

Important people from AP U.S. History, Semester One

Christopher Columbus	He “discovered” the new world in 1492
Hernan Cortes	A conquistador who conquered the Aztec empire in 1521
Moctezuma	The last emperor of the Aztec empire
Sir Walter Raleigh	Founder of Roanoke Colony, an unsuccessful English attempt at colonization in the 1580s
Queen Elizabeth I	Granted a charter to the Virginia Joint Stock Company
John Smith	A leader of the Jamestown Colony, he said “he who shall not work shall not eat”
John Rolfe	A leader at Jamestown who is believed to have brought the first tobacco seeds to Virginia. He married Pocahontas
Powhatan	Chief of the Powhatan Confederacy, the native civilization in Virginia at the time of Jamestown’s settlement and father of Pocahontas
Pocahontas	Daughter of Powhatan and wife to John Rolfe, she “saved” John Smith from execution
William Bradford	Governor of Plymouth Colony
Squanto	Native American who helped early Plymouth settlers
John Winthrop	Leader who wanted Massachusetts to be a “city upon a hill”
Ann Hutchinson	Religious dissenter who was kicked out of Massachusetts and went to Rhode Island
Roger Williams	Religious dissenter who left Massachusetts and founded Rhode Island; he was the first to use the phrase “separation of church and state”
George Calvert, Lord Baltimore	The founder of Maryland, he wanted the state to be a refuge for Catholics
William Penn	A Quaker who founded Pennsylvania
King Phillip (Metacom)	A Wampanoag Indian who led a war against American colonists in the 1670s
Nathaniel Bacon	A Western Virginia farmer who led a rebellion against authorities in Virginia in 1675
Pope’	Leader of the Pueblo Revolt in 1680, which drove the Spanish out of New Mexico for 13 years
John Locke	English Enlightenment philosopher who said all men have the rights to life, liberty, and property

George Whitefield	British minister whose tour of the American colonies in 1739-1740 helped spark the first Great Awakening
Jonathan Edwards	Puritan minister whose "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" is the most famous of the first Great Awakening's sermons
Pontiac	A Ottawa Chief who led a rebellion against the British in the Ohio Valley after the French and Indian War
Samuel Adams	A leader of the Sons of Liberty and a chief instigator of the American Revolution
John Hancock	A leader of the Sons of Liberty and the president of the Second Continental Congress
Crispus Attucks	The first person to die at the Boston Massacre
Patrick Henry	A Virginian revolutionary leader who famously said "give me liberty or give me death"
Thomas Paine	Author of the pamphlet <i>Common Sense</i>
Baron Von Steuben	Prussian military leader who helped train the Continental Army at Valley Forge
Marquis de Lafayette	French military leader who helped the American cause in the Revolution
Lord Cornwallis	British general who surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown
Daniel Shays	Revolutionary War veteran and farmer who led a rebellion in Massachusetts in 1787
John Jay	Diplomat and statesman who helped negotiate the Peace of Paris, co-wrote the Federalist Papers, and served as the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
Alexander Hamilton	First Secretary of the Treasury who co-wrote the Federalist Papers and helped design the American economic system; he was also leader of the Federalist Party
Edmond Genet	French diplomat who tried to rally Americans to help the cause of the French Revolution, drawing Washington's disapproval
Little Turtle	Miami Indian chief who resisted American incursions into the Ohio River valley in the 1790s
Aaron Burr	Jefferson's vice president who killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel in 1804
Albert Gallatin	Jefferson's Treasury Secretary who shrunk the debt and the size of the government while keeping most of Hamilton's programs in place

John Marshall	Chief Justice from 1803-1835 who is credited with establishing the judicial branch's role of judicial review and interpreting the Constitution as giving broad powers to the federal government
Henry Clay	Leader of the Whig party who served in Congress for more than 30 years and was the chief architect of the Missouri Compromise, the American System, and the Compromise of 1850
John C. Calhoun	South Carolina congressman and Vice-President under Jackson, who broke from Jackson and caused the Nullification Crisis
Daniel Webster	Massachusetts congressman who worked with Clay to compromise over several times over slavery, often to his political detriment
William Lloyd Garrison	Radical Abolitionist who ran the newspaper The Liberator, first published in 1831
Gabriel Prosser	Slave who led a rebellion in Richmond in 1800
Denmark Vesey	Free black man who led a slave revolt in Charleston in 1822
Nat Turner	Slave who led a revolt in Virginia in 1831
Henry "Box" Brown	Slave who escaped slavery by mailing himself to freedom
Harriet Tubman	Conductor on the "underground railroad" who assisted more than 50 slaves in their escape
Sojourner Truth	Escaped slave, abolitionist, and feminist who gave the "Ain't I a Woman" speech at the Seneca Falls Convention
Frederick Douglass	Escaped slave and abolitionist who pushed Lincoln to allow black soldiers to serve in the Union army during the Civil War
Angelina Grimke	Southern-born abolitionist who defied social norms by speaking against slavery in public
Dorothea Dix	Antebellum reformer of mental institutions and prisons
Eli Whitney	Inventor of the cotton gin, which led to the expansion of slavery; also pioneered the system of exchangeable parts
Samuel Slater	Builder of the first American textile factory
Robert Fulton	Inventor of the steamboat
Joseph Smith	Founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, often called Mormons
Ralph Waldo Emerson	Transcendentalist writer and founder of Brook Farm utopian society
Henry David Thoreau	Transcendentalist author of "Civil Disobedience" and <i>Walden</i>
Horace Mann	Education reformer who designed much of today's school system

Lyman Beecher	Antebellum reform preacher and leader of the Benevolent Empire
Walt Whitman	Called the “first truly American” poet, he ignored rules of rhyme and verse in his book <i>Leaves of Grass</i> (1855)
Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony	Women’s rights organizer(s) and organizer(s) of the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848
Samuel Morse	Inventor of the telegraph
Cyrus McCormick	Inventor of the mechanical reaper
Stephen Austin	American empresario who was granted a massive plot of land by Mexico in an effort to settle Texas
Sam Houston	Military leader of Texas in their War for Independence from Mexico, he later became the first president of the Republic of Texas
Brigham Young	Mormon leader who brought the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to Utah
Harriet Beecher Stowe	Author of <i>Uncle Tom’s Cabin</i> , a novel that helped spur abolitionist sentiment prior to the Civil War
David Wilmot	Congressman who authored a proviso which argued that any lands taken from Mexico in the Mexican War should not allow slavery
Stephen Douglas	Northern Democrat famous for his debates against Lincoln, he was also the main proponent of the idea of popular sovereignty and the author of the Kansas-Nebraska Act
John Brown	Radical abolitionist who participated in the fighting in Bleeding Kansas, then led a raid on a federal armory in 1859 at Harper’s Ferry, Virginia
Dred Scott	Enslaved person who sued for his freedom in the Supreme Court; his suit was denied, the court ruled the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, and it said black people were not citizens of the U.S.
Jefferson Davis	President of the Confederate States of America
George McClellan	Union General who was fired by Lincoln after failing to pursue Lee at Antietam; he also ran for president against Lincoln in 1864
William T. Sherman	Union General whose March to the Sea terrified the Southern population at the end of the Civil War
Robert E. Lee	Confederate General who led the South in a string of victories in Virginia at the start of the Civil War; he eventually surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House
Nathan Bedford Forrest	Former Confederate General who founded the Ku Klux Klan

Thaddeus Stevens	Pennsylvania representative who was the leader of the Radical Republicans in the House of Representatives during Reconstruction
Ida Wells	Southern journalist who reported on lynchings in Memphis in the Jim Crow era
Homer Plessy	African-American who sued to desegregate train cars in 1896; the Supreme Court ruled the cars could be segregated, making “separate but equal” the law of the land
Booker T. Washington	Former slave who founded the Tuskegee Institute; he argued in his Atlanta Compromise speech that blacks should accept segregation in exchange for white society’s support of job training
W.E.B. DuBois	African-American leader who pushed for immediate legal desegregation and affirmative-action education programs for talented black youth