

INTRODUCTION

It is important for students to have a general understanding of how events of the past helped create the world that exists today. Every student should have the opportunity to understand how the United States developed and became a world leader. This knowledge expands students' appreciation of the country in which they live.

The story of the United States is an exciting, interesting one. However, students sometimes get overwhelmed by the volume of information in their textbooks. Unfortunately, some students might "give up" and miss out on significant concepts that are being taught. This book is not intended to replace students' U.S. history texts. Rather, it is meant to complement existing materials.

This unique, reproducible book was designed for students of any age who need help learning the basic concepts covered in U.S. history classes. In order to help struggling readers understand complex historical events and issues, the lessons are written at a 3.0–4.5 reading level. These short, high-interest passages and activities are effective teaching tools for students with learning differences, attention or behavior problems, and limited reading skills. This book is also helpful for at-risk and ESOL students.

U.S. History Shorts 2 features 30 one-page stories, or shorts, followed by activity sheets that reinforce the information. The shorts focus on key historical concepts and may be used in two different ways. You can use each one-page short as an introductory lesson and then use other resources to teach the topic in greater depth. The short can also serve as a quick overview for topics that you need to cover faster than others.

Following each short are four activity pages. These activities allow students to practice reading-comprehension skills while answering content area recall questions; interpreting maps, charts, graphs, and time lines; researching significant historical people, places, and events; and expressing opinions through writing. The activities include multiple-choice questions, crossword puzzles, short-answer questions, and extension activities. Each short is also accompanied by a visual activity, which consists of a map, chart, graph, or time line.

A quiz follows the four activity pages. The one-page quiz tests students' comprehension and knowledge of the most important information in the short and includes questions that are written in standardized-test format.

U.S. History Shorts 2: Mid-1800s to the Present picks up where *U.S. History Shorts: Pre-Colonization Through Reconstruction* left off. Each standards-based short covers a significant person, place, or event in U.S. history from the mid-1800s through the present.

Included in this book are lessons on the geography of the continental United States; conflicts on the Great Plains between the U.S. Army and the Native Americans; the Cattle Kingdom; the growth of industries, such as the railroad and automobile industries; the business boom and the growth of monopolies; the plight of factory workers, immigrants, and city dwellers at the turn of the century; political machines; the annexation of Hawaii; the Spanish-American War; the Progressive era; World War I; the Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression; the New Deal; World War II; the Cold War; McCarthyism; the Korean War; the Cuban missile crisis; the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; the civil rights movement; the war in Vietnam; the Watergate Scandal; the Iran hostage crisis; the Persian Gulf War of 1990–1991; and the terror attacks of September 11, 2001.