

U.S. HISTORY

COURSE MANUAL

SOC301_23A



LESSON PLANS - TESTS - QUARTER REPORT FORMS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

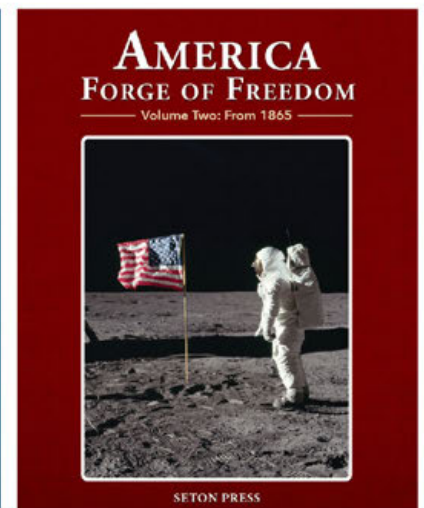
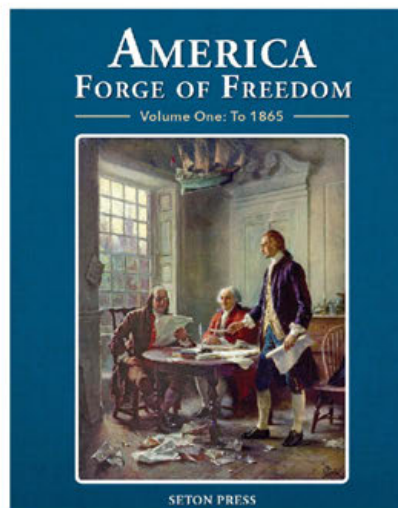
U.S. HISTORY

I. Introduction	5
II. Lesson Plan:	
A. First Quarter	9
B. Second Quarter	43
C. Third Quarter.....	75
D. Fourth Quarter.....	113
III. Quarter Tests	159
IV. Quarter Report Forms	303

Textbooks

America: Forge of Freedom (Volume 1)

America: Forge of Freedom (Volume 2)





THE FIRST QUARTER

Our Lady of Guadalupe



Week One

Day 1

You can check off work as you complete it!



Read the Introduction of this lesson plan.



Chapter 1

The first chapter is *The Discoverers of America (Prehistory-1530)*. We will spend five days on this chapter.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

In this chapter we will study the three groups who “discovered” America. The first group was the Asiatic people who archeologists believe crossed the Bering Sea from Asia into North and South America during the Ice Age. This group is important because, although nomads, they settled the continents to a certain extent. These Asiatic people became the ancestors for the various Native American tribes who spread out across North and South America. Depending on where they settled, these tribes adapted to their surroundings and developed cultures based on the land.

The second group of discoverers were the Vikings. They are the least important of the three discoverers because they did not stay and colonize their discovery. While they are historically interesting, they played almost no part on the long-term history of America.

The final and most significant discoverers are the people from Western Europe, especially from Spain, France, and England. Not only did they discover and explore, but they stayed and colonized. The history, traditions, and culture of the United States is based mostly on the traditions and culture of Spain, France, and England. It is from these nations that we derive our laws, language, heritage, and most importantly our religious beliefs, especially our Catholic Faith.

The Age of Discovery is one of the most fascinating periods in all history. Imagine a handful of men in a wooden boat sailing into the unknown. Americans knew more about space travel in the 1960s than the Europeans knew about sailing around Africa in the 15th century. Yet the Portuguese kept sending ship after ship each going a little farther than the one before it. Finally, someone reached the southern-most tip and was able to turn north.

Today, Christopher Columbus has become a controversial figure as various groups call for the destruction of statues and

monuments dedicated to him and even object to cities and streets named in his honor. Columbus is called a ruthless genocidal murderer and blamed for the deaths that resulted from the diseases that Europeans brought to America’s shores. The native population did die from European diseases, but Columbus can not be blamed for that. This imputes knowledge of germs, viruses, and bacteria, to a man living in the 15th century. The theory that germs cause disease was not accepted in Europe until four hundred years later!

Of all the biographies written about Columbus, perhaps the finest is *Christopher Columbus, Mariner*, by Samuel Eliot Morrison. Morrison, one of the leading naval historians in American history, attempts to portray Columbus as a real human being, neither a saint nor a mass murderer. Morrison sums up Columbus in his 1955 book as follows:

Now, more than five hundred years after his birth... (Columbus’s discovery of the New World) is celebrated throughout the length and breadth of the Americas, his fame and reputation may be considered secure for all time. He had his faults and his defects, but they are largely the defects of the qualities that made him great, his indomitable will, his superb faith in God and in his own mission as the Christ-bearer to lands beyond the seas, his stubborn persistence despite neglect, poverty and discouragement. But there is no flaw, no dark side to the most outstanding...of all his qualities, his navigation skills. As a master mariner and navigator, Columbus was supreme in his generation. Never was a title more justly bestowed than the one which he most jealously guarded, Admiral of the Ocean Sea.

As Morrison points out, Columbus sailed not simply for riches and glory but also to spread the Faith. To bear the Catholic message to “lands beyond the seas.” Columbus also had faults. When he returned to Spain with six natives chained as slaves, Ferdinand and Isabel rebuked him and freed the natives. Of the six taken to Spain, five were returned while the sixth chose to stay.



Landing of Columbus, John Vanderlyn



Read from the beginning of the chapter to "The Vikings" of the textbook.



Study the map on page 2 showing how people could have migrated into North and South America from Asia. Also study the map on page 6 showing the Native American tribes in what became the United States. Notice how many tribes there are.

Note the map on page 2. Different ideas have been posited about how people traveled from Siberia in Asia to North America. The most accepted idea is that the two continents were once joined by some type of "land bridge" as shown in the map. Another idea is that there was an "ice bridge" which allowed people to cross from Asia to North America.


The map on page 6 of the Native American tribes is invaluable. A larger version of the map appears at the end of the book in the appendix. You may wish to place a sticky note to mark the page as a reference as Native Americans are discussed in later chapters.

THE MOUND BUILDERS

During the 1960s and 1970s, the generally-accepted theory was that the mounds were probably burial sites, although no evidence existed of funeral rites or burials having taken place. No one really knew what they were used for. Even today, their use remains somewhat a mystery. What is especially intriguing of course is that the shape of the mounds cannot be seen except from a great height, something that the builders seemingly could not have achieved. Thus, because the builders have left more questions than answers, the mounds remain a source of fascination to people all over.



Day 2

 **Read from “The Vikings” to “Isabella’s Problem.”** Note the map on page 15 showing Portuguese explorations from 1434 to 1498. Notice how every few years a Portuguese captain traveled a little farther.

SUPPLEMENTAL:

- The painting of the Battle of Tours is located in the Battle Hall of the Palace of Versailles just outside of Paris, France. The Battle Hall contains numerous paintings of great French military victories. The Battle of Tours, which occurred in 732, is the first painting in the Hall.
- Note on page 14 the painting of a man thought to be Prince Henry. Most historians think that no paintings were ever made of Henry because he was the third son of the King of Portugal. Thus, he likely never would become King and he never did. Probably, his parents did not feel that he was important enough to be painted. While most scholars accept the painting to be of Henry, a few do not.
- Read the caption under the *Portrait of a Man Said to be Columbus*.

Day 3

 **Read from “Isabella’s Problem” to the end of the chapter.**

 **Do the first four Review Questions.**


The painting of the Surrender of Grenada on page 17 can be found in the Cathedral of Grenada in Spain where Ferdinand and Isabel are buried.

Note the map on page 20 showing the four voyages of Columbus.

On page 22, the portrait of Balboa is a 19th century painting based on a 15th century engraving.

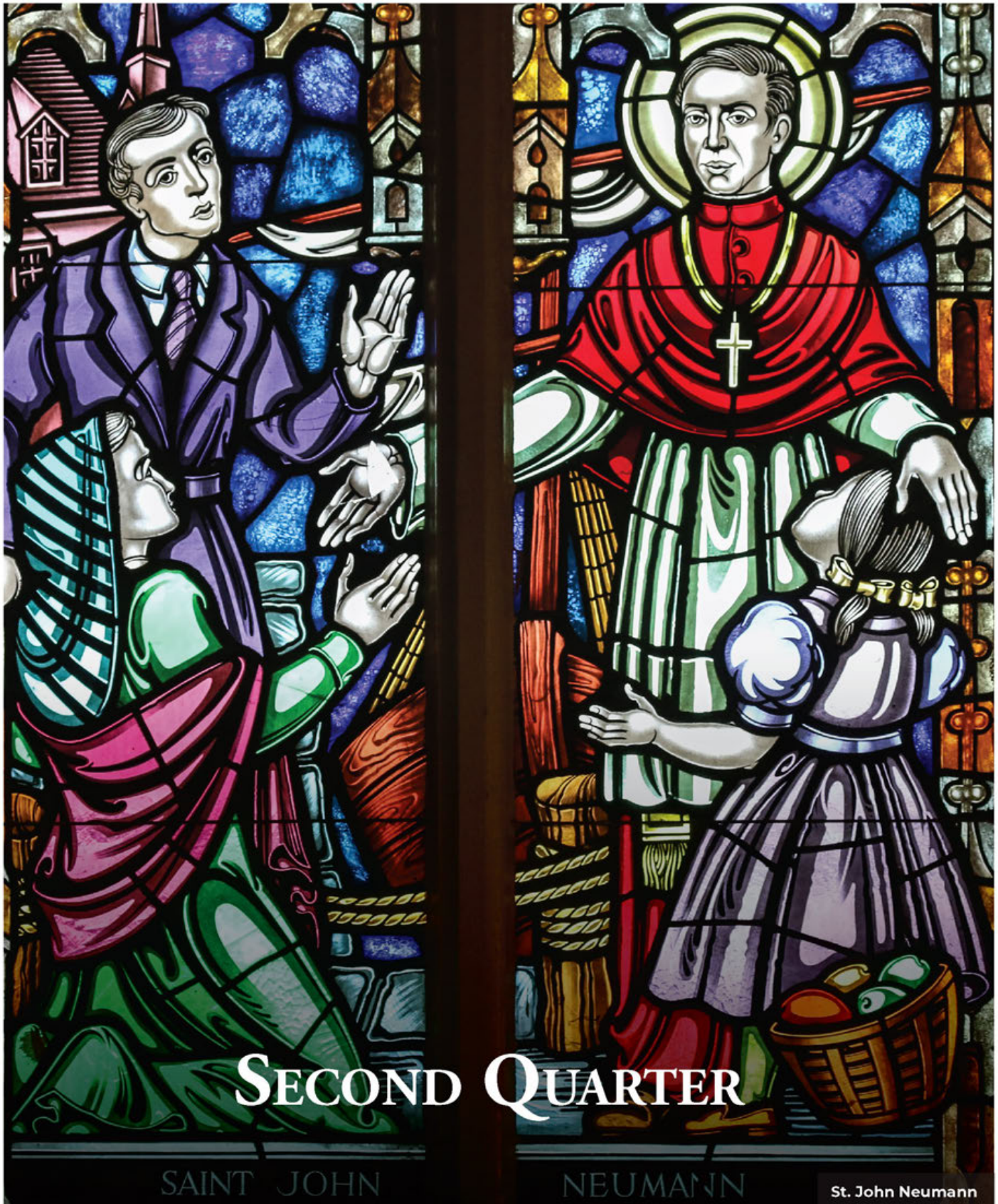
Magellan’s (and Elcano’s) circumnavigation of the globe is considered the greatest maritime feat in the history of the world. His fleet consisted of five ships, carrying supplies for two years of travel and 270 men. After numerous trials and tribulations, 18 men returned to Spain.

Day 4

 **Do Review Questions five through seventeen and the Identify the Following.**

Day 5

 **Take the Chapter 1 Test and send it to Seton.**



SECOND QUARTER



WEEK 10

Day 1

Take the **Chapter 9 Test** and send it to Seton.

Day 2

Chapter 10

The tenth chapter is *Times of Unrest (1806-1815)*. This chapter is about average in length, so we will spend five days on it.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

This chapter somewhat overlaps the previous chapter. Prior to 1806, Thomas Jefferson's presidency had been relatively peaceful. Other than the fight with the Barbary pirates and the Burr Conspiracy, the United States had enjoyed peace and quiet. However, in 1806 and then in 1807, the United States very narrowly avoided war with Great Britain over the impressment issue and *Chesapeake Incident*. Sadly, America and Britain only postponed war, they did not avoid it.

The War of 1812 was perhaps the most unnecessary war in America's history. It was a war that neither side really wanted, need never have been fought, and could have been avoided.

America had avoided being dragged into the Napoleonic Wars, wars that engulfed virtually all of Europe because

the Atlantic Ocean served as a bulwark against Napoleon. Jefferson purchased Louisiana in part to protect the United States against Napoleon's ambitions in North America. Yet in what amounted to an almost world-wide conflict, it became increasingly difficult for America to remain neutral and just stay out of the way.

This chapter deals with the events that led up to the War of 1812, the War itself, and its conclusion. We will also study the role that Catholic nuns played in the War, something that few history books ever mention. As you read this chapter, ask yourself, could it have been avoided? At what points could honorable men on either side have stopped it? Or, because of the nature of the times and the delays in communications were events beyond the control of honorable men?

Read from the beginning of the chapter to "The War of 1812."

THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE

Note the painting at the head of the chapter. Most of the important battles during the war were lake battles as opposed to ocean battles. Amazingly, the U.S. Navy fared remarkably well against the English Navy, the greatest navy in the world.

THE WINDS OF WAR

The Napoleonic Wars created incredible financial opportunities for the United States. Technically, as long as American merchants did not trade war material,

international law permitted them to trade with either side. In a sense, the English blockade was illegal because it prohibited all trade, not just trade in *contraband*, that is, war materials. However, the English rightly understood that theirs was a fight for survival. They were not overly concerned with international law. This created not only a problem regarding contraband, but also the impressment issue. Americans had been smuggling goods since before the War for Independence. They risked smuggling because of the great rewards. But impressment was another matter.

The Battle of Trafalgar, William Clarkson Stanfield

SUPPLEMENTAL READING: THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

The Battle of Trafalgar belongs more properly to a world history course so we mention it just briefly here. Generally considered one of the most significant naval battles in history, Trafalgar ended any chance Napoleon had of invading England as the combined French and Spanish fleets were essentially wiped out. In one of the most lopsided battles in history, the French and Spanish lost 22 ships while the English lost none. Such a victory in an age of wooden ships blasting away at each other with cannon is a testament to the genius of Horatio Nelson who completely changed his tactics before the battle. Many excellent articles and movies have been written and made about the battle.

IMPRESSMENT

Although other European nations used impressment, Great Britain, because of the size of its navy, employed the practice to a much greater extent than any other country. Britain had impressed men since the middle of the 17th century. More men were impressed during wartime than when England was at peace. In general, the press gangs impressed sailors or former sailors, either men in the navy or merchant sailors. They rarely impressed men who were not seamen, generally only accidentally. The press gangs mostly impressed men they found at inns and taverns at wharves, that is, places where sailors congregate. They preferred English men, but would impress men from other nations. The press gangs also sought men who were reasonably



young and healthy, that is between the ages of 18 and 55. Thus, the press gang looked for an English-speaking sailor around the age of 30.

Impressment was controversial in Great Britain. Some who opposed it argued that it violated the rights of British citizens. Many opposed it simply because it was inhumane and unjust. Note for example the picture on page 238 showing the press gang grabbing the young man coming out of church following his wedding. Despite its cruelty and injustice, the British courts upheld the legality of impressment. They held impressment was necessary for the survival of the navy which was necessary for the survival of the nation.

THE CHESAPEAKE INCIDENT

As you read about the *Chesapeake* Incident consider the attack. The British captain attacked a ship that had legitimately refused to allow him aboard. The British captain had no right to search the vessel of a sovereign nation in international waters. This remains one of the worse attacks

on an American vessel in history. The next such incident would not occur until 1941 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The attack killed three of *Chesapeake's* crew and wounded eighteen others, including Captain Barron. The incident caused such a firestorm that the captain of the *Leopard*, Salusbury Pryce Humphreys, was recalled to England and never again given command of a ship. The English, either to avoid war or out of a sense of justice, issued an order forbidding the use of force against foreign warships.

TECUMSEH

Tecumseh ranks among the most important Native American leaders in American history. He was a great orator, an excellent military leader, and an honorable man. Sadly, the white men he dealt with did not treat him nor his people fairly which caused hatred and distrust between the white and native populations. Many excellent articles about Tecumseh can be found online if you are interested in learning more about this fascinating man.

Day 3



Read from "The War of 1812" to "The Battle of New Orleans."

THE WAR OF 1812

Many reasons existed for not going to war with England. In fact, the people of New England seemed ready to side with the English! Furthermore, the War Hawks miscalculated badly when they expected Canada to welcome an American invasion. The War Hawks pushed a poorly equipped, ill-prepared nation into a war it should not have fought. Then they caused it to blunder into making a series of bad decisions. Had you been in congress in 1812, how would you have voted on the declaration of war? Would the impressment of American seaman have caused you to declare war? Would you have sought a diplomatic solution?

THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE

A note on Oliver Hazard Perry's ship, the *Lawrence*. The *USS Chesapeake* had a rather sad history. Following the incident with the *Leopard*, Captain **James Lawrence** assumed command of the ship on May 20, 1813. On June 1, *Chesapeake* fought a battle with *HMS Shannon* in which *Chesapeake* suffered heavy damage and James Lawrence received a fatal wound. Before dying, Lawrence ordered his men, "Don't give up the ship." However, the British overwhelmed them,

captured the ship, and took them prisoner.

War of 1812 sea battles, like the land battles, were not the bloody massacres often portrayed on television and in the movies. For example, the fight between "*Old Ironsides*" and *HMS Guerrier* resulted in 22 dead and 85 wounded out of 752 combatants. In the battle between the *USS United States* and *HMS Macedonia* fifty men were killed and 76 wounded out of 729 combatants. Once ships took damage beyond their ability to fight, a captain would "strike his colors" and surrender. No one wished to kill once the battle was over. As noted in the story about Captain Hull and Captain Dacres, many of these men knew each other and were at least friendly if not friends. They had no wish to inflict more harm than absolutely necessary. The most amazing fact about the naval battles during the war is that American ships emerged victorious so often.

THE ATTACK ON WASHINGTON

The Battle of Bladensburg and the sack of Washington demonstrates the incredibly sad state of America's military forces and what might have happened during the war had England made a significant effort to win. Robert Ross was

probably the finest English general ever to command foreign troops in North America. Moreover, he faced poorly trained militia. However, he likely would have defeated even the best-led, best-trained American troops. That the British could basically march unchallenged into Washington D.C. and force the president to flee ranks among the lowest moments of American history.

Thankfully, American resistance stiffened at Baltimore forcing the British to retreat. Although not mentioned in

the text, a British army of about 10,000 men invaded the United States from Montreal intending to attack New York City. Once again, the U.S. Navy saved the day as **Captain Thomas MacDonough** defeated the British fleet at the Battle of Lake Champlain. The English army, concerned about lack of support from their fleet, retreated back to Canada. It proved a close call for the American cause.

Day 4



Read from "The Battle of New Orleans" to the end of the chapter.



Answer the **first eight Review Questions**.

THE BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

The Battle of New Orleans had no military or diplomatic significance, occurring as it did after peace had been concluded. However, because it was the only notable land victory of the war, it gave Americans a cause for pride. America had defeated the greatest army in the world. That pride became centered on Andrew Jackson, who became America's greatest national hero.

The mosaic of Our Lady of Prompt Succor can be found in the Ursuline Convent in New Orleans. The Ursulines are the ones who had written to Thomas Jefferson a few years earlier. The Convent, which is filled with art and historical treasures, is open to the public and well worth visiting if you are in New Orleans.

THE PEACE OF GHENT

The War of 1812 ended because the British people were suffering from war weariness. The English had given their blood and treasure in a two-decades fight against Napoleon and the French Revolution, the great enemies of civilization. Having defeated Napoleon, the English desired peace. They had no wish to fight a war against America, with whom they had no real quarrel. Peace negotiations began in August 1814 and the treaty was signed on Christmas Eve. American neutrality, so important in 1812, was no longer even an issue since the Napoleonic wars had ended.

Having finished the chapter once again consider, could the War of 1812 have been avoided? Should it have been? Did America act justly? Was America justified in invading Canada?

Day 5



Answer **Review Questions nine through twenty** and do the **Identify the Following**.

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