

Essentials Part I. The lists will be finalized in May 2026 (check the program's website for updates) but only a few changes are expected so you can start working with these lists below. For complete definitions (I-III) check if you have answered each of the followings: **who, what, when, why, how, with what consequences?**

I. 30 Events and Dates. See reminders below (not always complete definitions):

1607: Foundation of Jamestown, Virginia: the earliest English settlement in North America
1620: The journey of the Pilgrims: the foundation of New England
1763: Treaty of Paris, the end of the French and Indian Wars; Britain's dominance in North America
1775–1783: The War of Independence against Britain, which ended with another Treaty of Paris
1776: Declaration of Independence
1787: The Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia
1803: Louisiana Purchase
1820: The Missouri Compromise and its consequences
1846–48: The Mexican War and its consequences
1861: 11 Southern states create the Confederacy: the beginning of the Civil War
1865: The end of the Civil War, Lincoln's assassination
1865–1876: The period of the Reconstruction in the South
1898: The Spanish-American War and its consequences
April 1917–November 1918: The US in WWI on the Entente side
1929–1933: The Wall Street Crash triggered the Great Depression
1933: Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated President: the beginning of New Deal
December 7, 1941: Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; the US entered WWII
June 6, 1944: D-Day in Normandy, the western front against Germany was opened
May 5, 1945: The surrender of Germany; the end of WWII in Europe
August 6 and 9, 1945: Two atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
1950–1953: The Korean War
1954: Brown vs. Board of Education in Topeka, Kansas; racial segregation began to collapse
1962: The Cuban missile crisis: the hottest moment of the Cold War
1963: President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas
1964 Civil Rights Act signed by Lyndon B Johnson
1965–1975: The Vietnam War
1968: The murder of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy
1973: Ceasefire with North Vietnam, American troops leave Vietnam
1974: President Nixon resigns due to Watergate scandal
1991: The collapse of the Soviet Union, the end of the Cold War;
The First Gulf War; the first clash between the US and Saddam Hussein's Iraq
Sept 11, 2001: Attack on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington by Al Qaeda; anti-Islamic wave in the US, followed by the overthrow of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and the second War in Iraq

II. 15 Statesmen (list finalized in May). For complete definition consider when, what, how, why, and what consequences (what are they famous for? Careers? What historical period/event? Impact or social/cultural significance?)

George Washington	Abraham Lincoln	John Fitzgerald Kennedy
Thomas Jefferson	Theodore Roosevelt	Lyndon Johnson
James Madison	Woodrow Wilson	Martin Luther King
Alexander Hamilton	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Richard Nixon
Andrew Jackson	Harry Truman	Ronald Reagan

III. Main Concepts (+ those already listed among Dates/Events, e.g. Pilgrims or Louisiana Purchase):

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|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Mayflower Compact | 12. Nativism | 23. Manhattan Project |
| 2. Puritans | 13. Religious Revival | 24. Marshall Plan |
| 3. City Upon a Hill | 14. Abolitionism | 25. Containment |
| 4. Plantation | 15. Peculiar Institution | 26. Truman Doctrine |
| 5. Frontier | 16. Reconstruction | 27. Domino Theory |
| 6. Articles of Confederation | 17. Segregation | 28. <i>Brown v Board of Education</i> |
| 7. Founding Fathers | 18. Women's Suffrage | 29. Civil rights movement |
| 8. Federalist Papers | 19. Melting pot | 30. Civil Rights Act 1964 |
| 9. Bill of Rights | 20. Quota Laws | 31. Détente |
| 10. Manifest Destiny | 21. Prohibition | 32. 9/11 |
| 11. Trail of Tears | 22. New Deal | |

IV. Further Concepts (place in period, associate to event/movement/person/place/relevance)

Noble savage	Indian Removal Act (Trail of Tears)	carpetbaggers and scalawags
Indentured servants	Democrats & Whigs	grandfather clause
New Amsterdam	Separate Spheres	sharecropper
House of Burgesses	Seneca Falls	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> "separate but equal" decision
Quakers	Independent Texas	California gold rush
The Great Awakening	cotton gin	Transcontinental railroad
Proclamation of 1763	states' rights doctrine	Homestead Act (purpose and results)
Stamp Act	Underground Railroad	Wounded Knee Massacre
Boston Massacre	popular sovereignty	The <i>Maine</i>
Boston Tea Party	Dred Scott decision	Yellow Press
First Continental Congress	Battle of Gettysburg	Panama Canal
Lexington and Concord	Emancipation Proclamation	Ellis Island
Second Continental Congress	Gettysburg Address	Zimmerman Telegram
Saratoga	13th Amendment	Hooverville
Yorktown	14th Amendment	Alphabet agencies
<i>Marbury vs. Madison</i> (judicial review)	Johnson's impeachment	Lend Lease
Federalists	Black Codes and Jim Crow	<i>Roe v Wade</i>
Northwest Ordinances	Freedmen's Bureau	Stop-ERA
Second war with Britain 1812	Ku Klux Klan	War on Terror
Monroe Doctrine	15th Amendment	

V. Source Documents (as in syllabus, downloadable from

http://btk.ppke.hu/uploads/articles/463213/file/USHistory_sourcetexts_2018.pdf, unless specified differently here):

VI.

1, John Winthrop Dreams of a City on a Hill (1630) <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/colliding-cultures/john-winthrop-dreams-of-a-city-on-a-hill-1630/>; 2. Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776); 3. The Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution (1791); 4. Abraham Lincoln: First Inaugural Address (1861); 5. The Emancipation Proclamation (1862); 6. Abraham Lincoln: Gettysburg Address (1863); 7. *Plessy v Fergusson* (1896); 8, Woodrow Wilson: "Fourteen Points" (January 8, 1918); 9, *Brown v Board of Education* (1954); 10, Martin Luther King: "I Have a Dream" (Aug 28, 1963); 11, John F. Kennedy: Inaugural Address (January 20, 1961); 12, Ronald Reagan: Farewell Address (1989). Reagan Library, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjECSv8KFN4>