

Turning Points Chain

Trace how major eras and key dates shaped U.S. history through 1877.

8.1 "History. The student understands traditional historical points of reference in U.S. history through 1877. The student is expected to: identify the major eras in U.S. history through 1877, including colonization, revolution..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each date, then write numbers 1 through 10 beside the era names or descriptions in historical order. Use your marks to trace how one era helped lead to another.

A Chain of Change

- ① U.S. history before 1877 can be read as a chain of eras in which one change helped cause the next. During colonization, England founded Jamestown in 1607, seeking profit and a foothold in North America. In 1620, Pilgrims arrived seeking religious freedom and signed the Mayflower Compact, an agreement to govern their community. Colonization brought European settlements, conflict with Native peoples, and new colonial governments. As colonies grew, many settlers expected a voice in decisions that shaped their lives.
- ② Disputes over taxes and political power helped cause the Revolution. In 1776, colonial leaders adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing that the colonies would separate from Britain. The war's outcome created an independent nation, but its first government proved weak. In 1787, delegates wrote the U.S. Constitution to create a stronger federal government. Ratification made it the nation's framework. During the early republic, the 1803 Louisiana Purchase doubled the nation's land and encouraged westward expansion.
- ③ In the Age of Jackson, expanded voting rights for many white men increased political participation, while federal Indian removal forced Native nations from their homelands. Westward expansion raised arguments over whether slavery would spread. Reform movements pressed for changes such as abolition, women's rights, and better treatment in prisons and schools. Sectionalism, or loyalty to regional interests, deepened conflict over slavery and power. These conflicts led to the Civil War, fought from 1861 to 1865. Reconstruction then sought to reunite the nation and protect formerly enslaved people's rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did colonization help create one cause of the Revolution? Use information from the passage.

2 Why are 1776 and 1787 both significant dates in the creation of the United States?

3 What was one effect of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase?

4 How did sectionalism help lead to the Civil War, and what was one goal of Reconstruction afterward?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose three eras or dated events from the passage. In each row, state a cause or major change and explain one effect on later U.S. history.

ERA OR DATED EVENT	CAUSE OR MAJOR CHANGE	EFFECT ON LATER HISTORY

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each date, then write numbers 1 through 10 beside the era names or descriptions in historical order. Use your marks to trace how one era helped lead to another. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did colonization help create one cause of the Revolution? Use information from the passage.	As the colonies grew, many settlers expected a voice in decisions. Later disputes over taxes and political power helped cause the Revolution.
2	Why are 1776 and 1787 both significant dates in the creation of the United States?	In 1776, colonial leaders adopted the Declaration of Independence and announced separation from Britain. In 1787, delegates wrote the Constitution to create a stronger federal government.
3	What was one effect of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase?	It doubled the nation's land and encouraged westward expansion.
4	How did sectionalism help lead to the Civil War, and what was one goal of Reconstruction afterward?	Sectionalism deepened conflict over slavery and power, helping lead to the Civil War. Reconstruction sought to reunite the nation and protect formerly enslaved people's rights.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

ERA OR DATED EVENT	CAUSE OR MAJOR CHANGE	EFFECT ON LATER HISTORY
Jamestown, 1607	England sought profit and a foothold in North America by founding Jamestown.	Colonization created colonies whose residents later expected a voice in political decisions.
Revolution, 1776	Disputes over taxes and political power led colonial leaders to adopt the Declaration of Independence.	The colonies separated from Britain and became an independent nation.
Sectionalism and Civil War, 1861-1865	Conflict over slavery and regional power deepened sectionalism.	After the war, Reconstruction sought to reunite the nation and protect formerly enslaved people's rights.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that accurately connect events and eras described in the passage. For the table, students may choose any three passage eras or dated events, as long as each row includes a historically accurate effect.