



## COMMON CORE SUPPLEMENT

# United States History

Welcome to the Oak Meadow Common Core Supplement for United States History. These supplemental assignments are intended for schools and individuals who use Oak Meadow curriculum and who need to be in compliance with Common Core Standards.

## Introduction

Oak Meadow curricula provide a rigorous and progressive educational experience that meets intellectual and developmental needs of high school students. Our courses are designed with the goal of guiding learners to develop a body of knowledge that will allow them to be engaged citizens of the world. With knowledge gained through problem solving, critical thinking, hands-on projects, and experiential learning, we inspire students to connect disciplinary knowledge to their lives, the world they inhabit, and the world they would like to build.

While our courses provide a compelling and complete learning experience, in a few areas our program may not be in complete alignment with recent Common Core standards. After a rigorous analysis of all our courses, we have developed a series of supplements to accompany our materials for schools who utilize our curricula. These additions make our materials Common Core compliant. These Common Core additions are either stand-alone new lessons or add-ons to existing lessons. Where they fall in regard to the larger curriculum is clearly noted on each supplement lesson.

**Included in this supplement are supplements to meet the following Common Core Standards:**

## Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.7

## Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.10

## Additional Assignment to Add to Lesson 6 U.S. History

In your own words, describe the main ideas found in the “Declaration of Sentiments” by the Seneca Falls Conference (1848). Compare this statement with the main ideas in the Declaration of Independence.

## Additional Assignment to Add to Lesson 34 U.S. History

Compare and contrast how various media sources described and evaluated the events of “Nine-Eleven (2001).” Make sure you include at least two major U.S. newspapers (The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Los Angeles Times, etc.), at least two major American broadcast networks (Fox News, MSNBC, CNN, CBS, NPR, PBS, etc.), and at least two major news media outlets outside the United States (BBC, Le Monde, Al-Jazeera, etc.).

Consider how these outlets used images or video in addition to narratives and commentaries. Compare the sources according to which pieces of material are included and which are not. What do such inclusions or omissions tell you about the biases or slants of the sources? Editorials, commentaries, and op-ed pieces are especially important in assessing the bias or slant with which each source structures its approach to the event.

## Additional Assignments to Add to Lesson 36 U.S. History

1. Read Thomas Paine’s pamphlet *Common Sense*. State the main ideas of his argument in your own words. Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
2. Read “The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom” as drafted by Thomas Jefferson and moved through the Virginia legislature by James Madison in 1786. See also Madison’s “Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments (1785)” and Jefferson’s “Letter to the Danbury Baptists (1802).” Compare these writings with that of the First Amendment of the Constitution. Then, look up the Supreme Court case of *Oregon v. Smith* (1990) and compare the opinions in that case with the documents above. In your opinion, are there any situations in which government has the right to regulate behavior by citizens who claim to be acting out of religious conviction? Explain and support your position citing specific examples from the documents.
3. Read George Washington’s “Farewell Address (1796)” paying special attention to his remarks about political parties. What does he think about parties? Next, do some research into contemporary views of partisan politics in at least two major media outlets (newspapers, web-based journals on politics, cable networks, etc.). Summarize the main points of each article. Look for the slant or bias in your sources and assess how it may be influencing what you read.

Finally, answer the following question: Does Washington’s assessment of the impact of parties on the fabric of American politics hold true today, in your view? Explain your position.