

America: The Story of Us
Episode 1 - "Rebels"

1. May 1610, John Rolfe is an English farmer who crosses the Atlantic in two months. Today it takes six hours.
2. North America has abundant opportunity untapped resources and forests that cover the land with over fifty billion trees.
3. Sixty million bison roam the plains; and, underground, there are rumors of gems, silver, and gold.
4. Jamestown is first settled with 500 settlers; only sixty remain when Rolfe shows up.
5. Native Americans are armed with bows + arrows that are nine times faster to reload and fire than an English musket.
6. John Rolfe plants tobacco whose market is controlled by the Spanish. Selling seeds is punishable by death.
7. John Rolfe's crop is worth over one million dollars in today's money.
8. John Rolfe marries the Powhattan princess named Pocahontas.
9. In two years, tobacco grows in every garden.
10. Some slaves go on to own land in Virginia.
11. America is founded on tobacco. It will be America's largest export for 150 years.
12. The next settlers arrive in Plymouth and are called Pilgrims. They are seeking religious freedom.
13. They came across the Atlantic on the ship called The Mayflower.
14. They were heading for the Hudson River, but they've landed two-hundred miles north at the beginning of winter.
15. Today more than ten percent of Americans can trace their ancestry back to the Mayflower passengers.
16. The Pokanoket people make peace with the Pilgrims and taught them to fertilize their crops with fish.
17. The Pilgrims return the favor by helping the Pokanoket Indians fight with other Indian tribes.
18. Both Pilgrims and Indians celebrated this new friendship in a feast known as Thanksgiving.

America: The Story of Us
Episode 1 - "Rebels"

19. A period of prosperity grows over the 13 colonies as more settlers came across the Atlantic.
20. The Irish, German, and Swedish push back the frontier while the Dutch settle Manhattan.
21. The colonists are now 2 inches taller and healthier than their European contemporaries.
22. Puritans average eight children and are twenty percent richer and pay 1/4 of the taxes the British pay.
23. May 1768, John Hancock doesn't want to pay taxes to a king 3,000 miles away.
24. The British seized Hancock's ship, triggering riots that swept through Boston.
25. Colonists don't want to pay taxes to a king and to a parliament where they don't have a voice.
26. They have a natural resentment towards government.
27. King George sends 4,000 Redcoats to help enforce his laws.
28. October 1768, the British control Boston's ports that produce two hundred ships a year; 1/3 of all British shipping is built in the colonies.
29. Nearly 40% of everything exported from Britain makes its way to America.
30. Sugar and molasses are the raw material for rum, which is the currency used to purchase the most profitable cargo of all, African slaves.
31. Most slaves wind up on plantations in the South. But they're also critical to the economy of North. 10% of Boston's population is black.
32. Paul Revere captures the moment that British soldiers kill five citizens in Boston. His engraving will fuel the fires of revolution. He titled it "The Bloody Massacre."
33. The new postmaster general, Ben Franklin, uses night riders to cut delivery time.

America: The Story of Us
Episode 1 - "Rebels"

- 34. England repeals all taxes except one, on tea. Rebels dump over \$ 1,000,000 worth of tea in Boston Harbor.
- 35. The British respond by shutting down Boston Harbor. Hundreds lose their Jobs.
- 36. Tensions escalate beyond Boston. Settlers want new land west of the Appalachian Mountains. But England has banned settlements along a boundary called the Proclamation Line.
- 37. 56 delegates from across the colonies gather at the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. It's the first step on the road to American democracy.
- 38. Among them are John Adams, Patrick Henry, and George Washington.
- 39. Paul Revere rides from town to town to spread the word that the British are coming.
- 40. 900 Redcoats will march to Lexington and Concord; sixty militiamen line up to face them in Lexington.
- 41. No one knows who fired the first shot at Lexington, but it's the shot heard 'round the world.
- 42. The Patriots shadow the redcoats' march, firing on them the entire way. 13 are killed or wounded.
- 43. Seven generations after the first settlers left England in search of prosperity + freedom, their descendants will have to fight for these rights.