

# The American Yawp

## VOLUME I: to 1865

### Discussion Questions

#### **1. The New World**

- How did Indian culture change over time?
- How did Spain defeat the empires of the New World?

#### **2. Colliding Cultures**

- Why did the Spanish, Dutch, French, and English treat Native peoples differently?
- What explains the differences between Virginia and New England?

#### **3. British North America**

- How did political turmoil in 17th century Britain influence life in the colonies?
- How did geography influence slave life?

#### **4. Colonial Society**

- What caused the Consumer Revolution, and how did it change American life?
- How did Indian life change in the 18th century?

#### **5. The American Revolution**

- Why did the United States declare independence?
- How did the United States win the war?

#### **6. A New Nation**

- How radical was the American Revolution?
- Was the United States founded as a Christian nation?

#### **7. The Early Republic**

- Did the United States draw more from the vision of Alexander Hamilton or Thomas Jefferson?
- What were the causes and consequences of the War of 1812?

#### **8. The Market Revolution**

- Did technology or migration do more to change antebellum America?

- How did the market revolution create social conflict?

## **9. Democracy in America**

- How did American democracy change in the 1820s?
- Is Andrew Jackson's presidency best understood as tragedy, triumph, or irony?

## **10. Religion and Reform**

- How did Americans respond to the Second Great Awakening?
- Why did antislavery Americans begin to demand the immediate abolition of slavery?

## **11. The Cotton Revolution**

- How did white Southerners justify slavery?
- How did enslaved people endure their oppression?

## **12. Manifest Destiny**

- Was the early United States an empire?
- Did American growth help or hinder national unity?

## **13. The Sectional Crisis**

- How did conflict over states' rights contribute to sectional conflict?
- Why did the South secede?

## **14. The Civil War**

- Who freed the slaves?
- Why did the Union win the war?

## **15. Reconstruction**

- Why did Reconstruction end?
- Was Reconstruction a success or failure?