

American History Panorama

Teacher's Copy

Chant	Motions
American Revolution—1776	
"That's when the thirteen colonies fought England—and won."	<i>Each take King George's crown off own head.</i>
Independence Day: July 4	<i>Hum first phrase of the song "Happy Birthday."</i>
Westward Expansion— 1800s	<i>Start with palms together horizontally, then spread them wide.</i>
Lewis and Clark Expedition	<i>Walk, climb, row.</i>
American Indians and settlers— <i>"Let's live peacefully together."</i>	<i>Divide students into four groups. First two groups face each other saying "Let's live peacefully together" and stretch out palms in friendly fashion. Third and fourth groups also say "Let's live peacefully together" but third group makes aggressive pushing motions toward fourth group who respond with fear and back up.</i>
Trail of Tears— <i>"Cherokees, leave!"</i>	<i>Divide into two groups. One group points west demanding, "Cherokees, leave!" and other group walks west weeping.</i>
Gold Rush!—"Go West, young man."	
New Transportation and Communication Routes: Santa Fe Trail— <i>"Get up, there!"</i> Erie Canal Pony Express Transcontinental Railroad—"Chooo-choo!"	<i>Walk and make rein-slapping motion Dig, then sail Ride horses Pound spikes, then say "Chooo-choo"</i>

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Chant	Motions
Slavery and the Civil War —1860s	
From Africa, across the Atlantic	<i>Say first part with arm stretched upward in freedom; second part sail—with hands “chained” in front.</i>
Sold into slavery	<i>Freeze with hands “chained,” then drop head.</i>
Life on the plantation—“Come, boy!” “Yes, Massa.”	<i>Divide into two unequal groups. Smaller group poses as with finery and commands, “Come, boy!” Larger group bows head and says, “Yes, Massa.”</i>
Underground Railroad	<i>Sing phrase of a spiritual such as “Go Down, Moses.”</i>
North and South— North, Union—“No slaves!” South, Confederate—“We’ll start our own country.”	<i>Divide into two groups. North group joins hands saying entire line for North. South group joins hands separately from North and says entire line for South.</i>
Abraham Lincoln—president	<i>Stand very tall and motion tall hat on head.</i>
Emancipation Proclamation— “All the slaves go free!”	<i>Write on palm of hand. Have hands “chained” in front, then stretch hands upward in freedom.</i>
Age of Invention —primarily 1800s	
Eli Whitney—cotton gin	<i>One hand holds imaginary “seed” while the other hand pulls out the cotton strands.</i>
Thomas Edison—light bulb	<i>On word “light,” fingers in “o” fly open as a bright light flashing.</i>
Alexander Graham Bell—telephone	<i>Make motion for talking on phone.</i>
Henry Ford—Model T	<i>Crank the car.</i>
Civil Rights —1960s	
Martin Luther King, Jr.—“I have a dream.”	<i>Stand very straight and tall while saying, “I have a dream.”</i>
Rosa Parks	<i>Each sits in chair and freezes for a couple of seconds.</i>
Ruby Bridges—school integration	<i>Open palms face each other; then interlock fingers.</i>