

American History

More Than 500 Years of Political, Military, Social, and Cultural History



Booklist

Twenty Best Bets for Student Researchers

"...very accessible, user-friendly, comprehensive...
Highly recommended."—CHOICE

"...[an] **outstanding database**...A user-friendly interface, solidly written articles, and a wide range of other features make this source **highly recommended**..."—BOOKLIST

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The Entire Scope of American History—Complete Curricular Coverage

Our critically acclaimed *American History* spans our nation's history, with a user-friendly interface and award-winning content. By providing the most comprehensive range of information in one complete resource—subject entries, biographies, primary sources, videos and slideshows, images, timelines, and maps and graphs—*American History* offers a virtual library of American history for educators, students, and researchers of all ages.

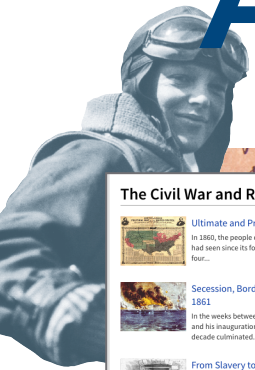
Highlights and Features:

- **Authoritative Source List:** Expertly researched and written content from a wealth of proprietary titles, including the latest edition of the award-winning *Encyclopedia of American History*
- **Easy Access to Relevant Content:** Key content is handpicked by our editors to inform research and provide guided entryways into the database, plus convenient links to key areas are at the top of every page

American History

History Reimagined

HIGHLIGHTS AND FEATURES



The Civil War and Reconstruction: 1860–1876

Ultimate and Proximate Causes May 1846–November 1860
In 1860, the people of the United States faced the greatest internal crisis that they had since their founding. That crisis burst into a disastrous civil war in 1861 that lasted four...

Secession, Border States, and First Battles December 1860–December 1861
In the weeks between the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency in November and his inauguration on March 4, 1861, the crisis that had been impending for at least a decade culminated...

From Slavery to Freedom: Battlefield Emancipation and Contrabands May 1861–June 1862
The original seven states of the Confederacy that announced their secession and the formation of a new nation did so explicitly because of the election of Lincoln as a presidential candidate...

Blockade Ships and River Gunboats January 1861–December 1861
The naval and maritime side of the Civil War tends to hold a lesser place in public memory than the conflict between the armies on land. Part of the reason may lie in the fact that battles in...

Two Bitter Years January 1862–December 1863
Throughout 1862 and 1863, the Civil War increased in intensity, with numerous battles and heavy casualties that convinced both sides they were in for a long and bitter war. A number of factors...

Emancipation and the Mind of Lincoln July 1862–March 1865
Although abolitionists and radical Republicans continually urged Lincoln to take...

Videos and Slideshows

Manifest Destiny

Manifest Destiny
David Wilentz sat at the table with several other members of Congress. The group had held regular meetings for weeks, trying to formulate a strategy that would challenge the administration of...

The Origins of Manifest Destiny

The phrase Manifest Destiny is used to express the belief that it was the fate of the United States to expand across the American continent. The idea of Manifest Destiny was not new to America...

Expansion and the Early Republic

The Treaty of Paris of 1763 ended the American Revolution. Under the terms of this agreement, Great Britain recognized her former colonies as a sovereign and independent nation. In addition, Great...

Territories and National Policy

In the first decade of the nineteenth century, the United States greatly extended its territorial holdings through the Louisiana Purchase. Just 10 years later, the young nation added Florida...

Claiming Ownership of Oregon Territory
The Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804–1806 proved that no waterway connected the east and west coasts of North America. The expedition brought back descriptions of flora, fauna, and native...

Texas Becomes a State

Oregon certainly played its role in the fulfillment of Manifest Destiny. It was in Texas, however, that the best and worst of Manifest Destiny exposed itself, revealing the dual nature of America...

The War with Mexico

The influx of American settlers into lands claimed by Mexico led to increased tensions between Mexico and the United States. Following the Texas' 1836 victory at San Jacinto, Mexico...

Videos and Slideshows

Reasons for American Annexation
2:30

America Expands Westward 18 Photos
More Slideshows →
More Videos →

Primary Source Documents

Alaska Purchase Treaty
Annexation of Texas
"Empire of the Pacific"
Homestead Act
Indian Removal Act
The Law of Civilization and Decay: An Essay on History
"My Husband Was Seized with a Mania!"
"Plymouth Rock" Address
"The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (excerpt)
Thoughts on Oregonism
View All →

Maps and Charts

Exploring the West
Maps

The Race to the Moon

Original Crew of Apollo 13
Left to right: Commander James A. Lovell, copilot Thomas K. Mattingly, and lunar module pilot Fred W. Young pose for a publicity shot before the Apollo 13 mission. Mattingly was scrubbed from the flight because he had been exposed to measles; he was replaced with James Swigert.
Source: NASA, Johnson Space Center

Contemporary Female Leaders

First Four Female Supreme Court Justices
The first four women to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States pose together in the Justice's Conference Room, prior to Justice Elena Kagan's Investiture Ceremony on October 1, 2010. From left to right: Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (Ret.), Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Elena Kagan, and Justice Elena Kagan.
Source: Collection of U.S. Supreme Court

Land and Sea Battles

Battle of Shiloh
This painting by Thure de Thulstrup shows the Battle of Shiloh, an important Northern victory that secured western Tennessee and provided access to Mississippi in April 1862. Confederate troops launched a surprise attack on Union soldiers near Shiloh Church, forcing General William Tecumseh Sherman to withdraw his army. However, General Ulysses S. Grant and Don Carlos Buell soon arrived with reinforcements. The fighting continued for several days, until the Confederate army could no longer hold its line and General P. G. T. Beauregard ordered his troops to retreat into Mississippi. Each army suffered more than 10,000 casualties.
Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Chronological 1868

Editorially Curated Topic Centers: Specially selected content on different eras and themes of American history—including articles, shareable slideshows, videos, and more—provide valuable study guides and entry points into the content

Slideshow Overviews: Original, interactive whiteboard-friendly slideshows for a visual introduction to key topics

Plus—

- **Overview Essays:** substantial and thorough essays giving extensive background on relevant historical topics and eras
- **10,000+ Primary Sources,** many with introductions that provide context and background—perfect for strengthening critical-thinking skills
- **Controversies in History:** editorially selected pro/con articles on many high-interest controversies in U.S. history, enabling researchers to grasp the essence and importance of every conflict
- **Curriculum Tools:** writing and research tips for students and educators
- **Searchable Timelines:** a detailed general timeline, plus numerous subject-specific and era-specific timelines
- **Dynamic Citations** (MLA, Chicago, APA, and Harvard), with EasyBib export functionality
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- Tag “clouds” for all content
- Search Assist technology
- Read Aloud tool
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