

APUSH @ AMCHS 2017-2018 Summer Assignment

Annenberg: A Biography of America Videos

Visit The Biography of America: <https://www.learner.org/series/biographyofamerica/index.html>

- You MUST watch Episodes 1-3 and answer the questions (4 per video) ON YOUR OWN PAPER (hand written answers only). Please number/letter each response and write legibly. Each answer will likely be 3-4 sentences and should be written in complete sentences.
- You will choose 2 other episodes (anything that you're interested in!). Answer the questions for those 2 episodes as well.

Approximately 3 hours of work. Each video is about 25 minutes long.

This will be due on the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL for an **assessment grade**. You should be familiar with the information in videos 1-3 for activities we will complete the first week (so it might be better to do this early in August rather than in June when you might have forgotten...).

REQUIRED

1. New World Encounters

- Describe TWO specific pre-Columbian societies in North America. Use at least 3 specific details for each.
- Describe the Spanish advantages over the Native Americans. What impact would this have on the encounters between the two?
- Describe TWO specific examples of Native American resistance to Spanish conquest.
- What was the status of French and English exploration and colonization efforts as the 16th century closed? Explain.

2. English Settlement

- Describe 3 of the most significant differences between the Virginia colonists and the Massachusetts Bay colonists. Be sure to give REASONS for those differences.
- Describe the economy of colonial Virginia. Include the who (who profits? Who owns? Who labors?), what (what is the basis for economic activity?), where (describe the geography of the Virginia economy), and the how (explain how profitability came to the colony).
- Describe the Puritan's religious and social beliefs. Explain 2 of the impacts of these beliefs on the New England colony.
- Explain the relations of both the Virginia and the Massachusetts Bay colonists with the Native Americans. Include at least 2 details for each.

3. Growth and Empire

- Describe the "American Character" of the 18th century. Be sure to incorporate the views of Crèvecoeur, Franklin, and the historians in the video. Why is this important?
- Describe the development of slavery in the American colonies in the 18th century. Be sure to include details about the nature of slavery, the enslaved Africans' response to slavery, and the differences in slave experiences in various parts of the American colonies.
- Explain the significance of colonial merchants. How did they rise to prominence? What gave them power? Why are they important to the story of the American colonists?
- Describe the political views of Ben Franklin. What role did the Enlightenment play in his thoughts? How would the French and Indian War affect how he viewed the colonies?

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CHOOSE 2 FROM THE REMAINING 22 VIDEOS

4. The Coming of Independence
 - a. Describe the root of the conflict between the British and the Colonies. Give 3 specific examples of actions taken by the British that made this conflict worse for the Colonies.
 - b. Describe the reaction of the Colonists to the British government. Give and explain 3 specific examples.
 - c. Describe the impact of the Declaration of Independence on the colonies. What did this mean for the colonies after this point?
 - d. What factors contributed to colonial success in the Revolutionary War? Describe the hardships of the war and how the colonists were able to overcome them.
5. A New System of Government
 - a. Describe 3 of the major flaws with the New Republic. How did the Founding Fathers aim to fix these flaws to restore the nation?
 - b. Contrast the political views of Hamilton and Jefferson. How does this lead to factions in the United States?
 - c. How did the Federalists and Democratic-Republicans try to lessen the political power of each party? Give examples.
 - d. Describe the legacy of the Declaration of Independence on American systems of law. How did this define Jefferson's legacy?
6. Westward Expansion
 - a. Explain why Jefferson was so eager to control the Mississippi River, and why the Louisiana Purchase was so important for the nation as it grew. (Be sure to talk about New Orleans)
 - b. Identify 3 different transportation developments new in this era and explain their impact on the United States.
 - c. Discuss the Cotton South and the impact of the cotton gin. (How does it affect the economy and how does it affect slavery?)
 - d. Explain 2 reasons for the isolation of the South from the rest of America as it moves into the 1800s.
7. The Rise of Capitalism
 - a. Explain 2 major changes coming to America in the 19th century (include statistics).
 - b. Explain how the US approached industrialism (at least at first). Use at least 3 specific details.
 - c. Explain the impact of the Erie Canal, using at least 2 specific details.
 - d. Discuss the growth of Chicago as a western center of industry. How did it grow so quickly? What problems emerged? How were they solved?
8. The Reform Impulse
 - a. List 5 specific facts about the US between 1800 and 1840. Tell the significance of each.
 - b. Describe in detail the differences between the Democrats and the Whigs, including a description of their views on at least 3 separate issues.
 - c. Describe 4 areas of American society targeted for reform in this era. Who attempted reforms? What were the results?
 - d. Describe the nature of the Second Great Awakening. Be sure to include at least 4 specific details (people, places, events). What was the impact of the Second Great Awakening?

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9. Slavery

- Discuss the actual similarities and differences between the North and the South (use at least 6 specific details).
- Explain why non-slaveholding whites supported the system of slavery in the South.
- Discuss 3 different methods of slave resistance.
- Explain Turner's Rebellion AND tell about the results of that Rebellion (immediate and long-term).

10. The Coming of the Civil War

- Explain the role of the Mexican-American War in the coming of the Civil War. Give at least 5 details.
- Describe the Compromise of 1850 in DETAIL. What were the 4 parts? Who benefitted from each? What problems were left unsolved?
- List and explain at least THREE different events that demonstrate the escalating tension over slavery in the years from 1850 to 1860.
- Explain at least 3 different reasons given by the professors for secession in 1861.

11. The Civil War

- What was the impact of the secession of South Carolina on the start of the Civil War?
- Explain 3 factors that led to the brutality of the Civil War.
- How did the geography of the war impact the strategy and outcome of the war for each side?
- How was the Emancipation Proclamation a political move by Lincoln?

12. Reconstruction

- What is Lincoln's true message about the war in the Gettysburg Address?
- What were 3 problems faced by those who sought to Reconstruct the South?
- Name and explain 2 of the difficulties facing African Americans during Reconstruction.
- How did Andrew Johnson's version of Reconstruction cause conflict within Congress?

13. America at the Centennial

- Identify 3 new technologies that emerge around the American centennial.
- Explain the conflict with Native Americans that is brewing in 1876.
- Explain why the fight for civil rights grows more complicated after the Civil War. What major questions persist?
- How does the role of the government change following the Civil War?

14. Industrial Supremacy

- Explain the wealth of the city of Chicago. How does this idea translate to the nation as a whole in the Gilded Age?
- Explain the relationship between the West and the East. What connected the two (be specific)? Explain what role Chicago played in that connection.
- How did vertical integration work? Explain how it worked for Swift and Armour as well as for Andrew Carnegie. What role would this play in America's industrial growth?
- Describe the working conditions in industrial factories/packing houses. Why were conditions this way? Why did men put up with it? Was it all bad for the workers?

15. The New City

- Explain the growth of skyscrapers. Upon what other technologies did they depend for their construction? For filling them with people? For bringing so many people to live in one place at all?

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- b. Explain the many migrations in play in this era. Who was moving around the cities (and how)? Who was moving to the cities (and what was the impact of that)? Who was trying to move away from the cities (why and how would they accomplish this)?
- c. Explain the conditions of urban life for the poor in this era. What did Jane Addams and Florence Kelley try to do about this?
- d. Explain some of the ethnic and social tensions that brewed in the cities. What about urban life exacerbated these tensions?

16. The West

- a. List and explain 2 details about the Pacific Railway Act itself, and 2 effects of the Transcontinental Railroad.
- b. What did "reformers" suggest to solve the "Indian Problem"?
- c. List and explain 2 challenges that faced ranchers and farmers.
- d. Explain the factors (at least 2) which led to the rise of the Populist Party and explain the reasons for their electoral defeat in 1896.

17. Capital and Labor

- a. Explain the work of Jacob Riis. What reforms did he seek? In what way was his reform work limited?
- b. How did JP Morgan amass wealth? What effect did this have on the US Economy as a whole?
- c. What were some of the obstacles to unionization (list at least 3)?
- d. Explain the ideological conflict between McKinley and Bryan in the election of 1900.

18. TR and Wilson

- a. What was the significance of TR's intervention in the 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike?
- b. Explain TR's approach to foreign policy. Give an example of his actions.
- c. Explain some of the opposition to American entry into WWI and the opposition to the peace treaty in 1919.
- d. What did American Socialists of the time believe? How did the anti-socialist Red Scare come about?

19. A Vital Progressivism

- a. Identify and explain one major challenge facing each of the following groups at this time: Blacks Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans, and Mexican Americans.
- b. Compare the ideology of Booker T. Washington and WEB Du Bois. How are they similar and different?
- c. What is the legacy of Progressivism on Civil Rights? Give at least 2 specific examples.
- d. Name and describe the efforts of 2 women who set out to create change during the Progressive Age.

20. The Twenties

- a. What was so revolutionary about Henry Ford and his company?
- b. What were the social effects of the rise of the automobile? What were the effects of the rise of the factory system?
- c. How did the rise of the automobile change the way cities developed?
- d. Describe the appeal of the movies in the 1920s.

21. FDR and the Depression

- a. What was the New Deal? Give at least 3 specific details.

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- b. What was the role of Eleanor Roosevelt in the New Deal? Be sure to include her efforts with Black Americans.
- c. Explain what happens with respect to unions and labor relations during the New Deal.
- d. Summarize the CCC and the Social Security Act.

22. World War II

- a. Explain the status of the war as America entered in 1941 and 1942. How did we overcome those setbacks?
- b. How did the war change the American economy?
- c. What was the goal of the "air war"? How well did it work? When Americans finally gained superiority with the P-51, what was the impact?
- d. What motivated Americans to fight in the war (include at least 3 ideas)?

23. The Fifties

- a. Explain the justification for dropping the atom bomb. Identify at least 1 criticism of this decision.
- b. What was the significance of Bill Levitt's production of homes? What problem did he help solve? What made it possible? What was remarkable about this?
- c. Explain the growth of teen culture.
- d. Identify 3 1950s reformers and explain what social ill they tackled.

24. The Sixties

- a. What finally brings civil rights activism to the national political agenda?
- b. What was the Great Society? Include at least 3 details.
- c. Identify and explain 2 causes of and 2 consequences of American involvement in Vietnam.
- d. Describe the events of the Watergate scandal.

25. Contemporary History

- a. Explain the economic woes of the 1970s and the economic transformation of the 1980s.
- b. What is the difficulty with historiography (studying the study of history) of the modern era?
- c. What are some major changes that occurred over the 20th century?
- d. What are some of the major challenges that have emerged in the 20th century?

