Early Presidents and Social Reformers

Timeline Cards
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On July 4, 1776, the thirteen British colonies declared their independence from Great Britain.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
George Washington was the commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution (1775–1781).
Introduction

In 1781, the Revolutionary War ended with the surrender of the British at Yorktown, Virginia.
CHAPTER 1: Washington Becomes President

George Washington was sworn in as president on April 30, 1789.

Big Question: Why was George Washington chosen to be the first president of the United States?
Although it is not in the Constitution, every president has had a Cabinet to advise him. This was George Washington’s Cabinet, which met for the first time in 1793.

**Big Question:** What steps did the First Congress take to help establish a more organized system of government?
CHAPTER 2: The First Year

Big Question: What steps did the First Congress take to help establish a more organized system of government?

In 1791, the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution.
Big Question: How did Hamilton’s and Jefferson’s beliefs about government differ?

During the 1790s, differences between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson led to the development of two political parties. Hamilton’s supporters were called Federalists and Jefferson’s supporters were called Democratic-Republicans.
In 1794, when farmers in Pennsylvania refused to pay taxes on whiskey, President George Washington led troops to put down the Whiskey Rebellion.

**Big Question:** How did Hamilton’s and Jefferson’s beliefs about government differ?
George Washington finished his second term as president in 1796.

**Big Question:** Why was John Adams an unpopular president?
The election of 1796 was the first election in which political parties played a role. John Adams won and became the second president.

**Big Question:** Why was John Adams an unpopular president?
By 1800, the Capitol and the White House were ready for Congress and the president.

Big Question: How did Washington, D.C., become the capital of the United States?
Thomas Jefferson served as the third president, from 1801–1809.

Big Question: What important changes did Thomas Jefferson make to the country during his presidency?
Big Question: Why did the United States go to war with Britain in 1812?
Madison was president during the War of 1812, during which the British burned the White House.

**Big Question:** Why did the United States go to war with Britain in 1812?
James Monroe was the fifth president, from 1817–1825. He told European countries not to interfere with the affairs of the Western Hemisphere.

**Big Question:** Why did James Monroe put the Monroe Doctrine in place?
CHAPTER 8: Monroe and the Second Adams

John Quincy Adams, the son of John and Abigail Adams, became the sixth president, from 1825–1829.

Big Question: Why did James Monroe put the Monroe Doctrine in place?
Big Question: Why was the election of Andrew Jackson important to ordinary Americans?
CHAPTER 9: Jackson and the Common Man

In 1830, with the passage of the Indian Removal Act, President Jackson and Congress forced Native Americans to move west of the Mississippi.

Big Question: Why was the election of Andrew Jackson important to ordinary Americans?
The Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, declared the colonies’ separation from Britain and their establishment as “free and independent states.”
Temperance reformers wanted people to drink little or no alcohol.

**Big Question:** What was the temperance movement?
Dorothea Dix worked to improve care for people who had mental illnesses.

**Big Question:** How did Dorothea Dix change the treatment of people with mental illnesses?
CHAPTER 3: Educating for Democracy

From 1837–1848, Horace Mann led the campaign for free public schools for all children.

Big Question: Why did Horace Mann want to give all children the right to an education?
Despite the speeches and writings of formerly enslaved people, such as Frederick Douglass, abolitionists struggled to win support for their goal.

**Big Question:** What difficulties did the abolitionists face as they worked to abolish slavery?
Abolitionists Angelina and Sarah Grimké were often criticized when they spoke out against slavery because they were women.

**Big Question:** What did the antislavery movement reveal about the rights of women?
In 1848, a women’s rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York.

**Big Question:** Why might some newspapers have made fun of the women’s movement and its demands?
Early Presidents
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Chapter 9, Card 1  Jackson Forever’, Presidential Campaign Poster (litho), American School, (19th century) / Collection of the New-York Historical Society, USA / Bridgeman Images

Chapter 9, Card 2  Cherokee Indians are forced from their homelands during the 1830s, 1993 (colour litho), Taas, Herbert (1923–2001) / National Geographic Creative / Bridgeman Images

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