

AMERICAN COLONIES

1492 TO 1883

VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS TO REVOLUTIONARY WAR

ERA SUMMARY – AMERICAN COLONIES

The American Colonies division of the Young Readers collection focuses on [Colonial History](#) of the British settlements in the Americas, but also includes [Stories of Discovery](#) of the new world undertaken by Spanish and French explorers.

Young students enjoy stories from the earliest colonies, including the adventures of [Colonists in Jamestown](#) and the dramatic events of the [Pilgrim Settlers](#) of Plymouth colony. Students should also be familiar with stories of other notable colonies such as William Penn of [Pennsylvania](#), the Dutch founders of [New York](#), Roger Williams of Rhode Island, and James Oglethorpe of Georgia. James Otis [Colonial Children](#) includes several volumes that feature stories of early settlers and are an excellent introduction to the period.

Many of the conflicts covered in the American Colonial division are wars between early settlers and American Indians. The Young Readers collection includes stories of several well-known American Indians, such as [Squanto](#), [Pocahontas](#), and [Pontiac](#), but it does not include books that present a broader view of American Indian history. Most books that specifically address Indian history are included in the [Early America](#) Academy Course, intended for slightly older readers.



SQUANTO AND THE PILGRIMS

Other important conflicts, such as the [Revolutionary War](#), and the [French-Indian War](#) that preceded it are covered by several books in the Young Readers collection. The Revolutionary War period is one of the most interesting periods of American History to many children because it features stories about well-known American heroes, such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and dozens of other early patriots.

Most of the Young Reader [Study Questions](#) that relate to the colonial period of Early American history are taken from [America First](#) by Evans, and the first two volumes of the [American History Stories](#) series by Pratt.

CHARACTERS – AMERICAN COLONIES

EXPLORATION

Leif Ericsson	980–1020	Discovered Newfoundland and explored the seacoast of North America. Son of Erik the Red.
Christopher Columbus	1451–1506	Sailed across Atlantic Ocean and discovered the Americas.
Ponce de Leon	1460–1521	First Spanish governor of Puerto Rico. Explored inland regions of Florida while searching for the fountain of youth.
Hernando De Soto	1496–1542	Explored the inland regions of Southwestern United States and Midwest.

COLONIAL

Pocahontas	1595–1617	Daughter of an Indian Chieftain who helped the early settlers in the Jamestown Colony in Virginia.
John Smith	1580–1631	Adventurer, leader and early settler at Jamestown. Befriended Pocahontas.
William Brewster	1560–1644	One of the Pilgrim Fathers who sailed on the Mayflower. Elder in Congressional Church.
Miles Standish	1584–1656	Military advisor to the Plymouth colony. Arrived on the Mayflower.
William Penn	1660–1718	Quaker and founder of the colony of Pennsylvania.
Blackbeard	1680–1718	Notorious pirate of the Spanish Main who haunted the Coast of North Carolina and the West Indies.
James Edward Oglethorpe	1696–1785	Founder of Georgia as buffer state between English and Spanish Colonies . Opposed Slavery.

REVOLUTION

Benjamin Franklin	1706–1790	Statesman, publisher, inventor, and non-conformist. Founding father, and benefactor of Philadelphia.
Paul Revere	1735–1818	Paul Revere is famous for his ride from through Lexington-Concord, warning of the British attack.
George Washington	1732–1799	Leader of the Continental Army of the U.S. during the Revolutionary War, and first President.
Patrick Henry	1736–1799	American Patriot, active in inciting the rebellion against Britain. First Governor of Virginia.
Marquis de La Fayette	1757–1834	French soldier who fought in American Revolution, and early leader of French Revolution.
Benedict Arnold	1741–1801	Hero of the Revolutionary War, but tragically turned traitor. He escaped to the British before discovery.
John Paul Jones	1747–1792	American Revolution Naval Hero. Famous for the sea fight <i>Bon Homme Richard</i> vs. <i>Serapis</i> .
Pontiac	1720–1769	Leader of a Great Lakes tribe who planned a rebellion. His attempt to take Fort Detroit was thwarted by an Indian who warned the garrison.

TIMELINE – AMERICAN COLONIES

- 1492** [Christopher Columbus](#) discovers America
- 1492** [Ponce de Leon](#) discovers Florida while searching for the fountain of youth.
- 1607** [John Smith](#) helps establish **Jamestown**, the first British colony in America.
- 1608** French explorers establish the city of **Quebec**, the capital of Canada.
- 1620** The Pilgrims cross the Atlantic in the *Mayflower*, and arrive in Plymouth Massachusetts
- 1634** [Lord Baltimore](#) sends British colonists settle in Maryland.
- 1664** The British conquer the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam and turn it into New York.
- 1677** [William Penn](#) establishes a Quaker colony in Pennsylvania.
- 1732** Oglethorpe settles Georgia, the last of the 13 colonies.
- 1759** Quebec, the French capital in America, falls to the British.
- 1773** **Boston Tea Party**. Patriots protest against the British Tea tax.
- 1773** [American Revolutionary War](#) begins. Midnight ride of Paul Revere and the Battle of Lexington.
- 1776** Birth of the United States. The **Declaration of Independence** is signed.

RECOMMENDED READING – AMERICAN COLONIES

Eggleston - <u>Great Americans for Little Americans</u>	<u>The First Governor in Boston</u> to <u>Clark and His Men</u> (21)
Evans - <u>America First</u>	<u>Leif, the Lucky</u> to <u>Benjamin Franklin</u> (50)
Eggleston - <u>American Life and Adventure</u>	<u>A White Boy Among Indians</u> to <u>Elizabeth Zane</u> (27)
Hutchinson - <u>The Men Who Found America</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Imlach - <u>The Story of Columbus</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Pratt - <u>American History Stories - I</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Pratt - <u>American History Stories - II</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Pumphrey - <u>Stories of the Pilgrims</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Perkins - <u>Puritan Twins</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Otis Kaler - <u>Ruth of Boston</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Otis Kaler - <u>Richard of Jamestown</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Otis Kaler - <u>Stephen of Philadelphia</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Otis Kaler - <u>Peter of New Amsterdam</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Otis Kaler - <u>Mary of Plymouth</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Otis Kaler - <u>Calvert of Maryland</u>	<i>entire book</i>
Stockton - <u>Buccaneers and Pirates</u>	<i>entire book</i>