8th Grade Social Studies
STAAR Vocabulary
Colonization

*Definition:* The act or process of establishing a colony or colonies; the spreading of a species into a new habitat.
Revolution

*Definition:* An overthrow and the thorough replacement of an established government or political system by the people governed.
Declaration of Independence

*Definition*: A statement adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, which announced that the thirteen American colonies, then at war with Great Britain, regarded themselves as independent states, and no longer a part of the British Empire.
Constitution

**Definition:** A framework of laws and principles that establish the function, nature, offices, powers, and limits of a government. The Constitution of the United States is the framework for the national government of the U.S.
Westward Expansion

*Definition:* The acquisition of territories, like the Louisiana Purchase, resulting in more and more land for Americans until eventually reaching the Pacific ocean.
Sectionalism

**Definition:** Excessive concern for the interests of one group or area to the detriment of the whole.
Civil War

Definition: A war between organized groups within the same nation state or republic; The American Civil War (1861–1865) was a civil war fought over the secession of the Confederate States.
Reconstruction

Definition: Efforts made in the United States between 1865 and 1877 to restructure the political, legal, and economic systems in the states that had seceded from the Union.
13 English Colonies

Definition: The colonies on the Atlantic coast of North America founded between 1607 (Virginia) and 1733 (Georgia).
Absolute and Relative Chronology

*Definition*: Chronology is the science of locating events in time. A chronology may be either *relative* -- that is, locating related events relative to each other -- or *absolute* -- locating these events to specific dates in a Chronological Era.
Significant Dates

1607: Founding of Jamestown
1620: Arrival of Pilgrims and Signing the Mayflower Compact
1776: Adoption of the Declaration of Independence
1787: Writing the U.S. Constitution
1803: Louisiana Purchase
1861-1865: Civil War
Mayflower Compact

Definition: An agreement reached by the Pilgrims on the ship the *Mayflower* in 1620, just before they landed at Plymouth Rock. The Mayflower Compact bound them to live in a civil society according to their own laws.
Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

Definition: The basic law of the Connecticut colony from 1639 to 1662, formally adopted (Jan. 14, 1639) by representatives from the towns of Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor, meeting at Hartford.
Virginia House of Burgesses

Definition: First representative government group in the American colonies; established by the Virginia Company, who created the body as part of an effort to encourage English craftsmen to settle in North America and to make conditions in the colony more agreeable for its current inhabitants.
Virtue

*Definition*: The quality of being morally good or righteous.
Proclamation of 1763

**Definition:** Proclamation by Britain at the end of the French and Indian War that prohibited settlement by whites on Indian territory.
Intolerable Acts

**Definition:** Also known as the Coercive Acts; a series of British measures passed in 1774 and designed to punish the Massachusetts colonists for the Boston Tea Party.

The Intolerable Acts

1) The **port** of **Boston** was closed until the colonists **paid** for the destroyed **tea**.

2) The royal governor could **ban** town **meetings**.

3) **British** officials accused of **crimes** would stand **trial** in Britain instead of in Massachusetts.

4) A new **Quartering** Act was passed allowing British **troops** to be quartered in unoccupied colonial **buildings** and homes.
Stamp Act

Mercantilism

*Definition:* An early modern European economic theory and system that actively supported the establishment of colonies that would supply materials and markets and relieve home nations of dependence on other nations.
Parliament

*Definition:* A nation's legislative body, made up of elected and sometimes nonelected representatives.
French and Indian War

*Definition:* War fought between Great Britain and its two enemies, the French and the Indians of North America. Most of the battles were in Canada. American colonists, including George Washington, fought with the British in this war, which lasted from 1754 to 1763. The British won the war and won the right to keep Canada and several other possessions in the New World.
Abigail Adams

The wife of John Adams, who was the second President of the United States, and the mother of John Quincy Adams, the sixth. Adams is remembered for the many letters she wrote to her husband while he stayed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the Continental Congresses. John frequently sought the advice of Abigail on many matters, and their letters are filled with intellectual discussions on government and politics.
John Adams

The second President of the United States (1797–1801), having earlier served as the first Vice President of the United States. An American Founding Father, he was a statesman, diplomat, and a leader of American independence from Great Britain. Well educated, he was an Enlightenment political theorist who promoted republicanism.
Wentworth Cherwell

An African-American teacher, American Revolutionary War veteran, assessor, auditor, selectman and Justice of the Peace. He is considered by some the first African American elected to public office, as well as the first archaeologist in New Hampshire.
Samuel Adams

An American statesman, political philosopher, and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. As a politician in colonial Massachusetts, Adams was a leader of the movement that became the American Revolution, and was one of the architects of the principles of American republicanism that shaped the political culture of the United States.
Mercy Otis Warren

A political writer and propagandist of the American Revolution. During the years before the American Revolution, Warren published poems and plays that attacked royal authority in Massachusetts and urged colonists to resist British infringements on colonial rights and liberties. During the debate over the United States Constitution in 1788, she issued a pamphlet, written under the pseudonym, "A Columbian Patriot," that opposed ratification of the document and advocated the inclusion of a Bill of Rights.
James Armistead

The first African American double spy. An African American slave, Armistead was owned by William Armistead in Virginia during the American Revolution.
Benjamin Franklin

One of the Founding Fathers of the United States. Franklin was a leading author, printer, political theorist, politician, postmaster, scientist, musician, inventor, satirist, civic activist, statesman, and diplomat. As a scientist, he was a major figure in the American Enlightenment and the history of physics for his discoveries and theories regarding electricity.
Bernardo de Galvez

A Spanish military leader and colonial administrator who served as colonial governor of Louisiana and Cuba, and later as Viceroy of New Spain. Galvez aided the American Thirteen Colonies in their quest for independence and led Spanish forces against Britain in the Revolutionary War, defeating the British at the Siege of Pensacola (1781) and reconquering Florida for Spain.
Crispus Attucks

An American slave, merchant seaman and dockworker of Wampanoag and African descent. He was the first person shot to death by British redcoats during the Boston Massacre, in Boston, Massachusetts.
King George III

King of Great Britain and King of Ireland from 25 October 1760 until the union of these two countries on 1 January 1801, after which he was King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland until his death. His life and reign were marked by a series of military conflicts involving his kingdoms, much of the rest of Europe, and places farther afield in Africa, the Americas and Asia. Early in his reign, Great Britain defeated France in the Seven Years' War, becoming the dominant European power in North America and India.
Haym Salomon

A Spanish and Portuguese Jew who immigrated to New York from Poland during the period of the American Revolution. He was a broker and helped convert the French loans into ready cash by selling bills of exchange for Robert Morris, the Superintendent of Finance. In this way he aided the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War against Great Britain.
Patrick Henry

An attorney, planter and politician who became known as an orator during the movement for independence in Virginia in the 1770s. A Founding Father, he served as the first and sixth post-colonial Governor of Virginia, from 1776 to 1779 and from 1784 to 1786. Henry led the opposition to the Stamp Act of 1765 and is remembered for his "Give me Liberty, or give me Death!" speech.
Thomas Jefferson

An American Founding Father, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and the third President of the United States (1801–1809). At the beginning of the American Revolution, he served in the Continental Congress, representing Virginia and then served as a wartime Governor of Virginia (1779–1781).
Marquis de Lafayette

A French aristocrat and military officer born in France. Lafayette served as a major-general in the Continental Army under George Washington in the American Revolutionary War and a leader of the *Garde nationale* during the French Revolution.
Thomas Paine

An English-American political activist, author, political theorist and revolutionary. As the author of two highly influential pamphlets at the start of the American Revolution, he became one of the Founding Fathers of the United States.
George Washington

One of the Founding Fathers of the United States, serving as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War and later as the new republic's first President. He also presided over the convention that drafted the Constitution.
Battle of Lexington and Concord

Definition: The first military engagements of the American Revolutionary War. They were fought on April 19, 1775. The battles marked the outbreak of open armed conflict between the Kingdom of Great Britain and its thirteen colonies in the mainland of British North America.
Battle of Saratoga

Definition: This battle conclusively decided the fate of British General John Burgoyne's army in the American War of Independence and is generally regarded as a turning point in the war.

The Battle Of Saratoga
Battle of Yorktown

*Definition:* A victory by a combined American and French force led by General George Washington and the Comte de Rochambeau over a large British army commanded by General Lord Charles Cornwallis. The surrender of Cornwallis's army caused the British government to negotiate an end to the American Revolutionary War.
Winter at Valley Forge

*Definition*: Valley Forge was the site of the camp of the American Continental Army over the winter of 1777–1778 in the American Revolutionary War. This was a time of great suffering for George Washington's army—but also a time of retraining and rejuvenation.
Articles of Confederation

Definition: The agreement made by the original 13 states in 1777 establishing a confederacy to be known as the United States of America; replaced by the Constitution of 1788.
Treaty of Paris

Definition: A treaty signed on September 3, 1783, to end the Revolutionary War.
Constitutional Convention

**Definition:** The convention in Philadelphia (1787) of representatives from each of the former Colonies, except Rhode Island, at which the constitution of the United States was framed.
The Great Compromise

*Definition:* An agreement between large and small states reached during the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 that in part defined the legislative structure and representation that each state would have under the United States Constitution.
Three-Fifths Compromise

**Definition:** A compromise between Southern and Northern states reached during the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 in which three-fifths of the enumerated population of slaves would be counted for representation purposes regarding both the distribution of taxes and the apportionment of the members of the United States House of Representatives.
Ratification

*Definition:* To confirm by expressing consent, approval, or formal sanction: to ratify a constitutional amendment.

### Ratification of the Constitution

*Votes of State Ratifying Conventions*

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**Tariff**

*Definition:* A duty levied by a government on imported or exported goods.
Taxation

Definition: The system whereby taxes are levied on some types of income, earnings, or purchases.
War of 1812

Definition: A military conflict fought between the forces of the United States and those of the British Empire.
Washington’s Farewell Address

Definition: A letter written by the first American President, George Washington, to "The People of the United States". Washington wrote the letter near the end of his second term as President, before his retirement to his home Mount Vernon.
Monroe Doctrine

*Definition:* A policy of the United States introduced on December 2, 1823. It stated that further efforts by European nations to colonize land or interfere with states in North or South America would be viewed as acts of aggression requiring U.S. intervention.
Andrew Jackson

Seventh president of the United States; his two administrations, famous for ideologies labeled ‘Jacksonian Democracy’, encouraged participation in government by the people, particularly the middle class.
Suffrage

Definition: The right to vote in public elections.
**Indian Removal Act**

**Definition:** A law passed by the United States Congress and signed by President Andrew Jackson to facilitate the removal of American Indian tribes living east of the Mississippi River in the United States to lands further west.
Trail of Tears

*Definition:* The route along which the United States government forced several tribes of Native Americans, including the Cherokees, Seminoles, Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Creeks, to migrate to reservations west of the Mississippi River in the 1820s, 1830s, and 1840s.
Northwest Ordinance

*Definition:* The act of Congress in 1787 providing for the government of the Northwest Territory and setting forth the steps by which its subdivisions might become states.
Manifest Destiny

*Definition:* The doctrine or belief prevalent in the 19th century that the United States had the God-given right to expand into and possess the whole of the North American continent.
Louisiana Purchase

*Definition*: A treaty signed with France in 1803 by which the U.S. purchased for $15,000,000 the land extending from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.
Slavery

*Definition*: A system under which people are treated as property to be bought and sold, and are forced to work.
John Quincy Adams

The sixth president of the United States (1825–1829). He served as an American diplomat, Senator, and Congressional representative. He was a member of the Federalist, Democratic-Republican, National Republican, and later Anti-Masonic and Whig parties. Adams was the son of former President John Adams and Abigail Adams. As a diplomat, Adams played an important role in negotiating many international treaties, most notably the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812.
John C. Calhoun

A leading politician and political theorist from South Carolina during the first half of the 19th century. Calhoun began his political career as a nationalist, modernizer, and proponent of a strong national government and protective tariffs. After 1830 he switched to states' rights, limited government, nullification and free trade. He is best known for his intense and original defense of slavery as something positive, and for pointing the South toward secession from the Union.
Henry Clay

A lawyer, politician and skilled orator who represented Kentucky separately in both the Senate and in the House of Representatives. He served three different terms as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and was also Secretary of State from 1825 to 1829. Clay was a dominant figure in both the First and Second Party systems. As a leading war hawk, he favored war with Britain and played a significant role in leading the nation to war in 1812.
Daniel Webster

A leading American statesman and senator from Massachusetts during the period leading up to the Civil War. He first rose to regional prominence through his defense of New England shipping interests. He lead the opposition to Democrat Andrew Jackson and the Democratic Party. He was a spokesman for modernization, banking and industry, but not for the common people who composed the base of his enemies in Jacksonian Democracy.
Jefferson Davis

An American statesman and leader of the Confederacy during the American Civil War, serving as President of the Confederate States of America for its entire history. He fought in the Mexican–American War as a colonel of a volunteer regiment. He served as the United States Secretary of War under Democratic President Franklin Pierce. As a senator, he argued against secession, but did agree that each state was sovereign and had an unquestionable right to secede from the Union.
Ulysses S. Grant

The 18th President of the United States (1869–1877) following his dominant role in the second half of the Civil War. Under Grant, the Union Army defeated the Confederate military and effectively ended the war with the surrender of Robert E. Lee's army at Appomattox.
Robert E. Lee

A career military officer who is best known for having commanded the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia in the American Civil War.
Abraham Lincoln

16th President of the United States, serving from March 1861 until his assassination in April 1865. Lincoln successfully led his country through its greatest constitutional, military and moral crisis – the American Civil War – preserving the Union while ending slavery, and promoting economic and financial modernization.
William Carney

An African American soldier during the American Civil War who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Battle of Fort Wagner.
Philip Bazaar

A Navy seaman who was awarded the United States' highest military decoration for valor in combat — the Medal of Honor — for having distinguished himself during the battle for Fort Fisher of the American Civil War.
Battle of Antietam

Definition: Also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg, fought on September 17, 1862, near Sharpsburg, Maryland, and Antietam Creek, as part of the Maryland Campaign; was the first major battle in the American Civil War to take place on Union soil. It was the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, with about 23,000 casualties on both sides.
Battle of Gettysburg

**Definition:** Fought July 1–3, 1863, in and around the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It was the battle with the largest number of casualties in the American Civil War and is often described as the war's turning point.
Battle of Vicksburg

**Definition:** The final major military action in the Vicksburg Campaign of the American Civil War. In a series of maneuvers, Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and his Army of the Tennessee crossed the Mississippi River and drove the Confederate army of Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton into the defensive lines surrounding the fortress city of Vicksburg, Mississippi.
Emancipation Proclamation

Definition: A proclamation, effective on January 1, 1863, that was issued by President Abraham Lincoln and declared freedom for all slaves in states still in rebellion against the federal government.
Lee’s Surrender at Appomattox Court House

*Definition:* With his army surrounded, his men weak and exhausted, Robert E. Lee realized there was little choice but to consider the surrender of his Army to General Ulysses S. Grant. After a series of notes between the two leaders, they agreed to meet on April 9, 1865, at the house of Wilmer McLean in the village of Appomattox Courthouse. The meeting lasted approximately two and one-half hours and at its conclusion the bloodiest conflict in the nation's history neared its end.
Liberty

*Definition:* The freedom to think or act without being constrained by necessity or force.
Equality

*Definition:* Rights, treatment, quantity, or value equal to all others in a specific group.
Union

*Definition*: The act of joining together people or things to form a whole.
Government

*Definition*: A group of people who have the power to make and enforce laws for a country or area.
Inaugural Address

Definition: Formal speech to mark the beginning of a leader's (like a president's, a prime minister's, etc...) term of office.
Hiram Rhodes Revels

The first non-white to serve in the United States Senate. Because he preceded any non-white in the House, he was the first person of color in the U.S. Congress as well. He represented Mississippi in 1870 and 1871 during Reconstruction.
**Homestead Act**

*Definition:* An act passed by the U.S. Congress in 1862, promising ownership of 160 acres of public land to a citizen who lived on and cultivated it for five years.
Dawes Act

**Definition:** A federal law intended to turn Native Americans into farmers and landowners by providing cooperating families with 160 acres of reservation land for farming or 320 acres for grazing.
Morrill Act

**Definition:** An act of Congress (1862) granting each state 30,000 acres (12,000 hectares) of land for each member it had in Congress.

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The Morrill Acts (1862 & 1890)

- The Morrill Act made it possible for the new western states to establish colleges for their citizens.

- Sponsored by Congressman Justin Morrill of Vermont, who had been pressing for it since 1857, the act gave to every state that had remained in the Union a grant of 30,000 acres of public land for every member of its congressional delegation. Since under the Constitution every state had at least two senators and one representative, even the smallest state received 90,000 acres. The states were to sell this land and use the proceeds to establish colleges in engineering, agriculture and military science.

- Over seventy "land grant" colleges, as they came to be known, were established under the original Morrill Act; a second act in 1890 extended the land grant provisions to the sixteen southern states.
Population Distribution

*Definition*: The arrangement or spread of people living in a given area.
Settlement Patterns

*Definition*: The way the *settlement* is arranged; the physical appearance of the *settlement*.

![Diagram of dispersed, linear, and nucleated settlements.](image-url)
Immigrant

*Definition:* A person who migrates to another country, usually for permanent residence.
Urbanization

*Definition:* The physical growth of urban areas as a result of rural migration and even suburban concentration into cities, particularly the very largest ones.
Industrialization

*Definition:* The process by which manufacturing industries develop from within a predominantly agrarian society.
Social Class

Definition: A broad group in society having common economic, cultural, or political status.
Abolitionist Movement

*Definition:* Movement to end the slave trade and emancipate slaves in western Europe and the Americas.
Temperance

*Definition:* Total abstinence from alcoholic drink.
Great Awakenings

Definition: Series of religious revivals that swept over the American colonies about the middle of the 18th century; resulted in doctrinal changes and influenced social and political thought.
Amendment

*Definition:* A change, correction, or improvement to something; an addition or alteration to a motion, bill, or constitution.
1st Amendment

Definition: Prohibits the making of any law respecting an establishment of religion, impeding the free exercise of religion, abridging the freedom of speech, infringing on the freedom of the press, interfering with the right to peaceably assemble or prohibiting the petitioning for a governmental redress of grievances.
Hudson River School Artists

*Definition:* A mid-19th century American art movement embodied by a group of landscape painters whose aesthetic vision was influenced by romanticism. The paintings for which the movement is named depict the Hudson River Valley and the surrounding area, including the Catskill, Adirondack, and the White Mountains.
John James Audubon

A French-American ornithologist, naturalist, and painter. He was notable for his expansive studies to document all types of American birds and for his detailed illustrations that depicted the birds in their natural habitats. His major work, a color-plate book entitled *The Birds of America* (1827–1839), is considered one of the finest ornithological works ever completed. Audubon identified 25 new species and a number of new sub-species.
“The Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Definition: A hymn by American writer Julia Ward Howe using the music from the song "John Brown's Body". Howe's more famous lyrics were written in November 1861 and first published in The Atlantic Monthly in February 1862. The song links the judgment of the wicked at the end of time (New Testament) with the American Civil War. Since that time it has become an extremely popular and well-known American patriotic song.
Transcendentalism

Definition: A system of philosophy that regards the processes of reasoning as the key to knowledge of reality.
Era

*Definition:* A period of time made distinctive by a significant development, feature, event, or personality.
Magna Carta

*Definition:* A charter establishing the rights of English barons and free citizens, granted by King John at Runnymede in 1215 and regarded as the basis of civil and political liberty in England.
**Bill of Rights**

*Definition:* A formal statement of the fundamental rights of the people of the United States, incorporated in the constitution as Amendments 1–10, and in all state constitutions.
English Bill of Rights

*Definition:* An act passed by Parliament in 1689 which limited the power of the monarch. This document established Parliament as the most powerful branch of the English government.
Federalist Papers

Definition: A series of 85 articles or essays promoting the ratification of the United States Constitution written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay.
Political Party

*Definition:* A political organization that typically seeks to influence government policy, usually by nominating their own candidates and trying to seat them in political office.
Republicanism

*Definition:* The ideology of governing a nation as a republic, where the head of state is appointed by means other than heredity, often through elections.
Checks and Balances

Definition: A system that allows each branch of a government to amend or veto acts of another branch so as to prevent any one branch from exerting too much power.
Federalism

*Definition:* A political system in which several states or regions defer some powers, e.g. in foreign affairs, to a central government while retaining a limited measure of self-government.
Separation of Powers

*Definition*: The constitutional requirement that each of the three branches of the U.S. government, executive, judicial, and legislative, be autonomous and distinct from the others.
Popular Sovereignty

*Definition:* The doctrine that the people are sovereign and a government is subject to the will of the people; a pre-Civil War political doctrine that held that individual states should decide whether to permit slavery or not.
13th Amendment

Definition: Outlaws slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime. It was passed by the Senate on April 8, 1864, by the House on January 31, 1865, and adopted on December 6, 1865. On December 18, Secretary of State William H. Seward proclaimed it to have been adopted. It was the first of the three Reconstruction Amendments adopted after the American Civil War.
14th Amendment

Definition: Adopted on July 9, 1868, as one of the Reconstruction Amendments. Its Citizenship Clause provides a broad definition of citizenship. Its Due Process Clause prohibits state and local governments from depriving persons of life, liberty, or property without certain steps being taken to ensure fairness. Its Equal Protection Clause requires each state to provide equal protection under the law to all people within its jurisdiction.
15th Amendment

Definition: Prohibits each government in the United States from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's "race, color, or previous condition of servitude" (for example, slavery). It was ratified on February 3, 1870. The Fifteenth Amendment is one of the Reconstruction Amendments.
Alexander Hamilton

A Founding Father, soldier, economist, political philosopher, one of America's first constitutional lawyers and the first United States Secretary of the Treasury. As Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton was the primary author of the economic policies of the George Washington administration, especially the funding of the state debts by the Federal government, the establishment of a national bank, a system of tariffs, and friendly trade relations with Britain. He became the leader of the Federalist Party.
James Madison

An American statesman and political theorist, and the fourth President of the United States (1809–1817). He is hailed as the “Father of the Constitution” for being instrumental in the drafting of the United States Constitution and as the key champion and author of the United States Bill of Rights.
George Mason

An American Patriot, statesman and a delegate from Virginia to the U.S. Constitutional Convention. Along with James Madison, he is called the "Father of the United States Bill of Rights." For these reasons he is considered one of the "Founding Fathers" of the United States.
Nullification Crisis

*Definition:* A sectional crisis during the presidency of Andrew Jackson created by South Carolina's 1832 Ordinance of Nullification. This ordinance declared by the power of the State that the federal Tariffs of 1828 and 1832 were unconstitutional and therefore null and void within the sovereign boundaries of South Carolina.
Judicial Review

**Definition:** A reassessment or re-examination by judges of a decision or proceeding by a lower court or a government department.
Marbury v. Madison

Definition: A landmark United States Supreme Court case in which the Court formed the basis for the exercise of judicial review in the United States under Article III of the Constitution. The landmark decision helped define the boundary between the constitutionally separate executive and judicial branches of the American form of government.
McCulloch v. Maryland

*Definition:* A landmark decision by the Supreme Court of the United States. The state of Maryland had attempted to impede operation of a branch of the Second Bank of the United States by imposing a tax on all notes of banks not chartered in Maryland. This fundamental case established the following two principles: The Constitution grants to Congress implied powers for implementing the Constitution's express powers, in order to create a functional national government, and state action may not impede valid constitutional exercises of power by the Federal government.
Gibbons v. Ogden

Definition: A landmark decision in which the Supreme Court of the United States held that the power to regulate interstate commerce was granted to Congress by the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.
Dred Scott v. Sandford

**Definition:** A landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that people of African descent brought into the United States and held as slaves (or their descendants, whether or not they were slaves) were not protected by the Constitution and were not U.S. citizens.
Unalienable Rights

Definition: Those **rights** that cannot be surrendered, sold or transferred to someone else - the government, for example, or another person. Some people refer to these as "natural" or "God-given" **rights** (life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness).
Citizenship

*Definition:* The legal status of being a citizen of a country; the duties and responsibilities that come with being a member of a community.
Naturalized Citizen

**Definition:** One who, having been born in another country or otherwise reared as a foreigner, has been granted U.S. citizenship and the rights and privileges of that status.
Thomas Hooker

A prominent Puritan colonial leader, who founded the Colony of Connecticut after dissenting with Puritan leaders in Massachusetts. He was known as an outstanding speaker and a leader of universal Christian suffrage.
Charles de Montesquieu

A French social commentator and political thinker who lived during the Enlightenment. He is famous for his articulation of the theory of separation of powers, which is taken for granted in modern discussions of government and implemented in many constitutions throughout the world. He was largely responsible for the popularization of the terms *feudalism* and *Byzantine Empire*. 
John Locke

An English philosopher and physician regarded as one of the most influential of Enlightenment thinkers. Considered one of the first of the British empiricists, following the tradition of Francis Bacon, he is equally important to social contract theory. His work had a great impact upon the development of epistemology and political philosophy.
William Blackstone

An English jurist, judge and Tory politician of the eighteenth century. He is most noted for writing the *Commentaries on the Laws of England*. 
William Penn

An English real estate entrepreneur, philosopher, and founder of the Province of Pennsylvania, the English North American colony and the future Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He was an early champion of democracy and religious freedom, notable for his good relations and successful treaties with the Lenape Indians. Under his direction, the city of Philadelphia was planned and developed.
Civil Disobedience

*Definition:* The deliberate breaking of a law by ordinary citizens, carried out as nonviolent protest or passive resistance.
Boston Tea Party

*Definition:* A raid in 1773 made by citizens of Boston (disguised as Indians) on three British ships in the harbor as a protest against taxes on tea and the monopoly given to the East India Company.
Henry David Thoreau

An American author, poet, philosopher, abolitionist, naturalist, tax resister, development critic, surveyor, historian, and leading transcendentalist. He is best known for his book *Walden*, a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings, and his essay *Civil Disobedience*, an argument for individual resistance to civil government in moral opposition to an unjust state.
Compromise

*Definition:* A settlement of a dispute in which two or more sides agree to accept less than they originally wanted.
John Marshall

The Chief Justice of the United States (1801–1835) whose court opinions helped lay the basis for American constitutional law and made the Supreme Court of the United States a coequal branch of government along with the legislative and executive branches. Previously, Marshall had been a leader of the Federalist Party in Virginia and served in the United States House of Representatives from 1799 to 1800. He was Secretary of State under President John Adams from 1800 to 1801.
Frederick Douglass

An American social reformer, orator, writer and statesman. After escaping from slavery, he became a leader of the abolitionist movement, gaining note for his dazzling oratory and incisive antislavery writing. He stood as a living counter-example to slaveholders' arguments that slaves did not have the intellectual capacity to function as independent American citizens.
John Paul Jones

A Scottish sailor and the United States' first well-known naval fighter in the American Revolution. Although he made enemies among America's political elites, his actions in British waters during the Revolution earned him an international reputation which persists to this day. He later served in the Imperial Russian Navy.
James Monroe

The fifth President of the United States (1817–1825). Monroe was the last president who was a Founding Father of the United States, the third of them to die on Independence Day. His presidency was marked both by an "Era of Good Feelings" – a period of relatively little partisan strife – and later by the Panic of 1819 and a fierce national debate over conditions of the admission of the Missouri Territory. Monroe is most noted for his foreign policy proclamation in the Monroe Doctrine in 1823, which stated that the United States would not tolerate further European intervention in the Americas.
Stonewall Jackson

A Confederate general during the American Civil War, and one of the best-known Confederate commanders after General Robert E. Lee. His military career includes the Valley Campaign of 1862 and his service as a corps commander in the Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee. Confederate pickets accidentally shot him at the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 2, 1863.
Susan B. Anthony

A prominent American civil rights leader who played a pivotal role in the 19th century women's rights movement to introduce women's suffrage into the United States. She was co-founder of the first Women's Temperance Movement with Elizabeth Cady Stanton as President. She also co-founded the women's rights journal, *The Revolution*. 
Elizabeth Cady Stanton

An American social activist, abolitionist, and leading figure of the early woman's movement. Her Declaration of Sentiments, presented at the first women's rights convention held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, is often credited with initiating the first organized woman's rights and woman's suffrage movements in the United States.
Plantation System

Definition: A system of large-scale agriculture involving the cultivation of industrial and food crops, primarily tropical and subtropical ones, such as sugarcane, coffee, cacao, tea, rice, bananas, pineapples, tobacco, cotton, rubber trees, and indigo.
Transcontinental Railroad

Definition: Rail connection with the Pacific coast. In 1845, Asa Whitney presented a plan to Congress for the federal government to subsidize the building of a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific.
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