



SOL Important People

JOHN LOCKE

I was the Enlightenment philosopher who advocated the Social Contract and the idea that people have natural rights

THOMAS PAINE

I advocated independence from England in my pamphlet, "Common Sense".

THOMAS JEFFERSON

I was not only the primary author to the Declaration of Independence, I also bought the territory west of the Mississippi from France.

PATRICK HENRY

As a Virginian, I supported the patriot cause when I stated, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

GEORGE WASHINGTON

I was the leader of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary war, and served as the president of the Constitutional Convention.

BEN FRANKLIN

I helped convince the King of France to give military assistance to the colonies during the Revolutionary War.

JAMES MADISON

Most of my ideas are found in the Constitution, I authored the Virginia Plan for government and the Bill of Rights.

GEORGE MASON

As an Anti-federalist in Virginia, I opposed the Constitution because it had no Bill of Rights.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

I was a key figure in forming the first Federalist Party, as I wanted to create a National Bank.

JOHN MARSHALL

I was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who established judicial review in the court case Marbury v. Madison.

LEWIS AND CLARK

We were hired by Jefferson to explore the territory acquired by the Louisiana Purchase.

SACAJAWEA

I was hired to serve as a guide and translator for the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

ELI WHITNEY

I helped to extend slavery in the South by inventing the Cotton Gin.

ANDREW JACKSON

While I worked to extend democracy, I was also known for causing economic collapse as I worked to destroy the National Bank.

HENRY CLAY

I was the Senator who authored the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850 to keep us out of a Civil War.

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON

I was an abolitionist who published "The Liberator"- advocating an immediate end to slavery.

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

I helped raise anti-slavery feelings in the North by writing "Uncle Tom's Cabin".

NAT TURNER

I led a slave revolt in Virginia- which resulted in stricter slave codes as owners feared other revolts.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

I worked to extend suffrage to women before and after the Civil War.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

I was willing to go to war with the Confederacy to restore the Union, and I issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

STEPHEN DOUGLAS

I debated Lincoln over the issue of popular sovereignty, I supported the Kansas-Nebraska Act!

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON

I worked with Susan B. Anthony to extend suffrage to women.

ULYSSES S. GRANT

I was the commander of the Union Army in the Civil War who accepted Lee's surrender at Appomatox. After the war, I served as President during most of the Reconstruction years.

JEFFERSON DAVIS

I was the President of the Confederacy during the Civil War.

ROBERT E. LEE

I was the commander of the Confederate forces during the Civil War who wished for quick reconciliation. After the War I became President of Washington College and stressed education.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

A former slave, I was the abolitionist who helped convince Lincoln to use Black troops in the Civil War. After the Civil War I continued to work for equal rights for African-Americans and was appointed to several high government posts.

ANDREW JOHNSON

My conflict with Congress over Reconstruction policies after the Civil War led me to be the first impeached President.

THOMAS EDISON

I was a great inventor...known best for the light bulb and electricity as a power source.

ALEXANDER BELL

Hello? I invented the telephone!

WRIGHT BROTHERS

We invented the airplane!

HENRY FORD

I worked to increase production by using an assembly line for my automobiles.

ANDREW CARNEGIE

I was the industrial leader who made riches in the steel industry.

J.P. MORGAN

I was the industrial leader who made riches in banking and finance, and later bought into steel.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

My wealth came as an industrial leader in oil!

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT

I was the industrial leader who dominated the railroads.

IDA B. WELLS

As an early civil rights leader, I worked to push Congress to pass federal anti-lynching laws.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

As an early civil rights leader, I advocated technical education for Blacks to achieve economic opportunity, then to seek equality.

WEB DUBOIS

As one of the founders of the NAACP, I advocated immediate equality for Black people and professional education.

WOODROW WILSON

As a Progressive, I pressed for "New Freedom" programs which. Later, I was the President who wrote the 14 Points for a lasting peace after WW1. The U.S. never joined my League of Nations.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

I was both a Progressive and Imperialist President, associated with the "Square Deal" and the Panama Canal.

SAMUEL GOMPERS

I helped to organize labor by serving as a leader in the American Federation of Labor.

EUGENE DEBS

I helped to organize labor by organizing the American Railway Union and leading a violent strike.

JOHN HAY

I was the Secretary of State who demanded equal trading rights in China (my Open Door Policy).

WILLIAM H. TAFT

When dealing with Latin America, I supported Dollar Diplomacy-encouraged Americans to invest in business.

FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

I am associated with the New Deal programs of the Depression, and asking Congress to declare war on Japan.

ADOLF HITLER

I was the Nazi dictator in Germany, and I gave the Final Solution (genocide) for the Jews in Europe.

DWIGHT EISENHOWER

I was the American General who was in charge of the D-Day invasion, and later served 2 terms as President.

HARRY TRUMAN

I was the American President who made the decision to drop the atomic bombs on Japan to bring a quick end to the war.

ROSIE THE RIVETER

I represented all the working women during World War II.

RICHARD NIXON

I was the President who visited China during the Cold War, but I am better known for my Watergate scandal.

JOHN KENNEDY

Before being assassinated, I pledged to win the "race to the moon" and worked to contain communism.

LYNDON JOHNSON

Even though I wanted to establish a "Great Society", I am more known for escalating the war in Vietnam.

FIDEL CASTRO

I led the communist revolution in Cuba!

ALGER HISS

I was the spy who was caught and convicted, which increased the "Red Scare".

THE ROSENBERGS

We were caught and convicted of selling atomic secrets to the Soviets. We increased the "Red Scare".

JOSEPH MCCARTHY

I was the most notorious communist hunter in Congress. I even made my accusations with little or no real evidence.

RONALD REAGAN

I was the President whose policies of defense spending put pressure on the Soviet Union to collapse! I also advocated shrinking the size of the National Government and returning power to the states.

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

I was the Soviet Premier whose policies of reform in the Soviet Union helped to bring down that system!

THURGOOD MARSHALL

I was the NAACP lawyer who successfully argued against segregation in public schools in the 1950's.

OLIVER HILL

I was the NAACP lawyer who worked against school segregation in Virginia.

MARTIN LUTHER KING

I was the non-violent civil rights leader of the 50's and 60's, organizing boycotts and marches.

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

I am the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court!

CLARENCE THOMAS

I am a conservative judge, appointed to the Supreme Court by George H.W. Bush, and help represent minorities on the bench.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

I am a liberal judge, appointed to the Supreme Court by Bill Clinton, and help represent women on the bench.

SALLY RIDE

I am the first American woman astronaut in space!

JOHN GLENN

I am the first American in space!

NEIL ARMSTRONG

I am the first person to set foot on the moon!

JONAS SALK

I created the vaccine for polio!

GEORGE H.W. BUSH

I was the president who was in office as Germany reunited while the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia split apart. I pressed for the Persian Gulf War as a means to liberate Kuwait after it was taken over by Iraq.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

I was the president associated with lifting sanctions against South Africa, granting full diplomatic relations with Vietnam, NAFTA and sending American troops into former Yugoslavia to stop civil war and atrocities.

GEORGE W. BUSH

I am the president associated who was in office when the terrorists attacked on 9/11, and pressed for military action in Iraq (to depose the dictator) as well as military action in Afghanistan to hunt international terrorists.