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1. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph J. Ellis, 2000

Check Amazon.com for used copies at reduced prices.

2. **Textbook:** *The American Pageant*, Kennedy, Cohen, Bailey, 14<sup>th</sup> Edition, chapters 1-3  
(Textbooks available at UHS) You will be tested on “Founding Brothers” the first week of the school year. Just do the review questions for CHAPTER 1 of the text, the rest we will do later. They are provided if you want to get a head start.

**Suggested Summer Video Viewing**

Founding Brothers, History Channel DVD based on Joseph Ellis’s Pulitzer prize winning book

John Adams, HBO miniseries based on David McCullough’s Pulitzer-prize winning book

The entire series is excellent, but parts V, VI, and VII cover the same period and events as chapters 4, 5, and 6 in *Founding Brothers*.

(Both are available through Netflix)

Feel free to contact me if you have questions related to the summer reading assignments.

I look forward to seeing you in the fall!

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## Founding Brothers Study Questions

You will be allowed to use your notes for the quiz on this material. Students often ask how much time they should spend on the assignment. I would suggest spending half a day, or four hours, on each chapter. You can complete the reading assignment in a week with time to spare for other activities. **A quick reading of Chapter 9 and 10: The Constitution and the New Republic will give you some much needed background and insight into the period.** You may also be interested in the History Channel documentary, *Founding Brothers*, which is available through Netflix and Amazon.com.

### Preface: The Generation

1. Looking back, it seems clear the American Revolution was part of a global transformation of nations, governments, and economic systems that has taken place in the last 250 years. Describe the type of system that has become the “model” of national success around the globe.
2. Was the success of the American Revolution inevitable? Could the outcome have turned out differently? What would have happened to the signers of the Declaration of Independence if the British had prevailed?
3. How does the U.S. compare with other republics in world today? List 4 reasons the American Revolution was an improbable achievement during the 1700s.
4. Explain the role geography played in the success of the young nation.
5. What political argument did the colonists use to justify their rebellion against British authority?
6. James Madison feared the republican experiment would fail. What legal action did the founders take to avoid a break down of the American republic?
7. Create a chart that lists the primary arguments of the critics and defenders of the Constitution.
8. Describe the three major compromises brokered during the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in order to bring a stable national government to fruition.
9. According to the Constitution, where did sovereignty reside? What did this mean to colonists of the period?
10. List the assets and liabilities of the men in New York in 1789 as they began to build a new government based on the Constitution. (Charts are useful for this type of question.)
11. Ellis asserts that the decade of the 1790s was “the most crucial and consequential in

American history.” What reasons does he give to support this statement?

12. Over the past few decades, historians have moved away from a focus on the “Great Men” of history to explore the actions, thoughts, and lives of everyday Americans. Ellis breaks with this trend in his study of the founders. Why does he feel it is important to focus on the founding generation at a time when social history dominates the field? (He gives several reasons.)
13. Describe the two primary historical interpretations of the revolutionary period.
14. Where does Ellis locate the origins of political parties in the U.S.? Does Ellis view political parties as a positive or negative force in American history?
15. According to Ellis, why were the Founding Brothers successful in creating a viable republic in the late 1700s? (4 reasons)
16. Why did Joseph Ellis break with chronology and place the story of the duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr ahead of his other stories of the founding period?

#### **Chapter 1 “The Duel” July 11, 1804**

1. As you read the account of the duel, make a list of the traditions and circumstances surrounding the encounter that you find interesting.
2. How did Burr react after he shot Hamilton?
3. How did the public react to Hamilton’s death?
4. Based on the surviving evidence, what conclusions has Joseph Ellis reached about duel? (p. 31)
5. What events led to the duel between Hamilton and Burr? Explain the role of the media in the ongoing conflict.
6. What steps did Hamilton and Burr take to “put their affairs in order” before the duel took place?
7. According to Ellis, what is the chief reason for the legendary status of the duel in American history? How was the duel a departure from the patterns of behavior established among the revolutionary generation?
8. List some of the remarks Hamilton made about Burr.
9. Do you believe Hamilton’s assessment of Burr was correct? Justify your answer.
10. Beyond personal egos and political ambitions, why was Hamilton so deeply concerned

about Burr's actions and character?

## Chapter 2 "The Dinner" June 20, 1790 (No Questions)

## Chapter 3 "The Silence" February 11, 1790

1. What critical event took place in the House of Representatives on February 11, 1790?
2. What guidelines were provided in the Constitution regarding slavery?
3. Create a chart that compares the opinions and arguments for and against addressing the issue of slavery.
4. What role did Benjamin Franklin play in the 1790 debate over slavery? Why was his signature on the petition from the Pennsylvania Abolition Society important in fueling the debate?
5. Explain how the debate came to a resolution.
6. Was the resolution to end the debate in "silence" the best one to take at the time? What difference might it have made in the racial currents of contemporary American life if slavery had been abolished in the early days of the nation?

## Chapter 4 "The Farewell"

1. Which amendment affirmed the two-term presidency that Washington had made a precedent? Under what historical circumstances was it ratified? P122
2. Why did Washington decide to retire? Consider private, public, and political concerns.
3. Though very popular, Washington also had his critics. What were the primary criticisms leveled against the President? Who were his critics? (Be sure to include Thomas Paine, the *Aurora*, Thomas Jefferson, and the general public.)
4. \*\*\*What were the two main themes of George Washington's Farewell Address? What did he hope to achieve through this statement?
5. What was Washington's basic position on American involvement in European affairs?
6. What did Washington hope to achieve with his Proclamation of Neutrality?
7. \*\*\*Why is Jay's Treaty considered a "landmark in the shaping of American foreign policy?" Explain the controversy/issues surrounding the treaty including the opinions of the parties, Jefferson, Madison, and the majority of Americans.
8. What caused the rift that developed between Jefferson and Washington?

9. How would you describe Thomas Jefferson's character? Give specific examples of his behavior that support your assessment.
10. How did George Washington react to Jefferson's attack on his actions and character? Under what circumstances did their communication end?
11. When Washington sat down to write his Farewell Address he had three major goals in mind. What were they? Do you think he achieved these goals?
12. Did Washington address the issue of slavery in his Farewell Address? Why did he take this course of action at this particular time in US history?
13. What was Washington's position on slavery? Did he share the same opinions of most of his fellow Virginians? What provisions did Washington make for his slaves in his will?
14. How does the character of George Washington come across? How does Washington measure up to the mythology that surrounded him even in his own time?
15. We are often frustrated with the divisions between our national leaders and the brutal political attacks they wage on one another. Compare the present political climate with that of the 1790s.

#### **Chapter 5 "The Collaborators"**

**Note:** By the time John Adams assumed the presidency, the political battle lines had been drawn between the first two political parties in US history: the Federalists and the Republicans. Adams found himself caught in the middle of this increasingly contentious debate over the proper role of the federal government. In sum, Adams finds himself at odds with his own vice president, Thomas Jefferson.

1. Which two Americans rose to the top as the major contestants for the presidency in 1796? List the strengths and weaknesses of John Adams as a presidential candidate?
2. A rift developed between Jefferson and Adams over the proper role of government and the "monarchical principle." What were the issues surrounding the rift? How did the rift reflect the growing divide amongst the revolutionary generation (especially between Republicans and Federalists)?
3. What was the outcome of the election of 1796? How close was the final electoral vote?
4. Abigail Adams felt Jefferson could be trusted to serve as a loyal vice president to her husband despite their political differences. Was she correct in this assumption? Explain.
5. Why didn't Jefferson join his friend Adams in bipartisan cooperation?
6. To whom did Adams turn for advice rather than his cabinet?

7. \*\*\*What was the most important issue facing Adams when he took office?
8. \*\*\*What was the XYZ Affair and how did Adams respond to the crisis?
9. \*\*\*What was the purpose of the Alien and Sedition Acts and why did Adams support the legislation? (His “biggest blunder”)
10. \*\*\*How did Madison and Jefferson respond to the Alien and Sedition Acts?
11. What measures did Jefferson take to discredit Adams? How did one of these measures backfire on Jefferson?
12. Why did Adams negotiate a diplomatic end to the “quasi-war“ with France when he knew this action would alienate him from his own political party?
13. \*\*\*The presidential election of 1800 is considered one of the most important in US history. Explain.
14. Did John Adams attend the inauguration in 1801? How many years passed before Adams and Jefferson spoke again?

#### **Chapter 6 “The Friendship”**

1. What event prompted Abigail Adams to write to Jefferson after years of silence? How did Jefferson respond to her letter and why did his response offend Abigail?
2. What role did Dr. Benjamin Rush play in mending the relationship between Adams and Jefferson?
3. Joseph Ellis cites two reasons why he believes John Adams took the “fateful step, which led to a fourteen year exchange of 158 letters” between him and Jefferson. Cite both of these reasons.
4. Why does Ellis believe the summer of 1813 was a turning point in the correspondence between Jefferson and Adams? What topics did they discuss in their letters from 1813-1814?
5. What “argumentative thread” ran through the letters from 1815-1826? How did each man view the French Revolution?
6. Jefferson and Adams were keenly aware of the growing sectional crisis in the country between the North and the South. How did each man view slavery and the Missouri Compromise? Did the aging statesmen express their views publicly? Why so you think they chose this course of action?

- Describe the activities leading up to the fiftieth anniversary of Independence Day. How did Jefferson and Adams react? Looking back, how did each one view the American Revolution? When did both men die? (245-248)

**Assessment of the assignment:**

You will receive 2 or 3 grades based on your study of *Founding Brothers*. First, we will have a round table discussion on the work and your grade will be based on your participation in the discussion. An additional grade will come from your performance on a quiz on the book. You will be allowed to use your notes, but will be required to complete the quiz in 50 minutes. Finally, I will ask you to submit your notes on the book. Please feel free to send me an email with any questions you may have.

APUSH Summer Reading, 2013 Chapters 1,2,3      UHS      D.Erdman

**Note:** The first few chapters in the text are some of the most difficult. (In other words, it gets more interesting as we head into the Revolution.) Use the questions provided to guide you in creating your own notes for chapters 1, 2, and 3. Your work will be checked the first week of school.

**Suggestions for reading:** (20-30 minutes for each chapter)

- Read the introduction, list of significant events, and conclusion to each chapter BEFORE you begin reading and taking notes.
- Skim through the chapter reading the headings, subheadings, and marginal notes that draw attention to key terms, events, and concepts.
- Finally, take a quick look at the images, maps, and graphs in each chapter.

**Chapter 1: The Collision of Cultures (Do not spend a great deal of time on this chapter.)**

- Describe the major Native American societies at the time of Christopher Columbus. (You may want to create a chart)

Native American Societies at the time of Christopher Columbus	Population and location	Culture and traditions

2. \*\*\*List the primary economic, demographic, and political changes in Western Europe that spurred colonization of new lands.
3. Trace the rise of the Spanish Empire, from Christopher Columbus to the age of "conquistadores" (you may want to construct a timeline of major events).
4. In what ways did the Spanish Empire's treatment of Native American peoples change over time?
5. \*\*\*List the biological and cultural exchanges between the New and Old Worlds including the **diseases** and crops brought from Europe.
6. \*\*\*Describe the African cultures from which black slaves were taken and the early development of the African slave trade.
7. \*\*\*List the economic and religious motives propelling **English** colonization of the New World.
8. \*\*\*Describe the early experience of the French and Dutch in North America. Where did they settle? What type of relationship did they have with the Native Americans? What types of commerce did they engage in?
9. \*\*\*Describe the first efforts of the English to establish a colony in the New World. What lessons did they learn from their experience in Ireland? What were the reasons for their early failures?

## Chapter 2: Transplantations and Borderlands

1. \*\*\*Compare and contrast **Jamestown** and Plymouth colonies in terms of objectives, types of settlers, early problems, and reasons for success. (Again, a chart may help you organize this information.)
2. \*\*\*Describe the origins of representative government and slavery and in the Chesapeake region (Virginia). p 40
3. Describe the importance of Indian agricultural techniques to the survival of early English colonies
4. Compare and contrast the two Chesapeake colonies of Virginia and Maryland. Why were they established? Who were the leaders of each colony? How did each develop? Which activities provided the economic foundations of the colonies?
5. List the causes and consequences of Bacon's Rebellion in 1676.
6. \*\*\*What was the background of the Massachusetts Bay colony and its founders? Describe the culture of the Puritans who settled there.
7. \*\*\*What conditions in Puritan Massachusetts Bay spawned such dissenters as Thomas Hooker, Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson? What happened to each and why are their actions significant in U.S. history?
8. Describe the interaction between Native Americans and colonists as they continued to move westward. What type of exchanges took place? How did these encounters transform both groups?
9. Describe the events that contributed to the deterioration of English relationships with Native-Americans in the Massachusetts Bay colony area.
10. What was the reason for the lack of new English colonies in the New World for the nearly thirty-year period after 1632?
11. Describe the origins and development of Carolina and the colonies of the



- Mid-Atlantic: New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania
12. What was the significance of the Caribbean colonies in the British-American colonial system? In what ways were they connected?
  13. List the unique characteristics of African slavery in Barbados and the Caribbean. How did the slaves cope?
  14. How did the success of the Spanish empire in the Americas impact the British-American colonial system? Did they come into conflict with each other?
  15. List the practical and ideological factors that led to the founding of Georgia.
  16. \*\*\*Describe the economic, religious, and political factors in the colonies that produced sectional (regional) differences.
  17. Analyze the political events leading up to the Glorious Revolution in England. What impact did it have on the English colonies in the New World?

### Chapter 3: Society and Culture in Provincial America

1. \*\*\*Describe the three primary sources of colonial labor including indentured servants, women, and imported Africans.
2. \*\*\*Give the reasons behind the gradual shift from indentured servitude to African slavery.
3. \*\*\*How did patterns of birth and death influence and reflect cultural development in the colonies?
4. Describe the practice of colonial medicine and its impact on women of the seventeenth century?
5. Compare and contrast the social and familial roles of women in both the Chesapeake and New England. (Charts are useful for this type of question)
6. \*\*\*Describe the steps that led to rise of African slavery and racism in British America. BE SURE TO READ "THE ORIGINS OF SLAVERY" on pages 76-77.
7. Describe the changing sources of European immigration throughout the seventeenth century.
8. How did the factors of soil and climate determine the commercial and agricultural development of the colonies despite British attempts to influence production?
9. Describe the importance, extent, and early limits of technology in the colonial economic system.
10. \*\*\*Trace the beginnings of colonial commerce and consumerism, and the early attempts at regulation by Parliament.
11. Trace the emergence of the plantation system and describe its impact on Southern society. How was Southern society different from that of other regions?
12. Examine the New England witchcraft episode as a reflection of the political, religious, and social organization of Puritan Society. Who had power in Puritan society? How did they use that power?
13. Describe the rise and importance of cities in the colonial system.
14. What were the reasons for the appearance of a variety of religious groups in the colonies?
15. \*\*\*Describe the effect the Great Awakening had on the colonists.

16. Describe the ways in which colonial literature, education, science, law, and justice began to diverge from their English antecedents.

How did they diverge?	Colonial America	England
Literature		
Education		
Science		
Law		
Justice		