

The following are lessons featured on TED-Ed. You can create lessons from scratch around any YouTube video to “flip” your class and help jumpstart classroom discussions. Please preview the lessons and see if you find them suitable for your school community’s values. I encourage you to take the [TED-ED TOUR](#) prior to viewing any of the following lessons. If you like the lessons, please think about making your own: [CREATE A TED-ED LESSON](#).

Colonialism (1600-1750)

[The true story of Sacajawea - Karen Mensing](#) In the early 19th century, a young Agaidika teenager named Sacajawea was enlisted by explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to aid her husband Toussaint Charbonneau as a guide to the Western United States. Karen Mensing debunks some of the myths that surround the familiar image of the heroic woman with a baby strapped to her back and a vast knowledge of the American wilderness.

[Mysteries of vernacular: Yankee - Jessica Oreck and Rachael Teel](#) Is it a doodle dandy? A baseball team? The origins of the word yankee are unclear, though its usage in America as a pejorative is well-documented. Jessica Oreck and Rachael Teel track the varying levels of contempt that the word yankee has elicited from the pre-Revolution era to today.

Development of a New Nation (1720-1787)

[The story behind the Boston Tea Party - Ben Labaree](#) In 1776, American colonists were taxed heavily for importing tea from Britain. The colonists, not fans of "taxation without representation", reacted by dumping tea into the Boston Harbor, a night now known as the Boston Tea Party. Ben Labaree gets into the nitty-gritty of that famous revolutionary act.

[What you might not know about the Declaration of Independence - Kenneth C. Davis](#) In June 1776, a little over a year after the start of the American Revolutionary War, the US Continental Congress huddled together in a hot room in Philadelphia to talk independence. Kenneth C. Davis dives into some of the lesser known facts about the process of writing the Declaration of Independence and questions one very controversial omission.

The Constitution and Foundation of the American Political System (1777-1789)

[Inventing the American presidency - Kenneth C. Davis](#) When the founders of the United States gathered to create the foundations of the country, they decided on three branches of government, with a president central to the executive branch. Kenneth C. Davis explains why this decision was not necessarily inevitable and what variables were up for debate.

[Does your vote count? The Electoral College explained - Christina Greer](#) You vote, but then what? Discover how your individual vote contributes to the popular vote and your state’s electoral vote in different ways--and see how votes are counted on both state and national levels.

[The oddities of the first American election - Kenneth C. Davis](#) How did George Washington become the first president of the United States in 1789? Who got to decide--or vote--who would become president, and how did they decide the winner? Kenneth C. Davis unveils the surprising story behind America’s first presidential election.

[The Making of the American Constitution - Judy Walton](#) How did a meeting intended to revise the Articles of Confederation lead to the new Constitution for the United States? Discover how a handful of men--sitting in sweltering heat and shrouded by secrecy--changed the course of history for America in 1787.

[A 3-minute guide to the Bill of Rights - Belinda Stutzman](#) Daily, Americans exercise their rights secured by the Constitution. The most widely discussed and debated part of the Constitution is known as the Bill of Rights. Belinda Stutzman provides a refresher course on exactly what the first ten amendments grant each and every American citizen.

[The fight for the right to vote in the United States - Nicki Beaman Griffin](#) In the United States today, if you are over eighteen, a citizen, and the resident of a state, you can vote (with some exceptions). So, how have voting rights changed since the first election in 1789? Nicki Beaman Griffin outlines the history of the long fight for a more inclusive electorate.

Growth of the Young Nation (1789-1849)

[Why do Americans vote on Tuesdays? - Jacob Soboroff](#) Since 1845, Americans have been voting on Tuesdays -- but why? In this humorous talk, Jacob Soboroff shares the history of Election Day and shows how voting on a Tuesday affects voter turnout.

[How inventions change history \(for better and for worse\) - Kenneth C. Davis](#) Invented in 1793, the cotton gin changed history for good and bad. By allowing one field hand to do the work of 10, it powered a new industry that brought wealth and power to the American South -- but, tragically, it also multiplied and prolonged the use of slave labor. Kenneth C. Davis lauds innovation, while warning us of unintended consequences

[History vs. Andrew Jackson - James Fester](#) Andrew Jackson was both beloved and loathed during his presidency. In this imaginary courtroom, you get to be the jury, considering and weighing Jackson's part in the spoils system, economic depression, and the Indian Removal Act, as well as his patriotism and the pressures of the presidency. James Fester explores how time shapes our relationship to controversial historical figures.

The United States' Role on the World Stage (1789-1849)

The Sectionalism of the American North, South, and West (1800-1850)

[How one piece of legislation divided a nation - Ben Labaree, Jr.](#) You may think that things are heated in Washington today, but the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 had members of Congress so angry they pulled out their weapons -- and formed the Republican Party. The issues? Slavery and states' rights, which led the divided nation straight into the Civil War. Ben Labaree, Jr. explains how Abraham Lincoln's party emerged amidst the madness.

Slavery in America (1800-1850)

[The Atlantic slave trade: What too few textbooks told you - Anthony Hazard](#) Slavery has occurred in many forms throughout the world, but the Atlantic slave trade -- which forcibly brought more than 10 million Africans to the Americas -- stands out for both its global scale and its lasting legacy. Anthony Hazard discusses the historical, economic and personal impact of this massive historical injustice.

Civil War (1830-1865)

[A digital reimagining of Gettysburg - Anne Knowles](#) Geographer Anne Knowles uses digital technologies to reimagine the past. In this fascinating talk, Knowles transports us to the Battle of Gettysburg, the turning point of the Civil War. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and historical maps, she traces the footsteps of Robert E. Lee as he orders Pickett's Charge -- and makes an educated guess why he made this crucial mistake.

Reconstruction (1865-1877)

Westward Expansion after the Civil War (1865-1890)

[America's native prisoners of war - Aaron Huey](#) Aaron Huey's effort to photograph poverty in America led him to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, where the struggle of the native Lakota people -- appalling, and largely ignored -- compelled him to refocus. Five years of work later, his

haunting photos intertwine with a shocking history lesson in this bold, courageous talk. (*Filmed at [TEDxDU](#).*)

[How did trains standardize time in the United States? - William Heuisler](#) If you live in the United States, you may live in the Eastern Standard Time Zone. Or maybe you live in Mountain Standard Time or one of the other standardized time zones. But these time zones have not always been around. In fact, it's a fairly recent development. William Heuisler explains the history of time and how trains changed everything.