

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Grades K - 2

Grades 3 - 4

Grades 5 - 6

Communities/ Colonial America

Create a diorama of the first Thanksgiving. Show what food was served, who came to dinner (first Thanksgiving, colonists, Indians, various props).

Make a Colonial America coloring book. Each student or team chooses a background, adds clip art. All scenes are combined in a book and used as a classroom activity resource (various).

Create a colonial school room scene. Discuss how school life was the same, how different from today (colonial school room, school girl and boy, various props).

Discuss life in Colonial America. Decorate a bulletin board with Colonial Life Scenes (colonial room, Philadelphia street scene, school room, farm, various props).

Create and name a Colonial family - mother, father, son, daughter. Students choose an activity for the family (e.g., work, shopping, cooking dinner), create a scene and place the family in it, then write a simple story about the family.

Pretend you are living in the first English settlement in Jamestown. Write a diary describing what the first winter was like.

Make a poster advertising Jamestown or Plymouth to Europeans (various colonial).

Publish a Colonial newspaper -- The Colonial Crier -- with appropriate stories -- Ben Franklin Flies Kite in Storm, Indians Attend Feast, Another Cold Winter Predicted for Jamestown) (Ben Franklin, Philadelphia, various).

Communities/ The Frontier

Build a frontier home scene, print it poster size, and decorate it with various cutouts (log cabin, various props).

Make a bulletin board of family life in the Frontier (western town, mountains, log homes in winter, mountain cabin, various props).

Pretend you and your family are part of a wagon train. Describe what you might pack to take with you, what animals you might see, what adventures you might have (mountains or desert, wagon, various props).

Create a want ad for pony express riders (Western town, pony express riders, various cowboy and horse figures).

Make a comic book - Frontier Funnies. Make your own characters (various western).

Interview a gold digger during the Goldrush. Write a newspaper story describing panning for gold. Describe the Goldrush (mountains, gold miner, frontiersman, various).

Pretend you are Tecumseh talking to his grandson about why he wanted to stop the settlers from moving west (Indian figure, various western).

Grades K - 2

Grades 3 - 4

Grades 5 - 6

Conflict/The Civil War

Make a simple Civil War poster showing, for North and South, a soldier, flag, leader and typical scene (Confederate and Union soldiers, Confederate and Union flags, plantation, town, etc.).

Create an Abraham Lincoln poster (Abraham Lincoln, log cabin, Civil War figures).

Stage a Civil War battle. Students can hold Confederate or Union soldiers to identify their parts, someone can play General Lee and General Grant (various Civil War).

Write a report about an important Civil War battle, for example, Fort Sumter (Fort Sumter, various Civil War).

Progress in America

Make a transportation Big Book and discuss how each mode was important (steam ship, tall ship, wagon, canoe, steam engine, train).

Interview Benjamin Franklin about how he discovered electricity in lightening.

Write a newspaper story about Eli Whitney and his cotton gin.

Communities/Black Americans

Imagine you are a slave. Describe what it is like. Show your house (log house, various props, various people).

Make a Big Book of Black History. Teams of students can create various pages and write short captions (various plantation and black people, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, various props).

Design a Black History bulletin board showing Black Americans, Plantation life (Plantation, various black people).

Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman all worked to free slaves. Divide the class into groups to choose a figure. Create a scene and write a story about the chosen figure.

Communities/Native American

Publish a Native American coloring book (various western, Native American).

Have a Native American celebration. Design invitations, program, menu, and room decorations (various Native American).

Pick a Native American Tribe and create a poster or bulletin board showing their life and contributions (various Native American).

Make a Native American collage.

Make a chart showing how the Plains Indians were different from the Eastern Woodland Tribes (woodland, prairie, various Native American).

Create a time line showing some major events in Native American history (Andrew Jackson, Sacagawea, various Native American).

Conflict/The Struggle for Independence

Make an Independence Day poster (Liberty Bell, Philadelphia, Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, various).

Create a Silly Scene. Put figures in incongruous backgrounds (Washington in a western town) or make figures say silly sentences (various).

Pretend you are a soldier serving with George Washington. Write a letter home about the winter in Valley Forge (George Washington, log cabins, soldiers, various).

Write a newspaper story about the Boston Tea Party (Boston Tea Party).

Make a diagram illustrating the battle at Concord Bridge (Concord Bridge, various colonial).

Create a "You Are There" scene. For example, talk to Thomas Jefferson about the Declaration of Independence (Jefferson, Philadelphia room, various colonial).