

What is the historical significance of the year 1619 in American history?

Learning Objective: Students will be able to identify the historical significance of the year 1619 within American history in order to better understand our nation's origin story.

Part 1: Watch the Video

Directions: Watch [the video linked here](#) and answer the questions below as you watch. Bullet point notes are okay but be detailed in your answers!

(0:00-1:30) *Answers to these questions are on the screen for this part*

1. What does the 1619 Project aim to do?
2. What do 1619 Project writers hope that readers understand?
3. What topics and perspectives does the 1619 project place at the center of their stories and articles?

a.
b.

(1:31-4:03)

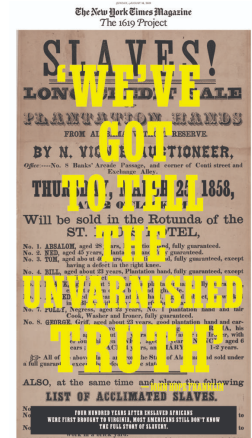
4. Why does the NYT writer Nikole Hannah-Jones believe that it is important for all Americans to learn the FULL history of slavery?

(4:03-5:49)

5. How does writer Hannah-Jones push back against critics of the 1619 Project? How does she view the 1619 Project as patriotic?

Historians often use the following criteria to determine historical significance:

1. Something is historically significant if it resulted in change.
2. Something is historically significant if it reveals something about the experiences of regular people during that time.
3. Something is historically significant if it occupies a meaningful place within a narrative (story).



Part 2: Analyze the Infographic

Directions: Use [the infographic linked here](#) to answer the questions below. Bullet points are okay (except when stated otherwise) but be detailed in your answers!

What You Should Know About the Year 1619

1. New York Times writer Nikole Hannah-Jones writes that “the story of 1619 is not a black story, and it’s not a white story; it’s truly an American story.” What does she mean by this statement?
2. “The 1619 Project” is a special issue of the New York Times. What historical argument is the project making about American history? Summarize below in 1-2 complete sentences.

Slavery in the US Through Time

1. **Summarize:** What happened in North America in the year 1619?
2. **React:** What info from the timeline surprised you? In what ways? *(2-3 complete sentences)*
3. **Prior Knowledge:** How does the information from the timeline connect to what you have already learned about slavery and its lasting legacy? *(2-3 complete sentences)*
4. **Connect:** How does the information from the timeline reflect the lasting impacts of slavery still present today? Where else do you see evidence of the modern-day impacts of slavery in American society and the world? *(2-3 complete sentences minimum)*

4 Myths About Slavery

1. **Summarize:** For each myth, summarize the historical reality in 1-2 complete sentences.
 - Myth #1: States' rights led to the Civil War
◆ **Reality:**
 - Myth #2: Enslaved people were "workers"
◆ **Reality:**
 - Myth #3: Slavery only existed in the South.
◆ **Reality:**
 - Myth #4: Slavery wasn't that bad.
◆ **Reality:**
2. **React:** How do you think these four myths came about? Who/what's responsible? *(1-2 sentences)*
3. **Prior Knowledge:** Which of the myths have you heard before? Where? *(1-2 sentences)*

How I Became A Historian

1. **Summarize:** How did Annette Gordon-Reed decide to become a historian?
2. **React:** *Gordon-Reed describes the reading she does in order to confirm that Jefferson had children with an enslaved woman on his plantation named Sally Hemings.*

- Notice that these sources are mostly created by white enslavers. How does this make it difficult to write a full and accurate history of American slavery? *(2-3 complete sentences)*

- Are there other sources that you could use to get a different point of view about how enslaved people were treated or about what the U.S. was like during slavery? **List 3 primary sources** that would be useful for a historian to use (if available) in order to better understand the perspectives of enslaved Africans in the United States.
 - ◆ Primary Source 1:
 - ◆ Primary Source 2:
 - ◆ Primary Source 3:

Part 3: Reflect

Directions: Use your new knowledge from this activity and the purple box on the first page to answer the reflection question below in 3-4 complete sentences. Be sure to show off your knowledge, make your learning visible and be detailed so Ms. Piraro can see what you have learned after this activity! Thanks ♥

HELP BOX // QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU ANSWER:

- What changes took place? Who/what was changed? Why? For whose benefit? Who was harmed?
- What does this historical event reveal about the experiences of diverse groups of people during this time?

What is the **historical significance** of the year 1619 in American history? *(3-4 complete sentences)*

The year 1619 is historically significant within American history because...