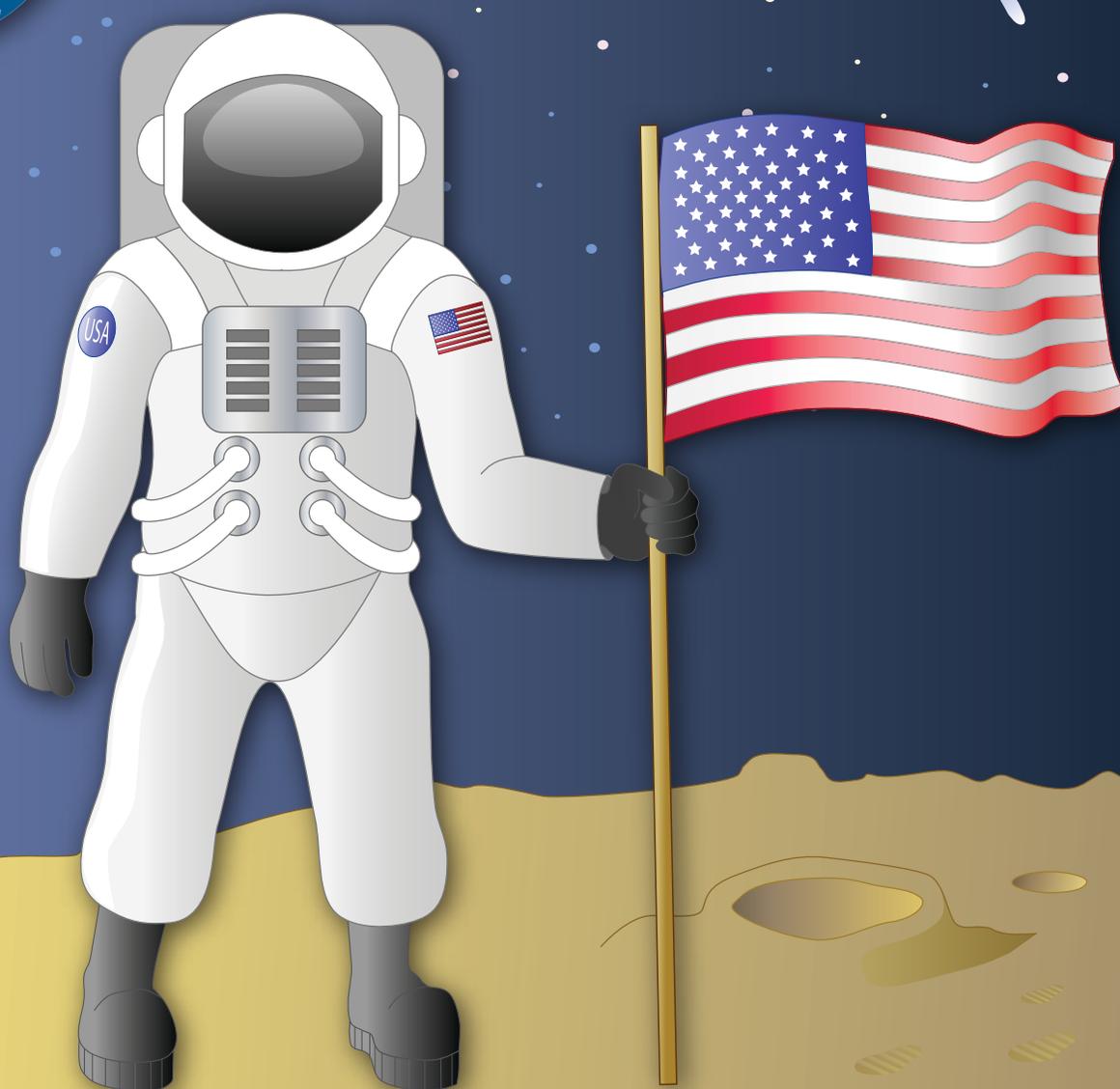


Read Me,  
**U.S. History**

**5<sup>th</sup>**  
Grade



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# JAMESTOWN

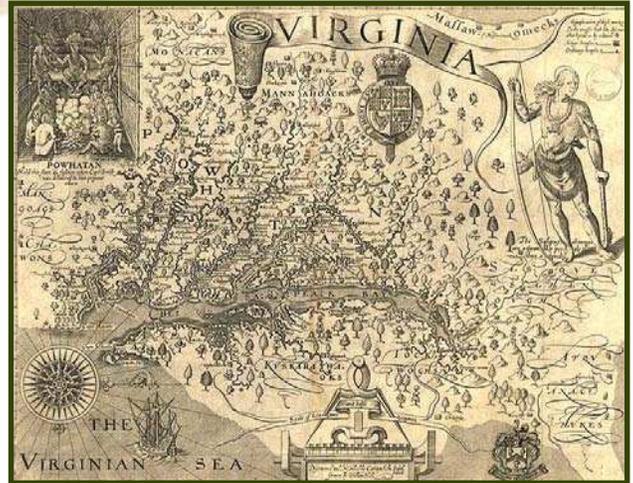
## an Historic Virginia Settlement

Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in North America. It was established in 1607, when 104 men and boys arrived on the shores of Virginia. First, they built a fort as defense against the Native Americans who lived nearby and the Spanish, who claimed the area.

Life was hard in the early years of Jamestown. Food was difficult to find, especially in the winter. Many of the colonists became sick. In this hard time, many colonists died.

The local Native American tribe, the Powhatans, gave the colonists food. One of the first to bring the colonists food was Pocahontas, the daughter of the chief. She made friends with the colonists and helped them through the difficult time. She later married one of the colonists, John Rolfe, and went to England.

After the early years of hardship, Jamestown grew and more colonists arrived. They spread out across Virginia to live and farm. Today, Jamestown has been restored and is part of the Colonial National Historic Park.



Capt. John Smith drew this map of Virginia in 1624.



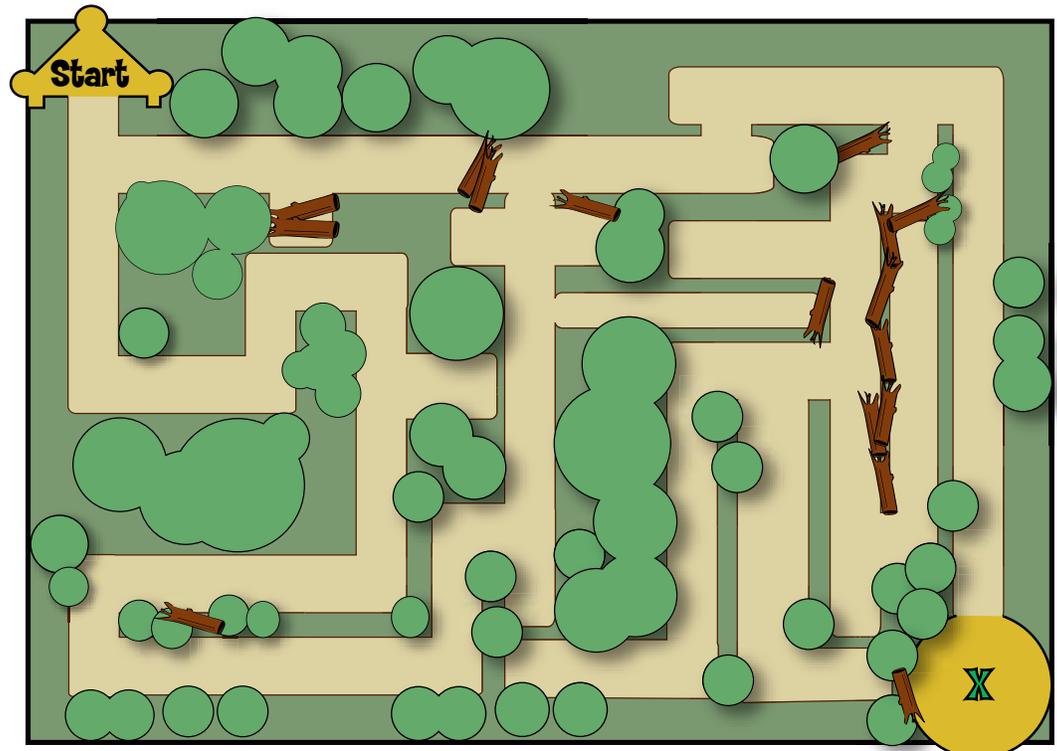
Captain John Smith became the leader of Jamestown in 1608. He returned to England in 1609 after he was hurt.



Pocahontas was the daughter of the Powhatan chief. Legend says she saved John Smith from being killed when he was captured by her tribe.

### MAZE FUN

Help the Jamestown colonists find their way from the fort to the Powhatan Indian village.



#### Fill in the blanks

1. Jamestown was established in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Pocahontas was a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ tribe.
3. Jamestown is in the state of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The first permanent \_\_\_\_\_ settlement in North America was Jamestown.

# GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

The famous Battle of Gettysburg was fought for just three days in July, 1863, between the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia led by General Robert E. Lee, and the Union Army of the Potomac led by General George G. Meade. The Union army seemed to be fighting a losing battle. But on the third day, July 3, the tides turned and the Confederate army was forced into a retreat. Some believe that if General Meade had gone further and pursued the Confederate Army as they retreated, he may have ended the Civil War right then. But Meade and his troops were exhausted, and they did not pursue. The war went on for two more years. But this battle marked a major turning point in the war—the North began to see more victories, and consequently the South never recovered from the damages of it. There were over 51,000 total *casualties* at the Battle of Gettysburg.

On November 19, 1863, President Lincoln attended a ceremony at to dedicate the battlefield as a military cemetery. After the main *orator* Edward Everett spoke for two hours, President Lincoln delivered a short, two-minute long speech, which ended up leaving most of his audience unimpressed. However, you may know this speech as the famous Gettysburg Address. It was short, yet *poignant*, and today many people see it as a symbol of Democracy.



The site of the Battle of Gettysburg was officially made a National Military Park in 1895.

Crowd during  
Lincoln's Gettysburg  
Address in 1863

## Vocabulary

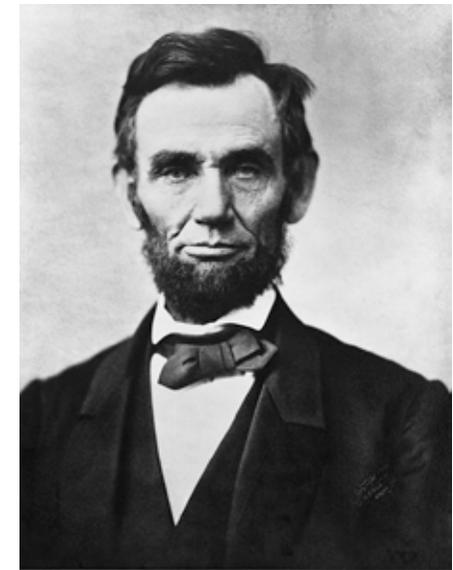
*Casualties*: deaths or injuries, especially of military forces during war time

*Orator*: a public speaker

*Poignant*: very sincere, moving, and emotional

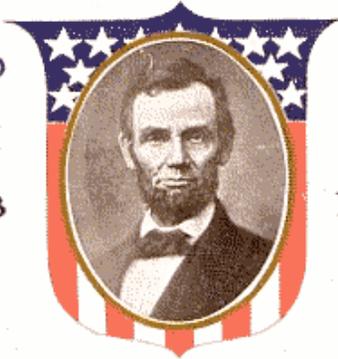
## Critical Thinking

Read Lincoln's Gettysburg Address on page 2 of this worksheet. What makes this speech so poignant? Can you find places in the text that symbolize the spirit of Democracy?



# THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

DELIVERED  
BY  
ABRAHAM  
LINCOLN  
NOV. 19 1863



AT THE  
DEDICATION  
SERVICES  
ON THE  
BATTLE FIELD

**F**ourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. \* \* \* Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. \* \* We are met on a great battle-field of that war. \* We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. \* \* It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. \* \* But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. \* The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. \* \* It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; \* that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

PUBLISHED AND COPYRIGHTED 1905 BY T. T. SHEPARD, BOSTON, MASS.

Anniversary poster of  
Gettysburg Address  
from 1909

# WASHINGTON'S CROSSING

Washington Crossing Historic Park is the site where General George Washington famously crossed the Delaware River in a surprise attack on the British. It was Christmas night, 1776 when his Continental Army crossed the freezing Delaware River by boat, marched into Trenton, New Jersey, and defeated the British and Hessian troops that were stationed there.

This victory was an important turning point in the American Revolutionary War. The settlers of the thirteen colonies had been fighting a losing battle since the war started in 1775. They were fighting against the Kingdom of Great Britain, who believed they had the right to *impose* taxes on these new colonies. This surprise attack by General Washington led to further victories at the Battles of Trenton and the Battle of Princeton—these two *campaigns* are known as the “ten crucial days” that allowed Washington’s army to survive what was thought to be certain defeat. This victory was particularly incredible due to the fact that it took place in the dead of winter. Washington’s army rowed through a snowstorm, where the river conditions were icy and rough.



Washington Crossing the Delaware (1851) oil-on-canvas Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze

## Vocabulary

*Impose*: to force, to set as a rule to be obeyed

*Campaign*: actions and activities carried out for a specific purpose; (in this context) a military operation or battle

Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.

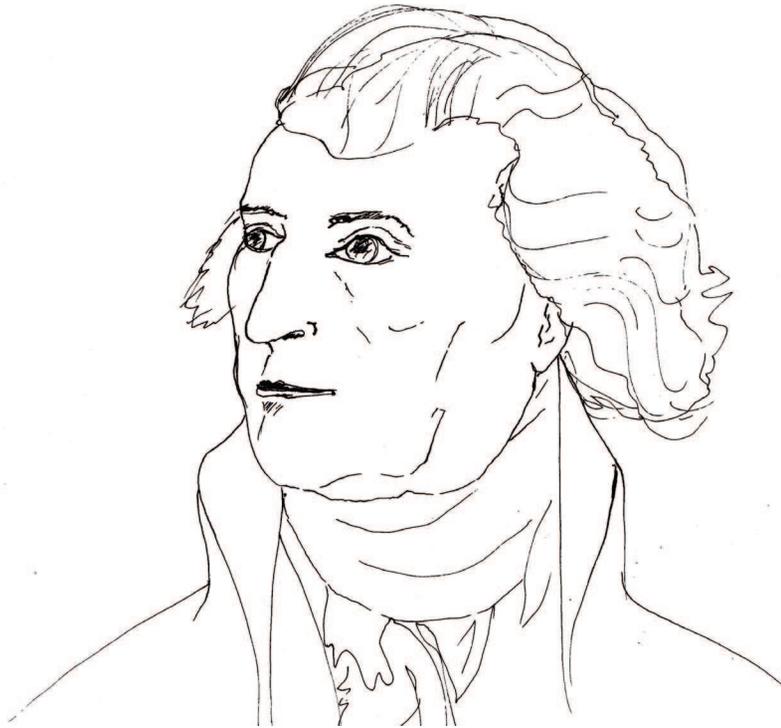
Washington took a great risk crossing a dangerous river in freezing conditions. Can you think of a time when you took a risk? Write about your experience in a paragraph or two.

Look at the painting by Leutze. What is wrong with the painting? Discuss.

Answer: The flag is incorrect—that version of the American flag was not created until more than a year after Washington crossed the Delaware. The painting also shows daylight, which is incorrect as the crossing took place in the dead of night.

# The Declaration of Independence

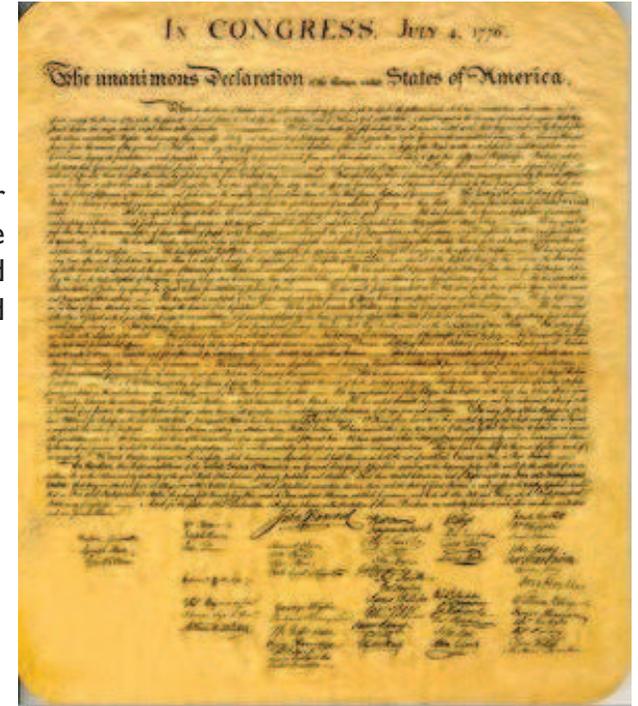
In 1776, founding father Thomas Jefferson sat down to begin writing a *formal* declaration of our *burgeoning* country's break from the British Empire, and to establish the ideals the U.S. would be built upon. This document became the Declaration of Independence, and the statements in it would go on to inform all the laws our leaders make, ensuring that they uphold the ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Declaration of Independence is in the National Archives.



**Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.**

1. The Declaration of Independence guarantees all U.S. citizens "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". Provide examples of each of these values in your own life.

2. Can you think of any laws that uphold these values? Can you think of any that don't?



*The original Declaration of Independence at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.*

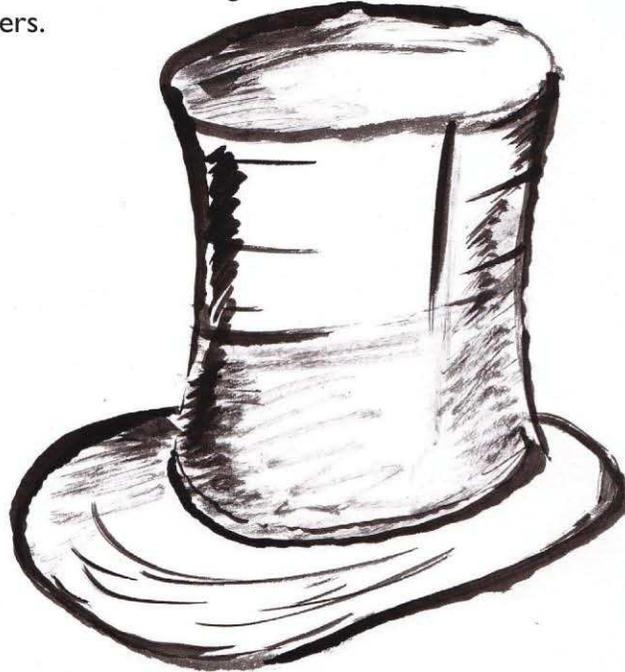
## Vocabulary

*formal*: official. "We are reviewing your formal request for tastier snacks in our vending machines, and we will respond with our decision next week."

*burgeoning*: growing quickly. "Sarah and Pete's burgeoning family needed more room, so they moved into a two-story house."

# Abraham Lincoln's Hat

On April 14, 1865, President Lincoln decided to see a play with his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, and friends Major Henry Rathbone and Clara Harris at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. As he sat in his seat in a special reserved box, he took his hat off and placed it on the floor. Around 10:15 p.m., well-known actor and Confederate *sympathizer* John Wilkes Booth, angry over the Confederacy's *defeat* in the Civil War, burst into the President's box and shot him. Knowing it would become an American treasure, the War Department claimed possession of his hat and other things he had with him the night of the attack. In 1867, the hat was given to the Smithsonian as a representation of one of our country's greatest leaders.

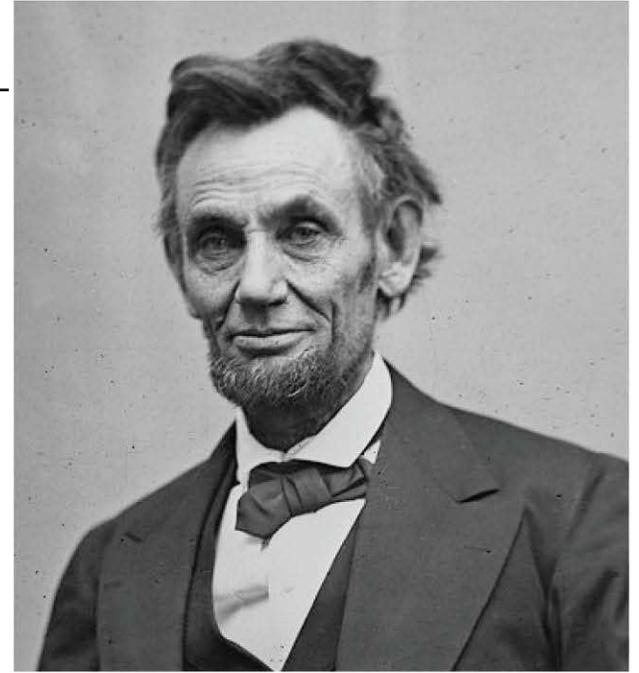


**Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.**

1. During the Civil War, many of the Southern U.S. States wanted to secede, or form their own separate country and government. Do you think states should be able to secede? Why or why not?

2. The Smithsonian has to do many things to make sure Lincoln's hat, now almost 150 years old, does not show wear or age. Do you think it is important to preserve historical items?

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Abraham Lincoln

## Vocabulary

*sympathizer*: Someone who supports a cause or political movement. "President Lincoln sympathized with the north during the Civil War."

*defeat*: the loss of a game or competition. "The Little League game ended in crushing defeat for the Allentown Owls, but at least their moms took them to pizza afterwards."




**James Otis** was one of the unsung heroes of the American Revolution. A Harvard graduate, he became a lawyer in Boston, where he argued against the Writs of Assistance, a law that would allow the British to enter homes and take the colonists' property for any reason. Though he worked for the government at the time, he resigned from his position and represented the people in a 1761 trial that judged the law's fairness. He did not win, but Otis soon became known as a talented public speaker, and he gave many speeches that convinced citizens to unite and take action against the British and their unjust laws. He went on to publish many political writings that helped inspire the actions that lead to the American Revolution.

### Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

- James Otis shouted the famous phrase “\_\_\_\_\_” without representation is tyranny.” OTAANTXI
- James Otis is buried alongside other patriots like John Hancock and Paul \_\_\_\_\_ in Boston's Granary Burying Ground. EVERER

If your government tried to pass a law that you did not agree with, would you take action against it? If so, what would you do?

# Hancock-Clarke House

The Hancock-Clarke House is the house that patriots John Hancock and Samuel Adams were staying in on the evening just before the American Revolution began. The house was actually John Hancock's boyhood home, and when he and his friends in Boston began to make plans for what would become the American Revolution, he offered up the house as a meeting place. On the night of April 18, 1775, Adams and Hancock were staying in the house when Paul Revere and William Dawes arrived to warn them of the British's arrival and plans to arrest them. Because of Revere and Dawes' brave acts, Adams and Hancock escaped and went on to play *integral* roles in the Revolution.



**Answer the question below on a separate piece of paper.**

1. Would you risk your own freedom for a cause the way Paul Revere and William Dawes did? Why or why not?



*"Don't Tread On Me" Flag from Revolutionary War*

## **Vocabulary**

*integral*: essential or necessary for completeness



*Paul Revere*

# Fort Des Moines

Fort Des Moines in Iowa was the first military training site where African Americans could train to become officers in the U.S. Army. The first all-black 25th *Infantry Regiment* started its training in 1903, just two years after the base was first established. Previously, African Americans had served in the army, but they were very few who became officers. Even President Woodrow Wilson held the view that African Americans had neither the intelligence nor the bravery to lead their troops into combat. But when the U.S. entered World War I this *mentality* began to change. In October 1917, the first class of 639 African American soldiers graduated as captains or lieutenants. This was a big step towards a movement that would push for equal rights for African Americans all over the U.S. At this point in time the African American vote was still very limited, and they were still *racially segregated* by law.

Between 1942 and 1945, during World War II, Fort Des Moines trained the first female officers for non-combat duty in the Army. This, again, was a small stride towards a larger movement for gender equality in the United States.

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## Vocabulary

*Racially segregated:* By law, public facilities and government services (such as education) were separated into “white” and “colored”.

*Infantry Regiment:* A group of soldiers trained, armed and equipped to fight on foot.

*Mentality:* Way of thinking

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Answer the question below on a separate piece of paper.

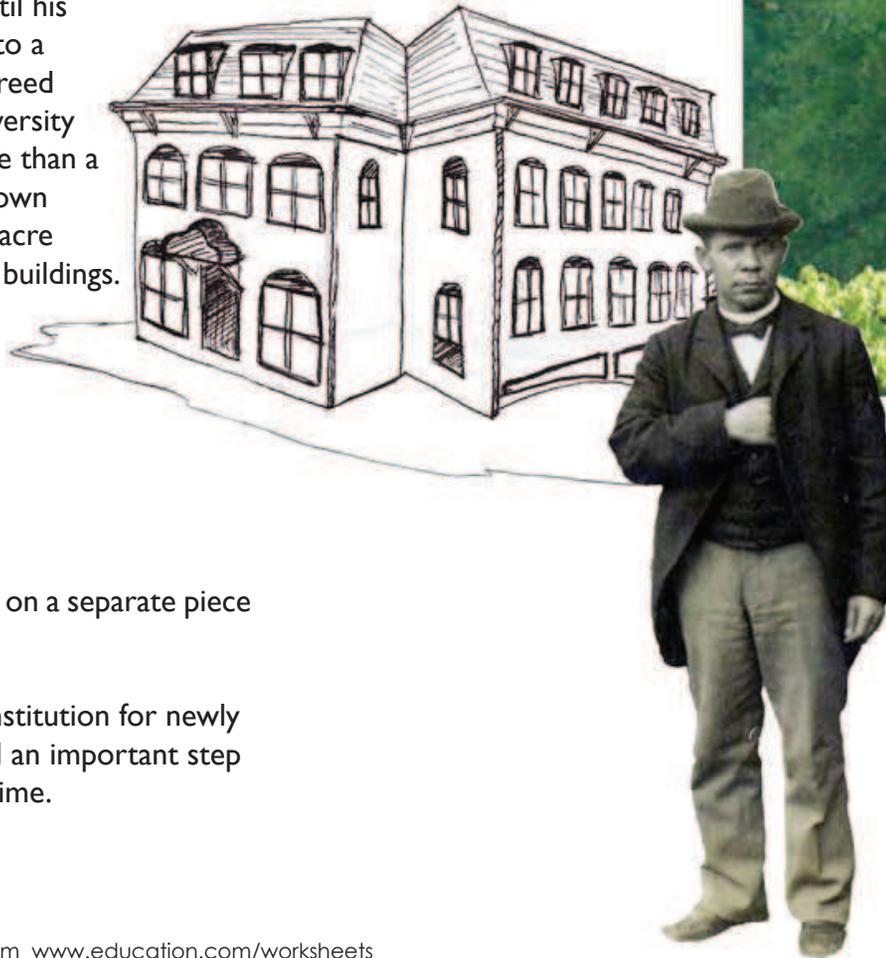
Do you think it is fair that African Americans had to use separate bathrooms, buses and schools, but they could serve in the military alongside the white soldiers?

Did you know that women are still technically not allowed to serve in combat? Why do you think this is?



# Tuskegee Institute

The Tuskegee Institute was one of the first and most influential universities built specifically for African American students. It was founded on July 4, 1881 at the request of a former slave named Lewis Adams, a tinsmith who could read and write. One day Adams was approached by a man named W. F. Foster, a senator running for re-election to the Alabama Senate. Foster needed votes, and offered Adams a reward for helping secure the African American vote for him. Instead of asking for money, Adams requested that a university be established for African American students. Foster kept his word. When the school first opened, Booker T. Washington was asked to be principal. Also a former slave, and only 26 years old at the time, Washington led the *institution* from its first day of class in 1881 until his death in 1915, building it into a beacon of hope for newly freed African Americans. The university started out as nothing more than a one room shack in a run-down church, and is now a 5,000 acre campus with more than 70 buildings.



Answer the question below on a separate piece of paper.

Explain why an education institution for newly freed slaves was considered an important step towards *integration* at that time.

This monument called "Lifting the Veil" stands in the center of campus. The quote at its base reads: "He lifted the veil of ignorance from his people and pointed the way to progress through education and industry." ('he' meaning Booker T. Washington.)

## Vocabulary

*institution*: A society or organization founded for a religious, educational, social, or similar purpose

*integration*: The bringing together of people or groups previously separated

# Trail Of Tears

The Trail of Tears is a path that over 16,000 Native Americans walked after the Indian Removal Act was passed in 1830. European settlers had always wanted to own Native American land, but when Andrew Jackson was elected president in 1829, he began to pass laws that forced Native Americans living east of the Mississippi to move west of the Mississippi so that he could use their land. It is called the "Trail of Tears" because many people became ill or injured and died attempting to walk the entire trail, which crosses nine different states and goes over several thousand miles of land and water.



**Answer the question below on a separate piece of paper.**

Many of the *opponents* of the Indian Removal Act were also slave owners. Do you think they were *entitled* to speak about the unfair treatment of Native Americans when they took part in the unfair practice of slavery? Why or why not?



*American Flag in 1822, under Andrew Jackson*

## **Vocabulary**

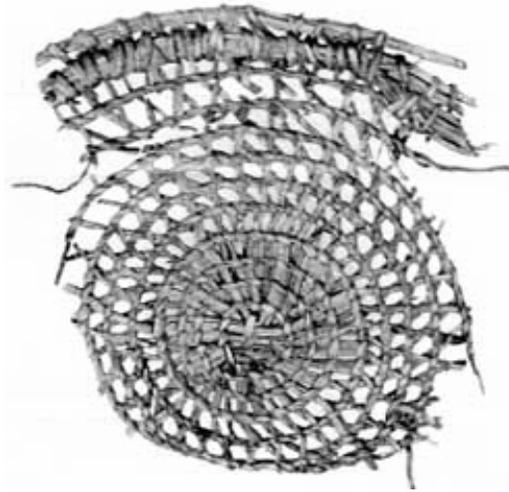
*entitled*: Has the right to do something.

*opponents*: People who disagree with a point of view.

# THE SUNKEN VILLAGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

On the border between Oregon and Washington there is a small landlocked island called Sauvie Island. It is home to the Sunken Village, an old archaeological site that houses the remains of a village of Chinook Indians who lived there centuries ago.

According to Lewis and Clark, who first discovered the island, the Chinook may have lived there as early as 1250 AD, and thrived until about 1750 AD. They lived in a complex *hunter-gatherer* community with an extensive trading system. They called the island “Wapato Island”, because of the abundance of Wapato potatoes that grew there. It was home to at least 6,000 Chinook Indians, who were mostly wiped out by disease. This particular village is nearly the only well-preserved site of cultural remains in the area, despite having one of the highest population densities of Native Americans in the U.S.



Remains of a basket

Today, the site is called the “Sunken Village” because it is mostly buried beneath marshland. The whole island is prone to seasonal flooding and other dangers. A bridge was built in 1950 to provide better access to the mainland, but this access led to *looting* of the archaeological site. Additionally, *levees* that were built in the 1930s to limit flooding are now leaking and swamping the village even more. The National Parks Service recently listed the site as “threatened”.



## VOCABULARY

*Hunter-gatherer*: a way of living by hunting animals and gathering plants for survival.

*Looting*: to take what is not yours, esp. in a time of war or from an abandoned place.

*Levees*: a dam or embankment to help prevent flooding.

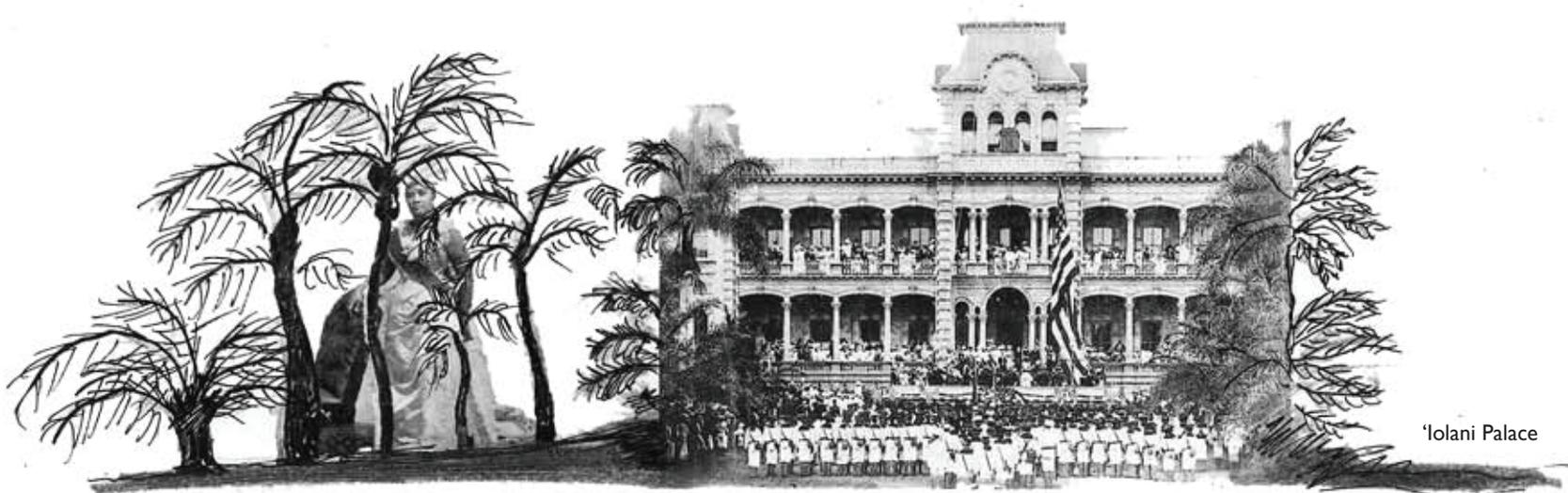
ANSWER THE QUESTION BELOW ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER.

Archaeology is the study of ancient cultures by looking at artifacts and remains of villages like the Sunken Village. Do you think archaeology is an important science? Why do people bother to dig up and study ancient cultures?

# 'Iolani Palace

The 'Iolani Palace was the residence of Hawaii's last king and queen. It was built in 1882 for King Kalakaua, the last king of Hawaii. He was the first king to visit the United States, and in doing so he began a sugar trade with them. After Kalakaua's death in 1891, his sister Lili'uokalani stepped in as queen. During her reign, Lili'uokalani planned to draft a new constitution for her kingdom, hoping to strengthen Hawaii's political power. But this plan was a threat to many businessmen and sugar traders from the United States and Europe. So in January, 1893, U.S. troops were sent to Hawaii, and the queen was forced to relinquish her throne to "the superior military forces of the United States." Two years later she was put on trial for attempting to take back the throne, and she was humiliatingly sentenced to imprisonment in an upstairs bedroom of her own palace, the 'Iolani Palace. During this time in isolation, she composed music and wrote her memoirs. After Hawaii was annexed by the U.S., Lili'uokalani continued to fight the U.S.'s presence in her kingdom until her death in 1917.

The palace itself is located in downtown Honolulu. Its architecture is very unique, and resembles structures from the Italian Renaissance period. The style of architecture is known as American Florentine, and the 'Iolani Palace is the only building constructed in this style.



'Iolani Palace

Answer the question below on a separate piece of paper.

Think about what it means to annex an entire kingdom or nation. How would you react if someone tried to take over your home and family and put different rules in place? Why do you think the U.S. imprisoned Lili'uokalani in her own palace?



Lili'uokalani in her youth.

Vocabulary

*Reign:* period of time when a king or queen occupies the throne.

*Relinquish:* to give up, surrender

*Annex:* to seize a territory; to add to something larger

# THE TOPAZ WAR RELOCATION CENTER

The Topaz War Relocation Center was an *internment camp* in Utah that imprisoned a total of 110,000 Japanese-American people during World War II. After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 6, 1941, people began to fear Japanese-Americans or Japanese immigrants. Many Americans assumed that people of Japanese descent must be loyal to Japan and not to America, or worse, that they may be spies for the Japanese government. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed an executive order which forced 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent to leave their homes in the West Coast, and be “re-located” to internment camps.

When it opened on September 11 of 1942, the Topaz Center was known as the Central Utah Relocation Center. It became the nation’s 5<sup>th</sup> largest town. It had two elementary schools, a middle/high school, a hospital, cafeterias, nearly 40 blocks of “apartment buildings” and various government/adminis-



Francis Stewart photograph, Topaz War Relocation Center

tration buildings. When the camp opened, not all of the buildings were finished, so some of the “internees” had to finish building their own apartments and other structures. These “apartments” were heated by coal stoves, but were crudely constructed and had little protection against the cold winter weather. Some of the *internees* worked jobs around the camp, and were paid wages from \$16-\$19 a month. Internees could also get “passes” to go shopping in nearby towns, or to go hiking in the nearby desert/mountains. There is only one record of anyone dying in this camp—a 63-year-old man who was shot by a guard, because he was standing too close to the fences. This caused serious uproar for the internees living there.

The center was closed on October 31, 1945. Still, the Japanese-Americans were victim to racism and prejudice even after the war ended. There was no formal apology from the government for this treatment until 1988, when President Reagan issued an apology and a call on Congress to re-compensate families who had been forced into these camps.

## Vocabulary

*Internment Camp*- imprisonment or confinement of people, usually in a large group, without a trial.

*Internees*- people who were housed in the internment camps.

Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.

The Random House Dictionary defines a Concentration Camp as: “a guarded compound for the detention or imprisonment of aliens, members of ethnic minorities or political opponents.” The American Heritage Dictionary defines it as: “A camp where civilians, enemy aliens, political prisoners, and sometimes prisoners of war are detained and confined, typically under harsh conditions.” By these definitions, was the Topaz War Relocation Center a concentration camp? How can it be compared to concentration camps in Nazi Germany during WWII? Discuss your feelings on this issue.

Take a look at the words in quotation marks. Why did the author of this article decide to put quotes around these words? Please discuss.

# Presidio of San Francisco

The Presidio of San Francisco is an inactive military base in San Francisco. Spanish colonists from Mexico founded it as a fort in 1776. In 1822, after Mexico won its independence, the Presidio became Mexico's property. 24 years later, The United States seized the Presidio. It evolved into one of the most important bases on the Pacific coast, and played a role in many U.S. conflicts until it was closed in 1994. The Presidio is now owned by the National Park Service and is a historical focal point in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a section of public land in San Francisco and Marin counties that surrounds the Golden Gate Bridge.



Presidio gun turrets, San Francisco, CA



**Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.**

1. Why do you think the Spanish chose to build a fort along the coastline?
2. Do you think it is important to preserve historic buildings like the Presidio? Do you think they should be open to the public? Why or why not?

## Vocabulary

*inactive*: no longer being used.

*evolved*: became, turned into.

*focal point*: an important or eye-catching item in a group.

# ELLIS ISLAND

Ellis Island was established as the first Federal *immigration* station by President Benjamin Harrison in 1890. Between 1892 and 1924 it operated as the United States' largest immigration center, where more than 12 million foreigners entered the country. Before Ellis Island, all immigrants were processed by each individual state.

Today, the buildings of Ellis Island still stand in New York harbor, just off the New Jersey coast. But the original land of the island was quite small—just 3.3 acres. Before it was an immigration center, the island was known as Oyster Island due to the rich and plentiful oyster beds that it had. It was used as a hanging site for pirates, a harbor fort, and an ammunition depot, until a man named Samuel Ellis became the private owner of the island in 1770. Then it was bought by the government in 1808, to be used as a *fortification* and harbor defense site. After it became an immigration station, the island was expanded with man-made extensions, using excess dirt and landfill that came from the *excavation* of New York City subway tunnels. It is now 27.5 acres.



Ellis Island



Ellis Island 1900

## Vocabulary

*Immigration*: the movement of non-native people to a new country in order to settle there.

*Fortification*: the act of strengthening; a place of military defense

*Excavation*: to remove soil by digging it out; to make hollow

## Trivia!

1. Who was the first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island?
2. What happened to the immigration building on June 14, 1897?
3. Why did Ellis Island end up closing?

1. Annie Moore, a 15 year old Irish girl. 2. There was a fire that burned the whole station to the ground. It was re-built and re-opened in 1900. 3. After WWI the U.S. emerged as a potential world power, and embassies were set up around the globe so that immigrants could process their papers at the U.S. embassy in their home country. It was not used anymore, except to detain refugees or people who had problems with their paperwork. Today it is still closed to the public.

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

The National Archives contains originals and copies of *federal* records, including ship's passenger lists, census records, and military records, dating back as far as 1775. Though many people think the National Archives keeps copies of all federal records, they only keep those they believe are important to American history, or that they believe citizens will need access to in the future. Most of the documents in the National Archives are public domain, and many people go to their local branch or the main center in Washington, D.C. to *research* family history. The National Archives hold copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights. The National Archives is important because it represents *democracy* – citizens have the right to access information about their government and how it works.



*Photograph of Socrates visiting the National Archives*



*National Archives in Washington, D.C.*

## Vocabulary

*archive*: a collection of records or documents, or the act of collecting records or documents. “We have an archive of comic books dating back to the 1930s.”

*federal*: related to the government of a union of states. “The federal government makes mistakes sometimes, too.”

*research*: to study or learn about a subject. “I’m currently researching the possibility that dogs can understand English.”

*democracy*: a type of government where the people have a say in the law-making process. “I aim to make this party-planning committee a democracy, so that everyone may have a say in what kind of pizza we will serve.”

**Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.**

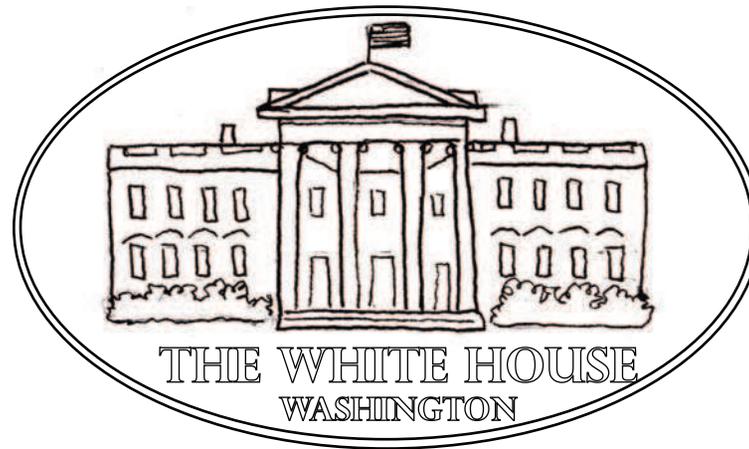
1. Why does the government let people search their documents?
2. Name something the National Archives would not be likely to have a copy of.
3. What would you look up in the National Archives?

# THE WHITE HOUSE

The White House is the president's home, and also a workplace for the cabinet. Before it stood at its famous address at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., the president's house was in Philadelphia, which was the temporary capital while Washington, D.C. was being built. When John Adams moved into the White House in 1800, he became the first president to live there. In 1814, British troops set fire to it during the War of 1812, and it required minor reconstruction. By the middle of the century, it became clear that the White House would have to be expanded to accommodate all of the people who worked with the President over the course of the day. President Theodore Roosevelt built an office behind the White House in 1902, with workspaces for him and his employees, now known as the West Wing. Since then, many presidents have had special rooms put into the house during their stay, such as swimming pools, bowling alleys, and gyms. The White House is open for tours, but you must arrange them through your member of Congress.



*The White House in Washington, D.C.*



**Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.**

1. Why do you think the President needs to live in Washington, D.C.?
2. What special room would you have put into the White House if you were president?

## **Vocabulary**

*capital*: a city or town that is the official home of the government. "We decided to go to the capital to see if we could find a lawmaker who would support our cause."

*expand*: to increase in size. "The company is expanding and will be moving into bigger offices next month."

*accommodate*: Make room for, or to make someone or something comfortable. "We can't accommodate your request for fifty pillows so you can make a fort in your room."

# THE PENTAGON

The Pentagon is the headquarters for the United States' Department of Defense, a combination of all the branches of the U.S. military. Built in 1943 to give military *officials* a proper workspace, The Pentagon has now become the symbol for all branches of our country's military, and people often use simply the words "The Pentagon" to refer to the military as a whole. The Pentagon is a large building, laid out flat rather than tall, with about three times the floor space of the Empire State Building. Despite being so big, it only takes about seven minutes to walk from one end to another. It is not in Washington, D.C., but is located just across the Potomac River in Arlington, Virginia.



The Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia



## Vocabulary

*official*: a person who was elected to an office or holds a position of authority, such as a police officer, a commander, or a town mayor. "The officials in this glee club do not approve of your singing."

**Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.**

1. Why do you think it is important for all the different parts of the military to have an official meeting place?

2. Why does the United States need a Department of Defense?

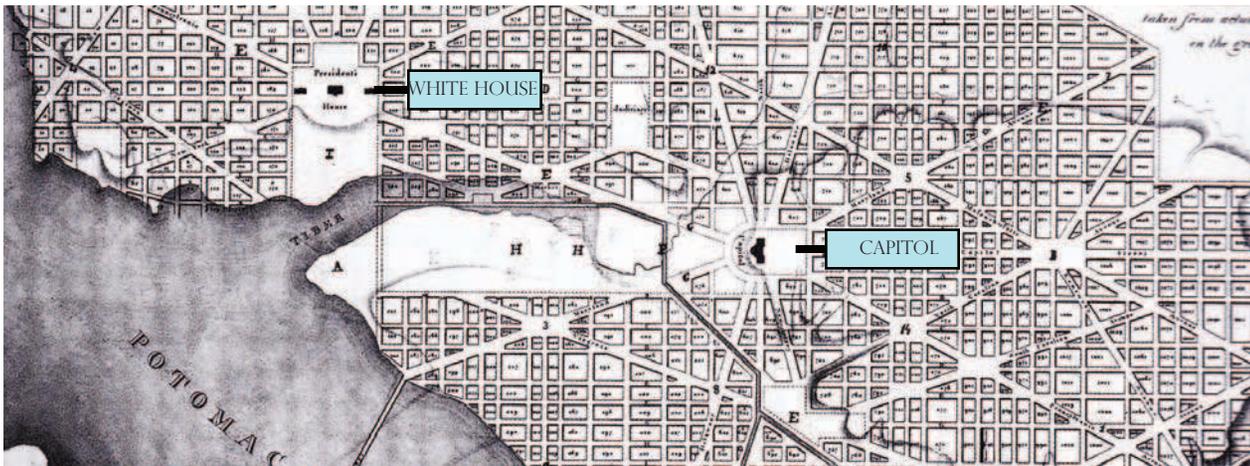
# CAPITOL HILL

Capitol Hill is where both branches of Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives, meet and where other governmental bodies do their work. The Capitol Building was designed by the winner of a design competition, a doctor named William Thornton who was also an *amateur* architect. In 1793, George Washington laid the cornerstone for the building, as a symbol of the values this country was founded upon. British troops set fire to the Capitol as well as the White House during the war of 1812, but a rainstorm prevented it from burning down.

The Capitol was completed in 1826, but the building became too small as the nation expanded and the number of senators and representatives grew. New legislative wings were unveiled in 1868, but it didn't stop there. As the country grew even bigger, more *accommodations* had to be made. Today, Capitol Hill includes the Capitol Building, six house and senate buildings, three Library of Congress buildings, the Supreme Court, and other *facilities*.



*The Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.*



**Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.**

1. Why do you think it was important for President Washington to lay the first cornerstone for the Capitol?

2. Why do you think the British set fire to the Capitol Building?

## Vocabulary

*amateur*: someone who does something for fun or who hopes to become a professional. "I'm an amateur wrestler, but I'm hoping to make it big soon."

*accommodate*: to make room for something or someone, to make someone comfortable, or to make something possible. "We can't accommodate your request for fifty pillows to make a fort in your room."

*facility*: something built to serve a specific purpose. "We decided the library was a proper facility to conduct our research in."

# Apollo 11 Command Module

The Apollo 11 Command Module, the part of the spacecraft that housed the astronauts that landed on the moon, is on display in the National Air and Space Museum, part of the Smithsonian family. Locked in a competition of space exploration with the Soviet Union, President Kennedy established the Apollo space program in 1961 to accomplish his goal of putting the first humans, and the first Americans, on the moon before the end of the *decade*. In 1969, the Apollo 11 mission succeeded in doing so, landing astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin on July 20. The moon landing was televised, and families across the world heard Neil Armstrong *utter* the famous phrase “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” as he set foot on the moon for the first time.



**Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.**

1. The Apollo crew also left a plaque on the moon, reading “Here men from the planet Earth set foot upon the moon.” Why do you think they chose “the planet Earth” instead of “The U.S.A.”?

2. If you could, would you want to go to space? Why or why not?



*Apollo 11 Command Module at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.*

## **Vocabulary**

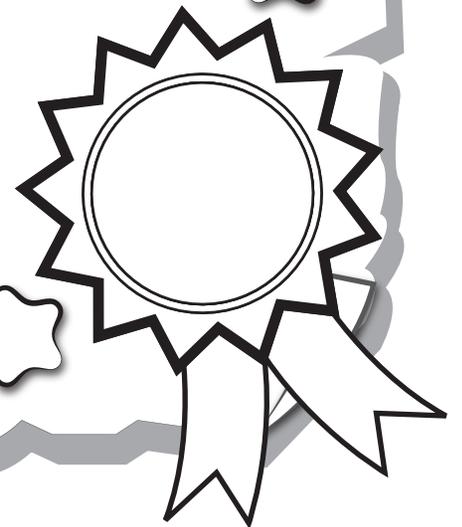
*decade*: a period of ten years. “The 1960s were an important decade for aeronautics.”

*utter*: to say something, “He uttered a cry of protest.”

Great job!

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# Answer Sheets

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## **Read Me, U.S. History**

Jamestown

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# Answer Sheet

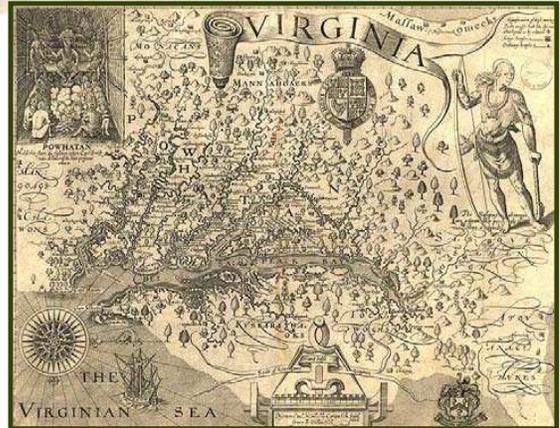
## JAMESTOWN an Historic Virginia Settlement

Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in North America. It was established in 1607, when 104 men and boys arrived on the shores of Virginia. First, they built a fort as defense against the Native Americans who lived nearby and the Spanish, who claimed the area.

Life was hard in the early years of Jamestown. Food was difficult to find, especially in the winter. Many of the colonists became sick. In this hard time, many colonists died.

The local Native American tribe, the Powhatans, gave the colonists food. One of the first to bring the colonists food was Pocahontas, the daughter of the chief. She made friends with the colonists and helped them through the difficult time. She later married one of the colonists, John Rolfe, and went to England.

After the early years of hardship, Jamestown grew and more colonists arrived. They spread out across Virginia to live and farm. Today, Jamestown has been restored and is part of the Colonial National Historic Park.



Capt. John Smith drew this map of Virginia in 1624.

### Fill in the blanks

1. Jamestown was established in 1607.
2. Pocahontas was a member of the Powhatan tribe.
3. Jamestown is in the state of Virginia.
4. The first permanent English settlement in North America was Jamestown.



Captain John Smith became the leader of Jamestown in 1608. He returned to England in 1609 after he was hurt.



Pocahontas was the daughter of the Powhatan chief. Legend says she saved John Smith from being killed when he was captured by her tribe.

### MAZE FUN

Help the Jamestown colonists find their way from the fort to the Powhatan Indian village.

