# *Pillars of Culture:*
## *50 People who Made America Great*

**This chapter requires a companion activity book in which students respond to questions on text content. Answers are found in the Teacher's Resource Kit.**



# *Chapter 1*
# *Text*

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# *Pillars of Culture*
# *Foundations*

## Chapter 1, Section 1






Stories in this book feature men and women who dared to think of the impossible and try to achieve it. They were often told, "You can't do that!" But, they did anyway! In fact, they planned, worked, and achieved what they set out to do in-spite-of ridicule, opposition, and mocking. Persons featured in these ***vignettes*** illustrate how America's economic system produced and developed more freedom and products than any other country since nations began recording history. These people ***personify*** how the combination of capitalism, freedom, and the Judeo-Christian work ethic is superior to any other form of government and economic system. They shaped America and, in doing so, lifted the world!

Some said, "I can do it!" when others declined to ***venture*** into the unknown. Some experienced capture, torture, and death. They all experienced set-backs, failures, and defeats. Others pursued an idea until it became a machine, path, medicine, book, song, or discovery that changed ***culture*** and made history. They searched for knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. They learned from the mistakes and achievements of others. They exercised faith, ***perseverance***, courage, and ***initiative***. Their achievements inspire us to attempt more than we think we can accomplish and, in the process, we can make America great again!




***Vignettes:*** short stories
***Personify:*** human example
***Venture:*** go into
***Culture:*** a nation's ways
***Perseverance:*** staying on task through hardship
***Initiative:*** take action to solve problems

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# *Pillars of Culture Foundations*




## Chapter 1, Section 1
## Topics 1-5



Almost everyone has felt inspired to jot down ideas that suddenly seemed to "pop into the mind." More than a few people have awakened at night to grab a pencil and slip of paper to jot down a romantic idea, scientific formula, political concept, or beautiful dream. Such yielding to instant ***promptings*** to make notes has produced some of the world's greatest literary works and inventions. At the time of the notetaking, the authors usually had no idea that their "jots and tittles" would someday help millions of people.

Notetaking has always been a skill that shaped history, blessed readers, and produced wonderful songs, poems, documents, and books. In fact, some of the most famous pieces of literary work were inscribed on bottle caps, scrap paper, backs of envelopes, on stone, toilet paper, yellow tablets, and ox-hide parchments. John Bunyan wrote *Pilgrim's Progress* on paper bottle caps while in a British prison; Moses displayed the Ten Commandments inscribed on stone tablets; Newton, Kepler, Faraday, Pascal, and Einstein developed great scientific theories based on notes recorded in fields, labs, and castles; Martin Luther ***ignited*** the Reformation from passion-driven notes about man's relationship with God, priests, and Popes; Francis Scott Key penned the "Star Spangled Banner" on scrap paper while held prisoner on a British ship; Abraham Lincoln wrote the "Gettysburg Address" on the back of an envelope while waiting to speak to a crowd gathered to honor Civil War soldiers; Julia Ward Howe awoke from a dream and said, "I shall lose this (lyrics to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic") if I don't write it down." An educational reformer produced a manual on school choice from notes scribbled on toilet paper; Native Americans preserved their history on stones, trees, deer hides, and cave walls.




***Prompting:*** thoughts, hints, ideas
***Ignited:*** started
***Meticulous:*** detailed, specific, precise

James Madison and Alexander Hamilton made ***meticulous*** notes on paper while participating in the Constitutional Convention in 1787 — resulting in the marvelous US Constitution that inspired the world to enable people to pursue happiness through freedom of

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religious practice, right to defend themselves, to own private property, enjoy the ***sanctity*** of homes, be tried by a jury of peers, and participate in a government established by the people and for the people. Bill and Gloria Gaither jotted down lyrics on notepads, that later became Gospel songs, sung by thousands of people.



The advantage of keeping a personal journal at home, or using a small notepad or a smartphone, is that ideas, theories, songs, poems, and books, can emerge from thoughts scribbled during the day or night, while sitting on a seashore, near a mountain stream, or in a subway coach on the way to or from home, school, or employment. Some of the greatest concepts have emerged from the minds of normal, "everyday people" who had the insight to make notes when an idea popped into mind. America became great because people took time to jot down ideas, learn new words, and dream dreams.

Throughout this book, words are ***bolded*** to cause you to reflect on vocabulary. So, start taking notes on your dreams, ideas, ***aspirations***, and concepts. While reading these vignettes, pay attention to **bolded words**. In doing that, you will enhance your ability to influence culture. Then you will join the ranks of people who help preserve the American Dream, as did the people whose vignettes appear in this book. You can help make America **Great Again**!

## VOCABULARY

***Sanctity:*** safety, privacy
***Bolded:*** dark letters
***Aspirations:*** life goals

## *LIFE PRINCIPLE:*

*"Ideas formed in a dream are birthed through words, spoken or written."*
-Ronald E. Johnson, educator


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# *Pillars of Culture*
# *Foundations*




## Chapter 1, Section 1
## Topics 1-5




Though the Jamestown colony suffered many hardships, it was ultimately saved by John Smith, who insisted that each colonist had to develop a strong work ethic in order to survive. (Artist Unknown)

The dream of owning property was a ***compelling*** reason for Europeans, especially those in England, to endure the perils of ocean travel to arrive in America. Early Pilgrims faced unexpected hardships that eventually took the lives of most settlers. Hostile natives, harsh winters, poor sanitation, spoiled food, and ***inadequate*** shelter took their toll on people who landed on America's eastern shores. However, a dream of owning property, worshiping God, and exercising freedom conquered fear, hardships, and dangers. Pilgrims were industrious, and the survivors endured frontier life to establish ***thriving*** communities.

Other groups of Europeans sailed from England, France, Portugal, and Spain primarily to seek gold and social status, rather than opportunity to own land and worship God. They were adventurers who were mostly second and third sons of wealthy merchants and landowners. First sons inherited land, wealth, and social status. However, second and third sons had to leave home to obtain wealth. Most entered the army or navy, or became ***clergymen*** in the ***Anglican*** or Catholic Church and were appointed to parishes that included financial allotments, housing, and other social advantages. Consequently, when sons of wealthy Europeans arrived in Jamestown or Florida in the 1600s, they were ill-equipped to engage in manual labor. In fact, they had been taught that gentlemen did not soil their hands with such crude instruments as axes, hammers, plows, and saddles. Ironically, those men spent their time using shovels and other tools to search for gold, with the hope of returning to Europe as wealthy gentlemen who would not need to ***toil*** in the soil.

Pilgrim communities survived because the people were inspired to work, postpone ***gratification***, save resources, and use their hands, backs, and minds to carve out settlements based on such values as honesty, integrity, ***frugality***, resourcefulness, labor, and respect for other people. They faced each hardship with the attitude that "this too shall pass." They awoke at dawn to build fires

### VOCABULARY

***Compelling:*** powerful
***Inadequate:*** not good enough
***Thriving:*** growing, busy
***Clergymen:*** preachers, priests
***Anglican:*** state religion of England
***Toil:*** work hard, labor in
***Gratification:*** pleasure, satisfaction
***Frugality:*** get by on very little

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to prepare simple meals, warm their cabins, and provide light by which to sharpen axes, read their Bibles, and discuss responsibilities for the day. Daylight hours were devoted to cutting trees, plowing fields, hunting wild game, spinning wool, mending clothes, and taking care of children. The combination of survival activities and practical use of resources created in the minds of pioneers the idea that America offered unlimited opportunities for people who knew how to work, save, and ***invest*** resources. Those early settlers birthed the seeds of the ***unique*** economic system that became known as free enterprise ***capitalism***.

As economic opportunities and hope for freedom to worship God became known in Europe, people of various economic conditions desired to immigrate to America. People who were in financial difficulties had little hope of ever improving their lifestyles in England. They could not even raise the money needed for passage to America. Thus, they accepted the economic and social status known as ***indentured*** servitude. They volunteered to travel to America and serve seven years as housekeepers, farm hands, or ***nannies*** to families who paid for ship passage. Indentured servants were, in effect, domestic slaves for seven years. However, they accepted their "slavery" because at the end of seven years they would be free to start life over in America. Therefore, a large percentage of Europeans who came to America learned the value of hard work, commitment to contracts, availability of land, and the internal joy of freedom.

Unique American economic and religious opportunities ***instilled*** in pioneers a deep ***conviction*** that no officials should be empowered to take away the right to own property, labor to make money, invest capital in merchandise and land, worship God, and protect families. Thus, were born the seeds of capitalistic economics. Practice of Judeo-Christian values of integrity, honesty, sacrifice, respect for other people, and thriftiness birthed hope that America's tomorrows would be better than today's circumstances.

Pilgrims cherished their freedom to work, worship, save, and pursue happiness. This combination of personal and community qualities shaped the unique American nation in which ***indigenous*** people, indentured servants, adventurers, scholars, inventers, and merchants could live together while in pursuit of happiness. They created the American work ethic and economic system that changed the way the world looked at property, wealth, and opportunity.



Pilgrims
Art by Henry Bacon

## VOCABULARY

***Invest:*** put money into, to buy
***Unique:*** special, one-of-a-kind
***Capitalism:*** right to own property and operate a business
***Indentured:*** servant for seven years
***Nannies:*** women who take care of children for other parents
***Instilled:*** put into
***Conviction:*** unwavering beliefs
***Indigenous:*** native people

## *LIFE PRINCIPLE:*

*"A man who will not learn to work should not be given food, earned by a man who works."*
-Ronald E. Johnson, educator

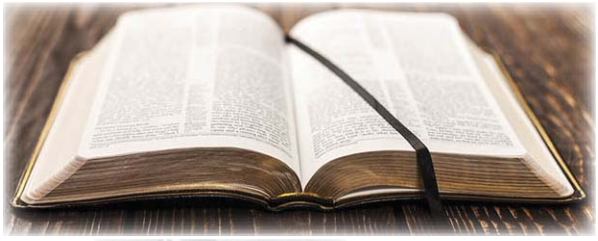

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# *Pillars of Culture*
# *Foundations*




## Chapter 1, Section 1
## Topics 1-5





Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the printing press allowed for average people to own Bibles for the first time in history.
Art by Michael Schönitzer

Reading good books can change a person's life. Even before Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1440 AD, men and women were buying and reading books. In fact, the library in Alexandria, Egypt contained thousands of volumes of hand-written books before Roman soldiers destroyed the library in the 3rd century AD. Following invention of the printing press in Germany, the world's most popular book has remained the ***Holy Bible***. As soon as people knew that Bibles were available, multiple thousands of copies were distributed across Europe, then spread to Asia, Africa, the Americas, and into the Middle East nations. During World Wars I and II, small New Testaments and the Book of Psalms were distributed to US soldiers and sailors.

Throughout history, Americans have read the Bible for pleasure, instruction, comfort, and guidance. Statistically, it is the most popular book ever published. In fact, men and women of the Bible have been the subject of more books, pamphlets, movies, stage productions, and music than any other names in the thousands of years of recorded human history. Hospitals, mountains, ***cathedrals***, temples, babies, and cities base their names on Biblical places and persons. Presidents are sworn into office with their hand placed on a Bible.




***Holy Bible:*** book about God's love, ways, rules, forgiveness, and judgements
***Cathedrals:*** large, elaborate church buildings
***Illiterate:*** ignorant, unwise, without knowledge
***Contemporary:*** modern, current

People are considered to be ***illiterate*** if they are unfamiliar with such Biblical persons as Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus, and Mary. ***Contemporary*** conversations and literature include such Biblical terms as "a Judas", meaning someone who betrays another person. A cruel woman is often called "a Jezebel." A person of weak faith is sometimes referred to as "a doubting Thomas." College professors who lecture on such topics as the Exodus, Reformation, Inquisition, Great Awakening, Crusades, Puritans, and Middle East Wars expect students to be somewhat familiar with Biblical events, locations, and persons.

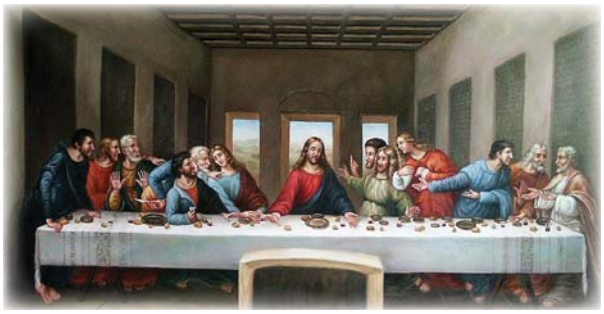
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Ancient documents etched in stone or written on ***parchment*** found in Asia, Europe, Middle East, and Africa ***depict*** Biblical events and persons such as Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, a great flood, Garden of Eden, and mankind opposed by fighting Satan (sometimes depicted as a snake in a tree). King David of Israel wrote hundreds of Psalms, which are quoted worldwide by scholars, military generals, pastors, priests, and teachers. Solomon, David's son, is referred to as the wisest man in history. His proverbs have appeared on buildings, statues, castle walls, government documents, and in great libraries around the world. Jesus is recorded in the Bible as the Son of God, who was ***crucified*** by Romans in Jerusalem, Israel. So historically important was Jesus, that calendar dates are based on the birth of Christ as BC (before Christ) and ***AD*** (*Anno Domini*). Mary, mother of Jesus, is represented in cathedrals throughout Europe and the Americas. Each December 25, the world pauses to celebrate the birth of the Biblical Jesus and to proclaim, "Merry Christmas." America's Founding Fathers wove Biblical principles throughout the Declaration of Independence and US Constitution. These virtues, values, and principles have proven to be the secret of America's greatness.



A sculpture of the Bible's King David, created by the artist Michelangelo in the early 16th Century, is widely considered one of the greatest works of art in human history.



A similarly famous work of Renaissance art is Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, which depicts part of Jesus' life on earth described in the Bible's New Testament.

## VOCABULARY

***Parchment:*** dried animal skins use for recording information
***Depict:*** express, reveal
***Crucified:*** hung on a wooden cross until dead
***AD:*** year of Christ's birth

## *LIFE PRINCIPLE:*

*"It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible."*
-George Washington, US President and Founding Father


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# *Pillars of Culture Foundations*




## Chapter 1, Section 1
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Donald Trump adopted "Make America Great Again" as his 2016 presidential campaign slogan.

In 2016, presidential candidate Donald Trump challenged voters to "Make America great again." The implication was that something was wrong with American culture – that it was no longer the same as it once was. If it was once great, why is it no longer great? The challenge has been taken up by scholars and historians to determine what and how change occurred. Research reveals that contemporary culture is vastly different than that which was established by the people who made America a great nation. The ***vignettes*** included in this book highlight the fact that the values, virtues, and principles embraced by people of "yesteryear" are not the same as those practiced by most people in America today.

Several decades ago a nationally known pastor asked, "Is there not a cause?" He was referring to the trend of ***secularism*** that was rolling across America in the early 1960s, when the US Supreme Court declared that the Bible and prayer could no longer be applied in public schools. Then, public school textbooks deliberately ***redacted*** any mention of God and Biblical values. Those decisions marked a significant departure from historical reality, as had been demonstrated in American schools for many decades.

The cultural swing was revolutionary, as the principles which birthed and strengthened early America were aggressively discarded. Emboldened ***progressive*** educators and politicians began to champion the idea that the US Constitution is a "living and breathing" document that ought to change as the culture evolves, rather than be the absolute rule of law as established by the Founding Fathers. Misled and confused youth shook their fists and rejected the values and beliefs of previous generations. Radical anarchists attacked policemen, calling them ***derogatory*** names.

Spokespersons for the ***Women's Movement*** declared that men and husbands were not necessary (or desirable) for working women, and that females ought to have the right to abort their babies if pregnancy interferes with careers. ***Narcissistic*** men abused and abandoned their children. Radical feminists declared that marriage

### VOCABULARY

***Secularism:*** void of Biblical values
***Redacted:*** edited to remove specific information
***Progressive:*** socialistic, liberal
***Derogatory:*** crude, shameful
***Women's Movement:*** effort to discredit male influence
***Narcissistic:*** self-centered, selfish

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between one man and one woman was outdated ideology. Homosexuals demanded the right to practice their lifestyle openly, and cried "***bigotry***" against people who opposed the idea of nationally accepting and protecting the practice of ***sodomy***. Thus, America ***systematically*** changed from a culture of moral absolutes to one of moral ***relativism***.

Insightful authors such as Tim La Haye, John Stormer, Jack Hyles, James Dobson, Donald R. Howard, Ed Young, Jerry Falwell, Bill Bright, David Gibbs, and others raised alarms that encouraged parents to take note of the shift that had occurred in public education. As a result, the Christian School Movement ***emerged*** to provide alternatives to secular schools that had been stripped of Biblical values. Polly Williams ***initiated*** the Charter School Movement, which coupled with homeschools and private academies to provide educational options known as School Choice. Even with the effective efforts of parents and authors to promote educational options, only about 12 percent of families have realized the benefits of school choice.

## VOCABULARY

***Bigotry:*** intolerance toward those who hold opposing views
***Sodomy:*** homosexual acts
***Systematically:*** purposefully, routinely
***Relativism:*** the view that ethical truths are subjective to cultural changes
***Emerged:*** came forth
***Initiated:*** started
***Foisted:*** imposed a thing or idea forcefully
***Indifferent:*** uncaring
***Sobriety:*** clear, unimpaired thinking
***Deviation:*** change, move away from
***Indicative:*** shows, illustrates
***Deterioration:*** break up, ruin



Polly Williams

Most students continue to be "processed" as secularists in public schools, where teachers and textbooks often ridicule and reject America's Christian heritage. Instead, revised history and contemporary ideals which deny accountability to God and fellow man, are ***foisted*** upon children. Moreover, secular school students are being "dumbed down" with curriculum that focuses on social issues, rather than on academic excellence and real-world skills that would prepare students for parenthood, careers, or college. Most students have been conditioned to be ***indifferent*** toward concepts such as decency, ***sobriety***, excellence, purity, integrity, work-ethic, and sacrifice. The new public education system has proven to be a drastic ***deviation*** from the early American schools, and produces graduates who are largely disconnected from their American heritage.

The national trend, which suggested that change toward secularism was acceptable and ***indicative*** of progress, led to ***deterioration*** of families. As divorce rates skyrocketed, single parents faced new challenges in trying to raise their children while working full-time to support the family. Child abandonment reached an all-time high as biological fathers forsook their families. The condition of "fatherlessness"


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became ***epidemic***, and its effects began to ***manifest*** in the academic, behavioral, and emotional habits of children in classrooms across America. The combination of unstable, abusive, or unsupervised home conditions, along with typical stressors that accompany youth experiences and bullying in school, have contributed to ***pandemic*** levels of teenage depression. Most school dropouts are teenagers who have been raised in homes without biological fathers, and who have given up on the idea that school will improve their situation in life.

Without a father-mother team present to love, teach, protect, discipline, and instill a code of ethics at home, millions of teenagers grow up ill-equipped to deal with the pressures of life. The absence of values and discipline leaves youth ***vulnerable*** and void of instruction on common courtesies and skills needed for gainful employment, domestic responsibilities, and meaningful citizenship.

Respected economist Milton Friedman declared that the only way America could return to her core values was to embrace school choice, where students can again access the values which made America great. Students who practice traditional values and develop character to match the people who founded the United States, will be equipped to make America great again. Those who acquire wisdom, knowledge, and understanding based on traditional values and virtues will be better equipped to reclaim the historical American culture.

VOCABULARY

***Epidemic:*** wide spread
***Manifest:*** make known
***Pandemic:*** everywhere, pervasive
***Vulnerable:*** exposed to, victim of



Milton Friedman

Readers of this book are encouraged to consider the question, "Is there not a cause?" While doing so, it is reasonable to consider what one person can do to make America great again. A good place to start is to reflect on the following questions:

1. What is your big dream that will inspire you to apply your gifts and talents?
2. If you knew that you could not fail, what would you try?
3. What drives your passion: cooking, writing, inventing, singing, exploring, sewing, repairing, etc.?
4. How are you currently developing yourself in a way that will make your dream come true?
5. Are your friends helping or hindering your efforts to fulfill your dream?
6. Do you have the courage and integrity to keep your dream in focus?
7. What do you need to do to make your dream reality?
8. How can you help to make our nation great again?

## *LIFE PRINCIPLE:*

*"A noble dream carries you past temptations to be less than your best."*

-Ronald E. Johnson, C.Ph.D.



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# *Pillars of Culture*
# *Foundations*




## Chapter 1, Section 1
## Topics 1-5



Art by
Dorothy Sullivan

She may have lived in Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, or Wyoming. Her name remains a mystery, but multitudes like her helped carve out American ***exceptionalism***. She traveled by ox or mule-drawn covered wagons with her husband and children over dusty prairies, purple mountains, and blistering desert sands to plant corn, squash, wheat, beans, and turnips. Often the soil was almost too dense to plow, but, it had to be turned over and ***cultivated*** before winter. Long hours from dawn to sunset were invested in turning wilderness homesteads into ranches, farms, schools and churches, eventually to become communities, towns, cities, and states that formed our great nation.

During the process of building America, pioneer women cooked over outdoor fires until husbands could build one-room sod or log cabins with stone fireplaces. Washing was done at streams or in blackened cast-iron kettles ***suspended*** over fires fueled with buffalo ***chips***, pine, or oak wood corded up with axes and ***cross-cut*** saws. Spring rains drenched her garden, and caused the sod or ***thatch*** roof to leak. Cabin windows were square openings with wooden shutters used to keep out the elements, varmints, and arrows. Light was provided by open doors, oil lamps, or hand-made candles. An occasional deer or antelope provided welcome variety from a diet of rabbits, squirrels, quail, and fish. Mothers and daughters became experts at making ***lye*** soap and ***homespun*** cloth fashioned from wool thread. Shirts, trousers, dresses, and capes were stitched together from animal hides, wool fibers, or feed sacks by candlelight in the evening or in the morning sun.

Sudden prairie fires dashed hope for a good wheat harvest, but a new calf gave hope for milk, cream, and butter. She didn't think she could survive, but, she did when her husband was ***laid up*** during planting or harvesting time. Then, she learned to guide a plow, plant seed, and swing a ***scythe*** through golden stalks of grain. The first time she fired a gun, her shoulder ached, but her eyes glowed with joy when the smoke cleared and she saw a turkey

### VOCABULARY

***Exceptionalism:*** one-of-a-kind, unique
***Cultivated:*** break up clods, remove weeds and rocks
***Suspended:*** held over, hung
***Chips:*** dried manure
***Cross-cut:*** big-toothed, double handled saw
***Thatch:*** bundles of straw
***Lye:*** animal fat mixed with wood ashes
***Homespun:*** made at home
***Laid-up:*** injured, ill
***Scythe:*** long-bladed devise for harvesting wheat

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on the ground. Her fresh-baked bread filled the cabin with a pleasant ***aroma***, and brought compliments that made her blush.

Her once-beautiful lips became sunburned and creased. But, she learned to sew a bonnet from cotton flour sacks to ward off the sun. Never-the-less, dark shadows surrounded her tired eyes, and wrinkles appeared on her not-yet-forty-year-old face. Loneliness from ***seclusion*** haunted her days and nights, especially when her husband's hunting trips or militia service kept him away from his family. She longed to visit with other women, but they lived miles away, and could visit only during church revival meetings with a circuit-riding preacher, or at weddings and funerals. All too often, she became a widow with several children to raise, until a ***widower*** convinced the prairie mother that re-marriage was the best way to survive and provide for her children. Childbirth was usually endured with only a neighbor woman to assist. Tragically, many lonely cabins were marked with wooden crosses over tiny graves of children who died from ***cholera***, arrows, ***typhoid*** fever, or infection. The prairie woman was hardy, tough, tender, and efficient. She learned how to bake pies and skin rabbits to feed her family during tough and pleasant times. She taught her children to read the Bible, work hard, and persevere though hardships and sorrow. Thus, the pioneer woman made America a great nation.



*Pioneer Woman*, a statue in Oklahoma




Wagon Trails to the West

## VOCABULARY

***Aroma:*** smell
***Seclusion:*** out-of-the way, hidden, remote
***Widower:*** a man whose wife died
***Cholera:*** disease of the intestine, causes dehydration
***Typhoid:*** communicable disease of bowels

## *LIFE PRINCIPLE:*

*"God is good, even when bad things happen."*
-Anonymous pioneer


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# *Pillars of Culture*
# *Founding Fathers*




## Chapter 1, Section 2
## Topics 6-10



Ben Franklin

Portrait by Joseph Duplessis




***Acclaim:*** recognition, respect
***Aristocratic:*** royalty, upper class
***Barbarians:*** crude, illiterate, ignorant
***Instigated:*** put in motion
***Enthralled:*** awed, greatly admired, impressed
***Sophistication:*** social courtesies, cultured
***Intently:*** deeply, seriously

Benjamin Franklin is perhaps best known among students for his experiment with a kite and metal key in an electric storm. His insights on electricity gained Franklin worldwide respect as a scientist. He also gained ***acclaim*** for inventions of such items as: an efficient wood-burning stove, bathtub, and lightening rod. His literary skills as writer and publisher of *Poor Richard's Almanac* earned for him wealth and prestige in America and Europe.

When Franklin was more than 70 years old, he was appointed as ambassador to France with the task to obtain French support of the colonial struggle for independence from England. When Franklin arrived in Paris to begin his negotiations, he was snubbed by ***aristocratic*** French royalty who considered all Americans as ***barbarians***, who were not worthy of keeping company with French high society. Franklin ***instigated*** a brilliant strategy to take advantage of his world-wide reputation as a great scientist and publisher. He perceived that the wives of French politicians were ***enthralled*** with Franklin's brilliant scientific achievements and intelligence. Therefore, Franklin learned that he could influence French diplomats by being attentive to their wives, who giggled and swooned over Franklin's polite compliments, ability to speak French, and witty sayings. The wives, then, spoke so highly of Franklin's ***sophistication*** that the diplomats accepted Franklin into the social circles of Paris. The strategy led to a treaty in which France provided much needed naval support, munitions, and officers sufficient to enable General George Washington to defeat the British at Yorktown, Virginia.

What most people do not know about Benjamin Franklin was his support of the popular British evangelist, George Whitefield, who preached often near Philadelphia. Franklin was ***intently*** interested in the evangelical messages preached by Whitefield. In fact, Franklin embraced Whitefield's religious mindset so thoroughly that the famous scientist recommended references to

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God in the Declaration of Independence, and encouraged delegates to the Constitutional Convention to include concepts about individual liberty, limited government authority, and the sovereignty of God in the affairs of mankind.

Historians credit Franklin for suggesting that delegates to the Constitutional Convention seek the hand of the Almighty to resolve arguments about the proposed structure of a federal government strong enough to preserve the nation, yet limited sufficiently to assure state's rights and individual liberties. "God," Franklin said, "governs in the affairs of men."

Benjamin Franklin was a philosopher, inventor, writer, and diplomat, whose intelligence and skills helped shape the culture and practices of colonial America. His reputation is still impacting adults and students. His ***legacy*** lives beyond his death. He helped make America great.



Artistic Depiction of Franklin's Famous Kite Experiment

Painting by Benjamin West




Franklin's likeness is shown on the front of the US 100 dollar bill.

## VOCABULARY

***Legacy:*** reputation

## *LIFE PRINCIPLE:*

*"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."*
-Benjamin Franklin, US Founding Father and inventor



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# *Pillars of Culture*
# *Founding Fathers*




## Chapter 1, Section 2
## Topics 6-10



George Washington

Portrait by
Gilbert Stuart

Every young person needs heroes who inspire, challenge, and serve as role models for character. George Washington has served as the number-one hero for students since 1781, when he defeated the British at Yorktown, Virginia, thereby gaining independence for the thirteen colonies that became the United States of America.

George Washington was born in Virginia in 1732. His father died when George was eleven years old. He was homeschooled by his mother and tutors until about age seventeen. The Bible was a primary textbook; therefore, George often referred to ***Providence***, while applying Biblical principles in decision-making throughout his life as a military officer and president. He developed strong moral courage, integrity, and perseverance under the supervision of his mother and an older brother.

George taught himself the skill of surveying, and spent hours in the woods charting property lines for neighbors. Before he was twenty, he was commissioned as an officer in the British ***Militia*** sent to drive French soldiers from Ohio during the French and Indian War (1754-63). While fighting under British command, George observed their tactics, weaknesses, and strengths. Later, while leading the Continental Army between 1776 and 1781, Washington applied his knowledge of British strategy to lead colonial troops to victory, while using attack and retreat tactics that kept the British off balance.




***Providence:*** Creator, God, Divine presence
***Militia:*** volunteer civilian soldiers

Throughout the War for Independence, Washington demonstrated courage, wisdom, and honor as he dealt with betrayal, spies, desertion, defeats, disease, and shortages of supplies, food, and shelter. He was frequently seen praying in the woods. His men suffered severely at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, during the harsh winter of 1777-78. Always outnumbered by enemy forces, Washington resorted to surprise and strategy in-order-to keep his "rag-tag" army positioned to defeat superior enemy forces. He

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crossed ice-clogged rivers at night, raided British supply ***depots***, and used his own network of spies to learn British plans. Enemy officers referred to Washington as "that old fox." Martha Washington organized women to provide supplies and clothing for soldiers. She sometimes joined her husband at his army headquarters.

Washington selected ***competent*** officers, whose courage, cunning, and ***dedication*** to liberty equaled their commander. While leading the Continental Army, Washington took no salary. He served because of his loyalty to liberty and freedom from tyranny. After the war, the Continental Congress elected Washington as the first president of the United States (1789-1797). He was aware that every decision he made set ***precedent*** for future presidents, judges, and congressmen. He was committed to the principle of ***rule of law***, rather than rule by precedent. He wanted America to be greater than European nations ruled by kings, queens, and dictators. He refused to allow anyone to obey him as some sort of king. He preferred to be called "Mr. President." Washington was so respected and admired that the nation's capital was named "Washington, D.C." He was considered, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." His picture appears on stamps and money. He is remembered on street signs and monuments, including Mount Rushmore, as well as on President's Day (Feb 20) and on the one dollar bill. George Washington died at the age of 66 at his Mount Vernon home in Virginia in 1799. He is affectionately called, "The Father of our country."



Washington Several Years Prior to the American War for Independence
Painting by Charles Willson Peale



John Trumbull's *The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis* depicts Washington's victory in Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781, which brought an end to the American War for Independence.

## VOCABULARY

***Depots:*** stations
***Competent:*** capable, skilled
***Dedication:*** committed to a caus***e***
***Precedent:*** examples or justifications
***Rule of law:*** absolute rules set according to a constitution

## *LIFE PRINCIPLE:*

*"Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected."*
-George Washington, US president and Founding Father

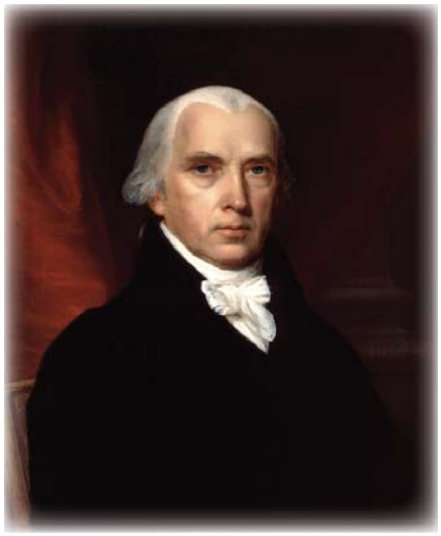

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# *Pillars of Culture*
# *Founding Fathers*




## Chapter 1, Section 2
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James Madison

Portrait by
John Vanderlyn

James Madison lived on a Virginia farm, where he was taught to read by his Christian mother, who also taught James to ***evaluate*** life from a Biblical worldview. Raised in a rural environment, James learned to think, evaluate, and compose his thoughts in ***concise***, well-presented sentences. James started formal education when he was 11 years old. Later, he studied at The College of New Jersey (later named Princeton) under the influence of John Witherspoon, a highly-respected scholar of Judeo-Christian principles and law. James became well-read in law, poetry, history, and government. He was 5 feet and 4 inches tall, and weighed only 100 pounds. Yet, his moral character, ***astute*** mind, and work-ethic more than ***compensated*** for his short and frail stature. In adulthood, men of greater physical stature yielded to the influence of James Madison's character and wisdom.

His reputation as an intelligent, just, and honest man earned favor with Virginia planters, lawyers, and merchants. Consequently, at the young age of 29, James Madison was elected to the US Congress, where he served from 1789 to 1797. While attending a dinner in Washington, James was introduced to a ***vivacious*** and radiant young widow named Dolley. Even though she was 17 years younger than James, Dolley was attracted by Madison's courtesy, serious nature, and intelligence.

James was ***smitten*** by Dolley's out-going personality and beauty. They "hit it off" right away, and later were married. Dolley had a son by her previous husband, who died when Dolley was only 21 years old. The son never recovered from the death of his father, and brought much grief to James and Dolley, because of gambling and alcoholism. The son's irresponsibility eventually caused James and Dolley to lose their beautiful Virginia home.

James Madison attended the Constitutional Convention of 1787, which had been scheduled to modify the Articles of Confederation that had governed the colonies during the War for

VOCABULARY

***Evaluate:*** study, look at
***Concise:*** expressed in few words
***Astute:*** discerning, wise, smart
***Compensated:*** paid
***Vivacious:*** lively in temperament
***Smitten:*** captivated, distracted

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Independence (1776-1783). While waiting on the arrival of other delegates, James drafted The Virginia Plan, which became the core of the US Constitution, based on representative government with a check-and-balance system, consisting of the executive branch (President), the legislative branch (Congress, composed of two houses), and the judicial branch (Courts). Madison's brilliant understanding of human nature, history, and government, led him to build into the Constitution, the principle of "rule by law", rather than rule by voters' philosophy and preferences. That distinct ***component*** set the United States apart from all other nations, which were ruled by ***arbitrary*** decisions of kings, queens, and dictators. Madison wrote more than one third of the *Federalist Papers*, which were brilliant pamphlets that defended and promoted the concept of limited, representative government, based on rule of law. Madison's insightful work on the US Constitution earned him the title, "Father of the Constitution."

James Madison served as Secretary of State under President Thomas Jefferson for eight years. During that time, Madison was influential in almost doubling the size of the nation by ***acquisition*** of the ***Louisiana Purchase*** from France in 1803. Madison was elected as the 4th president in 1808, and served until 1816. He was president during the War of 1812 with Great Britain, during which time Madison's leadership propelled America into world leadership. Madison's life was a testimony of how one man can affect the course of a nation and the world. He was a pillar of American culture.




The United States Constitution




The Louisiana Purchase

## VOCABULARY

***Component:*** part, identity
***Arbitrary:*** without fairness or justice
***Acquisition:*** obtain, become owner
***Louisiana Purchase:*** land mass bought from France

## *LIFE PRINCIPLE:*

*"The happy Union of these States is a wonder; their Constitution a miracle; their example the hope of liberty throughout the World."*
-James Madison, US president and Founding Father



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# *Pillars of Culture*
# *Founding Fathers*




## Chapter 1, Section 2
## Topics 6-10



Patrick Henry
Portrait by
George Bagby Matthews

Some people seem destined to make history. Others simply find themselves involved in issues that end up recorded in history books. That was Patrick Henry. His ***eloquent*** speeches ignited a ***firestorm*** among patriots who ***chafed*** at British domination of colonial America. Patrick was born in Virginia in 1736. He was taught at home by his father and uncle, who was a clergyman. The Bible was the primary textbook. Patrick married and tried to be a farmer, but he was not ***destined*** to raise crops. He gave up farming when his house burned and his wife died, leaving him with six children. He grieved exceedingly for two years. Then, at age 41, he married Dorthea, a woman 19 years younger. She birthed 11 children. Henry struggled to feed his family, and poverty drove him to study law. He became a successful lawyer, and was known to be passionate, honest, and trustworthy.

He was elected as a representative to the Virginia House of Burgesses, where he opposed the British Stamp Act with passionate ***orations*** laced with terms such as "natural rights" and "no taxation without representation." His character and courage earned a seat in the First Continental Congress in 1774, where he rubbed elbows with George Washington, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson. As British ***domination*** over colonial families increased, Patrick Henry became a leading voice ***denouncing*** the rule of "tyrants." He made an ***impassioned*** speech ***peppered*** with Bible verses in 1775, stating, "*Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!*" Other colonists in Boston were already dying while opposing the British.

Soon, men like Samuel Adams and Paul Revere in Boston were watching British movements for signs of increased tyranny. Militia in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts met British troops and fired "the shot heard around the world." The American War for Independence was ignited! Virginia declared independence, and

### VOCABULARY

***Eloquent:*** persuasive, convincing
***Firestorm:*** passionate response
***Chafed:*** became angry
***Destined:*** pre-arranged, made for
***Orations:*** speeches
***Domination:*** rule
***Denouncing:*** condemning
***Impassioned:*** energetic, forceful
***Peppered:*** accented

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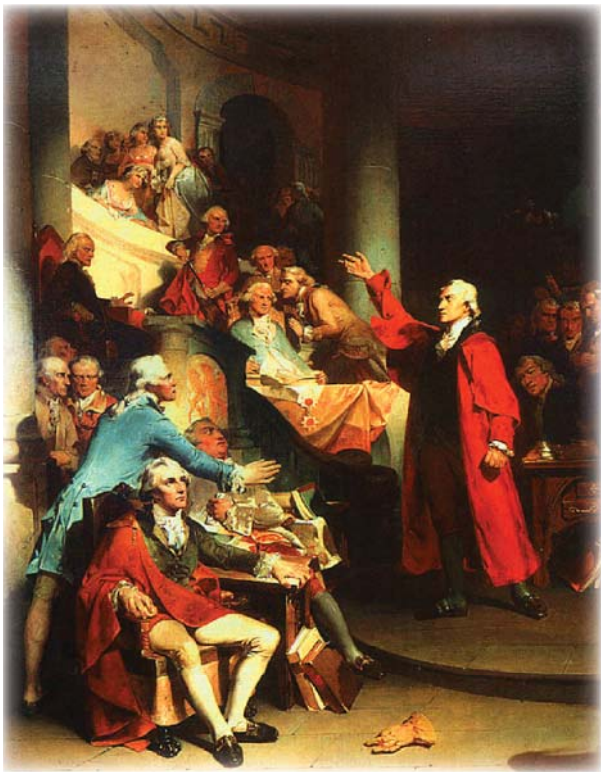
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elected Patrick Henry as the first governor. He was involved in drafting the Virginia Constitution, which became a significant portion of the US Constitution.

Patrick Henry was a strong ***advocate*** of state's rights, and he opposed a strong centralized government with a ***chief executive***. Therefore, he fought against adoption of the US Constitution until the Bill of Rights was guaranteed. He was among advocates of the First Amendment, which states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for ***redress*** of grievances." Henry said, "The Constitution is not an instrument to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government—lest it come to dominate our lives and interests."

Patrick Henry was alarmed at the spread of ***atheism*** arising from the "Godless French Revolution." He argued that America began as a Christian nation and should remain one in-order-to preserve liberty through an educated and moral people. He said, "This book (the Bible) is worth all the books that ever were printed."

Patrick Henry's life as a ***firebrand*** for freedom is remembered on postage stamps, schools, monuments, ships, and streets. He helped give freedom to the United States of America.



Depiction of Patrick Henry's
Famous "Liberty or Death" Speech

Painting by Peter F. Rothermel

## VOCABULARY

***Advocate:*** supporter
***Chief Executive:*** president
***Redress:*** remedy, to set right
***Atheism:*** denies existence of God
***Firebrand:*** out-spoken, passionate person
***Asylum:*** sanctuary, safety from persecution

## *LIFE PRINCIPLE:*

*"Perfect freedom is as necessary to the health and vigor of commerce as it is to the health and vigor of citizenship… For this very reason, people of other faiths have been afforded* ***asylum****, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."*
-Patrick Henry, American patriot and Founding Father

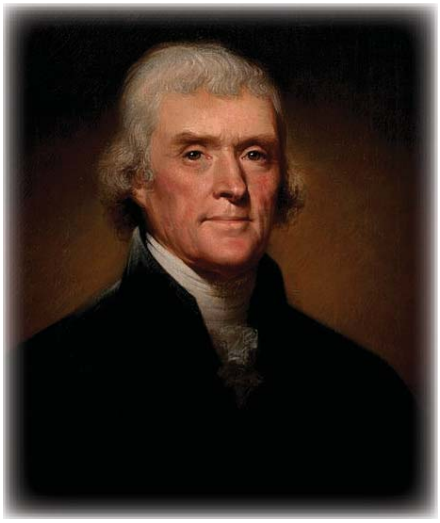

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# *Pillars of Culture*
# *Founding Fathers*




## Chapter 1, Section 2
## Topics 6-10



Thomas Jefferson

Portrait by
Rembrandt Peale

Boys who are red-headed, tall, have freckles, read books, play musical instruments, and roam in the woods are sometimes teased and taunted as being a "bit weird." Thomas Jefferson was such a boy in 1752, when he studied Greek and Latin at the age of nine years. Later, he went to William and Mary College, where he studied mathematics, literature, and law. He became a ***scholarly*** attorney, and was elected to the Virginia ***House of Burgesses***. He married a wealthy widow named Martha Wayles. They had six children before Martha died. Jefferson was ***distraught*** over the death of his beloved wife of ten years. Only two of his six children survived to adulthood. Their deaths added to Jefferson's sorrow and loneliness. He retreated to his Monticello, Virginia farm to become a country gentlemen and to pursue his law career.

In 1773, colonists staged the Boston Tea Party as an act of rebellion against the Stamp Act and Tea Tax imposed on the American colonies by Great Britain. Two years later, shots were exchanged at Lexington and Concord to ignite the War for Independence. The Second Continental Congress met in 1775 and 1776. Thomas Jefferson attended as a representative for Virginia, and was asked to serve on a committee to draw up ***grievances*** against England for its abuses to the colonies. Jefferson was only 33 years of age, but his reputation as a scholar and lawyer prompted Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and other patriots to ask Jefferson to apply his mind and pen to drafting the Declaration of Independence.

His opening statement, called The Preamble, states:

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are* ***endowed*** *by their Creator with certain* ***unalienable*** *rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."*

### VOCABULARY

***Scholarly:*** educated, knowledgeable
***House of Burgesses:*** law-making body of representatives
***Distraught:*** depressed, sad, upset
***Grievances:*** complaints
***Endowed:*** granted, given
***Unalienable:*** promised, can't be taken away, guaranteed

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That document defined why the 13 American colonies ought to be free from British tyranny. Jefferson returned to Virginia to become governor, and to develop laws that reflected the principles contained in the Declaration of Independence. He replaced Benjamin Franklin as an ***envoy*** to France. While there, Jefferson noted the contrast between French property owners and ***peasants***, who were not allowed to own land. Jefferson was ***appalled*** at the way European leaders ruled the people.

Jefferson returned to America to become Secretary of State under George Washington, and eight years later, as vice-president under John Adams. In 1820, Jefferson was elected as President. During his presidency, Jefferson and Madison doubled the size of the United States by arranging the Louisiana Purchase from France (1803). He also ***subdued*** the Barbary Pirates in Tripoli, Africa, and defined the Constitutional First Amendment "wall of separation" that prohibits government from controlling religious practices. He was convinced that freedom and prosperity depended on the right to own property, make a profit in business, and to worship God without government ***interference***.

Jefferson founded the University of Virginia, the first ***secular*** college in America. He is remembered on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. The Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC is visited by people from around the world. He died in 1826 at his beloved home in Virginia. Thomas Jefferson was a Founding Father who helped make America a great nation.



*Declaration of Independence by* John Trumbull

## VOCABULARY

***Envoy:*** diplomatic messenger
***Peasants:*** poor people
***Appalled:*** horrified, disgusted
***Subdued:*** conquered, defeated
***Interference:*** involvement, rules, intrusion
***Secular:*** absence of Biblical principles

## *LIFE PRINCIPLE:*

*"Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God."*
-Thomas Jefferson, US president and Founding Father



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# *About the Author*

Dr. Johnson's career as a teacher and school administrator includes innovative, individualized learning techniques, articles, books, manuals, international recognition and awards. He was selected as a Ford Fellow, Educational Entrepreneur Hero, and served as Vice-President of Development of a large textbook publishing company for 21 years. He was invited twice by President Reagan to the White House to discuss the impact of private schools on American education. He traveled extensively throughout Central and South America and the Pacific Rim area where he conducted educational seminars for public and private school educators. Dr. Johnson and his wife, Nancy, started Paradigm Alternative Center in Dublin, Texas (a contract school) which was recognized in U.S.A. Today newspaper, as among the nation's top 58 effective programs for recovering at-risk teenagers. He is founder and president of Paradigm Accelerated Curriculum, which publishes textbooks designed with virtues and principles to help build character and provide superior academic competency.



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