**Focus Question:** What were the causes and effects of European arrival in the Americas?

*Identify the causes and effects of European arrival in the Americas.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Effects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europeans arrive in the Americas.</td>
<td>Columbian Exchange</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Desire to find trade routes to Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase in economic wealth</td>
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The first Americans came from northeastern Asia between 15,000 and 40,000 years ago. The American Indians expanded southward, filling the continents of North and South America. They developed diverse cultures as they adapted to the different climates they inhabited. However, they shared many traits. An extended family with a single ancestor became a clan. Several clans made up a band of Indians. The Indians learned how to grow crops, which expanded the food supply and allowed the population to grow.

In the fifteenth century, Europeans began to expand by sea. The Portuguese took the lead. They reached West Africa below the Sahara. There, they expanded the slave trade. After 1500, colonial plantations created a demand for slaves in the Americas. Over the next three centuries, slave traders took at least 11 million Africans across the Atlantic. The transatlantic slave trade was called the Middle Passage. It weakened the West African economy while making European merchants and empires rich.

In 1492, Spain sponsored a voyage by the Italian sailor Christopher Columbus. He hoped to reach the Indies by sailing west, across the Atlantic. He explored several Caribbean islands, thinking that he had reached the Indies.

The Spanish quickly conquered a huge empire in Central and South America. The Spanish invaders were known as conquistadores. The conquistadores had many advantages, including horses and steel weapons. They also carried European diseases. Native Americans had no immunity to these diseases. Indians died by the thousands. These diseases made it easier for the Europeans to conquer and colonize North and South America.

The colonizers also introduced new animals into the Americas. In addition, they took American products back to Europe. This exchange of goods and ideas between Europe and the Americas is called the Columbian Exchange.

Review Questions
1. Why did the American Indians develop different cultures?

2. What did Christopher Columbus hope to accomplish?
Focus Question: What important ideas and major events led to the American Revolution?

Note the sequence of events that led to the American Revolution by making a series-of-events chain.

1. French and Indian War
2. Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence.
The Spanish spread from the Caribbean into Central and South America. They then claimed much of southern and southwestern North America. The French started colonies in Canada and Louisiana. In 1607, the English settled at Jamestown in Virginia. The Virginia colonists elected a legislature called the House of Burgesses. To the north, English settlers in New England adopted the Mayflower Compact. It provided a framework for self-government. The English also settled the Middle Colonies, between New England and Virginia. Another group of colonies lay south of Virginia. Plantations there increasingly relied on enslaved Africans.

The English colonists brought ideas about democracy and government to America. During the 1700s, the Enlightenment influenced well-educated American colonists. The Enlightenment was a philosophy that applied human reason to government and religion. During the 1740s, concern about these trends led to a religious movement called the Great Awakening. This movement led to the rise of new churches and increased tolerance of religious differences.

Between 1689 and 1763, the British and French fought a series of wars. To help pay for them, the British Parliament started to tax the colonists in the 1760s. The colonists resisted the taxes, asserting their rights as Englishmen. They cited the Magna Carta (1215), which limited the power of the king. They also cited the English Bill of Rights (1689), which blocked the king from levying taxes without Parliament’s permission. The colonists did not want to pay taxes that were not levied by their elected representatives. War broke out between the colonies and the British in 1775 at Concord, Massachusetts. In 1776, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia wrote the Declaration of Independence, which the Continental Congress adopted. The war continued until George Washington led the American colonists to victory in 1783.

**Review Questions**

1. What two ideas influenced life in the colonies in the 1700s?

2. Why did the 13 colonies revolt against British rule?
Focus Question: What ideas and debates led to the Constitution and Bill of Rights?

A. Complete the timeline below with important dates that led to the formation of the U.S. government.

1781 Articles of Confederation
1791 Bill of Rights ratified by states.

B. As you read, identify similarities and differences between the Federalists and the Antifederalists.

Federalists
- For strong central government
- 

Both
- Wanted to ensure the survival of the new nation

Antifederalists
- Against strong central government
- 
- 
-
In 1776, the former American colonies became states. Each state created a constitution and set up a government. Most state constitutions included a **bill of rights**, which listed the freedoms guaranteed by the state government.

In 1781, the 13 states adopted the Articles of Confederation, the first federal constitution. Under the Articles, power remained with the states. Because the government could not levy taxes, it could not pay its huge war debt. It also could not defend the American frontier. The Spanish tried to constrain western American settlements by closing the Port of New Orleans.

In May 1787, a convention was called to change the Articles of Confederation. The small states wanted the United States to stay a loose confederation. However, James Madison of Virginia advocated a strong national union. The delegates compromised by creating a bicameral legislature: a House of Representatives and a Senate.

Before the new Constitution would become law, 9 of the 13 states had to **ratify**, or officially approve, it. Supporters of the Constitution were known as Federalists. They wanted to create a strong central government. Opponents of the Constitution were known as Antifederalists. The Antifederalists thought the Constitution gave too much power to the national government. They also opposed the Constitution because it did not have a bill of rights. The Federalists promised to add a bill of rights. In 1789, Congress approved the federal Bill of Rights.

The Constitution divided power between the states and the nation. This division is known as **federalism**. The Constitution defined separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. This division was meant to ensure a **separation of powers**. A system of **checks and balances** prevented one branch from taking control of the government. In addition, the founders worded the Constitution to permit flexibility. The Constitution has been amended 27 times.

**Review Questions**

1. Describe one weakness of the Articles of Confederation.

2. Why did the Constitution define separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government?
Focus Question: How did the United States and its government change in the late 1700s and early 1800s?

List the major accomplishments of each President in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Accomplishments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Washington</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Adams</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Jefferson</td>
<td>•</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Madison</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Monroe</td>
<td>•</td>
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READING CHECK
What was the Sedition Act?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY
What does the word compensating mean in the underlined sentence? Look for context clues in the surrounding words, phrases, and sentences. Circle the word below that is a synonym for compensating.
• paying
• depriving

READING SKILL
Categorize List at least two actions the United States took to avoid war.

Section Summary
After the Revolutionary War, Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton created a financial plan to pay off the war debt. Critics from the South thought that it favored northeastern merchants by compensating them with tax dollars.

The French Revolution in 1789 started a war between Britain and France. The United States declared its neutrality but continued to trade with Britain and France. The British navy then began seizing U.S. merchant ships trading with French colonies. To avoid war, John Jay negotiated Jay’s Treaty between Britain and the United States. Congress then passed the Alien and Sedition acts in 1798. The Alien Act made it more difficult for immigrants to become citizens. The Sedition Act made it a crime for citizens to publicly discredit the federal government.

Jefferson was elected President in 1800. In 1803, the Supreme Court enacted judicial review. This was the power to decide whether federal laws were constitutional. Also in 1803, Jefferson bought the Louisiana Purchase territory from France. It nearly doubled the size of the United States.

The British navy started seizing American merchant ships again. They also seized sailors from U.S. ships. This practice was known as impressment. As a result, Jefferson asked Congress to declare an embargo. It would stop trade by ordering American ships to stay in port. By 1812, war with Britain could no longer be avoided. The War of 1812 ended in 1815 with a U.S. victory.

The invention of the cotton gin, a machine that made cotton cheaper and faster to produce, led to a surge in cotton production in the South.

In 1823, President Monroe issued the Monroe Doctrine. It declared that European monarchies had no business interfering with American republics. In return, the United States promised to stay out of European affairs.

Review Questions
1. What was the goal of Jay’s Treaty?

2. Why did Jefferson want Congress to declare an embargo?