



LIFE·PAC®

History & Geography



Alpha Omega Publications®

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 1110

UNITED STATES HISTORY

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HISTORY 1110

UNITED STATES HISTORY

The history of the United States is a fascinating subject. Its roots go back to the Middle Ages when people first began to realize that life might extend beyond their immediate villages. In time, they ventured out and found prosperous cities and unusual items that would make their lives easier and more interesting.

American colonists were no different. They, too, desired the freedom to live and to worship without restrictions. Eventually, they came to a new land and established a government that would permit these freedoms and self-determination. The new country grew, attracted people from other lands and became prosperous. When outside forces threatened this country, the citizens came to its defense.

In this LIFE PAC® you will study and review the facts about the founding of the United States, the industrial and technological changes that occurred during the 1800s, the wars that were fought, the depression that was survived, and the programs of the presidents.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC.

When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Explain the changes in Europe that led to the exploration of America.
2. List the events in Europe that inspired the colonization of America.
3. List restrictions placed on the colonies by Britain.
4. Explain the causes and results of the French and Indian War.
5. Explain the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
6. List major battles of the Revolutionary War.
7. Explain the formation of the Constitution and the colonial government.
8. Explain the administrations of Presidents Jefferson, Monroe, Jackson, and Lincoln.
9. List the causes and the results of the War of 1812, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War.
10. Explain the causes of slavery.
11. Describe the Reconstruction period in the South.
12. Explain the effect of the Industrial Revolution on lifestyles in the United States.
13. List the causes and the results of World War I.
14. Explain the causes and the results of the Great Depression.
15. List the provisions of Roosevelt's New Deal.
16. Identify the causes and the results of World War II.
17. Identify the causes and the results of wars in Korea and Vietnam.
18. List the major contributions of the administrations of Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford.
19. Explain the reasons for President Nixon's resignation.
20. List the major contributions of the administrations of Presidents Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton.
21. Explain the major events of the '80s and '90s.
22. Explain international events that have occurred in recent years.

Survey the LIFEPAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study. Write your questions here.

I. FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

In this section you will briefly review life in medieval times in order to better understand American history. You will trace the changes that occurred because of the Crusades and because of the adventurers who were sparked by curiosity to see what lay outside their own villages. You will review the colonization of America and the reasons that motivated people to leave their homes in Europe and travel to the New World.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Explain the changes in Europe that led to the exploration of America.
2. List the events in Europe that inspired the colonization of America.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

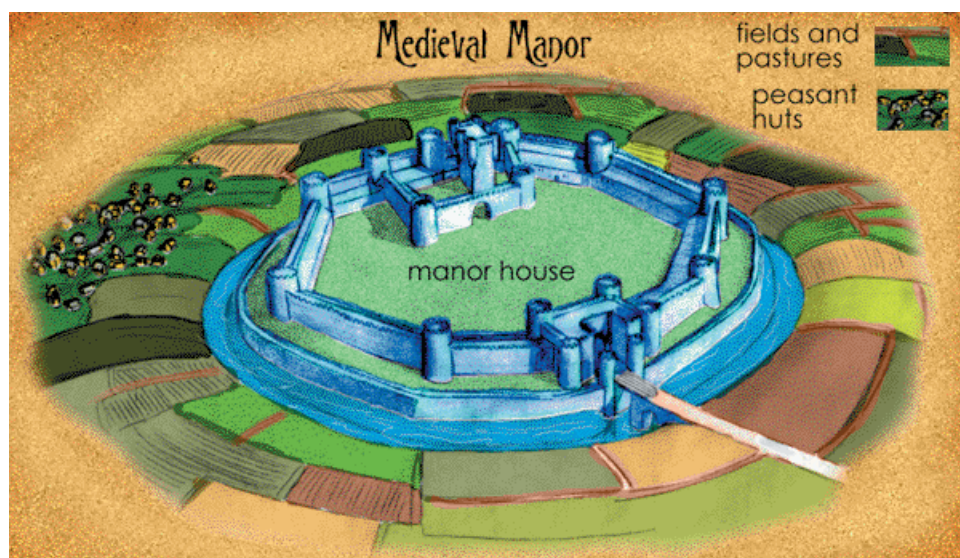
astrolabe	An instrument used to observe the sun, moon and stars
advocate	To favor or support
capital	Money or property
colonize	To found or settle a territory
diagnose	To recognize or identify by examination
erect	To construct
haven	A safe place
infest	To overrun or inhabit
ingenuity	Cleverness; originality
inhabitant	Permanent resident
maneuver	To make a series of changes in direction
mercantilism	An economic theory that increased the power and wealth of nations
perish	To be destroyed or to die
persecute	To harass, annoy, or oppress those who differ in origin or beliefs
unearth	To discover or disclose

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

MEDIEVAL SOCIETY

Life during the Middle Ages was uncomplicated but difficult in terms of personal freedoms. People were members of one of three classes: noblemen, serfs and clergy. They and other members of their particular family remained rigidly locked in the same class. Most houses were small cottages with dirt floors and simple furniture that was fashioned of available materials, such as straw and wood. Food primarily consisted of bread and vegetables with little meat and no herbs or spices to prevent spoilage or to enhance flavor. Opportunities to alter the course of one's life were available to only those few born into wealth. Even they had limited options in education and travel.

The noblemen owned all the land and the houses as well. The serfs worked the land for the noblemen and had few, if any, freedoms. Serfs could not own land, find another job in another place, nor even leave the village without the nobleman's permission. The villages in which the people lived provided for their needs. A mill for grinding grain, a blacksmith shop, and a tannery for making leather goods were typical of most villages. Only a few products were brought into the village from outside. Mistrust and petty jealousies constantly arose among the landlords, or noblemen, who frequently feuded and fought for power.



The clergy was not involved in these jealousies about lifestyles; they attended to preaching, teaching, and caring for the sick. The clergy upheld the doctrines of the Catholic Church and gave stability to the society. A new development was about to occur, however, that would change the lives of all the people of this age. These remarkable changes came out of the quest of the Christians to recapture the Holy Land—they called themselves Crusaders.

In 1095 the Pope urged the Christian people of Europe to attempt to recover the Holy Land from Moslems. The Moslems were intent upon forcing people everywhere to accept the teachings of the Islamic religion. Although the Crusaders were successful in recapturing the Holy Land, they were unable to hold it. The struggle to regain it continued for the next two hundred years. In this endeavor the Crusades failed; but they did revive trade, which led to the growth and development of cities.

The Crusades also caused the people of Europe to come into contact with a more advanced culture. For example, they learned that other people had spices to season food and sugar to sweeten it. They discovered beautiful gems, fabrics, and perfumes. They found new drugs with which to heal the sick. They also learned about luxuries for their homes and new foods to make life easier and more interesting.

To obtain these items, trade between the East and West began. The usual exchange for goods, gold and silver, was not plentiful in Europe; therefore, such goods as wine, furs, and grain were traded in exchange for the desired goods from the East. As trade increased, merchants became more prosperous and began to move into the cities and the towns. With the increase in the size of towns and cities, the need arose for peace and order to be maintained through a form of government.

The new middle class merchants, made wealthy by trade, now questioned the authority of the landholders. The freed serfs also moved to large cities to work or to become involved in trade. Medieval life and the feudal system it had fostered began to break down.



Match these items.

- 1.1 _____ mercantilism a. to discover or disclose
- 1.2 _____ astrolabe b. to make a series of changes in direction
- 1.3 _____ maneuver c. an economic theory that increased the power and wealth of nations
- 1.4 _____ capital d. an instrument used to observe the sun, moon, and stars
- 1.5 _____ unearth e. money or property



Complete these answers.

- 1.6 People in the Middle Ages were members of three classes:

- 1.7 During the Middle Ages land was owned by _____ .
- 1.8 Medieval society suffered from constant conflict because:

- 1.9 The group that was unconcerned about different lifestyles because their duty was to care for the souls of the people was the _____ .
- 1.10 In 1095 a pope persuaded the people to recapture the Holy Land from the _____ .
- 1.11 What were the causes of the breakdown of medieval society? _____

NEW IDEAS

New thinking and new ideas were important also in changing people’s lives. In addition to the trading of goods, the Crusades were responsible for the trading of ideas among people. The explorations of Marco Polo, for example, were significant because they unearthed new products for trade and new ideas for the people to ponder. Marco Polo also returned with tales of ports at which hundreds of boats were docked waiting to be loaded with silk, fine woods, gold, and precious stones. Marco Polo spoke of cities with beautiful buildings, apartments, and houses with places for travelers to rest comfortably.

The people of Western Europe had little education and most had never been outside their own villages; therefore, they were fascinated by Marco Polo’s stories. They, too, wanted to be able to read, to write, and to travel. This thirst for knowledge signaled the beginning of the Renaissance period in Europe.