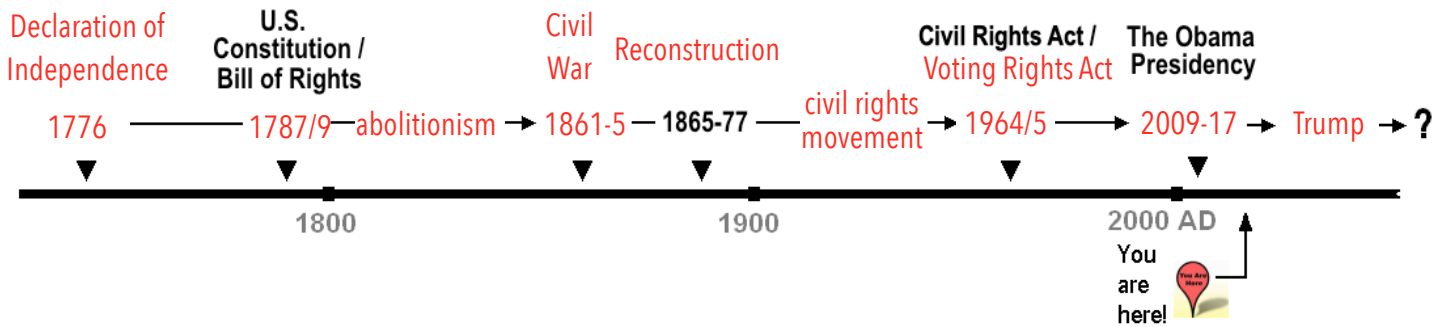


Part 1: Facts Practice

1. Fill in the missing parts of the timeline. (When a date is missing for an event, enter the date. When the date is given, but the name of an event is missing, enter the name. When both are missing, enter both! Don't forget to label arrows that represent phases of history as well. *Make sure the timeline is truly complete!*)



(6 pts: 1/2 pt per missing entry)

Part 2: The Nature of History

2. Why does the history of the American social contract have to begin with the Obama and Trump presidencies today? What question that is normally missing in history does this help focus on when learning about much earlier events? Give an example.

The history of the American social contract has to begin with the Obama and Trump presidencies because these are the most recent events that have shaped our world, and the culmination of the story so far. Focusing on this reality helps us to focus on the need to connect the past to the present, when we are studying earlier events — the “what for” of history. For instance, if we want to understand the full significance of the amazing story of liberty starting in 1776, we need to understand that it is a story that began with African-Americans enslaved, where an Obama presidency would have been impossible, so we can appreciate many things about our world, including how long real change takes, how much progress has happened, and why Americans continue to struggle with what direction is best for their country, such as by switching from Obama to Donald Trump.

(4 pts: 1pt for most recent; 1 pt for connecting past and present, i.e. “what for”; 1 pt for an example like 1776 tied to today; 1pt for spelling and grammar)

Total Points This Page: 10 pts

Part 3: The History of the American Social Contract

3. What is a “social contract”? Give three examples of social contracts in your life and a rule that is important in each one.

A “social contract” is the set of rules that any group of people agrees to live by, which in an organized society is embodied by its private institutions and a government that enforces that society’s laws. Social contracts abound in life, in all contexts. Any family’s social contract usually includes jobs for adults and chores for kids, such as walking the dog or taking out the trash. The social contract of HistoryAtOurHouse for live classes revolves around the rules of etiquette for classroom behavior. The social contract of America includes the idea of presidential elections held every four years, among many other laws. **(5 pts: 1pt for definition; 3 pts for three examples; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

4. What does the *Declaration of Independence* say is the original American social contract? How do the Constitution and Bill of Rights embody or contradict this social contract?

The *Declaration of Independence* says that America is founded to protect the natural rights of individuals to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” The Constitution created a union to make independence and the lasting defense of rights possible, but also includes a compromise relating to slavery, which continued to be practiced in eight of the thirteen states and had yet to be repudiated as a part of human life. The Bill of Rights makes special provisions for the protection of rights *from the government itself*, but also fails to address the immorality of slavery, thus embedding a contradiction between right and slavery in the original American social contract. **(5 pts: 1pt for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; 1 pt for union and compromise over slavery; 1pt for protecting rights; 1pt for contradiction; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

5. Explain the challenge of interpreting the history of slavery from a modern point of view.

Interpreting slavery from a modern point of view involves the challenge of the “presumption of modernity.” This means modern people presume to judge people of the past by means of modern standards when they fail to recognize that those standards did not exist and did not apply in the past. Slavery was normal in human life until America was founded. It was never challenged by any religious tradition or by any culture. It is critical to understand this or we will fall prey to the modern folly of assuming everybody in the past *should* have been like us and view just about everything in the past with an exaggerated negativity. **(4 pts: 1pt for modern life being different; 1pt normalcy of slavery; 1pt for challenge of judging; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

Total Points This Page: 14 pts

6. Why was it not possible to abolish slavery before the Civil War despite the rise of abolitionism? In what ways did the Civil War make abolition possible, and how did it finally happen?

It was not possible to abolish slavery before the Civil War for a set of combined reasons which begins with the normalcy of slavery at the time of the founding, and thus the inclusion of slavery in the social contract until the rise of abolitionism, and finally the fact that this social contract was embedded in the Constitution, which could not be changed without the consent of 3/4 of the states. The Civil War made abolition possible because it was triggered by the secession of the South, which was trying to maintain slavery, which technically put seceding states in rebellion against the Union and made it impossible for them to resist changes to the laws, and by the victory of the Union, which allowed the Union to impose abolition as a condition of the South resuming its participation in the governance of the country. **(6pts: 1pt for normalcy of slavery; 1pt for Constitutional amendment limitation; 1pt for Civil War disqualifying states; 1pt for Union victory; 1pt for southern states being forced to accept Reconstruction ; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

7. What did the Reconstruction amendments to the Constitution say? Why did these legal changes not result in full citizenship for former slaves?

There were three Reconstruction amendments to the Constitution, and they said: that slavery was now illegal (13th amendment), that all former slaves were now citizens (14th amendment), and that citizens had to right vote regardless of race (15th amendment). Despite these new laws, the freedmen did not become full citizens capable of participating as equal members in the social contract. The two reasons for this inability were on the one hand, continued discrimination and other racial injustices perpetrated by the politically powerful white community in southern states, and on the other hand, the inability of the freedmen to stand up for their own rights due to illiteracy and the other many disadvantages they suffered from as former slaves. **(6 pts: 1pt for each amendment; 1 pt for racism/discrimination; 1pt for illiteracy/disadvantages; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

Total Points This Page: 12 pts

8. What do the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 say? Why were these laws deemed necessary. How did their passage come about through the *civil rights movement*?

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 says that it is illegal to discrimination against anyone on the basis of race. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 reinforces the 15th amendment and says that it is illegal to prevent someone (such as through a so-called “literacy” test) from voting on the basis of race. These laws were deemed necessary because a hundred years had elapsed since the Civil War and African-American citizens were still not treated as equal citizens and continued to suffer many injustices because of race-based discrimination. The *civil rights movement*, led by Martin Luther King Jr., triggered by many acts of courage by African-Americans, such as the protest of Rosa Parks, and the struggle by young Ruby Bridges to attend public school, was the long process of peacefully combatting injustice and racism in order to promote the changing of the laws. **(5 pts: 1 pt for CRA; 1pt for VRA; 1pt for ongoing injustice after Civil War; 1 pt CRM to promote change; 1pt for spelling and grammar)**

Total Points This Page: 5 pts

Total Points On Test: 41 pts