Because of the heavy taxes, Americans began boycotting the purchase of any taxed items. Britain didn't like losing those sales, so they lifted the taxes on everything except the tea. In 1773, the colonists, dressed as Mohawk Indians, boarded three ships full of tea that were in the Boston Harbor. They dumped all of the tea into the water, even sweeping the dock before they left. This became known as the Boston Tea Party.

The main cause of the American Revolution was taxation without representation through the Stamp Act (everything printed on paper), the Townshend Acts (lead, glass, paint, tea, and other imported goods), and the Intolerable Acts (quartering of soldiers and limitations on traveling, assembling, and publishing).

What was the Boston Tea Party? (1773)

After the Stamp Acts and Townshend Acts, 4,000 British soldiers moved into Boston. They forced themselves into the home of many of the colonists. On March 5, 1770, a group of colonists got into an argument with some red coats. They started throwing snow balls and chunks of ice at the soldiers. The soldiers then fired into the unarmed crowd and killed five Americans.

What was the Boston Tea Party? (1773)

The First Continental Congress was a meeting to protest the Intolerable Acts, which were put into place after the Boston Tea Party. Every colony except Georgia sent representatives to the meeting in Philadelphia. After the meeting, Congress demanded that the Intolerable Acts be removed and the colonists be given more power in Parliament. They also formed the Minute Men - men who were ready to fight within a minute's notice.

What was the First Continental Congress? (1774)
In April of 1775, the *Shot Heard Around the World* was fired at Lexington starting the **Battle of Lexington and Concord**. The Second Continental Congress met one month later after realizing that to defeat the British, they must work together. They formed the **Continental Army**, and at the suggestion of **John Adams**, they made **George Washington** the leader.

**What was the Second Continental Congress? (1775)**

The **13 colonies became an independent nation**

Britain gave the US the land East of the Mississippi River, north to Canada, and south to Florida. These were called "territories".

1. Britain no longer controlled American trade.
2. A new government was formed under the **Articles of Confederation**.
3. The Revolution encouraged other countries to overthrow their governments (especially France).

**What were the results of the American Revolution? (1775-1783)**

The Articles of Confederation was the **first form of American government**, but it **did not work** well because of the following problems:

1. no national government
2. no taxes
3. no strong leadership
4. no army or navy
5. no courts
6. no common currency (each state had their own money)

In 1776, the Continental Congress published the Declaration of Independence. Although there was a committee of 5 men chosen to write the document, **Thomas Jefferson** was the main author. After talking to the committee about the main ideas that should be in the Declaration, he completed it in three weeks! It said "all men are created equal and are endowed with certain unalienable rights,” including “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Congress signed the Declaration on July 4th, 1776. This day became known as **Independence Day**.

**What was the Declaration of Independence? (1776)**
Because of the poorly written Articles of Confederation, the American economy was in trouble. Many people could not pay their debts. Some lost their property. Some were sent to debtor’s prison. The price that farmers could get for their crops was next to nothing. Daniel Shay, a Revolutionary War captain, asked the state of Massachusetts (his home) to be easy on the debtors since times were hard. Massachusetts did not listen, so Shay led raids all over the state. The rebellion showed congress the need for a stronger national government.

In 1787, 55 representatives from every state except Rhode Island met in Philadelphia to come up with a plan to revise the poorly written Articles. George Washington was president of the convention. James Madison took detailed notes of all the meetings. The congress spent 4 months writing the Constitution.

The document outlined a federal government that consisted of three branches:

1. The legislative branch (Congress) which makes the laws
2. The executive branch (President) which enforces the law
3. The judicial branch (the Supreme Court) which decides if new laws are constitutional

The power of each branch is controlled by the other two. This is called the system of checks and balances.

Even though the Constitution was a good document, the representatives were worried it would give the government too much power. The Bill of Rights was added to make sure the people would keep their freedoms.

What is Shay’s Rebellion? (1786)

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What is the Bill of Rights? (1-5)

**Bill of Rights**

**Constitution of the United States**

1. Freedom of religion, speech, press, & assembly
2. Right to bear arms (self-protection)
3. No quartering of soldiers/privacy of home
4. Search warrants needed
5. Cannot testify against yourself/the government must pay a fair price for your property

**We the People**

**Bill of Rights**

**Constitution of the United States**

1. Freedom of religion, speech, press, & assembly
2. Right to bear arms (self-protection)
3. No quartering of soldiers/privacy of home
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What is the Bill of Rights? (6-10)

In 1803, the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from the French Emperor Napoleon. Thomas Jefferson (our 3rd president) paid 15 million dollars for 828,000 square miles. That is about 3 cents per acre!

Great Britain and France were taking US ships and interfering with American trade.

The British were arming Native Americans in the Northwest Territory and trying to colonize America.

The US wanted to take Canada from Britain and Florida from Spain.

After the purchase of the Louisiana territory from the French, colonists moved west to settle the new land. Few people felt the need to buy the land from the Native Americans who lived there since the United States had already paid the French for the land. In turn, the Native Americans felt their homelands had been stolen. Many battles between the two peoples ensued.
1. The British recognized US boundaries.

The British burned Washington and bombed Ft. McHenry (where the Star-Spangled Banner was written).

2. American industry prospered (when trading with Britain stopped).

James Monroe (the fifth president) wrote the Monroe Doctrine that said European countries could no longer form colonies in North or South America and any attempt to do so would be considered a threat.

3. In 1821, Mexico won their independence from Spain. In an effort to raise money to pay their war debts, the Mexican government offered to sell land in the Texas Territory for very cheap prices. In return for the bargain prices, settlers were supposed to learn Spanish and convert to Roman Catholicism. Very few people actually followed through with their end of the deal and soon formed their own government, led by Sam Houston.

The Alamo was a Spanish mission built by Catholic priests in the Texas territory. After settlers moved there and formed their own government, they took control of the mission and turned it into a fort and supply house. The Mexican Dictator, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna fought to put down the Texas government. He fired upon the fort for days and killed every person inside (including the famous Davy Crockett).

After the death of the men at the Alamo, “Remember the Alamo” became the Texas cry for independence. A little more than a month later, Sam Houston’s army caught Santa Anna and made him sign a treaty recognizing Texas’s independence. For ten years it was known as the Lone Star Republic. In 1845, Congress voted to make it an official US territory. This action triggered the Mexican War.
The Cherokees were a peaceful tribe that had lived for hundreds of years on the land in northern Georgia. They claimed they were an independent nation, and even wrote their own constitution modeled after the US Constitution in 1827. President Andrew Jackson, however, decided to relocate the Cherokees to reservations in the West. In 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. John Ross, the Cherokee leader, traveled to Washington to ask the Supreme Court to allow his people to keep their land. The Supreme Court ruled in his favor, but the president ignored the decision and forced them to move.

In the fall of 1838, after President Jackson made his decision to ignore the Supreme Court’s Decision, the relocation of the Cherokee tribe began. It was over 800 miles to Oklahoma (the relocation site). By the time they reached their new home, one-fourth of the Cherokee nation had died due to disease and bitter cold. This is why it is called the Trail of Tears.

### What was the cause of the Trail of Tears? (1838)

- **Mexico did not want Texas to become a US territory.**

  President James Polk believed in **Manifest Destiny**, the belief that it was God’s will to extend the US from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

### What were the causes of the Mexican War? (1846-1848)

1. **Mexico sold what is now California, Nevada, and Utah to the United States for 15 million dollars.**

2. The size and influence of the US increased again.

3. The Rio Grande became the boundary of Texas.

### What were the results of the Mexican War? (1846-1848)

- The size and influence of the US increased again.
In January of 1848, just one week before the Mexican War ended, gold was discovered in a stream that carried water to a California sawmill. Closer inspection showed that the surrounding hills were covered with the precious yellow flakes. It took about a year for the news to reach the East Coast, but when it did, thousands of people flooded California in hopes of “striking it rich”. It became known as the Gold Rush and the people were called 49ers because they arrived in droves in 1849.

The 1800’s was a time of growth and success for the United States, but not a time of unity. The South was made of farms and plantations where much of the work was done by slaves. The North was an area of factories where there were no slaves.

Because of the many people that settled in California, US railroad companies wanted to build train routes to California. Five years after the Mexican War, the United States purchased another strip of land in New Mexico and Arizona. James Gadson negotiated the purchase and paid Mexico 10 million dollars.

With the increase of land, many territories wanted to become states. As new states entered the Union, the North and South argued over whether they would be free states or slave states.
What was the Missouri Compromise? (1820)

A senator from Kentucky named Henry Clay worked out a solution to the Missouri problem. He said Missouri could enter the Union as a slave state if Maine could enter as a free state. It did not solve the problem, but kept the “peace” for a while longer. Clay was called the Great Compromiser.

To abolish means to end. Around the 1830’s there was a big group of people that began working to end slavery. They were called abolitionists, and they believed that no person had a right to own another person. They also pointed out that the Declaration said “all men are created equal.”

When the Missouri territory applied to become a state in the Union, they asked to enter as a slave state. This caused a huge debate in Congress because it would give the South control of the Senate (since there would be 12 slave states and 11 free states).

The abolitionists helped rescue thousands of slaves through a network of homes and farms where escaped slaves could go for help or shelter. They called it the Underground Railroad.

What was the abolitionist movement?

What was the Underground Railroad?
After Lincoln was elected, the southern states begin to secede (leave) the Union. The first to leave was South Carolina. The eleven states that seceded formed their own government called the Confederacy.

Henry Clay, along with 2 other men, came up with a solution for what to do with California as well as the new territories. California entered the Union as a free state. The Mexican territory was divided into New Mexico and Utah. Each state got to choose what they wanted to be. Texas gave up part of its territory to create New Mexico. The Fugitive Slave Act made it legal for slave owners to North to catch runaway slaves.

What was the Compromise of 1850?

A civil war is a war between two groups of people from the same nation. The American Civil War was fought between the North and the South. It was sparked by the 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln, who wanted to stop any new slave states from coming into the Union.
**State's rights** - The North said no state could leave the Union just because they didn't like a policy or president. That South argued that it was their right to decide what their wanted to do.

**Slavery** - Although most Southerners did not own slaves and most Northerners were not abolitionists, slavery was one of the most divisive issues between the North and South.

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1. **What were the causes of the Civil War? (1861-1865)**

   - North: more people, more factories (that could produce guns/weapons), a navy, railroad systems, banks and cash
   - South: better military leaders, familiar terrain, more skilled horsemen and riflemen

2. Not all slave states left the Union. **Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland** did not secede (even thought they still had slaves). When Virginia seceded, the western part of the state did NOT want to leave the Union. The state redrew its borders and **West Virginia became a new state**. These four states are called the border states.

3. **What were the advantages that the North and South had over each other? (1861-1865)**

   - North: Abraham Lincoln was president, US Grant was general
   - South: Jefferson Davis was president, Robert E. Lee was general

4. **Who were the leaders of the Civil War? (1861-1865)**
The twelve years following the Civil War is known as the Reconstruction Period. During this time:

1. Former slaves were made US Citizens.
2. African American men were given the right to vote.
3. The Force Acts were written to protect African Americans from acts of terrorism.
4. The Civil Rights movement was born.

After the Civil War, there was a huge change that took place in the country. The entire nation began to move away from farming and toward industry. Companies began to grow much larger and because of new inventions, production was greatly increased.

What was the Age of Industry? (1850-1900)

What were the positive and negative effects of the Industrial Revolution? (1850-1900)

Positive effects:
- more jobs and more opportunities were created
- Inventions like the railroad and the electric light bulb made life easier

Negative effects:
- only a few people (tycoons) got wealthy - at the expense of the workers
- living conditions in industrial cities were poor and very unhealthy

With the influx of new “jobs” there was a huge wave of people (37 million) that left their own country and came to seek the American dream. Other immigrants were seeking religious freedom. No matter their reason for coming, this was the largest movement of people in the history of the world. All of these immigrants created the “melting pot”.

What was the Age of Immigration? (1870-1930)
President William McKinley didn’t want to rush into war, but because of yellow journalism public opinion was against him. He finally declared war in April and by May 1st, the Spanish had surrendered. Theodore Roosevelt led the US Calvary troops (called roughriders) to victory at the Battle of San Juan Hill.

In January of 1898, Cuba was fighting against Spain to gain independence. The US Battleship Maine made a “friendly visit” to Cuba to check up on their business interests and to offer protection to the American citizens that were there. Spain viewed this visit as a sign of support to the rebel Cubans.

What was the cause of the Spanish-American War? (1898)

On February 15, a huge explosion destroyed the American battleship, killing 260 crew members. No one knows for certain who or what caused the explosion, but many Americans blamed the Spanish.

What happened to the battleship Maine? (1898)

How did yellow journalism affect the Spanish-American War? (1898)

1. Cuba got limited independence from Spain.

   The US gained Puerto Rico and Guam.

2. The US paid Spain $20 million for the Philippines.

3. Theodore Roosevelt became a national hero.
World War I was the first war that involved countries from all over the world. The war began in 1914, but the US did not join until 1917. It was called the “war to end all wars” but in reality, it set the stage for another world war.

Who fought in WWI? (1914-1918)

Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire (Turkey)

Allies: Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Japan, United States

There were several countries in Europe that had large world empires. Those countries were very competitive and their leaders wanted to increase the size of their empires. The war began with the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria.

Why did the US enter WWI? (1914-1918)

When the war in Europe began, America declared that it would remain neutral (not choose sides). America began to turn against Germany after German submarines called U Boats sank a passenger ship called the Lusitania, killing nearly 1200 people. Continued sinking of American ships led to American’s entrance in to the war.
After WWI the US economy boomed! People had lots of money because banks were offering credit (buy now, pay later). Many people invested in the stock market trying to “get rich quick”. Two problems came to be:

1. People bought so much they couldn’t repay their loans
2. Companies produced more products than people could/would buy

What were the results of WWI? (1914-1918)

Germany must accept responsibility for the war and pay $33 million in damages. Germany must reduce the size of its army and was no longer allowed to have submarines or aircraft. The League of Nations was formed.

What happened in the 1920’s?

The Stock market Crash of 1929 marked the beginning of the Great Depression. Businesses all over the United States went bankrupt. One out of every three workers lost their jobs. Many people lost their entire life savings in a single day.

What was the League of Nations?

The League of Nations was a plan proposed by President Woodrow Wilson to help keep peace between the nations. The League originally included every major nation except the US. Even though our president helped form the league, America’s position on foreign policy was one of isolationism. The League of Nations failed.
Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president in the depths of the Great Depression. During his presidency he **developed a plan** called the “New Deal”. It offered federal programs to improve the economy and put people back to work. Most of his programs became law.

**What were the causes of WWII? (1939-1945)**

1. Germany, Japan, the Soviet Union, and Italy all wanted to rule the world.
2. The Treaty of Versailles left Germany very poor and desperate for a change.

World War II was the **second war in our history that involved countries from all over the world**. The war lasted from 1939-1945. Britain, France, and the United States all tried very hard to avoid war.

**WWII was fought between the Allies and the Axis Powers.**

**Allies:** Great Britain, China, France, the United States (1941), Soviet Union (1941)

**Axis Powers:** Germany, Italy, Japan, Soviet Union (until 1941)

**What was the New Deal? (1933)**

“**The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.**”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

**Who fought in WWII? (1939-1945)**
In the mid-1900’s many Americans still held a view of isolationism. Others felt we should help Britain defeat Hitler. The debate ended on December 7, 1941 when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. The US joined the Allies and went to war.

Why did the US enter WWII? (1939-1945)

Adolf Hitler, the leader of Germany dreamed of a world ruled by white people. He called them Aryans. He built facilities called concentration camps and sent the Jews to live there. At some camps the Jews became workers (free labor for the Germans). At other camps, the Jews were killed. Nazi soldiers murdered 6 million Jews during this tragic time.

What was the Holocaust?

WWII was the most expensive war in history, costing more than a trillion dollars. It left many countries in financial ruin.

1. The Berlin Wall divided Germany into East (communist) and West (democratic) Germany.

2. The United Nations was founded in 1945 to maintain world peace. The Allies (Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin) worked together to form this organization. Its headquarters is in New York City.

3. The US and the Soviet Union became the chief world powers.
The Cold War was not a war fought with guns, but with words. The US and the Soviet Union were the main two nations involved in the Cold War. The US, Great Britain, and France formed NATO to resist communists government. The Soviet Union responded by forming the Warsaw Pact with their allies. Both groups worked to build nuclear weapons which they pointed at each other. The Cold War lasted until 1989 when the Berlin wall was torn down.

In 1950, war broke out in Korea between the communist North and the non-communist South. The United States began to send economic aid and later, military aid to the South. The Korean War was the first major conflict in the Cold War. The US supported South Korea while the Soviet Union supported North Korea. There were around 40,000 US soldiers that died in this war. The war ended without really resolving. North Korea is still ruled by a communist regime.

The Vietnam War was the longest war in US history. It began in 1955 and lasted 20 years! It was very similar to the Korean War in that it was a war between the communist North and the non-communist South. The US again gave aid to South Vietnam while the Soviet Union supported North Vietnam. Nearly 60,000 US soldiers were killed during this war that the United States lost.

On September 11, 2001 the United States was targeted in four terrorist attacks by Muslim fundamentalists. The iconic Twin Towers in New York City were destroyed by two planes. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon. A fourth plane targeted Washington, D.C., but instead crashed in a field in Pennsylvania after its passengers tried to take the plane back from the hijackers.

What was the Cold War? (1945-1989)

What was the Korean War? (1950-1953)

What was the Vietnam War? (1955-1975)

What was the cause of the War on Terror?
What were the results of the “War on Terror”?

1. An unending "war", not against a nation, but against "terror" in general.
2. Surveillance on private citizens foreign and domestic.
3. Rising national deficits, resulting in increased borrowing to avoid going into default (mostly from communist China).