

**Part 1: The Anchor Facts of American History**

**A. Write a brief description of the key event occurring at the date indicated, and explain why it is important in *American history*.**

1. 1215 AD

English lords force King John to sign the Magna Carta, which forced the king to accept a constitutional limit to his power. This was an important precursor to American liberty. The Founders experienced the tug-of-war of constitutional monarchy first hand as colonists, and decided to break from this tradition and make a government without a king altogether. **(3 pts; 1 pt for event; 1 pt for significance; 1 pt for grammar and spelling)**

2. c.508 BC / c. 509 BC

Athens becomes the world's first democracy and Rome becomes the first republic. These were important precedents of freer government for the Founding Fathers in their creation of the United States.

**(3 pts; 1 pt for events; 1 pt for significance; 1 pt for grammar and spelling)**

3. 1555 AD

The Peace of Augsburg brings the religious Schmalkaldic War between Lutherans and Catholics to an end, allowing rulers to choose the religion within their domain ("cuius regio, eius religio"). This matters in American history because only when people escaping religious persecution in Europe came to America did progress in toleration begin, leading eventually the creation of religious freedom in America.

**(3 pts; 1 pt for event; 1 pt for significance; 1 pt for grammar and spelling)**

4. 1534 AD

Henry VIII becomes the head of the Church of England through the Acts of Supremacy. This creates Anglicanism. In American history, most colonists were Anglicans, but many were other "protestants" and even Catholics, who had to learn to embrace religious toleration, or suffer the same fate as Europe.

**(3 pts; 1 pt for event; 1 pt for significance; 1 pt for grammar and spelling)**

5. 1607 AD / 1620 AD

Jamestown and Plymouth settled as the first English colonies in North America. Without successful English colonization, there simply would be no Englishmen in America to declare independence from Britain, i.e. no United States of America. **(3 pts; 1 pt for event; 1 pt for significance; 1 pt for grammar and spelling)**

6. 1517 AD

Martin Luther issued his 95 Theses in rebellion against the Pope. This launched the Reformation. The religious conflicts spawned by the Reformation gave rise to special challenges in English colonization, and the rise of tolerationism and freedom in America. **(3 pts; 1 pt for event; 1 pt for significance; 1 pt for grammar and spelling)**

**Total Points for this page: 18 points**

**Part 2: The American Revolution**

7. Complete this sentence in *four ways*. “*There would be no United States of America without the Founding Fathers...*” (To save space, re-write the prompt only once, and then number your answers.)

There would be no United States of America without the Founding Fathers...

- ...rebellious against British laws and fighting the Revolutionary War
- ...declaring independence in 1776
- ...uniting the separate colonies under a single federal government via the Constitution
- ...creating the addition of the Bill of Rights to secure rights
- ...leading the nation as presidents after unifying the country
- ...maintaining American neutrality in European wars during the nation’s infancy

**(5 pts: 4 pts for four of the above; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

8. Why is James Otis one of the Founding Fathers?

James Otis is an important Founding Father because he was a lawyer who opposed the Writs of Assistance. These were warrants that allowed government officials to enter people’s homes and businesses any time. Otis said they were against the “rights of Englishmen.” **(3 pts: 1 pt for the phrase “writs of assistance”; 1 pt for describing Otis’ actions; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

9. What was the Stamp Act of 1765? Why was Patrick Henry’s role in resisting it?

The Stamp Act was a British law for the American colonies that said that colonists had to put government stamps on certain kinds of papers, such as newspapers and diplomas. Patrick Henry was the famous leader of the opposition to the Stamp Act because it was against the “rights of Englishmen” to have a say on taxes through their own parliament. He led the House of Burgesses in the adoption of the Virginia Resolves, which spurred a general resistance to the act across America. This is part of why he is one of the Founding Fathers. **(4 pts: 1 pt for description of Stamp Act; 2 pts for description of Henry’s role; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

10. What caused the Boston Tea Party of 1773? How did the British government respond?

The Boston Tea Party was a violent protest caused by the insistence of the British parliament on taxing Americans without their consent, in particular via a Tea tax. American protesters threw British tea in the water, destroying a great amount of property. The British government passed the Quebec Act of 1774 to punish Americans and to try to stop a rising rebellion against British power. It said that Quebec would be extended down to the Ohio river, taking that region forever away from America. Also, the government closed the port of Boston and implemented military rule in Boston. **(4 pts: 1 pt for cause of the Boston Tea Party; 2 pts for two aspects of the response; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

**Total Points for this page: 16 points**

11. Perhaps a million people cross the Delaware river every day. Why is one crossing remembered above all others? (Be sure to explain exactly who crossed, and how important it was in as much detail as you can.)

Late in 1776, the war effort was going very badly for America. The British military and its allies were professional armies, while George Washington had an untrained militia. He retreated across the Delaware to Pennsylvania to escape the enemy, but then Washington returned across the Delaware with his American militia to launch a sneak attack on Christmas night. He then won the Battle of Trenton, which would become the first important victory for America in the Revolutionary War. Not all crossings of a river are “created equal,” evidently. This one is obviously the most important crossing ever. It may be true to say “There would be no United States of America, if George Washington hadn’t crossed the Delaware!” This is why it is remembered.

**(5 pts: 1 pt for George Washington; 3 for an explanation that focusses on the *importance* of Washington’s crossing; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

12. What were the *main* reasons (give at least three) why, even after winning the Revolutionary War, the thirteen colonies might still not form a true *United States of America*? What was the key motivation for overcoming these obstacles?

Even after winning the Revolutionary War, the thirteen colonies were not a single, true *United States of America* for many reasons. They were distant from each other at a time when transportation and communication were poor. This would make it hard for them to act as a single people. They had separate governments and were accustomed to being governed locally. They had separate religious traditions and antagonisms based on their separate colonial histories. They had competing land claims to the West, which meant that some colonies could expect to grow vast and powerful while others would be swamped by their larger neighbors. They had different rules for trade that would lead them to conflict, especially in trade with England and the rest of Europe, which would lead to smuggling, and wars. Above all, they had differing views on slavery; in the South the institution had taken hold and was widespread; in the North it was uncommon and generally viewed negatively. To bring together states with such difference views and separate existences required a commitment to the idea that *unity* was crucial to accomplishing the goal of the Declaration of Independence: to create a lasting government of individual rights.

**(5 pts: 3 pts for three reasons from the above; 1 pt for explaining the commitment to unity; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

**Total Points for this page: 10 points**

**Part 3: The Founding Era**

13. Explain how the concept of individual rights features in each of 1) *the Declaration of Independence*, 2) *the Constitution*, and 3) *the Bill of Rights*, and *in the progression from one to the other*.

The concept of individual rights features in the Declaration of Independence first of all. There, Thomas Jefferson explains that the proper purpose of government is the protection of the inalienable rights to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” The Constitution is the “how.” It is the implementation of a framework of government without a king whereby a government would function for the entire United States to protect rights. Finally, the Bill of Rights is a set of ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States created by the Founding Fathers. The Founding Fathers believed it was important to make a set of rules to strongly limit the future growth in power of the government in order to help protect individual rights.

**(7 pts: 2 pts for each of the three connections; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

14. Explain one key thing *each* of the Founding Fathers did as president to help make sure the United States would remain *independent* during the Founding Era.

The Founders main goal was to keep America independent, so they worked to keep America from being politically connected to other countries. George Washington proclaimed America’s neutrality in Europe’s wars. John Adams kept peace with France despite France’s aggressive conduct towards American merchants, but also built a navy to make America strong. Thomas Jefferson sent the navy to fight the Barbary Pirates, and bought Louisiana from France. James Madison declared war on Britain in the War of 1812 to protect Americans from Britain. Finally, James Monroe issued the Monroe Doctrine insisting that Europeans stay out of the Americas as America intended to stay out of Europe.

**(6 pts: 1 pt for five actions from the above — one per president; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

**Total Points for this page: 13 points**

**Part 4: Bonus Questions**

15. What is the final line from Patrick Henry's most famous speech?

English lords force King John to sign the Magna Carta. **(1 bonus pt)**

16. What were the promoters and opponents of the Constitution called during the Critical Period?

Promoters: Federalists      Opponents: Anti-Federalists **(1 bonus pt)**

17. Where was the final major battle of the Revolutionary War fought?

Battle of Yorktown **(1 bonus pt)**

18. From whom did Jefferson purchase Louisiana?

Napoleon / France **(1 bonus pt)**

19. What are the names of the two-part parliament (or "Congress") of the United States?

House of Representatives *and* Senate **(1 bonus pt)**

---

**Total Points on Test: 57 points**

**Total bonus points on Test: 5 points**