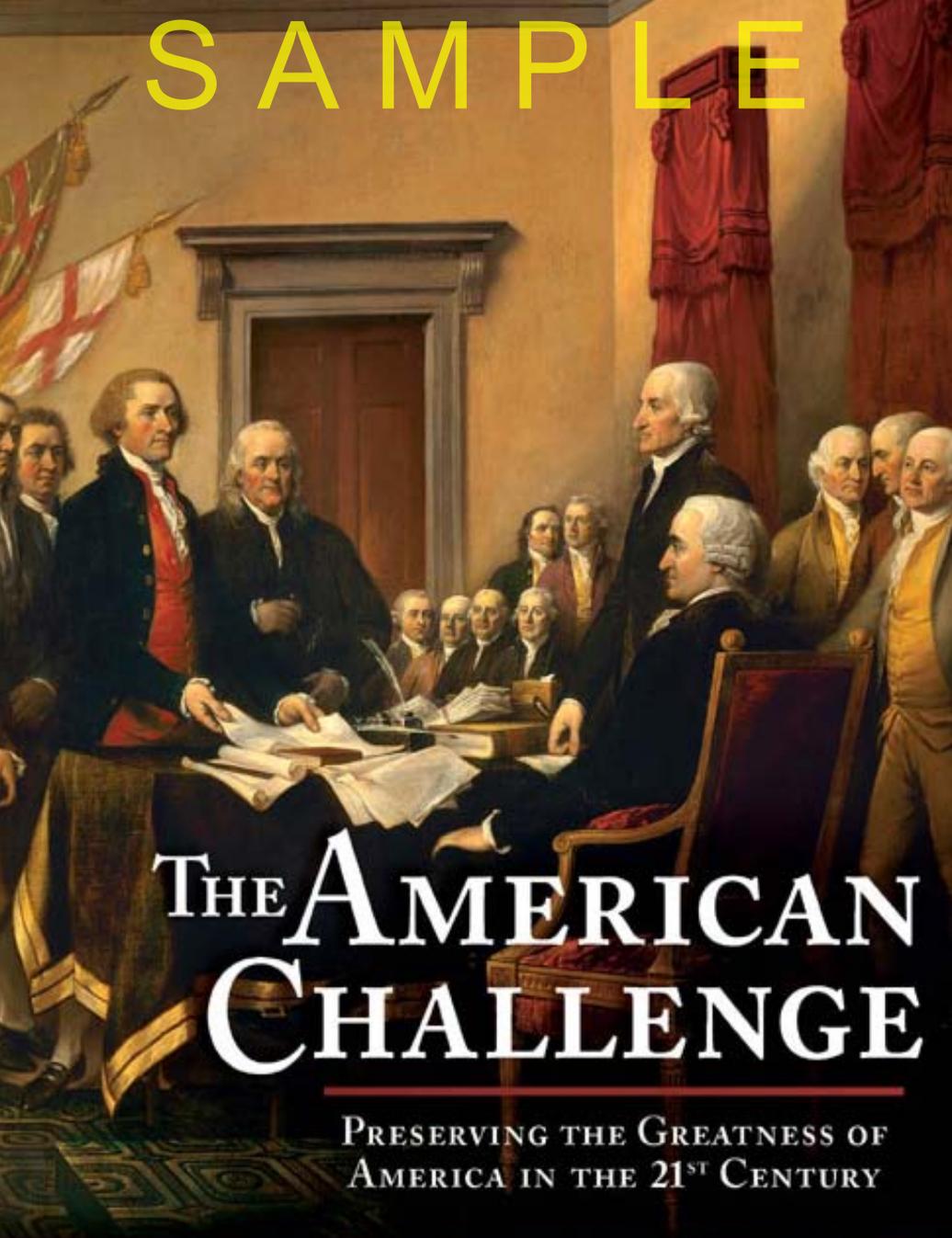


SAMPLE



THE AMERICAN
CHALLENGE

PRESERVING THE GREATNESS OF
AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

WHAT EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT THEIR COUNTRY



ROBERT C. ETHEREDGE

SAMPLE



CONTINENTAL COLORS
1775-1776



APPEAL TO HEAVEN
1775



**GADSDEN
DON'T TREAD ON ME**
1775



**U.S. ENSIGN
(UNOFFICIAL)**
1775-1776



**BETSY ROSS
ORIGINAL FLAG**
1776



**STAR-SPANGLED
BANNER**
1814



**UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE**



**UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD**



**UNITED STATES
NAVY**



**UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS**



**UNITED STATES
ARMY**



**UNITED STATES
PRESIDENTIAL FLAG**



DELAWARE
1ST STATE • 1787
DOVER



UNITED STATES FLAG
50 STATES • 1959



PENNSYLVANIA
2ND STATE • 1787
HARRISBURG



NEW JERSEY
3RD STATE • 1787
TRENTON



GEORGIA
4TH STATE • 1788
ATLANTA



CONNECTICUT
5TH STATE • 1788
HARTFORD



MASSACHUSETTS
6TH STATE • 1788
BOSTON



MARYLAND
7TH STATE • 1788
ANNAPOLIS



SOUTH CAROLINA
8TH STATE • 1788
COLUMBIA



NEW HAMPSHIRE
9TH STATE • 1788
CONCORD



VIRGINIA
10TH STATE • 1788
RICHMOND



NEW YORK
11TH STATE • 1788
ALBANY



NORTH CAROLINA
12TH STATE • 1789
RALEIGH



RHODE ISLAND
13TH STATE • 1790
PROVIDENCE



VERMONT
14TH STATE • 1791
MONTPELIER



KENTUCKY
15TH STATE • 1792
FRANKFORT



TENNESSEE
16TH STATE • 1796
NASHVILLE



OHIO
17TH STATE • 1803
COLUMBUS



LOUISIANA
18TH STATE • 1812
BATON ROUGE

FLAGS OF THE UNITED STATES

SAMPLE

THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE

PRESERVING THE GREATNESS OF
AMERICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY



What Every American Should
Know About Their Country



Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again.

—RONALD REAGAN

BY
ROBERT C. ETHEREDGE



MIRAVISTA PRESS

SAMPLE

THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE

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1693— College of William and Mary founded

The second oldest college in America opens in Williamsburg, Virginia. It will educate Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, and sixteen signers of the Declaration.

1700**1701— Queen Anne's War**

The English capture St. Augustine, destroy Spanish towns, and wipe out the Apalachee Indians. French and Indian allies then massacre English settlers. The war ends with the Treaty of Utrecht which gives England control of Newfoundland, Acadia, and Hudson Bay.

**Europe continues to fight its wars in America**

The British and French use North America as a battleground for their conflicts, each side employing native Indians as needed. This leads to long-lasting resentment against the Indians from the English settlers.

1703— First American Mardi Gras in Mobile, Alabama

New Orleans will start their celebration in a few decades.

1711— Fighting in the Carolinas

The Tuscarora Indians attack after settlers take their land. Hundreds are killed on both sides. South Carolina provides military help, wiping out the entire tribe.

1718— French found New Orleans

Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville picks the site on important trade routes and calls it *Nouvelle-Orléans*.

1733— Former convicts settle Georgia

James Oglethorpe imports former British prisoners, many who were in jail for non-payment of debts. He outlaws slavery, but slaves are eventually brought in to help with farming.

1737— St. Patrick's Day makes its debut in Boston

The religious holiday honors the patron saint of Ireland.

1744— King George's War

Another European war is fought in the Americas. The British capture the French fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia. The war ends with the 1748 Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.



1792— U.S. Post Office Department is created

★1792★ GEORGE WASHINGTON RE-ELECTED



| CANDIDATE | PARTY | ELECTORAL VOTE | POPULAR VOTE |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| George Washington | <i>Federalist</i> | 132 | 13,332 |
| John Adams | <i>Federalist</i> | 77 | |
| George Clinton | <i>Anti-federalist</i> | 50 | |

A record low turnout unanimously picks Washington, but attempts are made to make Clinton the vice president. Political parties are already involved in the elections.

1793— French Revolution

King Louis XVI is executed and France declares war on Britain, Spain, and the Netherlands. The U.S. issues a Proclamation of Neutrality, being too weak to get involved.

Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin

The gin is a machine that quickly separates cotton fiber from the seeds. The South becomes dependent on cotton...and cotton is dependent on slavery.



1794— Britain seizes neutral shipping trading with France

U.S. approves construction of more Navy ships, realizing a strong Navy is critical to their survival.

1795

★ 11th Amendment ★

Grants states immunity from lawsuits from out-of-state citizens, or from foreigners not living inside the state.

★1796★

JOHN ADAMS

2



| CANDIDATE | PARTY | ELECTORAL VOTE | POPULAR VOTE |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| John Adams | <i>Federalist</i> | 71 | 35,726 |
| Thomas Jefferson | <i>Dem-Rep</i> | 68 | 31,115 |
| Thomas Pinckney | <i>Federalist</i> | 59 | |
| Aaron Burr | <i>Dem-Rep</i> | 30 | |

This is the first contested presidential election, and the only one to pick a vice president from an opposing party. Adams wins the vote for president, but his running mate, Pinckney, receives fewer votes than Jefferson, so Jefferson becomes the vice president, even though he is running for president.

2004 Indonesian tsunami kills 230,000

An underwater earthquake on December 26 creates massive waves that destroy coastal towns in one of the deadliest natural disasters in history. The 9.1 magnitude earthquake lasts longer than any on record, more than 8 minutes.

**2005 Elections in Iraq**

Iraq holds their first free elections in 50 years.

Hurricane Katrina devastates New Orleans

New Orleans sits well below the surrounding level of the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain. When the surrounding levees failed, the city was flooded.

The huge hurricane hits New Orleans on August 29 and becomes the costliest in our nation's history. It floods most of New Orleans and kills 1,800. There is much finger pointing in the aftermath, as all levels of government failed, particularly the city and state.

2006 Democrats retake Congress

Nancy Pelosi becomes the first female Speaker of the House as Democrats retake the House and Senate.

2007 Virginia Tech shooting kills 32

A crazed shooter at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg kills 32 students. Ironically, the school is in a "gun free" zone.

Troop surge in Iraq is a success

Facing a deteriorating situation in Iraq, Bush orders an additional 20,000 troops into Iraq ("the surge") to provide stability and security. The surge is successful and violence decreases, allowing a transition of control back to the Iraqis.

2008 Michael Phelps sweeps the Beijing Olympics

He becomes the first athlete to win eight gold medals in one Olympics by winning all his swimming events. His eight gold medals tops Mark Spitz's 1972 record of seven. His Olympic medal count now totals sixteen.

**Emergency Economic Stabilization Act passes**

Faced with an economic crisis and possible collapse of major financial companies, Congress passes a massive \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) to purchase failing bank assets. Following the vote, the Dow Jones Average falls 777 points in one day, its largest drop ever.



John Adams

Massachusetts
Oct 30, 1735 – Jul 4, 1826

2

1796-1800

Adams was Washington's vice president. He had been instrumental in the founding of the new country and had long supported the concept of an independent nation and the signing of the Declaration of Independence, but he was not as popular as Washington or Jefferson. He was a strong Federalist and was constantly fighting anti-Federalists like Jefferson. His passage of the Alien and Sedition Laws of 1798 met with great disapproval and increased the fear of a strong central government. He died on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration, on July 4, 1826—the same day that Jefferson died.



Thomas Jefferson

Virginia
Apr 13, 1743 – Jul 4, 1826

3

1800-1808

The builder of Monticello in Virginia and the founder of the University of Virginia, Jefferson was crucial in the creation of the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and the Continental Congress, Governor of Virginia, Secretary of State, and vice president under Adams. He was one of the most accomplished and talented Presidents in our history. He was a strong believer in state and individual rights. His term in office was highlighted by three key events—the purchase of the Louisiana territory from the French; the backing of the Lewis and Clark expedition that explored the new territory; and the rise of the American Navy that successfully fought the Barbary pirates in Africa. He died on the same day as John Adams, July 4, 1826, 50 years after the signing of the Declaration.

U.S. TRIVIA

Presidential Trivia

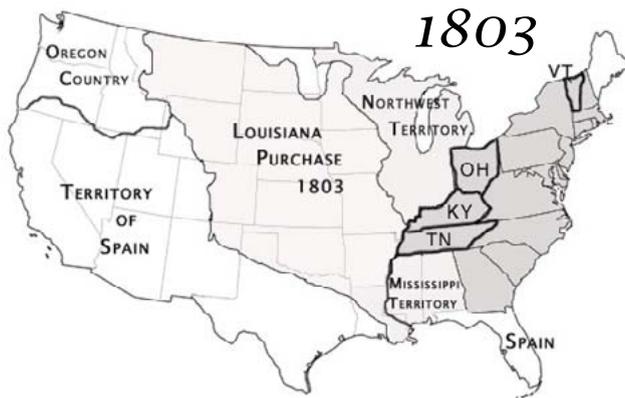
Which presidents were born or died on the Fourth of July?

Born: Calvin Coolidge on July 4, 1872.

Monroe on July 4, 1831.

Died: Three of the first five presidents died on July 4: Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration; and James

SAMPLE



14 Vermont (1791)

16 Tennessee (1796)

15 Kentucky (1792)

17 Ohio (1803)

Jefferson doubles the size of the country by purchasing the Louisiana Territory from France. Kentucky separates from Virginia and becomes the 15th state, and Ohio becomes the first state from the Northwest Territory.



18 Louisiana (1812)

22 Alabama (1819)

19 Indiana (1816)

23 Maine (1820)

20 Mississippi (1817)

24 Missouri (1821)

21 Illinois (1818)

The Louisiana Territory is renamed the Missouri Territory when Louisiana becomes a state. It then becomes an unorganized territory when Missouri becomes a state. Arkansas is originally spelled "Arkansaw" before the spelling is later changed. Maine is admitted as a free state to balance the new slave state Missouri. The 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty grants Florida and surrounding area to the U.S. The Anglo-American Convention of 1818 gives the Red River Basin to the U.S. since it is south of the new border with Canada at latitude 49°.

Declaration of Independence

Second Continental Congress**JULY 4, 1776**

The colonies had been fighting with British forces for a year when the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to formally declare their separation from England. A draft, composed primarily by Thomas Jefferson, was presented on June 28 and approved on July 4. British forces were landing in New York and threatening Philadelphia, so there was no time to lose. The final document was sent to the printing presses, and copies were rushed by land and sea to all the colonies. The original, signed copy is in the [Washington National Archives](#).

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776
THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION OF THE
THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEN IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

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. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former

Amendments to the Constitution

CONGRESS

1791 - TODAY

The Constitution allowed for changes or additions to be made using state-approved amendments. Several states were concerned about the potential power of the new federal government, and agreed to ratify the new Constitution only if some changes were made to protect state and individual rights. These became the first ten amendments to the Constitution, commonly referred to as the Bill of Rights. The dates shown below are the dates the amendments were ratified by the states. Amendments must be approved by 2/3 of Congress and 3/4 of the states.

Bill of Rights - Amendments 1 to 10

AMENDMENT I

1791

FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH, PRESS, PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

AMENDMENT II

1791

RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

AMENDMENT III

1791

NO QUARTERING OF SOLDIERS

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

AMENDMENT IV

1791

PROTECTION AGAINST UNREASONABLE SEARCHES AND SEIZURES

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

AMENDMENT V

1791

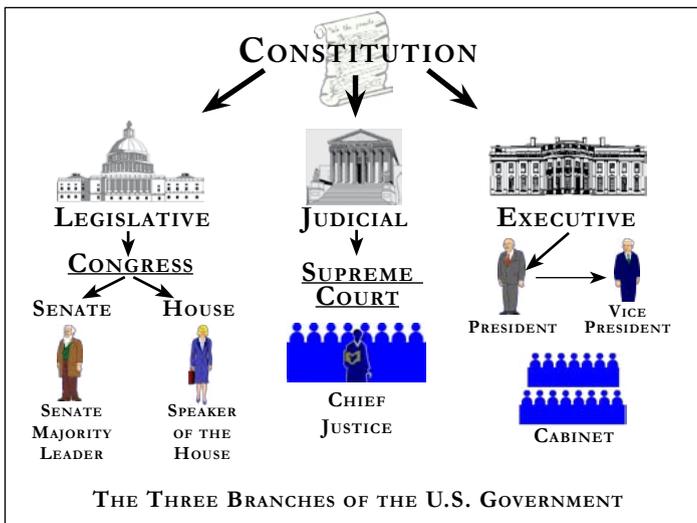
NO SELF-INCRIMINATION OR DOUBLE JEOPARDY, RIGHT TO GRAND JURY

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury,

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Three Equal Branches

Our particular republic government was created with another crucial safeguard—its three separate, but equal, Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches. The Constitution was very clear on this separation of powers. Each branch has very specific duties, responsibilities, and limits.



Executive branch

This branch consists of the President, Vice President and 15 cabinet level departments. The president and vice president are elected every four years. The president appoints Supreme Court justices and Cabinet members who all have to be approved by the Senate. The executive branch is in charge of ensuring laws are carried out, collecting taxes, and keeping the country safe. The president submits the federal budget to Congress every year. Most of the work is accomplished by the various departments, such as the Attorney General, State Department, Defense Department, etc. The president can sign bills given to him for signature and make them law, or veto the bill, which then requires a 2/3 vote in Congress to overcome the veto. The president also serves as Commander-in-Chief of the military. To be eligible for president, a candidate must be 35 years or older, a natural-born citizen, and have lived in the U.S. for at least 14 consecutive years. Since the passage of the 22nd amendment, the president can serve only two terms in office.



American Holidays

The celebration of common holidays is important to this country. These celebrations help unite an increasingly diverse population in shared activities that serve as links to the past. This ensures that we never forget the people and events that made this country, and the sacrifices that have been made by our ancestors. Holidays mark the passage of time, and frame each year with indelible markers. Unfortunately, they often have become just excuses for 3-day vacation weekends, or time off from work, which is why we need to be reminded of their meanings. Halloween is not devil worship but a rite of passage for children, and a time that adults can dress up and laugh at themselves. Thanksgiving, in particular, is woven into American life as a time for all families to gather and give thanks for the bounty this country has given them. It has no religious connotations and can be celebrated by everyone. The following list includes Federal holidays, some state holidays, and unofficial holidays and observances.

April Fools Day (April 1): Known as *All Fools Day*, this is a time to play pranks and practical jokes on friends and relatives.

Christmas (December 25): An important Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Almost all schools have a 2-week recess around Christmas. It has also become an important secular holiday with Christmas trees and gift giving.

Columbus Day (2nd Monday in October): Celebrates Columbus' arrival in the new world on October 12, 1492.

Earth Day (April 22): Celebrated since 1970 to promote interest in cleaning up the earth's soil, air, and water.

Easter (1st Sunday after 1st full moon after spring equinox): A Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Along with Christmas, it is the most important Christian holiday. Many attend sunrise services and hide colored Easter eggs.

Father's Day (3rd Sunday in June): Celebrated since 1909 and made an official holiday in 1966, it is a day to honor fathers.

Flag Day (June 14): Celebrates the adoption of the American Flag in 1777 by the Continental Congress. Citizens are encouraged to fly the national flag on this day.

Groundhog Day (February 2): Celebrated since 1887. If the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil emerges from his burrow in Pennsylvania and sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather.

United States Flag Etiquette

U.S. Code, Title 4, Chapter 1

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Christopher Columbus. The pledge is recited at public events and in schools. The words "under God" were added in 1954. The pledge should be spoken while at attention, facing the flag, with the right hand over the heart. Non-religious headwear should be removed and held with the right hand. Uniformed personnel should face the flag and salute.

I pledge allegiance
To the flag of the United States of America
And to the republic for which it stands,
One nation under God,
Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Time and occasions for display of flag

- Normally display the flag from sunrise to sunset. If displayed at night, it must be properly illuminated. Do not display the flag if the weather is bad, unless you use an all-weather flag. The flag is often raised at 8:00 am and lowered at sunset on military bases and ships not underway.
- Hoist and lower the flag briskly and ceremoniously.
- You can display the flag everyday, especially on holidays or special days declared by the President.
- Display the flag daily at public institutions, at schools during school days, and at polling places on election days.

Position and manner of display

- In parades, the flag should be on the right, or in front.
- No other flag shall be flown above or to the right of the American flag, including the U.N. flag.
- The American flag, when displayed with crossed staffs, should be on the flag's right in front of any other staffs.



-  In any grouping of staffs with state or local flags, the American flag should be in the center and the highest.
- When flown with other state or local flags on the same halyard, the American flag is always at the top.

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Armed Forces of the United States

The U.S. Armed Forces consist of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. The Marines are a part of the U.S. Navy, and the Coast Guard is under Homeland Security, except in times of war when it reports to the Navy. There are almost 1.5 million personnel in the services today with another 1.5 million in the Reserve, broken down approximately as:

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| Army | 548,000 | Marine Corps | 203,095 |
| Navy | 332,000 | Air Force | 323,000 |
| Coast Guard | 42,000 | | |

The table below lists the titles and insignias for the enlisted, warrant officers, and commissioned officers of each service. Don't get caught insulting some Chief by calling him an Ensign.



| Pay grade | ARMY | AIR FORCE | NAVY | MARINES | COAST GUARD |
|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| E-1 | Private <i>no insignia</i> | Airman Basic <i>no insignia</i> | Seaman Recruit <i>no insignia</i> | Private <i>no insignia</i> | Seaman Recruit |
| E-2 | Private 2 | Airman | Seaman Apprentice | Private 1st Class | Seaman Apprentice |
| E-3 | Private 1st Class | Airman 1st Class | Seaman | Lance Corporal | Seaman |
| E-4 | Corporal | Senior Airman | Petty Officer 3rd Class | Corporal | Petty Officer 3rd Class |
| E-5 | Sergeant | Staff Sergeant | Petty Officer 2nd Class | Sergeant | Petty Officer 2nd Class |

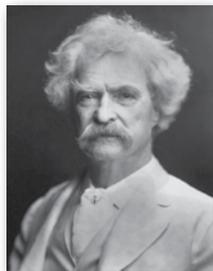
What have Americans accomplished?

American success stories are everywhere, giving us all hope and inspiration to keep striving in our lives. Many are rags-to-riches stories of overcoming immense odds to finally succeed. Others are stories of individuals making the right choices at the right time, or fully using their natural talents. Knowing the accomplishments of fellow Americans helps connect the citizens in every corner of this country, and remind them of what this relatively new nation has accomplished, and what it can accomplish. It is the greatness of the American system that fostered and encouraged these accomplishments.

Any list of the “greatest” of anything is open to widespread and heated debate. The following lists are meant to give a general idea of the best or most memorable in each category and are not definitive top-10 lists. In keeping with that spirit, the lists are usually in alphabetical order.

LITERATURE FROM AMERICA’S WRITERS

Americans have been writing ever since the early days of the colonies. The *Federalist Papers* and Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* were important in the creation of the nation. The writers moved from pamphlets to religious writing to creating unique poetry and novels. Writers like Jack London developed a style of realism, while others chronicled the historic events of the country. Some of the American writers that have contributed over the centuries include the following names.



Mark Twain
born Samuel Clemens

Louisa May Alcott (1832–1888): *Little Women*

Pearl Buck (1892–1973): *The Good Earth*

Rachel Carson (1907–1964): *Silent Spring*

James Fenimore Cooper (1789–1851): *Last of the Mohicans*; *Deerslayer*

Stephen Crane (1871–1900): *The Red Badge of Courage*

Emily Dickenson (1830–1886): *Because I Could Not Stop for Death*; *I Died for Beauty*

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882): *Self-Reliance*; *Concord Hymn*

William Faulkner (1897–1962): *Death of a Salesman*; *As I Lay Dying*; *Sanctuary*; *The Sound and the Fury*

ART IN AMERICA

American art is as varied as everything else in the country. Early painters strove to document the new country with scenes of historical interest and portraits of famous people. The Hudson River School of painting arose in 1820 producing scenes of sweeping landscapes. The ever-westward push of the frontier gave painters new majestic landscapes, unique geographical features, and iconic subjects in cowboys and Native Americans. Later painters portrayed American urban life and values. The twentieth century brought more changes with a focus on the Southwest, emergence of Harlem Renaissance painting, government-funded art during the Depression, and modern abstract art.



Paul Revere



John Hancock

John Singleton Copley (1738-1815)

Made famous by his battle scenes and portrait paintings of famous people.



Thomas Jefferson



The Athenaemum Portrait

Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828)

Painted portraits of early leaders, including six presidents and a famous unfinished portrait of George Washington.

Winning World War II (1945): This was America at its finest.

From an almost standing start, America outproduced the world and became the “arsenal of democracy.” During the war, U.S. factories produced over 300,000 planes, 6 million M1 carbines, 2.6 million machine guns, 2.3 million trucks, 22 aircraft carriers, 349 destroyers, and over 33 million tons of merchant ships. Everyone chipped in with more than 2 million American women working in factories by the war's end. The size of the military exploded during the war from 350,000 to almost 13 million. We won the war...and then we came home.

Landing on the Moon (1969): Spurred by President Kennedy's



*Saturn V rocket
launching Apollo 11*

challenge to land a man on the moon by the end of the decade, NASA launched an all-out effort to fulfill that goal. Starting with the one-man Mercury capsules that launched Alan Shepard into space on May 5, 1961, it progressed through the two-man Gemini spaceships, to the three-man Apollo spacecraft. Finally, on July 20, 1969, as the whole world watched on television, Apollo 11 landed on the moon and Neil Armstrong became the first human to step on its surface. And, as a testimony to the freedom of the American system, the entire effort was done in full view on public radio and television, unlike the secretive Soviet space program. The total cost was likely around \$100 billion, and up to one-half a million people would ultimately be involved.

Alaska Pipeline (1977): Finished in

1977, this oil pipeline covers the 800 miles from the Prudhoe Bay oil field to the shipping terminals at Valdez, Alaska. The pipe is up to 4 feet in diameter and was approved after the oil crisis of the 1970s. The builders had to overcome extreme cold, unfriendly terrain, frozen ground, and environmental concerns about the fragile tundra.



Pipeline across Alaska

OTHER HEROES IN OUR HISTORY

Thousands of Americans have exhibited courage, strength, and resolution in the hundreds of years since our founding. Some have simple stories of instant decisions to act, saving lives or helping to change history. Others struggled a lifetime to achieve greatness and earn our undying respect. Many were just ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Here are just a few.

Susan B. Anthony: This leading civil rights leader played a key role in getting women voting rights. She co-founded the Women's Temperance Movement, but died before the 19th amendment gave women the vote. She was placed on the 1979 dollar coin.

Clara Barton: Barton, a schoolteacher, rushed to tend to the wounded at the start of the Civil War, and risked her life tending to soldiers during the entire war. When the war ended, she helped search for the graves of Union soldiers who died at Andersonville Prison. In 1881, she founded the American Red Cross.



Nellie Bly: A journalist, adventurer, and inventor who completed a trip around the world in 1890 that took only 72 days, beating Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days* trip. She had previously written a book called *Ten Days in a Mad-House*, chronicling conditions in a mental institution where she was admitted after pretending to be insane. Later in life, she was a leading female industrialist.



Andrew Carnegie: A Scottish self-educated immigrant who opened a steel plant in 1875 and built one of the largest companies in the country, Carnegie Steel. He took his fortune and started more than 2500 libraries, and Carnegie Hall in 1891.

Sergeant William Carney: This 23-year-old former slave joined the Union Army and led the 54th Massachusetts against Fort Wagner in South Carolina. The regiment was composed of black troops organized after the Emancipation proclamation. Hit several times, Carney ensured the Union flag never touched the ground as his forces retreated, losing almost half their strength. He was the first black to receive the Medal of Honor.



D-DAY ORDER

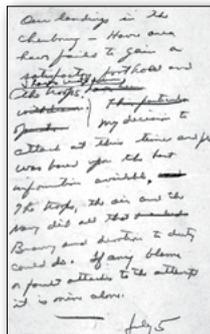
GENERAL DWIGHT EISENHOWER

JUNE 6, 1944



When Eisenhower finally gave approval to launch the invasion of France, he prepared the following message which was given to each of the 150,000 soldiers participating in the invasion. Although no one knew it at the time, Eisenhower had also written the following note to be released in case the mission failed. Fortunately, the note stayed stuffed in his pocket. Wouldn't it be refreshing today for politicians to similarly take direct blame for their actions?

Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone.



This is the real message that he delivered to the troops:

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force! You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven thee many months. **The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.** In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world. Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped, and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944. Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory. Good luck, and let us all beseech the blessings of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

TEAR DOWN THIS WALL

RONALD REAGAN

JUNE 12, 1987

 At the end of World War II in 1945, Berlin was divided into 4 sectors: American, British, French in the West, and Soviet in the East. Three years later, the Soviets blockaded Berlin, and the West answered with the year-long Berlin Airlift. In 1952, the Soviets finally closed the border between East and West Germany, but more than 2.6 million East Germans escaped to the West from 1949 to 1961. In 1961, the Soviets erected the Berlin Wall to seal the border between East and West Berlin. Over the next 28 years, 171 people will die attempting to escape over or under the Berlin Wall. Following are excerpts from Reagan's prophetic speech. His advisers had strongly urged him not to include confrontational language. Fortunately, he ignored that advice.

Behind me stands a wall that encircles the free sectors of this city, part of a vast system of barriers that divides the entire continent of Europe. From the Baltic, south, those barriers cut across Germany in a gash of barbed wire, concrete, dog runs, and guard towers. Farther south, there may be no visible, no obvious wall. But there remain armed guards and checkpoints all the same—still a restriction on the right to travel, still an instrument to impose upon ordinary men and women the will of a totalitarian state. Yet it is here in Berlin where the wall emerges most clearly; here, cutting across your city, where the news photo and the television screen have imprinted this brutal division of a continent upon the mind of the world. Standing before the Brandenburg Gate, every man is a German, separated from his fellow men. Every man is a Berliner, forced to look upon a scar....

Where four decades ago there was rubble, today in West Berlin there is the greatest industrial output of any city in Germany—busy office blocks, fine homes and apartments, proud avenues, and the spreading lawns of park land. Where a city's culture seemed to have been destroyed, today there are two great universities, orchestras and an opera, countless theatres, and museums. Where there was want, today there's abundance—food, clothing, automobiles—the wonderful goods of the Ku'damm. From devastation, from utter ruin, you Berliners have, in freedom, rebuilt a city that once again ranks as one of the greatest on Earth. The Soviets may have had other plans. But, my friends, there were a few things the Soviets didn't count on—berliner Herz, berliner Humor, ja, und berliner Schnauze. [Berliner heart, Berliner humour, yes, and a Berliner schnauze.]

In the 1950s, Khrushchev predicted: “We will bury you.” But in the West today, we see a free world that has achieved a level of prosperity and well-being unprecedented in all human history. In the Communist world, we see failure, technological backwardness, declining standards of health, even want of the most basic kind—too little food. Even today, the Soviet Union still cannot feed itself. After these four decades, then, there stands before the entire world one great and inescapable conclusion: **Freedom leads to prosperity. Freedom replaces the ancient hatreds among the nations with comity and peace. Freedom is the victor.**

And now the Soviets themselves may, in a limited way, be coming to understand the importance of freedom. We hear much from Moscow about a new policy of reform and openness. Some political prisoners have been released. Certain foreign news broadcasts are no longer being jammed. Some economic enterprises have been permitted to operate with greater freedom from state control. Are these the beginnings of profound changes in the Soviet state? Or are they token gestures, intended to raise false hopes in the West, or to strengthen the Soviet system without changing it? We welcome change and openness; for we believe that freedom and security go together, that the advance of human liberty can only strengthen the cause of world peace.

There is one sign the Soviets can make that would be unmistakable, that would advance dramatically the cause of freedom and peace. General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! **Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!...**

The Berlin Wall came down two years later on Nov. 9, 1989.

*Ronald Reagan's “Tear down this wall!” speech
June 12, 1987*



*Berliners start to tear down the wall
November 10, 1989*



SAMPLE

I'M A YANKEE DOODLE DANDY

GEORGE M. COHAN

1904

 This song was written for the Broadway musical *Little Johnny Jones* in 1904. James Cagney performed this in the 1942 movie *Yankee Doodle Dandy*.



George M. Cohan
1908

I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy,
A Yankee Doodle, do or die;
A real live nephew of my Uncle Sam's,
Born on the Fourth of July.

I've got a Yankee Doodle sweetheart,
She's my Yankee Doodle joy.
Yankee Doodle came to London, just to ride the ponies;
I am the Yankee Doodle Boy.

YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG

GEORGE M. COHAN

1906

 Written in 1906 for the musical *George Washington, Jr.*, this pays obvious tribute to our country's flag. George Cohan himself was born on the 4th of July in 1878.

There's a feeling comes a-stealing,
And it sets my brain a-reeling,
When I'm listening to the music of a military band.
Any tune like "Yankee Doodle"
Simply sets me off my noodle,
It's that patriotic something that no one can understand.

You're a grand old flag,
You're a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of
The land I love.
The home of the free and the brave.

Ev'ry heart beats true
'neath the Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or brag.
But should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.

Chapter 10

U.S. CITIZENSHIP TEST



THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS are used for the U.S. Citizenship Test given by our government. New citizens only have to answer 6 out of 10 of these questions. Natural-born citizens should be able to answer all of them. Can you? You can use the page numbers below to find the answers, or go to our website at www.miravista.com/AmericanChallenge. It is more important to understand the principles than to memorize an answer.

Principles of Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land? (p. 144)
2. What does the Constitution do? (p. 168)
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words? (p. 144)
4. What is an amendment? (p. 155)
5. What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution? (p. 155)
6. What is 1 right or freedom from the First Amendment? (p. 155)
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have? (p. 163)
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do? (p. 138)
9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence? (p. 138)
10. What is freedom of religion? (p. 17)
11. What is the economic system in the United States? (p. 207)
12. What is the “rule of law”? (p. 172)

System of Government

13. Name one branch or part of the government. (p. 170)
14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful? (p. 172)
15. Who is in charge of the executive branch? (p. 170)
16. Who makes federal laws? (p. 171)
17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress? (p. 171)