

HistoryAtOurHouse
Jr/Sr High - Homework Research Assignment
Due Date: Monday, January 5 (2015)

Students are assigned a research and analysis exercise on “anchor facts.”

Part 1

The research component of the assignment is straightforward. Students are tasked with re-reading the class notes (from Week 1 to 16 — all of which are available on the class web pages), and collecting a list of all the dated events. Students should present this list as part of the assignment, in chronological order, point form, with a brief statement of the nature of the event.

The formatting should match the following sample:

...
1607 - Jamestown (Virginia) settled by the English
1620 - English Puritans settle at Plymouth (Massachusetts)
1623 - New Hampshire colony started
...

Part 2

The students are to generate a short list (not less than three, but not more than five) of *new anchor facts* they believe should be included in the study of American history, along with a justification for the selection.

The selection criteria for defining an “anchor facts” is that the fact in question must possess two notable characteristics. First, the fact must involve some change in history that is *still relevant today*. In other words, the event must have affected the *world we live in*. Second, the anchor fact must be helpful in explaining or enhancing our awareness of other anchor facts.

1607/1620 are not eligible for selection, because they have already been designated as new anchor facts in class. The following is an example of how these new facts were selected as such.

The founding of Jamestown (1607) and Plymouth (1620) initiated English colonization. Without the success of these colonies, America could never have come to exist, nor, of course would English be spoken in America today. Evidently, had Columbus not discovered America in 1492, the English would never have been drawn to explore the continent, and eventually to “plant” colonists there. Colonization also provides a bridge between discovery (1492) and independence (1776). Colonies were controlled by the home country, and meant to serve the home country. Only by declaring independence, did the American colonies break that bond.

As always, I welcome questions & comments at: mrpowell@historyatourhouse.com.

Assignments should be submitted typed and in a standard electronic format such as DOC, PAGES, or TXT.

—Mr. Powell