

A Manual for Teaching American History



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“America’s Republic: The Ongoing Story of Our Founding Documents”

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INTRODUCTION TO USING

A MANUAL FOR TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY

A Manual for Teaching American History is the culminating project of the three-year “*America’s Republic: The Ongoing Story of Our Founding Documents*” Teaching American History Grant project funded by the United States Department of Education. The project included Blount, Bradley, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk County Schools, as well as Lenoir City and Sweetwater City Schools. *America’s Republic* targeted Social Studies teachers in grades 4, 5, 8, and 11 teaching American history, and focused on the eras and themes identified in the 2001 Tennessee Social Studies Curriculum Standards by the Tennessee State Department of Education which correlates to the NAEP U.S. History Framework.

The primary goals of *America’s Republic* were: 1) to increase teachers’ knowledge of traditional American history content, which will build confidence in their ability to teach American history; 2) to increase teachers’ use of the founding documents, primary materials, local history resources, and technology in history instruction; 3) to increase the use of research-based teaching strategies in American history; 4) to increase the capacity of the school districts to meet their history teachers’ professional development needs; and 5) to increase students’ understanding of and skill level in American history.

Designed and written by *America’s Republic’s* 17 participating Master teachers, *A Manual for Teaching American History* was developed not only for the new Social Studies classroom teacher, but also for experienced teachers to have on hand. The principal feature of the manual are the primary and secondary materials for teaching each of the 10 Eras of the Tennessee Social Studies Curriculum. Each chapter begins with a introductory content essay followed by student content and skills goals and teacher development goals. A timeline precedes the five key components of each chapter: **1) themes/issues; 2) documents; 3) people; 4) events; and 5) lesson plans.** Each chapter concludes with suggested readings and commonly asked questions by both teachers and students, recommended websites, and a brief epilogue.

A CD-ROM included with *A Manual for Teaching American History* contains not only a digital copy of the *Manual* but also primary and secondary content essays, PowerPoints, and numerous primary sources (photographs, art, documents, etc.). These sources are contained in folders designated by each of the 10 Eras of the Tennessee Social Studies Curriculum. These additional items, which appear on the CD-ROM, were designed as a component of the project’s *History Kit*.

The manual and all digital sources are available free to the public on the project’s website: www.teachamericanhistory.org.