

1. The 13 Colonies

Though late to arrive, English ships found their way
To the New World, and they were determined to stay.

1. The 13 Colonies

First Jamestown in sixteen-o-seven was founded;
Along the coast colonies quickly abounded.

1. The 13 Colonies

In sixteen and twenty the Mayflower sailed,
Its Compact a new kind of government hailed.

2. Absolute Monarchs in Europe

In seventeenth century wars of religion,
All Europe's nobility fought for position.
(King Ferdinand's men suffered defenestration!)

2. Absolute Monarchs in Europe

The Peace of Westphalia - sixteen-forty-eight -
Created a system of sovereign states.

2. Absolute Monarchs in Europe

Divine rights of kings triumphed over the law,
King Louis the fourteenth said “L’etat, c’est moi.”

2. Absolute Monarchs in Europe

Enlightenment thinkers like Locke and Rousseau,
Thought absolute power absolutely should go.

3. A Declaration of Independence – The Revolutionary War

From taxes on newspaper, sugar and tea,
American colonists longed to be free.

3. A Declaration of Independence – The Revolutionary War

At Concord and Lexington first shots were fired,
George Washington's leadership all soon admired.

3. A Declaration of Independence – The Revolutionary War

The Colonies thought it was just Common Sense,
To declare unto Britain their independence.

3. A Declaration of Independence – The Revolutionary War

The date of the new nation's birth was then fixed:

The fourth of July, Seventeen seventy-six.

4. We, the People – A New Nation

From Yorktown the hard work of peace lay ahead
For the new government that George Washington led.

4. We, the People – A New Nation

All hoped that the Congress and new Constitution
Would bring law and order, not more revolution.

4. We, the People – A New Nation

Three branches of government kept power checked,
And freedom the Bill of Rights sought to protect.

4. We, the People – A New Nation

Two senators came from each state in the nation,
And in the House voters had Representation.

5. The French Revolution

In Seventeen hundred eighty-nine,
The future of France was on the line.

5. The French Revolution

King Louis called the three Estates,
Equality was the debate.

5. The French Revolution

The Bastille stormed, soon none would dare
To contradict Robespierre.

5. The French Revolution

Then terror reigned, as “free” from God
Behind the guillotine they trod.

6. The Napoleonic Wars

Napoleon's army crossed Europe in glory,
But found Russian winter an unhappy story.

6. The Napoleonic Wars

At Waterloo Wellington fought with great heart,
And there he defeated the Emperor Bonaparte.

7. Manifest Destiny, the Trail of Tears, and Texan Annexation

As Americans settled new land in the West,
The young country's destiny seemed Manifest.

7. Manifest Destiny, the Trail of Tears, and Texan Annexation

Congress, with President Jackson's approval,

Took land in the South through forced Indian Removal.

7. Manifest Destiny, the Trail of Tears, and Texan Annexation

Sam Houston, to Mexico's lasting vexation,
Led Texans to fight for U.S. Annexation.

8. Slavery and Secession

On the question of slavery the states were divided,
Southern farmers depended on wealth it provided.

8. Slavery and Secession

In the North, Abolitionists fought Compromise,
And in Kansas the sound of guns joined angry cries.

8. Slavery and Secession

In sixty-one Southerners chose their own fate:
By secession they formed the Confederate States.

9. The Civil War

As Lincoln took office he vowed to restore
A more perfect union and readied for war.

9. The Civil War

Soon Fort Sumter fell and the fight had begun,
Many would perish before the North won.

9. The Civil War

The thirteenth amendment brought slavery's end,
But by Reconstruction both sides hoped to men

10. The Industrial Revolution and the Victorian Era

Industrialization was a process by which
People moved to big cities, and some grew quite rich.

10. The Industrial Revolution and the Victorian Era

In factories laborers worked without rest;
Steel rails and steam engines took many out West.

10. The Industrial Revolution and the Victorian Era

For millions of immigrants, “huddled and poor,”
A better life lay through America’s doors.

11. European Colonization around the World

Quinine and steamships made it less of a gamble
For Colonial powers in Africa's "scramble."

11. European Colonization around the World

Indigenous tribes of the coast and interior
Were viewed by these empires as being inferior.

11. European Colonization around the World

An Indian colony was Britain's "crown jewel,"
But Boxers in China fought against foreign rule.

12. World War I: 1914-1918

In Nineteen-fourteen Europe's "Great War" began
With the murder of Austrian Archduke Ferdinand.

12. World War I: 1914-1918

Soon Russia, Great Britain, and France became allied
Against “Central Powers.” (The Germans led that side.)

12. World War I: 1914-1918

In 'seventeen Yankees arrived on the scene;
Armistice brought peace in Nineteen eighteen,

12. World War I: 1914-1918

World War I left all Europe in shocked devastation,
Woodrow Wilson promoted a new “League of Nations.”

13. The Russian Revolution

The Empire of Russia, led by Nicholas the second,
Suffered more in the Great War than leaders had reckoned.

13. The Russian Revolution

The Czar, greatly weakened, abdicated from power,
It was Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks' hour.

13. The Russian Revolution

Workers claimed power in a Soviet nation,
But Stalin's dictatorship caused mass starvation.

14. The Great Depression

On October's Black Tuesday, nineteen twenty-nine,
A crashing stock market hailed worldwide decline.

14. The Great Depression

The Dust Bowl, unemployment, and rising inflation
Created hard times across the whole nation.

14. The Great Depression

In thirty-two Roosevelt brought a “New Deal,”
But only through war did the economy heal.

15. World War II: 1939-1945

Nazi troops entered Poland in nineteen thirty-nine
Now Britain and France had to draw the line.

15. World War II: 1939-1945

The Allies and Axis were headed to war,
A war far more deadly than any before.

15. World War II: 1939-1945

In forty-one US troops entered to fight
Against Germany and Japan with all their might.

15. World War II: 1939-1945

An Atom bomb dropped in nineteen-forty five
At Hiroshima meant the war's end had arrived.

16. The Cold War

With Eastern bloc states behind Russia's Iron Curtain,
A nuclear arms race made world peace uncertain.

16. The Cold War

The Cold War was waged in ways mostly quite silent,
In Korea and Vietnam the struggle was violent.

16. The Cold War

Democracy, free speech, and a free market place,
Were ideas the Communists didn't embrace.

16. The Cold War

Both sides looked to space as a vast new frontier;
Neil Armstrong's great leap on the moon made us cheer!

17. The Civil Rights Movement

In Ireland, India, and African Nations,
Independence and statehood replaced colonization.

17. The Civil Rights Movement

Inspired by Ghandi's non-violent fight,
Reverend King led a movement for civil rights.

17. The Civil Rights Movement

Boycotts and protests against segregation
Changed America's laws on discrimination.

18. Berlin Wall Falls: 1989

Solidarity in Poland gave people great hope,
Encouraged by John Paul, the first Polish pope.

18. Berlin Wall Falls: 1989

Reagan said, "Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

The Autumn of Nations brought Communist fall.

18. Berlin Wall Falls: 1989

In nineteen eighty-nine the Berlin wall came down,
Soon the USSR could no longer be found.