what we learned and stick it on our timeline. By the end of the year, we will have a long wall of information---pictures to come😊

We are going to break it up into pages, doing one page per month. There are 8 pages, that gives us 8 months of school to complete it. I am sure we will do it before, but this gives us extra time for holidays and mishaps😊

## Native American

People lived in the United States long before the arrival of Christopher Columbus and the Europeans. These people and cultures are called Native Americans.

The first people to live in a land are called indigenous peoples. This means they were the original settlers. The Native Americans are the indigenous peoples and cultures of the United States.

Sometimes these peoples are referred to as Indians or American Indians. This is because when Columbus had first landed in America, he thought he had sailed all the way to the country of India. He called the locals Indians and the name stuck for some time.

Native Americans lived throughout North and South America. In the United States there were Native Americans in Alaska, Hawaii, and the mainland of the United States. Different tribes and cultures lived in different areas. In the middle of the country lived the Plains Indians, including tribes such as the Comanche and Arapaho. In the Southeast area of the country lived tribes such as the Cherokee and the Seminole.

The Native Americans were grouped into tribes or nations usually based on the area they lived in and their culture such as their religion, customs, and language. Sometimes smaller tribes were part of a bigger tribe or nation. As best as historians can tell, these tribes were fairly peaceful prior to the arrival of Columbus and the Europeans. There were hundreds of tribes throughout the United States when Columbus first arrived. Many of them are well known such as the Cherokee, Apache, and the Navajo.

The Native Americans did not write down or record their history, so we have to find out about their history in other ways. Today archeologists are able to learn a lot about past cultures by digging up artifacts such as tools and weapons. Much of what we know comes from the recordings of the first Europeans to arrive. We can also learn from traditions and stories that have been passed down within the tribes from generation to generation.

Today, some of the descendants of the original American Indians live on reservations. These are areas of land set aside specifically for Native Americans. This helps to protect their heritage and culture. However, only around 30% live on reservations. The rest live outside the reservations just like anyone else.

Native American Life DVD by Rhonda Fabian

The Trail of Tears by Deborah Kent (read aloud)

Who really discovered America? by Kristine Carlson Asselin (read aloud)

5<sup>th</sup> grade girl readers

Dear America Standing in the light: the captive diary of Catherine Carey Logan

The girl who chased away sorrow: the diary of Sarah Nita, a Navajo girl

American Girl Kaya

3<sup>rd</sup> grade readers

A Boy called slow

The rough-face girl

6<sup>th</sup> grade boy readers

Dear America: The journal of Jesse Smoke

Only the names remain

## Discovery

Drive thru History DVD

VOL. 1: Columbus, The Pilgrims and Early Boston: EPISODE 1: The Discovery (28:50 min.):

Introduction ; Christopher Columbus in Genoa ; The Khan-Polo connection ; Florence, Italy -- Setting sail in Palos, Spain ; Amerigo Vespucci. -

Pedro's journal: a voyage with Christopher Columbus -6<sup>th</sup> grader reader

Where do you think you're going Christopher Columbus? Jean Fritz --5<sup>th</sup> grade reader

In 1492 -3<sup>rd</sup> grade reader

## Colonial

Drive thru history DVD

EPISODE 2: The Pilgrims (29:10): Driving to Scrooby ; The separatists ; The Pilgrims in Holland ; The Mayflower ; Plymouth Rock ; The first Thanksgiving. -

Daily Pioneer Life DVD Schlesinger Media,

If you were at the first thanksgiving by anne kamma(read aloud)

You wouldn't want to be an American Colonist(read aloud)

Mayflower 1620: a new look at a pilgrim voyage(read aloud)

Pilgrims of Plymouth by Susa Goodman (read aloud)

1607 : a new look at Jamestown-6<sup>th</sup> grade reader

The Lost colony of Roanoke by Jean Fritz -6<sup>th</sup> grade reader

A journey to the new world: the diary of Remember Patience Whipple-5<sup>th</sup> grade reader

The salem witch trials an unsolved mystery from history by Jane Yolen-5<sup>th</sup> grade reader

Sarah Morton's Day -3<sup>rd</sup> grade reader

Samuel Eaton's Day-3<sup>rd</sup> grade reader

## Revolution

Drive thru history

EPISODE 3: Boston & Beginnings of Revolution (27:45): Boston's heritage ; War brewing ; The Old North Church ; Lexington & Concord ; Battle of Bunker Hill ; Dorchester Heights. -- EXTRAS: John Adams bonus

The American Revolution DVD by Schlessinger, Andrew  
The Scarlet Stockings Spy by Trinka Noble(read aloud)  
When Mr Jefferson came to Philadelphia-(read aloud)

Katie's Trunk-3<sup>rd</sup> grade reader  
redcoats and petticoats-3<sup>rd</sup> grade reader  
a picture book of George Washington by david a adler (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

Guns for General Washington 6<sup>th</sup> grade reader  
Avi—6<sup>th</sup> grade reader  
Ambush in the wilderness-6<sup>th</sup> grade reader

When Freedom comes: hope's revolutionary war diary-5<sup>th</sup> grade reader  
Founding Mothers: remembering the ladies by Cokie Roberts-5<sup>th</sup> grade reader

## Declaration of Independence

We the people by Lynne Cheney-(read aloud)

Give me liberty—russell Freedman-6<sup>th</sup> grade reader  
we the kids: the preamble to the constitution of the United States by David Catrow-3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
a more perfect union by Betsy Maestro-5<sup>th</sup> grade reader

## George Washington

George Washington's Teeth-3<sup>rd</sup> grade reader  
George Washington and the General's Dog -3<sup>rd</sup> grade reader

john paul George and ben -5<sup>th</sup> grade reader  
Big George by Anne Rockwell-5<sup>th</sup> grade reader  
George Did it by Suzanne trupp-5<sup>th</sup> grade reader

George vs George: The american revolution as seen from both sides By Rosalyn Schaener-6<sup>th</sup> grade reader

### **Benjamin Franklin**

Now & Ben by Gene Barretta-(read aloud)

The amazing life of Benjamin franklin—6<sup>th</sup> grade

What's the big idea, Ben Franklin by Jean Fritz -5<sup>th</sup> grade

How Ben Franklin stole the lightning by Rosalyn schanzer-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

### **Woman's Suffrage**

Marching with Aunt Susan

Susan B Anthony : fighter for freedom and equality by Suzanne slade

Elizabeth leads the way by Elizabeth cady Stanton

### **Misc books**

Bully for You Teddy Roosevelt (read aloud)

The camping trip that changed America(read aloud)

Who says women can't be doctors? the story of Elizabeth Blackwell by Tanya lee stone(read aloud)

timeless Thomas how Thomas Edison changed our lives by gene barretta(read aloud)

A picture book of Thomas Alva Edison by David Adler(read aloud)

Thomas Jefferson life, liberty and the pursuit of everything by maira kalman(read aloud)

Eleanor, quiet no more by Doreen rappaport (read aloud)

A picture Book of Florence Nightingale by David Adler (read aloud)

## CIVIL WAR

The Civil War by Henry Nevison DVD

Gettysburg: the legendary battle and the address that inspired a nation by Shelley Tanaka—(read aloud)

You wouldn't want to be a civil war soldier. By Thomas Ratliff (read aloud)

Abraham Lincoln by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire (read aloud)

A light in the storm: The diary of Amelia Martin by Karen Hesse-5<sup>th</sup> grade

Civil War on Sunday by Mary Pope Osborne—magic tree house—5<sup>th</sup> grade

The Last Brother by Trinka Noble-6<sup>th</sup> grade

Robert E Lee by Lee Roddy---6<sup>th</sup> grade

The silent witness by Robin Friedman-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

abe Lincoln the boy who loved books by Kay Winters 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

## Slavery

A History of Slavery in America DVD by Rhonda Fabian

Bright Freedom's song by Gloria Houston -(read aloud)

Moses: when Harriet Tubman led her people to freedom by Carole Boston Weatherfield (read aloud)

Who was Frederick Douglass? by April Jones Prince (read aloud)

Ben and the Emancipation Proclamation-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Dear America: I thought my soul would rise and fly by Joyce Hansen-5<sup>th</sup> grade

### **Lewis and Clark**

A picture book of Lewis and Clark by David Adler(read aloud)

### **Transcontinental Railroad**

Ten mile day and the building of a transcontinental railroad by Mary Fraser (read aloud)

### **Gold rush**

Gold fever and the North Carolina gold rush : [the story of the discovery of gold on John Reed's farm] / Hilda Plecker Hobson (read aloud)

Gold fever! tales from the California gold rush by Rosalyn schanzer(read aloud)

The golden doorstep by W Parker Marks—north Carolina gold(read aloud)

### **The Orphan Trains**

In New York City in the 1850s, tens of thousands of children were homeless and even more lived in slums in destitute conditions. Orphanages were overflowing and city officials were looking for solutions. An organization called the Children's Aid Society stepped forward with an idea -- send the children out west to be adopted by willing and "morally upright farm families" who would be gladly looking for 'another pair of hands' to help with farm chores and child rearing. The plan was accepted and launched in 1853.

For the next 50 years, more than 120,000 children were loaded onto trains and send out west to different states (45 in total + Canada and Mexico!), stopping at train stops for residents to look them over and decide if they were appropriate for "placement." Some placements ended happily, with children warmly accepted and adopted into their new families. Some, however, resulted in very poor conditions, including abuse and near indentured servitude. Their compelling stories provide a window into the historical, social and culture mores of the era.

Train to somewhere by Eve Bunting (read aloud)

Orphan Train by verla kay—(read aloud)

## **IMMIGRATION**

Immigrant Kids by Russell Freedman (read aloud)

Naming Liberty by Jane Yolen(read aloud)

### **Child Labor**

Kids on Strike! by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (read aloud)

## GREAT DEPRESSION

Born and Bred in the Great Depression (read aloud)  
 The Story of the Great Depression by R Conrad Stein --5<sup>th</sup> grade  
 Potato: a tale from the great depression by Kate Lied-3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
 The gardener by sarah stewart -3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
 sky boys by Deborah hopskinson -6<sup>th</sup> grade

## DUSTBOWL

Children of the Dust Bowl: A true story of the school at weedpatch camp by Jerry Stanley(read aloud)  
 Dust for Dinner (read aloud)

## World War I

A brave soldier by Nicolas Debon (read aloud)

## World war II

You wouldn't want to be a WWII pilot (read aloud)  
 On a beam of light A story of albert Einstein by Jennifer Bexter (read aloud)  
 One thousand tracings: healing the wounds from world war 2 by Lita Judge (read aloud)  
 America in the Time of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (read aloud)  
 Nim and the war effort by milly lee-3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
 The little ships: the heroic rescue at Dunkirk by Louise Borden-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
 across the blue pacific: a world war II story by Louis borden-6<sup>th</sup> grade



## Japanese Internment Camps

So far from the sea by Eve Bunting (read aloud)

## Civil Rights

The Watsons go to Birmingham dvd

boycott blues: how rosa parks inspired a nation by andrea pinkney-(read aloud)

My brother martin by Christine king farris (read aloud)

White socks only by evelyn coleman-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Grandmama's pride by becky birtha-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Rosa by nikki Giovanni—5<sup>th</sup> grade

freedom walkers by Russell freedman -6<sup>th</sup> grade

## Vietnam

escape from Saigon -(read aloud)

The manhattan project 1945—atomic bomb-6<sup>th</sup> grade

The Vietnam war by John Devaney 6<sup>th</sup> grade

the wall by eve bunting -3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Where have all the flowers gone? by Ellen emerson white -dear America—5<sup>th</sup> grade

## Modern

Jack's Path of courage: the life of john f kennedy by Doreen rappaport(read aloud)

who was sally ride? by megan stine (read aloud)

teammates by peter golenbock (read aloud)

Wilma unlimited: how Wilma Rudolph became the world's fastest woman by Kathleen krull (read aloud)

Sonia sotomayor : a judge grows up in the Bronx by jonah winter (read aloud)

One Giant Leap The story of Neil Armstrong by Don Brown (read aloud)

Buzz Aldrin Reaching the Moon by Wendell Minor (read aloud)

The remarkable Ronald Reagan by Susan Allen(read aloud)

Richard Nixon by Venezia (read aloud)

The Persian Gulf War (we the people) (read aloud)