1600-1733: English, Dutch, and Swedish settlements all along East Coast. French settled Canada.

1689-1763: France and Great Britain with Native groups, fight series of wars. Britain wins.

1763-1774: To cover cost of protecting colonies, Britain adds taxes and laws on colonists.

1773: Boston Tea Party. Colonists protest unfair taxes and laws.

1775: Revolutionary War begins.

1776: Colonists read pamphlet, *Common Sense*, by Thomas Paine.

**July 4, 1776**: Thomas Jefferson writes Declaration of Independence. USA is created.

1777: Americans defeat British at Saratoga. France supports the Patriots.

1781: Articles of Confederation (1st plan of government)

1787: Constitution is written (new plan of government)

1789: George Washington First President

1791: James Madison writes Bill of Rights (1st 10 amendments to protect individual’s rights)