

第一章、美国概况

Chapter 1 American History (I) (1600-1900)

1. Discovery of the New World

*The “first Americans”: Indians

*Christopher Columbus: An Italian navigator supported by Spanish Queen led his men to sail across the vast ocean in 1492 and reached some small islands in the now West Indies. He thought he had reached Aisa and didn't know he had discovered a New Continent. (哥伦布是个粗心大意的家伙[意大利人], 本来要去西藏[西班牙赞助], 却在西印度群岛上, 看到一座寺庙就饿[1492]了, 不想走了。[哥伦布的老家和赞助商要记清])

*Amerigo Vespucci: The navigator who proved that the land was no India, but a new continent. Therefore, the land was named America after him.

2. The Colonial Period

*The first English colony at Jamestown, Virginia (1607) [6 形状是大象的鼻子, 这么记: 一头大象用鼻子(16)吹泡泡(0), 泡泡飘得很高, 挂满了整面旗帜(7), 在 Jamestown 的上空迎风飘扬, 猎猎作响。]

*The original 13 colonies: along the east coast of North America: Virginia, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Georgia. (13: 雨伞。谐音想象: 一把大花伞下面, 你系着一条花围裙[Virginia=维吉尼亚]在和面[Maine], 面里放满了崭新的火腿[New Ham+psshire], 然后你吃着火腿面骑着马[马萨诸塞], 牵[Connecticu]着牛[纽约]上路[Road=Rhode]了, 路上看到隆重的婚礼[Maryland], 北方和南方的学生姐妹坐在彩车[car]里[North Carolina and South Carolina], 新郎[New Jersey]和男傧相[宾州]站在桥[乔治亚州]上迎接新娘。)

*Causes for the colonization of the New World (理解记忆)

Opportunity was the magic word that drew people to America. It drew English nobles and skilled workmen to America and most of all it drew the poor and the homeless from the farmlands and villages of Europe. It offered people a chance to live a better life than they could hope for in the Old World.

*The Pilgrims: To escape **religious persecution**, they left England and lived in Leyden, Holland, but they feared their children might become Dutchmen, so in 1620, 201 them sailed to the New World in a ship called Mayflower. They arrived at Plymouth and built the Plymouth colony. (他们刚到的那个冬天, 有一半人都死了, 后来印第安人教他们种玉米, 丰收后, 举行了第一个“感恩节”, Thanksgiving celebration, 其实他们应该感谢印第安人。)

(201 个英国人装在一朵有一艘船那么大的五月花里, 一溜[16]烟钻进了美国的天鹅洞[20]。)

[The Pilgrims were artisans and peasants.]

*The Puritans and the Massachusetts Bay

The puritans were wealthy and well-educated gentlemen. They wanted to purify the Church of England. The Puritans leaders saw the New World as a refuge provided by God for those He meant to save. So in March 1630, the great Puritan migration began. From 1630 to 1643, some 200 ships transported over 20,000 Englishmen to Massachusetts Bay colony. (下午四点半 [PM4: 30=Puritans+Massachusetts; 4: 30=16:30=1630] 开始, 13 分钟之内 [1630+13=1643], 200 条船运了 2 万个英国佬到马萨诸塞!)

*Features of the new colonies (可以出选择题, 结合后来的美国文化, 容易理解)

The features were representative form of government, rule of law, respect of individual rights, religious tolerance and a strong spirit of individual enterprise.

3. The War of Independence

*Conflicts between the British government and the American people

随着经济的发展, 殖民地人民要更多的权利; 英国政府要控制殖民地的发展, 并且要征收更多的税。贸易价格不公平。实施 Stamp Tax 给养军队。允许东印度公司低价销售茶叶, 抢走美国茶商的生意。

*The "Boston Tea Party"

In 1773, when ships of tea reached Boston, several dozen Boston residents dressed as Indians boarded the ships at night and threw \$75,000 worth of tea into the harbor. This came to be known as the "Boston Tea Party".

(在一个黑漆漆的晚上[1773], 几十个波士顿人上船倒掉了价值 7 万 5 千美金的茶叶, 他们一边倒茶, 一边高兴地翩翩起舞。[75, 可以记住 7 万 5])

*The First Continental Congress

In September 1774, the First Congress was held in Philadelphia encouraging Americans to refuse to buy British goods. Colonial militia units were organized.

(第一次代表大会 1774 在费城召开, 组建民兵组织, 口号是“让英国货一起去死吧!”[1774], 再也不花费[费城]一分钱买英国货!)

*Lexington and Concord

The shot of Lexington (1775) marked the start of the War of Independence.

*The Second Continental Congress

Three weeks after the battles of Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress was held in Philadelphia. The delegates agreed to support the war. The Congress founded a Continental Army and Navy and appointed a committee to draft a formal declaration.

*George Washington: The Congress founded a Continental Army and Navy under the command of George Washington, a Virginian militia (民兵) commander.

*Thomas Jefferson: Tomas Jefferson of Virginia drafted the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776, the Congress adopted the declaration. (*Independence Day!* 记忆 1776: 美国人个个是牛仔, 喜欢一起骑牛[1776]庆祝独立。)

*The Declaration of Independence and the political theory behind the American Revolution
The Declaration is a clear explanation of the political theory behind the revolution and this theory came from the British philosopher John Locke. (独立宣言的理论来自英国哲学家约翰·洛克) [独立的意思约[约翰]等于一把锁[Locke], 把门锁上, 就算是独立了。]
(In September 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed. Britain recognized the independence of the United States.)

[1783, 巴黎条约签定, 英国承认美国独立。美国正式独立了, 人们高兴得一起爬山 (1783) 庆祝, 拍着巴 (巴黎条约) 掌说 give me five!]

*The American War of Independence and its significance (意义: 理解记忆)
The American War of Independence shows that, in a just war, a weak nation can defeat a strong one. It was a historic event: by smashing the fetters[束缚] of colonial rule, the American people gained independence, which gave capitalism a chance for freer development. It had great international influence. For instance, the colonies in Spanish America rose up one after another to overthrow Spanish colonial rule.

4. A New Form of Government

*The Articles of Confederation

With the approach of independence, it was obvious that a more permanent and legitimate union of the states was necessary. A draft of a confederation was accepted by Congress in November 1777 and was presented to the states for their separate approval or rejection. The document was accepted by all the states by March 1781. It was called the Articles of Confederation.

*The Constitutional Convention

A conference was held in Philadelphia in May 1787 to consider what should be done to make the Articles of Confederation adequate. All of the states except Rhode Island were represented at the Constitutional Convention.

[The Articles of Confederation 和 The Constitutional Convention 是有因果关系的, 理解记忆。]

*The “Great Compromise”

The “Great Compromise” gave each state an equal vote in the Senate but making representation in the House reflect the size of each state’s population.

*Federalists and the Federalist Papers

Those who took the lead in urging constitution ratification called themselves Federalists. The Federalist Papers were Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay. (想象: 字头 A。H=啊! J。M=加盟, J。J=举起的双手—>啊, 我们高举双手赞成加盟联邦!!)