

Name &
Surname: _____

Grade: _____

Date: _____

Foundations of American History: First Natives and Colonies

Learning Objective: Students will be able to explain the significant events, concepts, and societal impacts of four foundational periods in U.S. history: Early Native Cultures, the Colonial Period, the American Revolutionary War, and the Civil War.

1. Early Native Cultures

The first inhabitants of America crossed from Asia via the **Bering Strait** thousands of years ago. Geographic diversity directly shaped tribal life:

- **Northeast:** Tribes like the Iroquois, who practiced farming and hunting in forested areas, lived in houses called wigwams.
- **Southwest:** They built multi-story 'Pueblo' houses made of adobe in arid regions.
- **Great Plains:** Nomadic tribes that hunted bison lived in tents (tipis).



Image: A traditional wigwam used by Northeast natives.

2. Colonial Period (13 Colonies)

Starting with Jamestown in 1607, England established 13 colonies on the east coast of America. These colonies were divided into two main regions based on their economic structures:

- **Northern Colonies:** Trade, shipbuilding, and fishing were prominent. Small farms and port cities were common.
- **Southern Colonies:** Tobacco, cotton, and rice were grown on large agricultural lands (plantations). Unfortunately, this economy relied on the system of slavery.

What Have We Learned?

Question 1: How did geographic conditions influence the housing and dietary patterns of native tribes? Explain with one example.

Which of the following was the primary economic activity of the Southern colonies?

- Shipbuilding and trade
- Production in large agricultural areas (plantations)
- Fur hunting and fishing
- Industry and mining

The first permanent English settlement established by settlers from England in America was the town of _____.

American Revolutionary War: The First Step Towards Freedom

Causes of the War

After the Seven Years' War, England faced economic difficulties and imposed heavy taxes (Stamp Act, Tea Act) on the colonies.

Right to Representation: The colonies rebelled, stating, "No taxation without representation!"



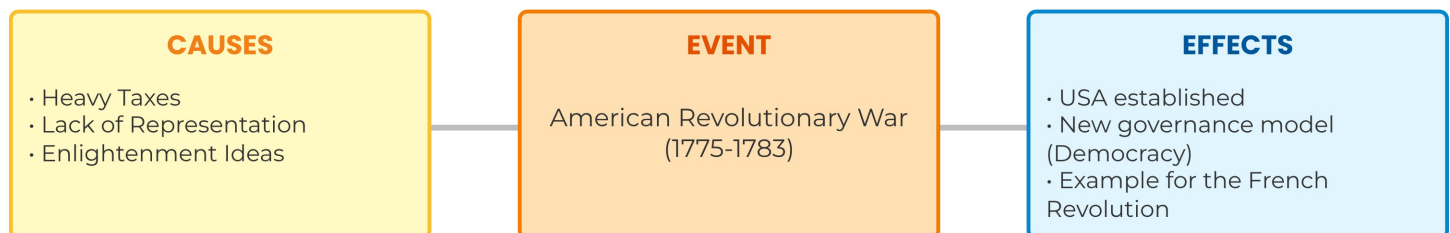
Boston Tea Party (1773): Colonists protesting taxes by dumping tea chests into the sea.

Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)

According to this document drafted by Thomas Jefferson:

- All men are created equal.
- The rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are inalienable.
- Governments derive their powers from the consent of the governed.

Cause and Effect Relationship



Analysis Questions

1. What does the colonists' stance of "No taxation without representation" show about their understanding of democracy?
2. Why was the idea of "equality of all men" in the Declaration of Independence revolutionary for that time?
3. Do you view the Boston Tea Party as merely an act of "destruction" or an act of "seeking rights"? Why?

The American Civil War and the Reconstruction Process

Fundamental Causes of the Civil War:

In the mid-19th century, the US experienced a deep divide between Northern and Southern states. The **North** relied on an industrialized economy and free labor, while the **South** maintained a system based on cotton agriculture and slave labor. The issue of slavery became the central point of conflict between these two regions.



Representation of a battle during the Civil War.

Reconstruction: Following the war (1865-1877), a process was initiated to readmit Southern states to the Union and protect the rights of emancipated slaves. Slavery was officially abolished, but achieving social peace and healing economic wounds took many years.

Feature	North (Union)	South (Confederacy)
Economy	Industry, Trade, Factories	Agriculture, Cotton Plantations
Labor Force	Free Workers	Slave Labor
Political View	Strong Central Government	States' Rights & Autonomy

Questions and Workspace

1. What was the most fundamental economic difference between the Northern and Southern states? Explain its impact on the outbreak of the war.
2. What changes did the abolition of slavery at the end of the Civil War bring to American society?
3. Why was the 'Reconstruction' period difficult? Comment by considering its primary goals.

Historical Journey and Concepts

United States: Basic History Timeline



Concept Matching Activity

Draw lines to match the concepts on the left with their definitions on the right.

1. Abraham Lincoln

2. Confederacy

3. Union

4. Emancipation
Proclamation

A. Army of the Northern states

B. The president who abolished
slavery

C. Document that freed slaves
during the war

D. Southern separatist states

Creative Writing: Be a Character! (Challenge)

Choose a character from the Civil War era (a Northern factory worker, a Southern farmer, or a newly freed slave). Write a short piece describing this person's feelings and hopes for the future after the war.

Self-Assessment (Metacognitive Calibration)

Which topics in this unit were easier for you, and which did you find challenging? Briefly state the reasons.