Frederick Douglass was a leader of the abolitionist movement in the decades prior to the Civil War. He was born a slave in Maryland and eventually escaped to the North. He founded an antislavery newspaper called the *North Star*, which he published for 13 years. He participated in the first women’s rights convention at Seneca Falls in 1848 and wrote three autobiographies. Douglass also served as an advisor to President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and helped recruit African Americans into the Union army. After the war, he held several public offices and campaigned for full civil rights for African Americans and women’s suffrage.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a leader in the women’s rights movement. Stanton was born in New York, and unlike most women of her era, she was formally educated. She planned and organized the first women’s rights movement in the United States. Stanton organized the Seneca Falls Convention for Women’s Rights in Seneca Falls, New York and wrote the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions which was modeled after the Declaration of Independence. Stanton died in 1902 and did not live to see women’s suffrage in the United States. She is regarded as one of the true major forces in the drive towards equal rights for women in the United States.
Henry David Thoreau was born in 1817 in Concord, Massachusetts. Heavily influenced by Ralph Waldo Emerson, he was a transcendentalist author who wrote many books and poems. His most famous book is called *Walden*. In this book he set forth his ideas about how an individual should live to be attuned to his own nature as well as to nature itself. He is known for his civil disobedience when he was jailed for not paying taxes to support the Mexican War. Thoreau’s most famous essay was *Civil Disobedience* published in 1849, in which he called for passive resistance to unjust laws. Thoreau died of tuberculosis on May 6, 1862, at the age of 44. He is buried on Authors' Ridge in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Massachusetts.

Susan B. Anthony was born on February 15, 1820, in Massachusetts. Anthony’s family was very active in the reform movements of the day. They worked in the abolitionist movement and the temperance (fight against alcohol) movement. Anthony dedicated her life to the women’s suffrage movement. Along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, she founded the National American Women Suffrage Association and the American Equal Rights Association. In 1868 Anthony and Stanton established *The Revolution* to lobby for women’s rights. Anthony toured the country making speeches on suffrage. She was arrested, convicted and fined for voting in New York. Anthony tried to turn her trial and conviction into political gains for the women’s suffrage movement. The 19th Amendment is often called the “Susan B. Anthony Amendment” in honor of her dedication to women’s suffrage.
Law Related Education

John James Audubon was a member of the Hudson River School. He was a naturalist specializing in painting the birds of America. As a young man, he travelled down the Ohio River to western Kentucky and set up a dry goods store. He was somewhat successful in business until hard times and he was jailed for bankruptcy. He decided to continue his hobby of drawing birds as he floated down the Mississippi River. Through his observation of birds and nature, he became a conservationist. He illustrated a collection of 435 life size prints of America birds. Today the Audubon Society, founded by George Bird Grinnell, continues John James Audubon’s spirit of protecting birds and their habitats. John James Audubon’s illustrations and life story help to describe the spirit of young America.

Jefferson Davis was born on June 3, 1808 in Kentucky. He was a West Point graduate, fought in the Mexican American War, and was the U.S. Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce. Davis served as a Democratic U.S. Senator from Mississippi. He had expected to be given a military command when the Confederacy was formed in 1861, but he was chosen President of the Confederacy instead, which stunned and saddened him. In his inaugural address as President of the Confederate States of America, he argued that separation from the Union was a “necessity, not a choice.” After the Civil War, Jefferson Davis was imprisoned for two years awaiting trial for treason, but he was never tried. He was however stripped of his eligibility to run for public office.
Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, on a Kentucky farm. He married Mary Todd, and they had four boys, with only one of them living to maturity. In 1858 Lincoln ran against Stephen A. Douglas for U.S. Senator from Illinois. He lost the election, but in debating Douglas, gained a national reputation that won him the Republican nomination for President in 1860. As President of the United States during the Civil War, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared freedom for slaves within the Confederacy. He also delivered the famous Gettysburg Address dedicating the Soldier’s National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford’s Theater by an actor named John Wilkes Booth.

Daniel Webster was born in New Hampshire in 1782. He was Governor, U.S. House of Representative, and U.S. Senator from Massachusetts. He was a leader of the Federalist Party and opposed the War of 1812. He left the U.S. House of Representatives to practice law. He argued major constitutional cases before the Supreme Court including *Dartmouth College v. Woodward*, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, and *McCulloch v. Maryland*. He believed in federal sovereignty (power) over state sovereignty and was well known for the Webster-Hayne Debate (1830) in Congress, where he said “Liberty and Union now and forever, one and inseparable.”
Ulysses S. Grant was born in 1822. Grant was educated at West Point Academy where he graduated in the middle of his class. He fought in the Mexican War where he served under General Zachary Taylor. President Lincoln appointed him General of the Union Army during the Civil War, and he won the first major Union victories of the war. On April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Grant. Grant wrote out the terms of surrender in such a way as to prevent treason trials. He became the 18th President of the United States in 1868. As President, he presided over the government similar to the way he ran the Army. He brought part of his Army staff to the White House, and his presidency was plagued by corruption.

Robert E. Lee was born in Virginia in 1807. He was a Virginia planter. He graduated from West Point Academy where he ranked second in a class of forty-six, and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the engineers. He rejected Abraham Lincoln’s offer to command the Union Army at the start of the Civil War. He instead seceded with his home state of Virginia and became the commander of the Confederate Army. His surrender to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox ended the Civil War. After the war, Lee returned to Richmond. During the last five years of his life, he served as President of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. Lee was indicted for treason but was never brought to trial. Lee fell ill on September 28, 1870, in Lexington and died a few weeks later on October 12. Lee has been compared to General George Washington in terms of the respect which he earned from his soldiers, his region, and the nation.
Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was one of the most famous figures in American Civil War history. He was a strong-willed, naturally gifted military leader. He graduated from West Point, served in the U.S. Army, and fought in the Mexican War and the Civil War. Perhaps best known for his courageous ability to face an opposing army like a “stone wall” without backing down, Jackson was a veteran of many Civil War battles and skirmishes. He was revered by the Confederate armies of the South, not only for his years of dedicated military service but also for his repeated displays of bravery and valor. Jackson died in May, 1863 as a result of complications from wounds received at Chancellorsville and pneumonia. When Stonewall died, Robert E. Lee said, “I have lost my right arm.” He was buried at Lexington, Virginia.

Hiram Rhodes Revels was born a free man in 1827. An ordained minister for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, he spent the years of the Civil War recruiting African Americans to fight as well as serving as a chaplain to their regiments. After the war, he moved to Mississippi where he continued to serve as a minister as well as establishing schools for the freed slaves. In 1868 he became involved in politics and served in the Mississippi State Senate where he made a name for himself. At that time the state legislatures selected the U.S. Senators, so in 1870, he was selected as the first African American to serve in the U.S. Congress as a Senator. While in the Senate he actively supported amnesty for former Confederates.
In the Revolutionary War, one of General George Washington’s most effective weapons against the British was an African American slave named James Armistead. Armistead was enlisted as a patriotic spy who worked as a “double-agent” on behalf of the United States. Pretending to be a runaway slave, Armistead was able to infiltrate the British defenses and acquire countless important British war secrets which helped turn the tide of the Revolution in favor of the Americans. Marquis de Lafayette helped him by writing a letter of recommendation for his freedom, which was granted in 1787. In gratitude, Armistead adopted Lafayette’s surname and lived as a farmer in Virginia until his death in 1830.

William Carney was born a slave in Virginia. His father escaped from slavery with the help of the Underground Railroad and earned enough money to buy his family’s freedom. William Carney enlisted in the all African American 54th Massachusetts regiment during the Civil War, which was led by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw. William Carney was quoted in the Liberator as saying “Previous to the formation of colored troops, I had a strong inclination to prepare myself for the ministry; but when the country called for all persons, I could best serve my God by serving my country and my oppressed brothers.” He fought bravely at the Battle of Fort Wagner outside Charleston, South Carolina and earned a promotion to sergeant. He was shot four times and survived. He is the first African American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.
Philip Bazaar was a Chilean immigrant and a resident of Massachusetts. He was a member of the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. As a seaman on the USS Santiago de Cuba, he participated in the assault on Fort Fisher, a Confederate fort. He and five other seamen, carried dispatches during the battle. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1865 for his bravery.