

II. Understanding America Today

A. American Politics

1. In 2016 Donald Trump was elected president of the United States, instead of his main rival Hillary Clinton.
2. During the election, Trump said he would “Make America Great Again.”
3. He meant that he was rejecting of the policies of the last president Barack Obama.
4. One important thing about President Obama is that he was the first “African-American” president in the history of the United States.
5. We will learn that there were slaves brought from Africa to America early in American history, so having an African-American president was a sign of progress.
6. Obama also promised that as president he would be create “Change We Can Believe In.”
7. Joe Biden, who was the vice-president for Obama, now wants to be president and is competing against Donald Trump, who wants to be re-elected.

B. The American Social Contract

1. Even though Americans disagree on things like who should be president, they agree there should be a president, and what the rules are for electing one.
2. This is part of the “social contract,” which is the name for the agreement between people about how life should be lived.
3. Every family has a “social contract,” which includes the responsibilities of each of the parents, and the rules that apply to each of the members of the household, including pets!
4. History At Our House classes also have a social contract. For instance, if you want to participate, you agree to raise your hand and wait your turn to you speak.
5. The social contract for the whole country is *the set of rules everyone agrees to live by, and which the government enforces.*

C. The First Anchor Fact of the Story

1. Even though Donald Trump is the president right now, he is also the president *who came after Barack Obama.*
2. Together, these president are the first “anchor fact” of our story. (An “anchor fact” is an event from the past that we need to know in order to understand the world we live in.)
3. Here is how this can be shown on a timeline:

