

# STAAR | Historical Eras in American History

Era	Dates	Defining Characteristics
<b>Age of Exploration</b>	<b>1492-1607</b>	Exploration of North America (Columbus, early European explorers)
<b>Colonial America</b>	<b>1607-1763</b>	Founding of Jamestown; growth of representative government; economic development of colonial regions; beginnings of slavery and plantation system; growth of the slave trade
<b>Revolution and Independence</b>	<b>1763-1787</b>	British mercantilist system; desire for representation and a limited government (taxes); Declaration of Independence; causes of American Revolution; key battles and figures of the war; Articles of Confederation
<b>Constitution and Bill of Rights</b>	<b>1787-1790</b>	Constitutional Convention and key compromises; beginning of political parties with the ideas of Federalists and Anti-Federalists; American beliefs and principles reflected in the Constitution; influence of historic documents on the Constitution
<b>New Republic</b>	<b>1787-1828</b>	Challenges of the new republic including events/issues during the administrations of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe; development and growth of political parties; origin and growth of free enterprise; political, economic, and social issues/events ( <i>Marbury v. Madison</i> )(Second Great Awakening)
<b>Industrial Revolution and Reforms</b>	<b>1793-1850</b>	Introduction of modern technology and factory system; causes and effects of economic differences among different regions, including growing sectionalism; major reform movements and key individuals throughout the 19th century [Slater-to-Bessemer]
<b>Age of Jackson</b>	<b>1828-1840</b>	Emergence of states' rights; U.S. relationship with Native Americans (Trail of Tears); beginnings of the modern Democratic Party
<b>Westward Expansion</b>	<b>1803-1853</b>	Manifest Destiny; impact of westward expansion on economic, political, and social growth; geographic influences on settlement and economic activities; impact of technology on westward expansion; territorial acquisitions of the 19th century [Purchase-to-Purchase (LA-to-Gadsden)]
<b>Civil War</b>	<b>1850-1865</b>	Political, social, and economic causes of the growth of sectionalism and the Civil War, key battles and figures from the war
<b>Reconstruction</b>	<b>1865-1877</b>	Goals of various Reconstruction plans, postwar problems for North and South, challenges for African Americans, Civil War Amendments (13 14 15), challenges in rebuilding the South