



EDUCATOR GUIDE

America Celebrates: The Most Incredible and Influential People, Places, and Events of the Last 250 Years

By **Aubre Andrus**

ISBN: 9780760398609

\$14.99 US | \$19.99 CAN

Hardcover | 6.9" x 8.9" | 176 pages

Ages 8 to 12 (Grades 3 to 6)

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★ “Useful for both individuals and classrooms, this concise collection of well-researched facts is a browsable homage to the moments and people that molded present-day America.”

—*School Library Journal*, Starred Review

About the Book

In honor of America’s 250th birthday, *America Celebrates* takes young readers on an exciting journey through a timeline of influential figures, notable landmarks, and special events dating back to 1776. Packed with colorful visuals and facts, this engaging and informative book covers one person, place, or event over the years, introducing young readers to both famous and lesser-known, though still equally impactful, historical moments. *America Celebrates* offers children a fun and accessible way to learn about a diverse range of significant moments, locations, and individuals in American history.

About the Author – Aubre Andrus

Aubre Andrus is an award-winning children’s book author and ghostwriter. She has written for *Disney*, *National Geographic Kids*, *American Girl*, *Scholastic*, and more. Andrus loves visiting schools, literacy events, and writing conferences to share her experiences as a children’s book author.

Using this Guide

This curriculum guide is designed to help teachers incorporate *America Celebrates* into social studies and language arts lessons for students in grades 3–6. The activities and discussion questions encourage students to explore how historical events are recorded and remembered. Teachers may use the prompts and activities during whole-class discussions, small group work, or independent writing activities.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- ★ Explore the diversity of people and events that shape history
- ★ Reflect on how individuals can shape history
- ★ Analyze how historians decide which events are important
- ★ Practice reading informational texts and identifying key ideas
- ★ Develop curiosity about the people and events that shape American history

Questions

Pre-Reading

Before reading *America Celebrates*, ask students to notice and observe the cover. Ask them:

- ★ What are some important events in American history that you already know?
- ★ What year do you think those events happened?
- ★ Where do you think those events happened?

During Reading

While reading this book, ask students:

- ★ Did this person's actions or beliefs change the way people thought about an important issue? Does it change your beliefs or the way you live your life?
- ★ If this event did not happen or this person was never born, would our country's history be different? How?
- ★ Why are these people, places, or events important to talk about today?

After Reading

Encourage students to think about how their lives and interests tie into American history. Ask them:

- ★ How would your life have been different if you were living during an earlier moment in history?
- ★ What moment in history seems most interesting to you?
- ★ What surprised you the most about American history?

Activities

Activity 1: Add to the Timeline

It can take two years to publish a book, which means the most current events aren't always included inside the pages—but history is being made every day. Challenge students to choose a new person or event to include in *America Celebrates* that represents this year.

Ask students to write a short paragraph describing:

- ★ What happened
- ★ Who was involved
- ★ Why it was a history-making moment
- ★ Why it deserves a place in *America Celebrates*

Bonus: Illustrate your entry then share it with the class.

Activity 2: Map the Moment



History doesn't just happen in time—it happens in places, too. Geography can shape how important events unfold.

Using the printable map on page 4, have students locate places connected to important people and events featured in *America Celebrates*. Discuss how geography influences history and how factors like transportation, population, national resources, and politics can influence historical events.

Ask students:

- ★ What patterns do you notice? Do a larger number of events happen in certain regions?
- ★ What historic events happened near your hometown? Is there a historic landmark or museum in your area?
- ★ How might geography influence what happens in the future?

Activity 3: Who's Missing?

With hundreds, even thousands, of possibilities, *America Celebrates* also discusses the challenge of choosing 250 people, places, and events to best represent our history—in only 176 pages!

Discuss the following questions:

- ★ What people, places, or events would you have added to this book?
- ★ How would you decide what events to include in this book?
- ★ How do you think historians decide which events are important?
- ★ What kind of stories or people may be left out of history books?

Have the students break into groups. Ask each group to decide on a person or event in history that deserves to be included in *America Celebrates*. Ask them to present their findings and share why this person or event should be included in the book. After the presentations, have students vote on which moment should be added to *America Celebrates*. Discuss how history continues to grow and change as new discoveries are made and new voices are included.

Standards Alignment

This guide supports skills aligned with Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, including reading informational texts, writing explanatory responses, conducting short research projects, and participating in collaborative discussions.



