

WELCOME 21st CENTURY

Our Land of Liberty

You are about to embark on a fascinating journey into America's past. You will travel through 1000 years of your heritage using 32 weekly newspapers, each of which looks a lot like this.

You will find newspaper articles in shaded boxes like the one at right and stories that explain them. They will describe a real event that is important to your past.

Together they will help you understand and appreciate America's history.

Why (ugh) history?

Maybe this is a word you dislike. Maybe you don't even want to think about "history." But stories about covered wagons, battlefield heroes, Indian life, log cabins on the prairie, digging for gold in a mountain stream, and pirate raids at sea are fascinating, aren't they? Adventure movies are exciting to see. Television shows full of frontier action and drama are fun too.

Now think about this: When we read stories or see movies or television based on real-life events and people, we are studying history! So history can be fun!

The battle shown in this painting was fought at San Sabá Presidio in Texas in 1759. Apache Indians attacked and burned the fort. It is an exciting story, but it is also history!



It is also important. Your birthday is important, isn't it? I'll bet you think so. After all, that is when you began!

Well, that is part of your history. Your birth, where you lived, what you have done, the places you have gone, and the things you like to do are all parts of your history. They help explain who you are and will help you determine what you do in the future.

That's the point. We study history to learn from it. This helps us understand ourselves and plan our future. We learn from the past so we may live a happier and more productive life in years to come.

NEW MILLENNIUM ARRIVES

Nationwide, January 1, 2001

A new century and millennium was welcomed here today by throngs of hopeful citizens. Confidence is high that this will be America's greatest era. Many recent students of U.S. history will now be the makers of that history. Let us wish them well.

21st Century pioneers

As we study our past, we will see how hard it was for the pioneers and explorers to find their way across America. They had few maps and many of those they had were wrong. Some showed rivers where they weren't and didn't show mountains where they were. Often people became lost and confused. They were true pioneers because they went where no one had gone before.



This hang glider, taking off from the top of Mt. Wilson in California, is much like you leaping off in faith into the next century.

You are a true pioneer too. You are going where no one has gone before. You are growing up in the 21st century. The world of your future is like going to a new land. You will be among the first to go there.

Your maps may not be very good either. You do not know if there are rivers of opportunity or mountains of trouble before you. You do not know if you will be able to ride into the new land or if you will have to walk. Perhaps you too will have to leave your favorite things in the desert as you find your way. Maybe some in your party will not make it.

When you get there you will have to build your own home with what you find. You will establish your own family in that new land and you will have your own children to think about and love.

To succeed, you will need to be a wise pioneer. What will you need?

Following Instructions

As you read *Our Land of Liberty*, you will come upon response lines or action assignments like this one. They are designed so you can write your response on the paper and keep it for the future. But you may be instructed otherwise. For example, you may be told to enter your responses on a separate sheet of paper. If you don't know for sure, ask now.

Always remember that it is important to follow the instructions of a wise and knowing leader. That is one of the lessons of history!

Now, reread the question and circle your answers, or do otherwise as instructed.

- ✓ A plan
- ✓ Baseball practice
- ✓ Good tools
- ✓ Lots of toys
- ✓ Schooling
- ✓ Confidence
- ✓ Drugs
- ✓ Good friends

Before you continue reading, discuss your answers with a teacher or parent. You may even discuss them with a school friend or someone else in your family.

A new century!

You were born in the 21st century, but what is a “century”?

(After you answer, read the answer box below.)

The century in which you were born is called the 21st century because it is the 21st 100-year time period since modern calendars were begun by Julius Caesar, Emperor of Rome. Then it was called the Julian Calendar. But it was not quite accurate.

In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII ordered changes to improve the calendar. His new calendar is the one we use today. It is called the “Gregorian Calendar.” It was not adopted in England until 1752, so for many years there were two calendars.

In fact, there are still many calendars! There are the Chinese, Hebrew, Muslim, and other calendars. But the “legal” calendar of America is the Gregorian.

As you will see, the United States of America was born in 1776. That was in the 18th century. Columbus came to the “New World” in 1492. What century was that?

You may live to see the 22nd century. What will be the first two digits of years in the 22nd century?

ANSWER BOX

Did you say “100 years”? Yes, that's right. Just as there are 100 cents in a dollar, there are 100 years in a century.

JANUARY 2001

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| | | | | | | |

This calendar page shows the first month of the 21st century and the first month of the third millennium!

A new millennium too!

Not only have we just begun a new century, but a new millennium as well. That is really something special. This will be only the third since our calendar was devised!

A millennium is 1000 years. It is ten centuries. That's 12,000 months or more than 365,000 days.

Little known facts...

What is the first year of the 21st century?

Since a century is 100 years long, the year 2000 was the 100th year of the 20th century. The first year of the 21st century (and the third millennium) was really 2001!

When people say “turn of the century” many are thinking of years ending in “99.” They think of 1899 being the last year of the 19th century. But that's not really true. The 20th century really began on January 1, 1901. What will be the first day of the 22nd century?

The calendar shown at the top of this column was the first month of the 21st century. Can you make a calendar for March 2001? Try, then compare yours with the one on the back of this issue. You will need to know how many days there were in February, 2001 in order to do this correctly.

Is 2000 a “Leap Year?”

In order to keep the calendar on schedule with the sun, we add one day to every fourth year. Then we call it a “leap year.” To know if a year is a leap year, we divide it by four. If there is no remainder, it is a leap year. 1996 divided by 4 equals 499 with no remainder. 1996 was a leap year. 2000 divided by 4 equals 500 with no remainder. 2000 was a leap year.

But here is a little known fact. 1900, 1800, and 1700 were not leap years even though they divide evenly by four. You see, adding one day every four years makes the calendar year about 26 seconds longer than the solar

year! So another adjustment is made and leap year is left out three times in every 400 years.

Here is a good question: A girl was born on February 29, 1896. When did she have her first birthday?

What does “A.D.” stand for?

When we talk about the year 2000, we usually mean 2000 “A.D.” Some people think this refers to Christ and means “After Death.” That is only half right. Our modern calendar is based on the life of Christ. It is named for a 16th century Roman Catholic Pope, Gregory XIII. But the letters A.D. abbreviate the Latin; “Anno Domini” which means “year of the Lord.” “B.C.” means “Before Christ.”

There is another abbreviation sometimes used today. It is “C.E.” and means “Common Era.” Thus “B.C.E.” is “Before Common Era.”

When was Christ born?

Pope Gregory intended that our calendar start at Christ’s birth, but we are not quite sure exactly when that was! Some historians believe it was 4 B.C., others disagree. Many dates are lost in the distant past.

The day celebrated now as Christmas is also just a representative day chosen by the early church. It is almost certainly not the correct day.

When is Washington’s birthday?

Today we celebrate Washington’s birthday along with Lincoln’s on a Monday in February. We call it Presidents Day. His actual birthday is shown as February 22 (1732). But if you saw his birth certificate, it would say February 11. Which is right?

Both are. In 1752, after Washington was born, England accepted the Gregorian Calendar. It was a little different from the Julian Calendar. It said February 11 was really February 22! So eleven days were dropped from the calendar that year. There is no February 12, 1752!

What time is it?

Enough about our calendar! What about our clock? How do we tell time? Of course, we look at a clock. But what time does it tell us?

Solar time

For us, the basic instrument of time in the universe is the sun. One revolution of the earth around the sun constitutes a year. Our seasons are defined by the earth’s position relative to the sun. Days are based on the earth’s rotation as it moves around the sun. By observing carefully the angle and direction of the sun we can tell time. To do that we just need a reliable compass and a vertical pole. That is the principle of a sun dial.

It is also the principle behind systems of dating used by early civilizations. By using poles, stones, and mountain tops along with stars, the ancients measured the seasons and timed festivals, sacrifices, and other events.

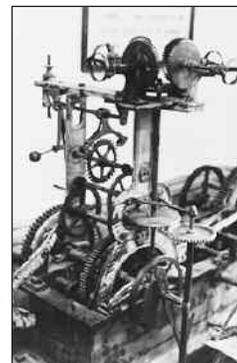
Right
This sundial is on the state capitol grounds in Springfield, Illinois.



What time is it?



Left
Here is an unusual sun clock on a wall in New Harmony, Indiana. It is from 1821. Can you read what time it shows?



Right
Clock works were very complicated. This mechanism ran the courthouse tower clock in Vicksburg, Mississippi, during the Civil War.

As the second instrument of time, the moon was also used. From “moon,” we get our word “month.” But the moon was used more as a way of defining periods of time. A “moon” was a practical way of explaining how long ago something happened.

The sun and the moon were very important in native religions. Plants sprouted in spring, flourished in summer, bore fruit in fall, and withered in winter. To *primitive* peoples, there was mysterious significance in this.

But there was one really big problem with this measurement of time. You see, solar time differs from place to place, east to west. This is because the sun passes from east to west above us and “noon” for you is exactly when the sun’s shadow points true north where **you** are. A few miles east or west noon would be a few minutes earlier or later. It is very hard to use sun time because it varies too much. It is not *precise*.

Vocabulary

As you continue your study, you will occasionally come upon words in *italics*. These are sometimes used for names like *Our Land of Liberty*. But more often they are words you may not understand. *Precise* is such a word.

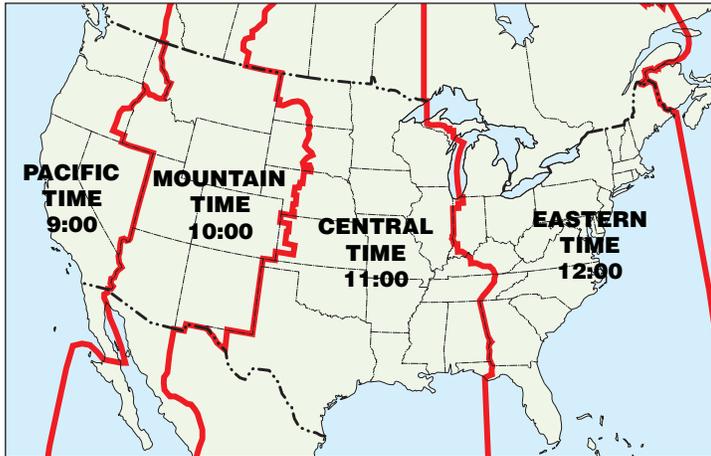
Sometimes they are common words used in an uncommon way. If in doubt, look these words up in a dictionary.

Today we use clocks that are very accurate. Then we set them all according to a very careful plan. We use 24 time zones around the world. These are areas in which our clocks are all set the same. There are four time zones between the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans. Parts of America, like Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico, are in time zones hours ahead or behind the rest of us.

In every American time zone the minute-hand is set the same but the hour-hand changes from zone to zone.

Of course most of us also have one more kind of time to think about: "Daylight Savings Time." This is the time we use in the summer so that sunset comes later. Of course, it doesn't really save time, it just seems like it. In the spring, we say "spring forward" and move the hour hand one hour forward. Then in fall, we "fall back."

Some places do not use "Daylight Savings Time." In Indiana, some counties do while most do not. This can be very confusing!



Map showing the principle time zones of America excluding Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

What is the name of your time zone: _____

Do you have Daylight Savings Time? _____

History: story of times past

As we begin our study with the next issue of *Our Land of Liberty*, we will look more carefully at this word. We will see that it is a story of past events viewed as if we were there in that time and place. That is the object of this series of papers. We want to see "*Our Land of Liberty*" as if we were there, living with the people who built it.

| MARCH 2001 | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | | | | | | |

Calendar for March 2001. Use with the lesson on page 0-2.

LESSON HEADLINES

Here are the dates and central themes of the 32 issues of *Our Land of Liberty* as expressed in their headlines.

| No. | Dates | Headline |
|-----|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | to 1497 | New World Discovered |
| 2 | 1497-1521 | New Map Shows "America" |
| 3 | 1521-1541 | Cortes Conquers Mexico |
| 4 | 1541-1570 | De Soto Dead! |
| 5 | 1570-1607 | Iroquois Unite |
| 6 | 1607-1634 | English Colonize Jamestown |
| 7 | 1634-1664 | Northwest Passage Found? |
| 8 | 1664-1699 | English Seize New Amsterdam |
| 9 | 1699-1730 | Fur Trade Attracts French |
| 10 | 1730-1763 | Ohio Beckons |
| 11 | 1763-1770 | Ohio to be Reservation |
| 12 | 1770-1775 | Boston Massacre Kills 3 |
| 13 | 1775-1778 | Patriots Called to Arms |
| 14 | 1778-1781 | Clark takes Kaskaskia |
| 15 | 1781-1787 | Victory at Yorktown |
| 16 | 1787-1803 | Convention to Draft Constitution |
| 17 | 1803-1811 | Louisiana Purchased |
| 18 | 1811-1816 | Battle at Tippecanoe |
| 19 | 1816-1825 | Indian Wars Spread |
| 20 | 1825-1836 | Erie Canal Opens |
| 21 | 1836-1848 | Alamo Falls |
| 22 | 1848-1854 | Gold! |
| 23 | 1854-1860 | States Free to Choose |
| 24 | 1860-1865 | South Carolina Secedes |
| 25 | 1865-1876 | Lee Surrenders |
| 26 | 1876-1892 | Custer Falls at Little Big Horn |
| 27 | 1892-1915 | Horseless Carriage! |
| 28 | 1915-1929 | Lusitania Torpedoed |
| 29 | 1929-1941 | America Goes Crash! |
| 30 | 1941-1954 | World at War |
| 31 | 1954-1969 | Segregation Must End |
| 32 | 1969-Now | The Eagle has Landed |

Reaction Time

Each issue of *Our Land of Liberty* ends with a section like this. Follow instructions for each "reaction" listed. You will also find a special box that lists other events of the time period you are studying. You may need to look these up as well.

REACTION TIME!

1. Compare the 21st century with the American frontier of past centuries.
2. Discuss the "little known facts."
3. What happened on February 15, 1752?
4. What should we learn from the study of history?

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