

The Birth of the United States of America

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Summary

This book is about the early history of North America and the founding of the USA.

Contents

Before Reading	Think Ahead	2
	Vocabulary	3
During Reading	Comprehension	5
After Reading	Think About It	8

Before Reading

Think Ahead

Look at the pictures and answer the questions.

patriot

Constitution

stripes



Declaration of Independence

1. What colors are the stripes on the American flag?
2. Who fought to make the USA a new country?
3. Where can we read the laws of the USA?
4. What did the Americans write to show they were independent?

Vocabulary

A Read and match.

1.



•

• a. crate

2.



•

• b. nomadic

3.



•

• c. tobacco

4.



•

• d. port

5.



•

• e. cotton

6.



•

• f. shipbuilding

7.



•

• g. plantation

8.



•

• h. starvation

B Write the word for each definition.

obey

constitution

loyalist

suspend

trade

1. _____ to stop something for a period of time
2. _____ a person or group who wanted Britain to govern the colonies
3. _____ to do what someone tells you to do
4. _____ a set of rules for a country
5. _____ to exchange goods for money in business

C Choose the word that means about the same as the underlined words.

1. Virginia, the first British settlement, was established in 1586.
a. plantation b. colony c. port d. parliament
2. The Americans announced their independence from Britain in 1776.
a. declared b. requested c. traded d. suspended
3. Many early colonists died of disease, hunger, or attacks by the American Indians.
a. slavery b. tobacco c. starvation d. independence
4. The Americans fought in violent protest when King George III raised the taxes.
a. complained b. represented c. founded d. rebelled

Comprehension

A Match the pictures with the correct sentences.

- a. Most American Indians were nomadic or semi-nomadic.
- b. Patriots attacked a British ship and threw 342 crates of tea into the harbor.
- c. George Washington is called the father of the United States.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____

B Choose the best answer.

1. What was the name of the first British colony in North America?
 - a. Virginia
 - b. Mayflower
 - c. New England
 - d. Philadelphia
2. What were the rebels who wanted to be independent from Britain called?
 - a. Native Indians
 - b. Loyalists
 - c. Patriots
 - d. Pilgrims
3. Who wrote America's Declaration of Independence?
 - a. Benjamin Franklin
 - b. Thomas Jefferson
 - c. William Penn
 - d. George Washington

C Choose the correct phrase for each picture. One (1) choice will not be used.

- a. The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia
- b. Throwing tea into Boston Harbor
- c. John Rolfe cultivating tobacco
- d. Pilgrims taking the *Mayflower* to the New World
- e. The first US flag with thirteen stars and stripes



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____

D Read each sentence. Write “T” if it is true or “F” if it is false.

1. _____ Christopher Columbus founded the first British colony.
2. _____ Cotton and tobacco were grown on large farms called plantations.
3. _____ The Americans rebelled when George Washington asked for more taxes.
4. _____ Benjamin Franklin was the first president of the United States.
5. _____ The Constitution was written in 1787.

E Complete the sentences with the correct words.

1. The British began new _____ by building homes and starting new lives in the new land.
colonies plantations
2. Growing food was difficult, and many colonists died from _____.
independence starvation
3. People from Africa were brought as _____ to work on the plantations.
rebels slaves
4. British Americans didn't have a representative in the British _____.
parliament constitution
5. In the colonies, only about one third of the population were _____, but they were led by great men.
nomadic Patriots

F Number the events in order from 1=first to 5=last.

- a. _____ People from Africa were brought as slaves.
- b. _____ The British colony of Virginia was founded.
- c. _____ The Continental Congress formed in Philadelphia to declare independence from Britain.
- d. _____ The British Americans split into two groups: the Patriots and the Loyalists.
- e. _____ The Pilgrims left England aboard the *Mayflower*.

Think About It

A Look in the reader to write the answers to the following 5-W questions.

Who?	What?	When?	Where?	Why?
A group of British people called the _____ wanted to have their own religion, so they left England in a ship called the <i>Mayflower</i> .	The British settled in more places in the new land, and soon there were thirteen _____ protected by Britain.	The Continental Congress declared their independence from Britain on _____.	Today, _____ is a powerful country, but 250 years ago, it didn't exist.	The British Americans were upset because they did not have any representatives in _____.

B Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

From this book, I learned _____

_____.

Before I read this book, I knew _____

_____.

Now I also know _____

_____.