

Lesson Title: "Walking Through History: Jamestown, Yorktown, and Philadelphia"

Objective: Students will explore the historical significance of Jamestown, Yorktown, and Philadelphia and connect these sites to major themes in American history.

I. Introduction (5–7 min) – Engaging Hook

- **Show a Map:** Display a U.S. map with Jamestown, Yorktown, and Philadelphia marked.
Ask:
 - *Why do you think these locations are important to U.S. history?*
- **Personal Experience:** Briefly share why you visited these places and what stood out.

II. Jamestown – The First Permanent English Colony (10 min)

- **Key Topics:**
 - 1607 founding, struggles of early settlers, Powhatan interactions, tobacco economy
- **Activity Idea:**
 - *"What Would You Do?"* – Present survival challenges faced by colonists (e.g., food shortages, disease, conflicts). Students quickly discuss or write how they would handle them.

III. Yorktown – The Turning Point of the Revolution (10 min)

- **Key Topics:**
 - 1781 Siege of Yorktown, Washington and French alliance, British surrender
- **Activity Idea:**
 - *Battle Breakdown* – Show a short map animation or diagram of troop movements.
 - Quick class discussion: *Why was this victory so important?*

IV. Philadelphia – The Birthplace of American Democracy (10 min)

- **Key Topics:**
 - Declaration of Independence (1776), Constitutional Convention (1787), Founding Fathers
- **Activity Idea:**
 - *Primary Source Snapshots* – Show excerpts from the Declaration or Constitution.
 - Students work in pairs to interpret what a line means in their own words.

V. Wrap-Up & Reflection (5–8 min)

- **Quick Discussion:**
 - If you could visit one of these places, which would it be and why?
- **Exit Ticket:**
 - Students write one new thing they learned about each location.