1776
Lee Resolution—
Richard Henry Lee, Virginia delegate to the Second Continental Congress, urges the Congress to declare colonial independence from Great Britain on June 7. His statement to the Revolutionary Congress, which is adopted and forms the basis of the Declaration of Independence, is known as the “Lee Resolution.”

1776
Declaration of Independence—
The formal statement of separation and list of grievances, as well as the principles that inform them, is issued by the Continental Congress on behalf of the 13 American colonies against Great Britain.

1777
Articles of Confederation—
This is the first “blueprint” of government adopted by the Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War. Warned of a strong central power in the wake of their experiences with Britain, the Articles reserve the right for each state to maintain “its sovereignty, freedom and independence.” The Articles identify Americans as citizens of their own state first, and of the United States second.

1777
Treaty of Alliance with France—
Believing that they would benefit militarily by allying themselves with a powerful nation, the revolutionary colonies form an alliance with France against Great Britain. According to this first military treaty of the new nation, the United States will provide for a defensive alliance to aid France should England attack, and neither France nor the United States will make peace with England until the independence of the United States is recognized.

1782
Original Design of the Great Seal of the United States—
Several years in the making, the Great Seal is adopted by Congress; it symbolizes the sovereignty of the new nation.
1783
Treaty of Paris—
Ending the war between Great Britain and its former colonies, this treaty formally recognizes the United States as an independent nation.

1787
Virginia Plan—
Having agreed the Articles of Confederation were too weak a basis on which to build a new national government, the delegates to a convention charged with creating a new Constitution for the United States adopt this new blueprint for government on May 29. Written by Virginia convention delegate James Madison, this plan proposes a strong central government composed of three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. It also enables the legislative branch to veto state laws and use force against states that fail to fulfill their duties.

Northwest Ordinance—
This ordinance, passed by the Confederation Congress on July 13, establishes the United States' control over the territory north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River. The ordinance lays the groundwork for national westward expansion by defining steps for the creation of new states.

National History Day is a nationally acclaimed history education program that is promoting the study of civics and citizenship among the nation's students and teachers. National History Day is encouraging students in grades 6-12 to participate in its annual student competition on Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History and is challenging teachers to develop lessons to restore the study of our nation’s heritage to a prominent place in the classroom. To find out more, go to www.nationalhistoryday.org.

USA Freedom Corps is a White House Coordinating Council created by President George W. Bush to help foster a culture of service, citizenship and responsibility in America's communities. To find out more, go to www.usafreedomcorps.gov.

The Teacher Sourcebook is sponsored by The History Channel. Now reaching 83.2 million Nielsen subscribers, The History Channel brings history to life in a powerful manner and provides an inviting place where people experience history personally and connect their own lives to the great lives and events of the past. The History Channel received the prestigious Governor's award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for the network's Save Our History campaign dedicated to historic preservation and education. Find out more at www.historychannel.com.

It is the purpose of Our Documents: A National Initiative on American History, Civics, and Service, to promote public exploration of how our democracy has taken shape over time. Our Documents is an initiative of National History Day and The National Archives and Records Administration in cooperation with the USA Freedom Corps.

Civics, and Service
1787 continued

Constitution of the United States—

After months of debate in Philadelphia, the Convention charged with constructing a system of government to replace that created by the Articles of Confederation adopts a new national Constitution. This Constitution creates a representative democratic republican form of government with a system of checks and balances. The new government will have three branches: the Legislative branch that will include a House of Representatives and a Senate, an Executive branch, and a Judicial branch.

Federalist Paper No. 10—

In order for the newly drafted Constitution to become law, it needs to be ratified by nine of the 13 states. Some voters in the states have to be convinced that the new Constitution is worth adopting. The Federalist Papers, which are a series of newspaper essays written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, are written to promote the ratification of the Constitution. In Federalist No. 10, Madison argues that the representative democratic republican form of government created by the new Constitution provides a remedy for the diseases to which such governments are most prone: factions.
we the people
in order to form a more perfect union
discover... investigate...
participate

> www.ourdocuments.gov
Toward “A More Perfect Union”:

The Our Documents initiative revolves around 100 milestone documents drawn from thousands of public laws, Supreme Court decisions, inaugural speeches, treaties, constitutional amendments, and other national artifacts that have shaped us as a people. These documents, which reflect the diversity and unity of our nation, are available to the public through the Our Documents Web site: www.ourdocuments.gov. The goal of the initiative is to engage students, teachers, parents, and members of the general public in reading the milestone documents, reflecting upon them, and discussing them in the hopes of creating “a more perfect union.”

It is the purpose of Our Documents:
A National Initiative on American History, Civics, and Service, sponsored by the National Archives and Records Administration, National History Day, and the USA Freedom Corps to promote public exploration of how our democracy has changed over time.

Last year, that engagement took many forms. The 100 Documents and the Our Documents Teacher Sourcebook were posted on the www.ourdocuments.gov website. 40,000 hardcopies of the Teacher Sourcebook were distributed to educators across the country. Our Documents sponsored a teacher lesson plan competition to generate use of the documents and appreciation for the nation’s history in the schools. The winning lessons from last year’s competition are published in this volume of the Teacher’s Sourcebook. Our Documents also conferred recognition upon students who used the documents in their 2003 National History Day projects in historically innovative ways.

This year, the Our Documents initiative continues. The updated Web site and this volume of the Teacher Sourcebook are available to educators. Our Documents will also hold another lesson plan competition for educators, and students will again be recognized at the June 2004 National History Day Awards Ceremony for making excellent use of the documents in History Day projects. We are, moreover, encouraging educators and students to join the general public in a national Our Documents vote. Starting on September 17th, 2003, Constitution Day, Americans will begin casting votes for their personal top ten most significant documents in United States history. Participants can write in their own choices, or choose from the list of 100 milestone documents (see pages 7-8 for more details). Cast your vote at www.ourdocuments.gov.
The Our Documents Initiative in its Second Year

The Our Documents Teacher Sourcebook: Volume II

What do Matthew Brady, Carrie Chapman Catt, Ansel Adams, Orson Welles, and J. Howard Miller have to do with the 100 milestone documents? A few hints: Matthew Brady created the first photographic documentation of a war. Carrie Chapman Catt was the president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1920. Orson Welles produced plays for the Federal Theater Project, a program of the Works Progress Administration established during the Depression to relieve unemployment among artists and writers. J. Howard Miller created some of the most memorable posters designed to rally the public for war in the 1940s, including the easily recognizable “Rosie the Riveter” poster calling women to work in the nation’s factories as men left for battle overseas.

Indeed, these individuals may not be the first to come to mind when looking over the list of milestone documents, but their lives are very much connected to them. Without Matthew Brady, we would know less than we do about Document 39, the Articles of Agreement Relating to the Surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, because Matthew Brady photographed the location where those articles ending the Civil War were signed. Without Carrie Chapman Catt’s diligent efforts, Document 63, the Nineteenth Amendment, might not have been ratified and women might still not possess the right to vote. After Franklin Roosevelt’s joint address to Congress leading to a Declaration of War against Japan in 1941, Document 73, J. Howard Miller and an army of artists were charged with creating dozens of posters designed to unify Americans behind the war effort. These individuals have left what we might view as the “supporting record” of the 100 milestone documents. These supporting materials are the focus of the lessons and activities contained within this volume of the Our Documents Teacher Sourcebook. One aim here is to expose the range and variety of materials related to the milestone documents, materials that reveal the depth and character of the documents themselves. Accordingly, the lessons and materials within this volume focus on selected photographs, posters, fliers, print documents and other materials that support the 100 milestone documents themselves.
This volume of the Our Documents Teacher Sourcebook also seeks to relate the milestone documents to this year’s National History Day theme, Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History. All of the individuals mentioned above, for example, can be connected to this year’s National History Day theme. Matthew Brady’s use of the new media of photography, for example, yielded a record of war that transformed Americans’ views of military encounters. Suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt helped to transform the nature of political exchange in the United States by pushing for the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. The milestone documents’ supporting materials do not necessarily have to relate to individuals, however. Orson Welles was a director involved in the Federal Theater Project, but one does not have to focus on him or any other director in research on that subject. Print materials like the playbill you will see within this Sourcebook came from the Federal Theater Project, part of the second half of the New Deal (Document 69). Such items are supporting materials that can be examined for the encounters and exchanges they generated between artists, the public, and the federal government.

This sourcebook offers the educator several resources designed to facilitate the use of the milestone documents in the classroom. The list of documents, timeline, and selected bibliography are reprinted here to generate basic comprehension and further exploration of our nation’s archived past. Information on this year’s student and educator competitions are included, as well. This volume also contains thoughtful lesson plans and worksheets that illuminate the variety of primary sources supporting the milestone documents, from photos to posters to other kinds of print materials. The lesson plans also tie the milestone documents and supporting materials to this year’s National History Day theme, Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History. Another activity shows how one teacher adapted Our Documents to effectively meet local standards. Finally, Our Documents recognizes last year’s teacher competition winners by publishing their lesson plans, with the hope that other teachers will benefit from their innovative use of the documents.
Discover... Investigate... Participate in Our Documents

We invite all Americans to participate in Our Documents through a series of events and programs to get us thinking, talking, and teaching about the milestone documents that have helped create the United States of America. The initiative includes:

The People’s Vote: 100 Documents That Shaped America
Starting on Constitution Day, September 17, all Americans will be able to vote on what they have found to be the 10 most significant documents in American History. Write in your favorite documents or choose from the list of the 100 milestone documents provided by the National Archives. Whole schools can get involved in this discussion and then vote at www.usnews.com/vote.

U.S. News and World Report is sponsoring the national vote by creating a special issue detailing these milestone documents. The commemorative issue will provide a paper ballot for the national vote and be available on newsstands starting September 15. Go to www.usnews.com/vote for more information or to vote for your top 10 documents.

Our Documents Poster
Celebrate the documents that founded our nation and made America what it is today. Siemens is helping Americans understand the importance of these milestone documents by underwriting an exciting commemorative poster. Contact your NHD coordinator at www.nationalhistoryday.org or e-mail info@nationalhistoryday.org to receive a copy of this special poster for your classroom, library, and school.
Web Site Fosters Dialogue About Democracy

Go to www.ourdocuments.gov and see the original speeches, international treaties, Supreme Court cases, patent designs, and Constitutional amendments that changed the course of history. Read transcriptions and historical interpretations of these documents. Have your class view a comprehensive annotated timeline of the documents and use these resources to prepare NHD projects.

Our Documents Town Hall Meeting

The History Channel presents Our Documents Town Hall Meeting, exploring National Archives's collection of 100 milestone documents and what these documents mean to our lives today. Stacey Bredhoff, Senior Curator from the National Archives, Dr. James Horton from George Washington University, and Dr. Steven Gillon from the University of Oklahoma will lead the discussion with middle and high school student participants. This program may be taped for classroom use. Go to www.historychannel.com or check your local cable listings for show times.

Save Our History™: Our Documents A Preservation Documentary

Airdate: Saturday, December 20, 2003. The National Archives reopened the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom on September 17, 2003. The U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights have been conserved and their encasements have been updated. But what technology is used for preservation? What are some of the lesser known documents in the collection that have had an important impact on our lives? Find out the answers to these and many other questions when The History Channel explores Our Documents in a new Save Our History documentary, dedicated to historic preservation and history education. A free study guide for students and teachers will be available on line at www.savehistory.com closer to air date. Go to www.historychannel.com or check your local cable listing for show times.

Our Documents: A Hundred Documents That Shaped The Nation

Oxford University Press has published a commemorative book of the 100 milestone documents that have shaped our nation. Comprised of documents judged by the staff of the National Archives to be essential in the development of the United States from its founding to 1965, Our Documents begins with a forward by award-winning historian Michael Beschloss, a preface by the Archivist of the U.S., and an essay on how the documents were selected. Filled with color photos and historical information on documents such as the original design for the Great Seal, the patents for the electric light bulb, the check that purchased Alaska, and many other fascinating documents, this book is the perfect companion for students, teacher, and all Americans who appreciate the historical legacy of the nation’s archives. Order your book today at www.oup-usa.org!

Help us form a More Perfect Union...
Go to www.ourdocuments.gov today!
**1788**

**Federalist Paper No. 51**—
Hamilton and Madison argue in Federalist No. 51 that the three branches of government created by the Constitution effectively divide power among them, allowing each branch to check the power of the others, as well as itself. Adopting the new Constitution would therefore create a government capable of resisting tyranny, and hence, securing freedom. Nine states ratify the Constitution, and it then goes into effect. However, New York and Virginia only agree to ratification on the condition that a Bill of Rights be added. The Constitution on its own only defines the rights of the state and federal governments in relation to each other, and these states want a series of amendments to the Constitution that protect the rights of individual citizens.

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**1789**

**President George Washington's First Inaugural Speech**—
George Washington is unanimously elected President by the Electoral College, and John Adams serves as the nation's first vice president. The new President gives the First Inaugural Address on April 30.

**Federal Judiciary Act**—
In accordance with the new Constitution, Congress passes the Federal Judiciary Act, signed by President Washington on Sept. 24, creating the Supreme Court and the lower federal courts.

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**1791**

**Bill of Rights**—
The first 10 amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights, are ratified by the states. These Amendments define citizens' rights in relation to the government and include guarantees of freedom of speech and religion, and the right to a speedy and public trial.

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*Timeline continued on page 15*
For more than 25 years National History Day (NHD), a non-profit history education program dedicated to improving the way history is taught and learned, has promoted systemic educational reform related to the teaching and learning of history in America’s schools. The year-long NHD program engages students in grades 6–12 in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Student participants produce dramatic performances, imaginative exhibits, multimedia documentaries, and research papers based on research related to an annual theme. These projects are then evaluated at local, state, and national competitions. Through participation in the competitions, students not only gain a deeper understanding of history, they improve their research, presentation, and critical thinking skills. With programs in 49 states and the District of Columbia, NHD engages all types of students—public, private, parochial and home-school students; urban, suburban, and rural. More than 700,000 students participate in the NHD program yearly.

In joining with the National Archives and Records Administration and the U.S.A. Freedom Corps in the Our Documents Initiative this year, NHD hopes to expand appreciation of our nation’s history among students, as well as to promote excellent teaching in the nation’s schools. Students are invited to enter the Our Documents contest by using one or more of the milestone documents in projects related to this year’s National History Day Theme, Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.

As in past years, any student in grades 6–12 may participate in the National History Day program in either the Junior (grades 6–8) or Senior (grades 9–12) divisions. Winners of the National History Day/Our Documents Competition will be announced at the national contest held at the University of Maryland at College Park, June 13–17, 2004. For more information on National History Day, visit the NHD website at www.nationalhistoryday.org.
Teaching Our Documents
A Lesson Competition for Educators

Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History

Again this year, NHD is offering an opportunity for history, social studies, civics, and government teachers to develop document-based lesson plans for national awards and distribution. Teaching Our Documents: A Lesson Competition for Educators invites teachers to develop and test a classroom lesson focusing on one or several of the 100 Milestone Documents in United States history. Lessons should engage students in a meaningful examination of the documents within their historical context. Awards will be announced at the annual National History Day national competition June 13–17, 2004, at the University of Maryland at College Park. Teachers should adhere to the following guidelines in preparing for the Our Documents teacher competition.

Contest Rules:

I. Participation

- Participation is open to history, social studies, civics, and government teachers in public, private, parochial, and home schools.
- Participation is open to teachers in upper elementary grades (grades 4-6), and middle and high schools.

II. Lesson Content

- Our Documents Connection
  Your lesson should focus on a teaching activity related to your choice of one or several of the 100 Milestone Documents, and should explain its connection to NHD’s 2004 theme, Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.
- Historical Background
  Your lesson should include a brief section on the historical background (context) of the document(s).
- Cross-curricular Connections
  You should include a statement explaining your lesson’s relationship to history as well as to classes in other disciplines. (e.g., How can this lesson be used in classes other than American History?)
Teaching Activities
Your lesson should include a substantive teaching activity that engages students in a critical examination of the documents within the context of United States History (and World History, if appropriate). The lesson should also identify skills that are developed through this lesson (e.g., technological skills, reading, etc.)

III. Lesson Format
Your lesson must follow the following format:
- Title
- Our Documents and Theme Connection
- List of Document(s) (List the Our Document(s) in the order in which they are used.)
- Historical Background
- Cross-Curricular Connections
- Teaching Activities (All teaching activities must be written so that other teachers might understand and use them.)

IV. Lesson Success
- Include a two-page report on the success and usefulness of your lesson. This means you must pilot your lesson in your classroom!
- Include two letters of recommendation from your students detailing their experience and perspective on the success of your lesson.

V. Awards
Awards will be presented to teachers in elementary, middle and high schools for the Outstanding Document Lesson related to Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.
The following is a list of 100 milestone documents, compiled by the National Archives and Records Administration, and drawn primarily from its nationwide holdings. The documents chronicle United States history from 1776 to 1965.

The list begins with the Lee Resolution of June 7, 1776, a simple document resolving that the United Colonies “are, and of right, ought to be free and independent states...” and ends with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a statute that helped fulfill the promise of freedom inherent in the first documents on the list. The remaining milestone documents are among the thousands of public laws, Supreme Court decisions, inaugural speeches, treaties, constitutional amendments, and other documents that have influenced the course of United States history. They have helped shape the national character, and they reflect our diversity, our unity, and our commitment as a nation to continue to work toward forming “a more perfect union.”

1. Lee Resolution, 1776
2. Declaration of Independence, 1776
3. Articles of Confederation, 1777
4. Treaty of Alliance with France, 1778
5. Original Design of the Great Seal of the United States, 1782
6. Treaty of Paris, 1783
7. Virginia Plan, 1787
8. Northwest Ordinance, 1787
9. Constitution of the United States, 1787
10. Federalist Paper No. 10, 1787; No. 51, 1788
11. President George Washington’s First Inaugural Speech, 1789
12. Federal Judiciary Act, 1789
13. Bill of Rights, 1791
14. Patent for the Cotton Gin, 1794
15. President George Washington’s Farewell Address, 1796
17. Jefferson’s Secret Message to Congress Regarding Exploration of the West, 1803
18. Louisiana Purchase Treaty, 1803
19. Marbury v Madison, 1803
20. The Treaty of Ghent, 1814
21. McCulloch v Maryland, 1819
22. Missouri Compromise, 1820
23. Monroe Doctrine, 1823
24. Gibbons v Ogden, 1824
25. President Andrew Jackson’s Message to Congress “On Indian Removal,” 1830
26. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848
27. Compromise of 1850
28. Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854
29. Dred Scott v Sanford, 1857
30. Telegram Announcing the Surrender of Fort Sumter, 1861
31. Homestead Act, 1862
32. Pacific Railway Act, 1862
33. Morrill Act, 1862
34. Emancipation Proclamation, 1863
35. War Department General Order 143: Creation of the U.S. Colored Troops, 1863
36. Gettysburg Address, 1863
37. Wade-Davis Bill, 1864
38. President Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address, 1865
39. Articles of Agreement Relating to the Surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, 1865
40. 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Abolition of Slavery, 1865
41. Check for the Purchase of Alaska, 1868

1 The decision not to include milestone documents since 1965 was a deliberate acknowledgement of the difficulty in examining more recent history. As stated in the guidelines for the National History Standards, developed by the National Center for History in the Schools, “Historians can never attain complete objectivity, but they tend to fail shortest of the goal when they deal with current or very recent events.”
42. Treaty of Fort Laramie, 1868
43. 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Civil Rights, 1868
44. 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Voting Rights, 1870
45. Act Establishing Yellowstone National Park, 1872
46. Thomas Edison’s Patent Application for the Light Bulb, 1880
47. Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882
48. Pendleton Act, 1883
49. Interstate-Commerce Act, 1887
50. Dawes Act, 1887
51. Sherman Anti-Trust Act, 1890
52. Plessy v Ferguson, 1896
53. De Lome Letter, 1898
54. Joint Resolution to Provide for Annexing the Hawaiian Islands to the United States, 1898
55. Platt Amendment, 1903
56. Theodore Roosevelt’s Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, 1905
57. 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Federal Income Tax, 1913
58. U.S. 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Direct Election of Senators, 1913
59. Keating-Owen Child Labor Act, 1916
60. Zimmermann Telegram, 1917
61. Joint Address to Congress Leading to a Declaration of War Against Germany, 1917
62. President Woodrow Wilson’s 14 Points, 1918
63. 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women’s Right to Vote, 1920
64. Boulder Canyon Project Act, 1928
65. Tennessee Valley Authority Act, 1933
66. National Industrial Recovery Act, 1933
68. Social Security Act, 1935
69. President Franklin Roosevelt’s Radio Address unveiling second half of the New Deal, 1936
70. President Franklin Roosevelt’s Annual Message to Congress, 1941
71. Lend Lease Act, 1941
73. Joint Address to Congress Leading to a Declaration of War Against Japan, 1941
74. Executive Order 9066: Japanese Relocation Order, 1942
75. Eisenhower’s Order of the Day, June 6, 1944
76. Servicemen’s Readjustment Act, 1944
77. Manhattan Project Notebook, 1945
78. Surrender of Germany, 1945
79. United Nations Charter, 1945
80. Surrender of Japan, 1945
81. Truman Doctrine, 1947
82. Marshall Plan, 1948
83. Press Release Announcing U.S. Recognition of Israel, 1948
84. Executive Order 9981: Desegregation of the Armed Forces, 1948
85. Armistice Agreement for the Restoration of the South Korean State, 1953
86. Senate Resolution 301: Censure of Senator Joseph McCarthy, 1954
89. Executive Order 10730: Desegregation of Central High School, 1957
90. President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s Farewell Address, 1961
91. President John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Address, 1961
92. Executive Order 10924: Establishment of the Peace Corps, 1961
93. Transcript of John Glenn’s Official Communication With the Command Center, 1962
94. Aerial Photograph of Missiles in Cuba, 1962
95. Test Ban Treaty, 1963
96. Official Program for the March on Washington, 1963
97. Civil Rights Act, 1964
98. Tonkin Gulf Resolution, 1964
99. Social Security Act Amendments, 1965
100. Voting Rights Act, 1965

All of the documents listed above are in the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration, except where noted with an **.