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# Snippets of Learning



In cooperation with Cox Communications, Inc. and the Virginia Department of Education



## **Overview**

History comes alive as figures from America's past tell their unique and powerful stories. This series of historical snapshots—each designed to stand alone—targets significant events in United States history. The short video segments are designed as an overview as units of study are introduced and to serve as a review tool at the end of the unit.

### **Snippet 1—Jamestown**

John Rolfe talks about the first permanent European settlement at Jamestown, the successes and failures, the arrival of slaves, and the role of the Virginia Company and the King of England.

### **Snippet 2—Voices of the Revolution**

A Continental Army veteran discusses the war, Washington as a military commander, Patrick Henry's speeches, and Thomas Jefferson's leadership. Thomas Nelson, American statesmen and general, talks about the men who helped shape the new government.

### **Snippet 3—The Civil War**

A Northern Virginia veteran shares his experiences and his impressions of Generals Jackson and Lee. A Virginia businessman talks about slavery and the differences between the North and South

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## Suggested Activities:

1. Conduct biography study. As a class, select a person(s) from a period of American history. Direct students to use the library, the Internet, and other resources to write important events in the person's life in each spoke of a biography wheel. (From *Expanding Expectations*, Fairfax County Public Schools)
2. Develop an illustrated time line. Give each student an index card. Direct students to record and illustrate events that are unique to the time period being studied. Create a time line in the classroom using paper, clothesline, or masking tape.
3. Discuss concepts of freedom and independence with students. Show students the line of the Declaration Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." Direct students to use the Internet, the library, and other resources to determine if these words applied to everyone living in America in 1776. Ask students to rewrite the line so that it includes everyone.
4. **Carousel Brainstorm**—Post charts around the room with different topics related to unit of study written on each chart. Divide students into small groups and assign each group to a topic. Groups should record their ideas and views on the chart. Then each group should move to another chart and record their ideas and views on that topic. Allow each group to continue around the carousel until all groups are finished. The last group remains at that chart and prepares a report on the information.
5. Direct students to use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the life of someone who recently immigrated to the United States and the life of someone who lived in the Jamestown settlement.
6. Ask students to compare the United States government following the Revolutionary War to today's government.
7. Use graphic organizers for individual and group activities. (From *Expanding Expectations*)  
**KWL or KWHL**—useful for activating prior knowledge, remembering information, and setting goals for future learning.

**Word Splash**—key vocabulary words, key people, and places are splashed on a page. Students write what they know and speculate about the word before reading. As the class or group learns information about each word, students add notes below the word.

**Sequence Boxes**—students draw or write main ideas in sequence.

**Vocabulary Web**—students select words that they want to study.

**Discussion Web**—as a class, decide the question that will be the focus of the web. Divide the class into groups. Each group decides on a "yes" and "no" answer. As a class, discuss each group's decision and arrive at a conclusion.



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## SUGGESTED BOOKS

- Barrett, Tracy. *Growing Up in Colonial America*. Millbrook Press. 1995. ISBN: 1563975785.
- Carlson, Laurie. *Colonial Kids: An Activity Guide to Life in the New World*. Chicago Review Press. 1997. ISBN: 155652322X.
- Carter, Alden R. *The American Revolution: War for Independence*. Grolier Publishing. 1992. ISBN: 0531200825.
- Carter, Alden R. *The Civil War: American Tragedy*. Grolier Publishing. 1992. ISBN: 0531200396.
- Egger-Bovet, Howard and Marlene Smith-Baranzini. *USKids History: Book of the New American Nation*. Little, Brown & Company. 1995. ISBN: 0316222062.
- Egger-Bovet, Howard and Marlene Smith-Baranzini. *USKids History: Book of the American Revolution*. Little, Brown & Company. 1994. ISBN: 0316222046.
- Egger-Bovet, Howard and Marlene Smith-Baranzini. *USKids History: Book of the American Civil War*. Little, Brown & Company. 1998. ISBN: 0316223247.
- Egger-Bovet, Howard and Marlene Smith-Baranzini. *USKids History: Book of the American Colonies*. Little, Brown & Company. 1996. ISBN: 0316222011.
- Hakim, Joy. *The New Nation*. Oxford University Press. 1994. ISBN: 0195077520.
- Hakim, Joy. *War, Terrible War*. Oxford University Press. 1994. ISBN: 0195077555.
- Johnstone, Michael. *The History News: Explorers*. Candlewick Press. 1997. ISBN: 0763603147.
- Kalman, Bobbie. *Colonial Life*. Crabtree Publishing Company. 1992. ISBN: 0865055114.
- King, David. *First Facts About U. S. History*. Gale Group. 1996. ISBN: 1567111688.
- Sakurai, Gail. *The Jamestown Colony*. Children's Press. 1997. ISBN: 0516202952.
- Young, Robert. *The Real Patriots of the American Revolution*. Silver Burdett Press. 1997. ISBN: 0875186122.



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## **SUGGESTED INTERNET RESOURCES**

### **Civil War**

#### **The American Civil War Homepage**

University of Tennessee

<http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/>

#### **The Civil War Home Page**

<http://www.civil-war.net/>

### **Jamestown**

#### **History of Jamestown**

Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

<http://www.apva.org/history/index.html>

#### **Virtual Jamestown**

University of Virginia

<http://www.iath.virginia.edu/vcdh/jamestown/>

### **Revolutionary War**

#### **American Revolution Research/Informational Sites**

Kennesaw State University

<http://edtech.kennesaw.edu/web/amrevol.html>

#### **Constitution Day**

National Archives and Records Administration

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day/>

#### **The Revolutionary War: A Journey Towards Freedom!**

ThinkQuest Inc.

<http://library.thinkquest.org/10966/>

#### **Liberty! The American Revolution**

Public Broadcasting System

<http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/>

### **Social Studies**

#### **Academy Curricular Exchange Lesson Plans**

Organization For Community Networks

<http://ofcn.org/cyber.serv/academy/ace/soc/elem.html>

#### **American Memory Learning Page**

Library of Congress

<http://rs6.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/index.html>

#### **National Center for History in the Schools**

University of California, Los Angeles

<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/nchs/>