



# America Past

## U.S. History, Art, Literature, Social Sciences

AIT 1987

16 15-minute programs for grades 8-12  
Unrestricted Use for Educational Purposes  
website: [www.ait.net/catalog/catpages/c265a.shtml](http://www.ait.net/catalog/catpages/c265a.shtml)

### 101. New Spain

**Social Studies:** 3.2,5.2,5.10, 9.5,9.11

The Spanish came to the New World with "the sword in one hand and the Bible in the other." The influence of the conquistadors and the missionaries can be seen in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and other locations in the southwestern part of the United States. Their contributions, especially to the Southwest, include cattle, horses, architecture, and religion.

### 102. New France

**Social Studies:** 3.2, 5.2, 5.9, 5.10, 9.5, 9.11

The French explorers discovered the Mississippi River in their search for a Northwest Passage. Their forts became the backbone of the French fur trade. The modern Cajun band Beausoleil represents traditional French culture in America.

### 103. Southern Colonies

**Social Studies:** 3.2,3.3,3.4,4.2,4.3-5.2, 5.3,5.9,5.10, 9.5, 9.11

The English story in the New World starts with Virginia, the first of five Southern colonies that were characterized by the plantation system. Tobacco established Jamestown's economic base, the plantation system, and the roots of slavery. The homes of plantation owners like George Mason's Gunston Hall copied the mansions of English

country gentlemen. Colonial Williamsburg was the site of the first elected lawmaking body in the New World and has been preserved to show the lifestyle of Colonial America.

### 104. New England Colonies

**Social Studies:** 5.2, 5.3, 5.9, 5.10, 9.5, 9.11

Seeking religious freedom, the Pilgrims founded their settlement at Plymouth in 1620. The harsh environment forced them to turn to the sea for survival.

### 105. Canals & Steamboats

**Social Studies:** 5.6,5.9,5.10, 9.7, 9.11, 10.10

The settlement of the Ohio River Valley encouraged the development of a transportation system to move farm products to the East. The Erie Canal connected New York City with western trade. Then other canals such as the Chesapeake and Ohio were built. The invention of the steamboat made trade routes down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers practical, if hazardous.

### 106. Roads & Railroads

**Social Studies:** 5.6, 5.9, 5.10, 9.7, 9.11, 10.10

The National or Cumberland Road was built by the U.S. government during the early nineteenth century to pave the way to the West. The railroad locomotive applied the

steam engine to land transportation.

### 107. The Artist's View

**Social Studies:** 9.7,9.11

Portrait painting enjoyed great popularity in colonial times. After the War of 1812, artists began depicting American scenes and historical events as a result of the growth in national pride.

### 108. The Writer's View

**Social Studies:** 9.7,9.11, 11.16

American writers soon changed from following European models of literature to creating their own forms and to reflecting the increased national interest in American issues. Authors include Wheatley, Irving, Longfellow, Emerson, Cooper, Thoreau, Poe, Whitman, and Stowe.

### 109. The Abolitionists

**Social Studies:** 4.4, 4.7, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10,11.5,11.6

The abolitionists supported the Underground Railroad that aided slaves in escaping to Canada. Harriet Tubman was the best known "conductor" on the Underground Railroad. Abolitionists had virtually no support in the South and little in the North before the 1850s.

### 110. The Role of Women

**Social Studies:** 5.8,6.2,9.9,9.11

Women were widely involved in

These programs are licensed through Blue Ridge Public Television and may be obtained on videotape from your school or division media center. Visit our website at [www.wbra.org](http://www.wbra.org) for more information.

most reforms of the nineteenth century. Through this involvement they became aware of their own second-class status. The women's movement was centered in Seneca Falls, New York, where Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home still stands and where the Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention was held in 1848.  
**Social Studies: 5.8,6.2,9.9,9.11**

#### **111. Utopias**

**Social Studies: 9.7, 9.11**

During the first half of the nineteenth century, reformers established more than 40 utopian communities in the United States. Most of them had some social and educational success but finally collapsed in dept. The better known attempts include Brook Farm, Fruitlands, New Harmony, Oneida Community, and the Shaker settlements.

#### **112. Religion**

**Social Studies: 9.7, 9.11, 11.7, 11.17, 11.18**

At first religion suffered from the shock of independence and the skepticism of the Age of Reason. But a sharp reaction against religion set in after 1800 when the Second Great Awakening aroused the nation. Religion put fire into the reform movement – believers wanted not only to save their own souls, but also society. Camp meetings showed the effect of religion in the West.

#### **113. Social Life**

**Social Studies: 9.7, 9.11, 10.9,10.15**

Americans gave the impression of being an energetic people, arrogant and crude-but democratic. This program considers reform movements, the rise of the cities, entertainment, and medical training between 1800-1850.

#### **114. Moving West**

**Social Studies: 5.6, 5.9, 5.10, 6.1, 6.2 10.15**

The promise of trade, land, and gold lured people to the West. The Mormons fled religious persecution. The goal of Manifest Destiny was the "The United States should extend from the rising to the setting sun." A major problem arose: should the new territories be slave or free?

#### **115. The Industrial North**

**Social Studies: 5.6, 5.9, 5.10, 9.9, 10.15, 11.8,11.17,11.18**

**Math: 5.9**

#### **Computer Technology: 5.10**

Before the industrial revolution, products in the United States were made by hand, not machine. The textile industry in New England started America's industrial revolution. Hopewell Village in Pennsylvania represents a typical iron plantation that manufactured cast iron for others to turn into products.

#### **116. The Antebellum South**

**Social Studies- 5.6, 5.7, 5.10, 9.7, 9.9**

When cotton became king in the South before the Civil War, the Southern attitude toward slavery changed. All classes of people in the South seemed to support the institution of slavery because they believed their welfare depended upon cotton, and cotton depended upon slavery. The program contrasts their picture of a slave's life with that of former slaves.