

4th Grade America: A New Nation Resources

New York State Learning Standards for Social Studies

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/socst/>

- Foundations for a new government and the ideals of American democracy as expressed in the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitutions of the State of New York and the United States of America
- The importance of the Bill of Rights
- Individuals and groups who helped to strengthen democracy in the United States
- The roots of American culture, how it developed from many different traditions, and the ways many people from a variety of groups and backgrounds played a role in creating it
- Those values, practices, and traditions that unite all Americans

Digital Resources

Databases: (To access these databases remotely, ask your librarian for your school's username and password.)

Brainpop Jr.: *Brainpop, Jr. is a database that provides a 3-6 minute video on informational topics followed by a comprehension quiz. The database includes activities and lesson plans as well. It is geared towards grades K-3, but can be used in 4th and 5th grades as well.*

The videos offered by Brainpop Jr. that support New York State Social Studies Standards on America as a New Nation for 4th Grade include "The Thirteen Colonies" and "George Washington"

BrainPOP Jr. social studies biographies George Washington

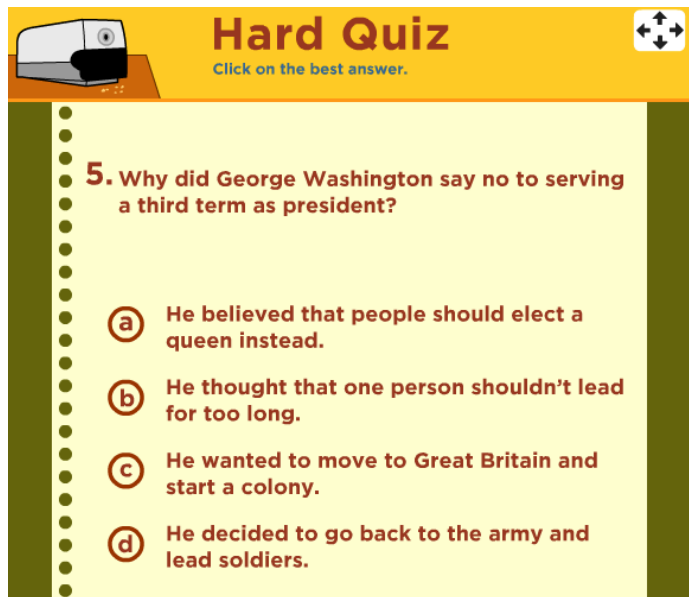
Congress OF THE United States
began and held at the City of New York, on
Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine

What did George Washington do as president?

During Washington's presidency, the states passed the Bill of Rights,

CC BY-NC-SA multiple size print related topics

Two different online quizzes are offered after each video to check for understanding. They are entitled “Easy” and “Hard” with 5 questions each.



Hard Quiz
Click on the best answer.

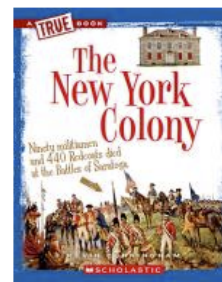
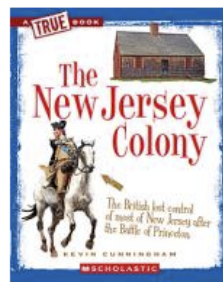
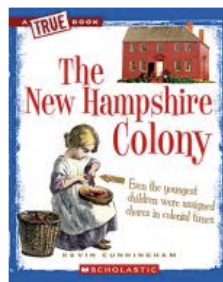
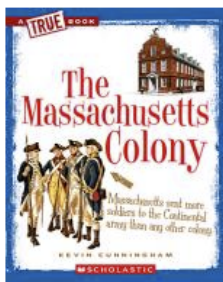
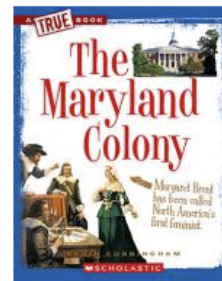
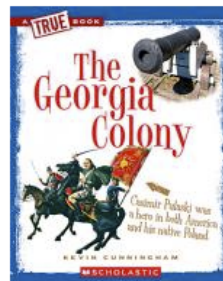
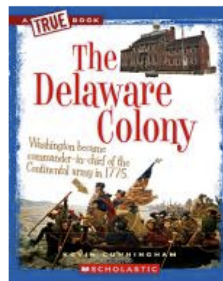
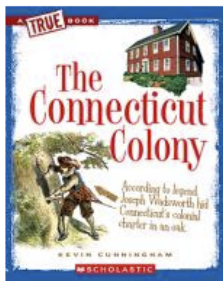
5. Why did George Washington say no to serving a third term as president?

- a He believed that people should elect a queen instead.
- b He thought that one person shouldn't lead for too long.
- c He wanted to move to Great Britain and start a colony.
- d He decided to go back to the army and lead soldiers.

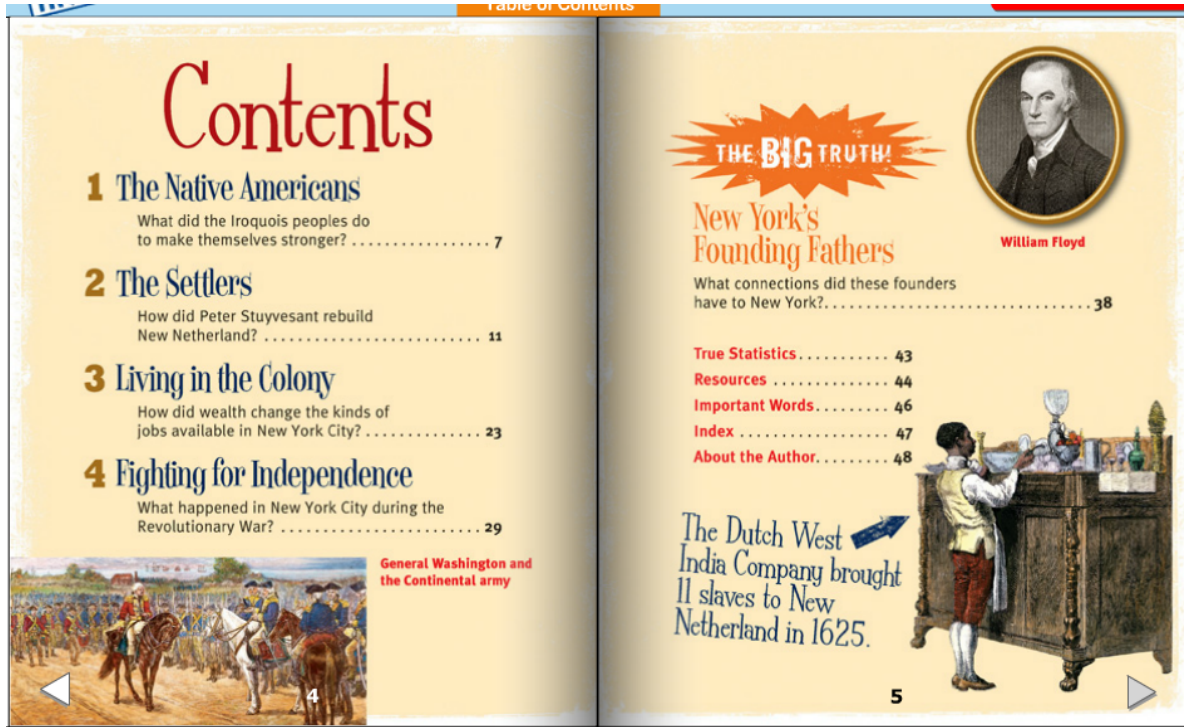
TrueFlix: Trueflix is a database that includes non-fiction electronic books. Within each selected book you will find a 3-6 minute informational video on the subject, and a list of recommended websites.

Trueflix contains a book for each of the original colonies. These titles support the New York State Social Studies Standards on America: A New Nation for 4th Grade. The books are 48 pages long, and include a “Read-Along” button which highlights each word as it is read aloud.

The Thirteen Colonies



Here is a sample page from *The New York Colony*:



Each subject in *Trueflix* has a part called “Show What You Know.” This is a ten question quiz that can be used to check understanding from the text.

Show What You Know

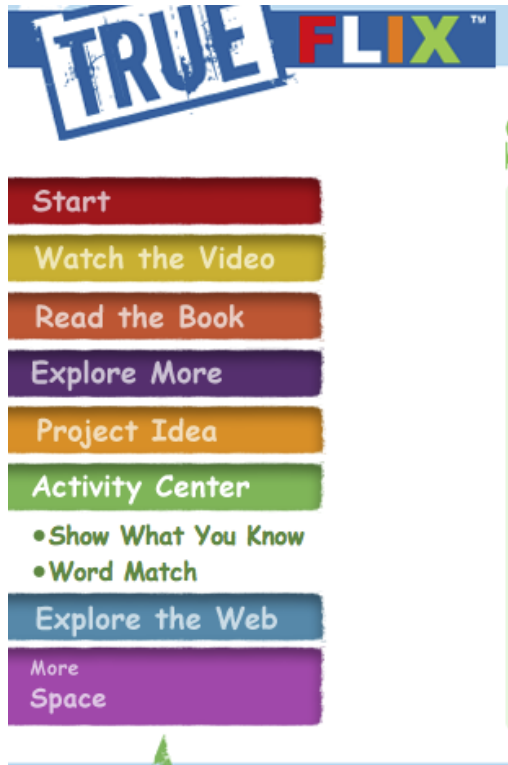
4. Which word best describes New York during the turn of the 18th century?



- rural
- unfriendly
- declining
- prosperous

SUBMIT

Trueflix also offers word match activity that can be done online. Word match gives a clue that can then be matched with a keyword from the text. As you can see from the toolbar on the left, there are project ideas for the classroom, a list of other non-fiction resources on the same topic in “Explore More,” related websites that have been tested and recommended, and a 3-6 minute video in “Watch the Video.”



Word Match

Read the clue below. Click on the word it matches.
Match all the words to uncover a picture.

CLUE: an agreement to work together for some result

legislature	militia	Loyalists
Iroquois	independence	alliance
constitution	boycott	Patriots

Pebble Go! *Pebble Go is a database that includes non-fiction books, videos and activities. The target audience for Pebble Go is Kindergarten through 3rd grade, however Pebble Go can be a great way to pique interest in a topic for 4th and 5th graders. Each book is 5 pages long and includes a read-aloud button that highlights each word as it reads aloud. There are often one or two very short videos on the topic embedded within each book.*


Pebble Go has these two books which align with New York State Social Studies Standards on America: A New Nation for 4th Grade. You can find these titles in the “U.S. Government” part of the Social Studies section in Pebble Go:




Here is a look at the inside of both books:

Home > U.S. Constitution

What Is the Constitution? When Was It Made? Who Made the Constitution? A New Government The Bill of Rights Related Articles

 The U.S. Constitution is a **document**. It set up the United States **government**. It gave the **government** three **branches**. Each **branch** has equal power.



The U.S. Constitution

Home > Declaration of Independence

Declaration of Independence Why Was It Written? Who Wrote the Declaration? What the Declaration Means The Declaration Today Related Articles

 The Declaration of **Independence** is a **document** written in 1776. It said the United States was a free and **independent** country. The Declaration told about the **rights** of every U.S. **citizen**.



The Declaration was signed in Independence Hall.

World Book Web:

*The World Book Web is a suite of online research tools that includes encyclopedia articles, primary source collections, educator tools, student activities, pictures, audio, and video, complemented by current periodicals and related Web sites. Most all of these World Book Web research tools include options where text can be read aloud to the user. All Ithaca elementary school libraries currently subscribe to **World Book Kids**, **World Book Student**, **World Book Discover**, **World Book Timelines** and **World Book Classroom: Early World of Learning**. For specific training in how to use these amazing tools consult Worldbook's training website or ask your school's librarian. <http://www.worldbookonline.com/training/>*

World Book Discover has an article called "constitution of the United States" which aligns with New York State Social Studies Standards for 4th Grade. You can use this link to access the article on day and night:

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wbdiscover/article?id=ar830414&st=constitution>

OR you can simply type "constitution" in World Book Discover and choose the first article.

WORLD BOOK DISCOVER

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Article content

Lexile® Measure: 900L

Introduction

Other languages

En español

translate this text into:

Arabic GO

Please Note: This translator will not produce a perfect translation but should adequately convey the general sense of the original.

Content standards

This World Book article aligns with New York Learning Standards

[View Learning Standards](#)

Back

Tools

- Print
- Save to My Research
- Double-click a word to define it.
- E-mail Article
- Save article
- Enable read-aloud toolbar
- Highlight search term in text

Constitution of the United States

The Constitution of the United States tells us what the government of the United States can do and what it cannot do. The Constitution describes how the government is set up and explains what laws the government can make. It also explains the people's rights—the things the government cannot take away. For example, the government cannot take away a person's right to speak freely or to follow a religion.



Image

[Signing of the Constitution of the United States](#)

Comprehension questions

1. In what year did leaders of the United States write the Constitution?
2. What earlier set of rules did the Constitution replace?
3. Name two of the leaders of the United States who helped write the Constitution.
4. In what year was the Constitution approved by the 13th state?

World Book Discover offers a two and a half minute video called “What’s the difference between a ‘living’ and a ‘dead’ constitution”



World Book Discover has an article called “bill of rights” which aligns with New York State Social Studies Standards for 4th Grade. You can use this link to access the article on day and night: <http://www.worldbookonline.com/wbdiscover/article?id=ar832603&st=+bill+of+rights> OR you can simply type “bill of rights” in World Book Discover and choose the first article.

Article content

Introduction

Other languages

En español

translate this text into:

Arabic

Please Note: This translator will not produce a perfect translation but should adequately convey the general sense of the original.

Content standards

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[Back](#)

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Bill of rights

A bill of rights is a document that describes the basic liberties of the people. It also forbids the government to violate these rights.

The constitutions of many democratic countries have bills of rights that guarantee everyone freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press. Most bills of rights also promise the right to a fair trial and other rights. For example, the first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States are known as the *Bill of Rights*. The bill came into effect on Dec. 15, 1791. The 10 amendments were adopted because some states refused to approve the Constitution unless a bill of rights was added. The amendments protect individuals from various unjust acts of government.

In 1689, the English Parliament presented to King William III and Queen Mary a declaration that became known as the *English Bill of Rights*. This bill eliminated many powers of the king and guaranteed the basic rights and liberties of the English people.



Image
[Bill of Rights](#)

There is also an article on the Declaration of Independence in World Book Discover:

Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is an important American document. In that written announcement, the American Colonies let it be known that they were free from Great Britain. The American Colonies were made up of people who had left other countries to come to what is now the United States. The Declaration of Independence went into effect on July 4, 1776. This date is celebrated as the birthday of the United States.

In the 10 years before the Declaration, the people of the American Colonies tried to get along with Great Britain. However, the leaders in Great Britain did not always treat the colonies well. Many quarrels and battles took place. On June 7, 1776, the leaders of the colonies started to talk about separating from Great Britain. After many days of talking it over, a group of people was selected to write a declaration of independence. Thomas Jefferson of Virginia wrote most of it. He later became the third president of the United States.



The Declaration of Independence listed the colonies' reasons for announcing their freedom. It said the British government did not treat them fairly. The Declaration of Independence stated that all people have certain rights, including the right to change a government that does not give them their rights.

The Declaration is important not only because it freed the colonies from Great Britain. It also said that governments must work for the people, and not for their leaders. It also stated that when a government does not rule fairly, the people of that country have a right to get rid of the government. In addition, the Declaration said that



Image
[The original Declaration of Independence is kept in a special case in Washington, D.C.](#)

Websites:

History for Kids

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/northamerica/after1500/government/>

Documents like the Bill of Rights, The Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution re-written in language that is more accessible for elementary aged students.

Our Documents

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/index.php?flash=true&>

Includes online copies of all of America's important historical documents.

America's Story: Library of Congress

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/nation/jb_nation_subj.html

Meet amazing Americans, jump back in time, explore the states, early America timelines and more.

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/index.html>

This comprehensive website includes sections on branches of government, historical documents, our nation, election process, symbols and much more. There is a games and activities section as well.

New Beta version of Ben's Guide to U.S. Government: <http://beta.fdlp.gov/>

Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/NewNation.html>

Resources on America as a new nation. Information on all important documents from 1775-1814. Includes Bill of Rights, Constitution, and Declaration of Independence.

iPad apps:

George Washington: A Presidential Collection - by BiblioLabs, LLC

Cost: \$9.99

Discover the life and genius of President George Washington through detailed biographies, personal letters, military journals, famous paintings and more.

Constitution - by Kids Discover

Cost: \$3.99

Learn about the battle to write ratify and enforce the Constitution. Discover how amendments are proposed and incorporated into legislation.

New Nation America: The United States from 1787-1820 - by Multieducator

Cost: \$4.99

Includes Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe Presidencies. Includes War of 1812. Also focuses on ethnic and religious groups, regions and cities, economy and biographies of key players in early American history.