

*E Pluribus Unum –
From Many, One*

Design Began 1776 – Design Completed 1782

REVERSE

(Often referred to as the Spiritual side of the Shield)



- 1) **The Eye of Providence** – Alludes to the many signal interpositions of God in favor of the American cause
- 2) **Glory** – The light of God, the Providence shining on a new nation based on God-given unalienable rights
- 3) **Annuit Coeptis** – ‘He’ (God) has favored our undertakings
- 4) **Pyramid** – Symbol of strength and duration
- 5) Thirteen layers of an unfinished pyramid representing the thirteen original colonies building a new nation based on new ideas and concepts of self-government never before attempted
- 6) **1776** – The year of America’s birth
- 7) **Novus Ordo Seclorum** – ‘New order of the Ages’: symbol of a new nation built on the concept of permanent, unalienable (God-given) rights for all versus vested, man-made and non-permanent rights



SUPPORT OUR MISSION

AHEF’s educational programs and resources are made possible through the generous support of private individuals and organizations.

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to AHEF. Your support helps us to provide free educational resources to teachers and citizens nationwide—equipping the next generation to become informed, responsible citizens who understand and appreciate America’s founding and what it means to be an American.

Your support helps us to:

- Develop and distribute free educational resources
- Support teachers and families with lesson plans
- Conduct research on America’s founding philosophy
- Promote civic education and constructive citizenship
- Help students to better understand America’s founding documents, history, government, and principles

We invite you to join us in this important work. To support AHEF, please visit www.americanheritage.org.

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AMERICAN HERITAGE
EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

THE GREAT SEAL OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



E Pluribus Unum – From Many, One

MISSION

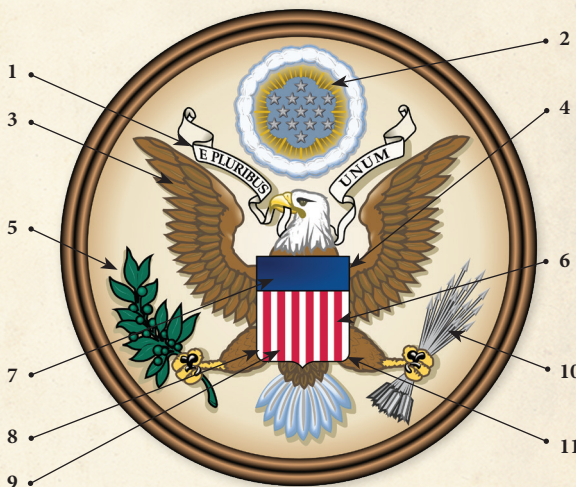
The American Heritage Education Foundation (AHEF) is dedicated to the research, teaching, and understanding of America’s founding documents, history, government, philosophy, and principles in order to develop informed patriotism and responsible citizenship in students and citizens, and to preserve America.

AHEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan educational organization that is inclusive of Americans of every race, ethnicity, and religious or non-religious belief.

www.americanheritage.org

THE GREAT SEAL OF
THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

OBVERSE



- 1) **E Pluribus Unum** – ‘Out of Many, One’: the union of the thirteen original states
- 2) **Constellation** – Denotes a new State taking its place and rank among other sovereign powers (with thirteen stars)
- 3) **Eagle** – Symbol of strength and power and always turned to the olive branch as preferring peace; clutching our national symbol—‘E Pluribus Unum’
- 4) **Chief** (upper part of shield) – Represents Congress unifying the original thirteen states
- 5) **Olive Branch** – Represents peace; Thirteen leaves and Thirteen olives
- 6) **Pieces** – In alternating colors representing the original thirteen states all joining in one solid compact supporting the Chief
- 7) **Blue** – Signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice
- 8) **White** – Signifies purity and innocence
- 9) **Red** – Signifies hardiness and valor
- 10) **Thirteen Arrows** – Power of war prepared to defend Liberty which power is vested in Congress
- 11) **Escutcheon** (shield) – Protecting the American Eagle without any other support to hold the shield; America ought to rely on its own virtue for the preservation of the union through Congress

THE PROBLEM

Studies in the last 25 years show that Americans of all ages do not possess adequate knowledge about our nation’s founding history, government, and principles. This widespread deficiency is a serious matter in a self-governing republic such as ours, which relies on an educated citizenry to govern itself. If these trends continue, America will not be able to endure as designed by our Founders.

Consider these findings:

- Only 22% of 8th-graders performed at or above Proficiency in Civics on the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) which measures “civics knowledge and skills that are critical to the responsibilities of citizenship.”
- Many schools and colleges do not require courses that ensure civic knowledge and deep learning about our nation’s civic institutions.
 - American Council of Trustees and Alumni, *A Crisis in Civic Education*, 2016.
- The growth of “action civics” or activist/experience-based civic education does not ensure that students learn “the fundamental political, philosophical, and moral principles undergirding the Constitution.”
 - Texas Public Policy Foundation, *Action Civics, New Civics, Civic Engagement, and Project-Based Civics: Advances in Civic Education?*, 2020.
- America’s history “is often taught with a one-sided emphasis on the failings of America to the neglect of our successes, as if the aim of civic education were to make students ashamed of their country instead of committed to its ideals.”
 - Bradley Foundation, *E Pluribus Unum*, 2008.

America’s foundations are at risk in our schools, institutions, society, and culture today.

THE NEED FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.”
– Thomas Jefferson, American Founder

“Civilization is not inherited; it has to be learned and earned by each generation anew.”
– Will & Ariel Durant, Historians, *The Lessons of History*

“A nation that does not know why it exists, or what it stands for, cannot be expected to long endure.”
– Bruce Cole, Former Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”
– Ronald Reagan, U. S. President

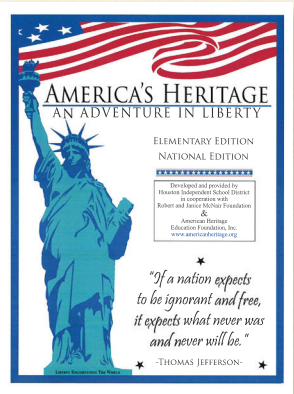
OUR APPROACH

AHEF provides teachers, students, and citizens nationwide with free, quality educational resources on America’s founding heritage—the documents, history, government, philosophy, and principles that have shaped our nation. These resources help to equip students of all ages to become informed, responsible citizens who understand and appreciate America’s founding and what it means to be an American.

Our approach is:

- **Factual, Objective, & Patriotic** – We maintain high academic standards and integrity in all of our work as well as an underlying love of country.
- **Focused on FUPR™** – We emphasize **Freedom, Unity, Progress, and Responsibility (FUPR™)** as a formula for America’s success.
- **Research-Based** – We conduct original research, grounded in historical documents and scholarship, on America’s founding philosophy, including the historical influence of the Bible and Western Civilization on the Declaration, the Constitution, and American political thought.

OUR RESOURCES



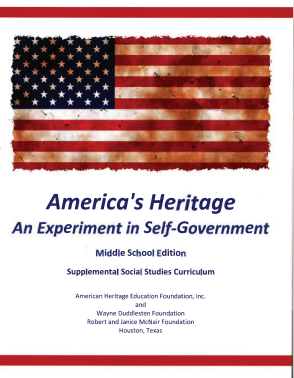
America’s Heritage: An Adventure in Liberty

K-12 Lesson Plans

An engaging introduction to American civic identity and founding documents—including America’s colonial era, revolution, Declaration, Constitution, Bill of Rights, First Amendment, flag,

symbols, songs, creeds, holidays, presidents, and monuments. Lessons emphasize themes of Freedom, Unity, Progress, and Responsibility (FUPR™), include creative learning activities, and correlate with national and Texas Social Studies standards. Written by and for teachers, it has been tested and shown to improve student performance in Social Studies and History.

Free to teachers and homeschoolers nationwide.



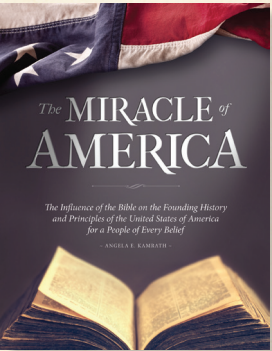
America’s Heritage: An Experiment in Self-Government

Grades 6-12 Lesson Plans

A deeper exploration of America’s key historical documents and government—including the Mayflower Compact,

Declaration, Constitution, Bill of Rights, Gettysburg Address, Three Branches of Government, and Elected Representatives. Lessons include primary source readings and learning activities, and correlate with national and Texas Social Studies standards. Written by and for teachers, it serves as a sequel to *Adventure in Liberty*.

Free to teachers and homeschoolers nationwide.



The Miracle of America The Influence of the Bible on the Founding History & Principles of the United States for a People of Every Belief

Reviewed and recognized by scholars as the first comprehensive study on the

relationship between America’s founding principles and Bible-based, Judeo-Christian thought. The resource includes primary source documents, endnotes, discussion questions, and educational activities for advanced high school, college, and adult learners.

The Founding Blog



A proprietary online collection of research-based essays, articles, and lesson ideas exploring America’s founding principles and their philosophical origins

in the Bible and Judeo-Christian thought. The blog serves as an accessible digital resource for middle/high school, college, and adult learners.

Free to teachers and homeschoolers nationwide.

OUR IMPACT

170,000+
FREE K-12 LESSON PLANS DISTRIBUTED
2.5 Million+
STUDENTS REACHED NATIONWIDE

AHEF has distributed thousands of patriotic, easy-to-use Lesson Plans to K-12 teachers and homeschoolers across America—helping educators to bring America’s founding heritage into the classroom, and helping students to better understand what it means to be an American.