

Honors US History Resources for Students and Parents

A list of resources for my content area that help students understand the content, expand their knowledge, and engage the family.

Online Resources

American Pageant Textbook Chapter Outlines

https://course-notes.org/us_history/notes/the_american_pageant_16th_edition

American Pageant Textbook Vocabulary Terms

https://course-notes.org/us_history/vocabulary_terms

Kaplan AP US History Flashcards

<https://course-notes.org/flashcards/list/204111089?keywords=kaplan%20ap%20us%20history>

Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/>

Khan Academy: US History

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history>

US History List of Historical Documents

https://course-notes.org/us_history/important_documents

List of Major Court Cases in US History

https://course-notes.org/us_history/court_cases

YouTube

American Pageant Textbook Audiobook (each chapter read aloud)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6WAhY_hvs&list=PLBiASiw_5Mr7j7rA9Ei2HrsUUgXqEVLyH

American Pageant Textbook Chapter Reviews (slides & lecture)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSS9Y53jVI&list=PL-69ThEyf7-BOS9ppIm3mpVxnuvcIVVKz>

American Pageant Textbook Chapter Review Videos (slides & lecture)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeKSb7IRp7E&list=PLlair5BOIPJZGD_P1-gXy41TPBcqoMlc3

US History Crash Course Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6E9WU9TGrec&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMwmepBjTSG593eG7ObzO7s>

AP US History Topics Review Playlist

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG_Q50JDeLo&list=PLfzs_X6OQBOy2rs4mrV2O9t3vNB4RF_Es

Movies

It is not a bad idea to prepare yourself for Honors US History by watching movies that familiarize you with some of the events. This is a chronological list of movies that either tell a good historical story or do a great job of setting the scene of the time period in which they are set. Some of these are films I would love to show during the year but I will not have time for them. If you can only watch one, I would suggest *America: The Story of US* series. You can borrow it from the library or watch segments of it on YouTube.

NOTE: Some of these movies may be rated R. Please ask your parents before you view any of the following films.

OVERALL

America: The Story of Us (Not Rated 2010) – Documentary that covers 400 years of US history using compelling stories and cutting-edge animation.

We Shall Remain (Not Rated 2009) – PBS documentary chronicling over 400 years of the American Experience from the Native American perspective.

The New World (PG-13 2005) – Depiction of the founding of Jamestown. John Smith, Pocahontas, John Rolfe.

COLONIAL AMERICA

Desperate Crossing: The Untold Story of the Mayflower (NR 2006) – Documentary of the Pilgrims journey on the Mayflower.

The Crucible (PG-13 1996) – Based on Arthur Miller’s play about the Salem Witch Trials.

The Scarlet Letter (R 1995) - Based on the novel. Puritanical life in the early colonial days.

The Last of the Mohicans (R 1992) – A gripping drama set during the French and Indian War.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Johnny Tremain (NR 1957) – A Walt Disney film about apprenticeship and the Sons of Liberty.

Liberty! The American Revolution (NR 1997) – PBS 6 hour mini-series documentary on the American Revolution.

John Adams (Not Rated 2008) – A very well-written and acted HBO miniseries based on the life of John Adams. (It won 4 Emmy’s and 4 Golden Globes.)

George Washington Mini-Series (NR 1984) – Covers Washington’s life thoroughly—early years, the American Revolution, and the presidency.

1776 (PG 1972) – Musical about John Adams and the Second Continental Congress as they debate the Declaration of Independence.

The Patriot (R 2000) – Depiction of the Revolutionary War from the militia perspective. Very entertaining, but it has some bloody scenes. Best if you can watch the made-for-TV version.

EARLY REPUBLIC

The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents (NR 2012) – Documentary covering each US president.

Amistad (R 1997) – Depiction of the revolt of slaves on the Amistad and the Supreme Court’s decision. Great movie!

AMERICAN WEST

Lewis and Clark (NR 2002) -- National Geographic documentary on the journey of the Corps of Discovery.

The Alamo (PG-13 2004) -- Davey Crockett's and Jim Bowie's lives are featured in the depiction of this devastating yet pivotal battle of the Texas Revolution. Good movie.

The West (NR 1996) -- Ken Burns documentary spanning 80 years of westward expansion.

Aftershock: Beyond the Civil War - Documentary on the Reconstruction period. Difficult content.

Dances With Wolves (PG-13 1990) – A great movie depicting a Civil War soldier who goes west and spends time with the Sioux. It won 7 Oscars (nominated for 12) including best picture.

Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee (Unrated 2007) - HBO miniseries on the hardships of Native Americans in the 19th century.

How the West was Won (G 1963) -- MGM's epic western that spans 4 generations of a family as they move west. Ensemble cast includes John Wayne, Jimmy Stewart, Debbie Reynolds and Gregory Peck.

SLAVERY

Roots (NR 1977) – Epic mini-series based on Alex Haley's novel about his African ancestor, Kunta Kinte.

Roots (TV 14 2016) – Remake of the original. Excellent movie, but difficult to watch because it is about the lives of slaves in America.

12 Years a Slave (R 2013) – Won Oscar for Best Picture. Absolutely riveting view of life under slavery, but again, tough to watch.

CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION

The Civil War (Not Rated 2004)– An amazing and comprehensive documentary by Ken Burns on the causes and effects of the Civil War.

Lincoln (PG-13 2012) – Steven Spielberg (with Best Actor Oscar winner Daniel Day Lewis as Lincoln) accurately depicts Lincoln during the political battle over the Thirteenth Amendment. Nominated for 12 Academy Awards!

The Blue and the Gray (Not Rated 1982) – Television miniseries. Experience the Civil War through 2 related families—one from the South and one from the North. Very accurate historically.

Glory (R 1989) – A fantastic movie that depicts the 54th Massachusetts, a black regiment during the Civil War. It won 3 Oscars including Best Supporting Actor (Denzel Washington). Accurate historically.

Gettysburg (PG 1993) – Depicts the 3-day battle of Gettysburg. Long but awesome in its scope.

Gods and Generals (PG-13 2003) — Prequel to Gettysburg. Follows 3 Civil War leaders, especially Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.

Gone with the Wind (G 1940) – Epic Civil War movie filmed almost 80 years ago. It was nominated for 13 Academy Awards and won 8!

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION & IMMIGRATION

Far and Away (PG-13 1992) – Irish immigrants in Boston and the Oklahoma land grab. Excellent movie starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

Gangs of New York (R 2002) – Perception of immigrants in New York City during the late 19th century.

Books

OVERALL

Freedom: A History of Us by Joy Hakim

A People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn

America's Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates and Heroines by Gail Collins

Lies My Teacher Told Me by James W. Loewen

The Story of American Freedom by Eric Foner

COLONIAL AMERICA, AMERICAN REVOLUTION & EARLY REPUBLIC

Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America by David Hackett Fischer

Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community and War by Nathaniel Philbrick

The Radicalism of the American Revolution by Gordon S. Wood

A People's History of the American Revolution: How Common People shaped the Fight for Independence by Ray Raphael

1776 by David McCullough

Jefferson's Pillow: The Founding Fathers and the Dilemma of Black Patriotism by Roger Wilkins

Founding Brothers by Joseph Ellis

Benjamin Franklin: An American Life by Walter Isaacson

Washington: A Life by Ron Chernow

John Adams by David McCullough

Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power by Jon Meacham

Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow

A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution by Carol Berkin

Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788 by Pauline Maier

AMERICAN WEST

Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West by Stephen Ambrose

What Hath God Wrought the Transformation of America, 1815–1848 by Daniel Walker Howe

American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House by Jon Meacham

The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West by Patricia Nelson Limerick

Women and Men on the Overland Trail by John Mack Faragher

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West by Dee Brown

SLAVERY

The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Ante-Bellum South by Kenneth M. Stampp

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Frederick Douglass

<https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/douglass/douglass.html>

Roots by Alex Haley

To Be a Slave by Julius Lester

CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION

Battle Cry of Freedom by James McPherson

This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War by Drew Gilpin Faust

Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Civil War Wives: The Lives & Times of Angelina Grimke Weld, Varina Howell Davis & Julia Dent Grant by Carol Berkin

Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877 by Eric Foner

Nothing Like it in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869 by Stephen Ambrose

Confederates in the Attic by Tony Horwitz

Books with a FOOD history focus:

The American Plate: A Culinary history in 100 Bites by Libby O'Connell

Dining at Monticello: in good taste and abundance edited by Damon Lee Fowler

The City Tavern Cookbook: Recipes from the Birthplace of American Cuisine by Walter Staib

The Founding Foodies: How Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin Revolutionized American Cuisine by Dave DeWitt