

Middle School and High School

UNITED STATES HISTORY

WORD SORTS

Brain Efficient Word Sorts

*Using the Brain's Natural Ability for
Patterns, Rhymes, and Rhythms
to Improve Reading and Spelling*

education
emancipation
legislation
liberation

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Teacher's Guide

Introduction

United States history textbooks contain some of the most difficult words for students to read and understand. At-risk students often are so discouraged in their attempts to read the textbooks that they stop trying to read and become behavior problems. Average students also are often discouraged.

United States History Word Sorts uses the brain's natural ability for patterns, rhymes, and rhythms to improve multisyllable word reading and spelling. It is based on the idea that the brain is highly efficient and organizes information by patterns. Working with predictable word patterns allows students' brains to do much of the work for them.

United States History Word Sorts is unique as it organizes important and high frequency words (words chosen from middle school and high school world history textbooks) by identical word endings. By analyzing the words, students learn clusters of words that share common elements: *inflation*, *population*, and *civilization*, for example. In *United States History Word Sorts* students learn words elements that appear in thousands of other words, thus improving their general reading and spelling abilities.

Teaching Multisyllable Words in Consistent Patterns is Brain Efficient.

Teaching multisyllable words in consistent patterns is brain efficient, as expressed in the following research findings about the brain.

- Multisyllable words are like music, they have natural rhythms that can make learning them easier. "Accent structures in words naturally make a sort of melody."¹ The rhythmic feature creates less demand on the brain.²
- Brain research shows that a similar word pattern can prime the next word if it has a similar pattern and accelerate reading. Rhyming words are especially powerful.³

United States History Word Sorts does not contain all the difficult words found in United States history textbooks. By mastering the frequently used word patterns chosen for the word sorts, students find it easier to decode difficult words.

Presenting the Program

FOR THE TEACHER:

Words for each of the 24 Word Sorts are found in the word box at the top of each Word Sort page.

Page 1, Word Sort 1 (All Word Sorts have the same instructions as Word Sort 1.)

Instruction 1. Read the words in the word box aloud with all students reading aloud with you. In each row, read the words from left to right. The words are divided into syllables to make it easier for students to read and spell multisyllable words. Read the words slowly emphasizing the syllables as the students read with you.

Discuss general word meanings with students. Students tell words with which they are familiar. (Additional vocabulary work can be done later depending on the group.)

Instruction 2. Students write the words under the correct ending spelling patterns. They use the words in the word box from left to right and put a check or a dot next to each word after writing it, without marking across the words. **Going in a left to right order is necessary to make the rhyming and similar sounding words appear in a brain efficient order.**

Instruction 3. When the students have completed writing the words, read the words in the word box with them again. This time have them draw an arc or a loop under each syllable as you read the words at a challenging pace emphasizing each syllable.

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Page 2, Using the Game Board / Answer Key (All Game Board pages have the same instructions.)

Instruction 1. Using the Game Board /Answer Key, students check their answers and make corrections. Ask students to read the words with you as you read the words under each spelling pattern. Or you may have students volunteer to read the words.

Instruction 2. Students cut out their words to be used for a word matching game on the game board. They can work alone or with a partner.

Instruction 3. After students practice matching the word cards to the game board, they practice speed word matching to strengthen automatic word recognition. Speed word matching works well with students in pairs or in cooperative groups. Students in the pair or group that completes the word sort matching in the shortest time are the winners. Give bonus points or prizes to the winners. Also, students use their Word Sort cards or the Game Board cards for a variety of games with which they are familiar, such as “Concentration,” and other activities.

Instruction 4. Practice reading the words down. Then practice reading the words across.

Vocabulary Development Suggestions

Ask students to put words together based on relationships, and have them describe the relationships. For further vocabulary development, students work in groups. Assign each group a few Word Sort words for which to find dictionary definitions to share with the class, or add your vocabulary activities.

Page 7, Timed Reading Word List 1 (All Word Lists have the same instructions as Word List 1.)

Timed reading increases student reading speed and automatic word recognition. The words are grouped by specific visual, sound and rhythmic patterns.

Instruction 1. Before the timing, you and all students read the words aloud together.

Instruction 2. Then individually, students read as many words as they can in one minute aloud softly to themselves or to you or to a student partner. If students finish reading the words, they start again at the beginning and add to the total number of words they have already read. One point is subtracted for each missed word. Students write their scores on the lines. (Limit or have no interruptions of oral timed reading. If students need help say the word and let them continue reading.)

References

(1) Levitan, D.J. (2009). *The World in Six Songs* (p.25). New York: Penguin Books.

(2) Levitan, D.J. (2009). *The World in Six Songs* (p.172). New York: Penguin Books.

(3) Dehaene, S.D. (2009). *Reading in the Brain* (p. 42). New York: Viking/Penguin Group.

For timed reading practice, ***25 Graded Reading Passages*** (for science and social studies at approximately grade 3 through grade 10 readability levels) is offered at

www.StrugglingReaders.com.

UNITED STATES HISTORY WORD SORT 1

●—————→

✓ tra der trai tor in va der so lar e qua tor ex plor er
 ex por ter po lar im por ter pop u lar dic ta tor cal en dar
 leg is la tor sur rend er na vi ga tor dem on stra tor
 gram mar ed u ca tor dis sen ter

● Write the words under the correct spelling. (Write each word as one word.)

-er

-or

-ar

<u>trader</u>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

-WORD SORT 1, GAME BOARD / ANSWER KEY-

trader	traitor	solar
invader	equator	polar
explorer	dictator	popular
exporter	legislator	calendar
importer	navigator	grammar
surrender	demonstrator	
dissenter	educator	

UNITED STATES HISTORY WORD SORT 2

✓ or der la bor bor der con su mer reg u lar com mon er
 man or a stron o mer sec u lar har bor ver nac u lar
 spec tac u lar jur or fa mil iar an ces tor phil os o pher
 gov er nor nu cle ar sen a tor car tog ra pher

● Write the words under the correct spelling. (Write each word as one word.)

-er

-or

-ar

<u>order</u> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 5px;"/>	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 5px;"/>	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 5px;"/>
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-WORD SORT 2, GAME BOARD / ANSWER KEY-

order	labor	regular
border	manor	secular
consumer	harbor	vernacular
commoner	juror	spectacular
astronomer	ancestor	familiar
philosopher	governor	nuclear
cartographer	senator	

-UNITED STATES HISTORY WORD SORT 3-

● →

✓ bar ter vis i tor trea sure au thor char ter sur vey or

plea sure sur vi vor ex po sure su per vi sor cap ture spec u la tor

con quer sol dier ven ture plan ter ad ven ture

com man der in den ture in ves ti ga tor ad ven tur er

● Write the words under the correct spelling. (Write each word as one word.)

-er

-or

-ure

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><u>barter</u></p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/>	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 0 0 5px 0;"/>	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 0 0 5px 0;"/>
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-WORD SORT 3, GAMEBOARD / ANSWER KEY-

barter	visitor	treasure
charter	author	pleasure
conquer	surveyor	exposure
soldier	survivor	capture
planter	supervisor	venture
commander	speculator	adventure
adventurer	investigator	indenture

UNITED STATES HISTORY WORD LIST 1

(Lesson Review 1, 2, 3)

A ●—————→

<u>order</u>	border	trader	invader
barter	charter	conquer	soldier
explorer	exporter	importer	
surrender	dissenter	disaster	
producer	consumer	commoner	astronomer
planter	commander	adventurer	
philosopher	cartographer		

B ●—————→ **SCORE** ____ **TIME** _____

<u>labor</u>	manor	harbor	
juror	visitor	ancestor	
senator	governor		
author	surveyor	survivor	supervisor
dictator	traitor	equator	
legislator	navigator		
demonstrator	educator	speculator	investigator

C ●—————→ **SCORE** ____ **TIME** _____

<u>solar</u>	polar	popular	calendar
familiar	nuclear		
regular	secular	spectacular	
<u>treasure</u>	pleasure	exposure	
capture	venture	adventure	indenture

SCORE ____ **TIME** _____

UNITED STATES HISTORY WORD SORT 4

●—————→

✓ em ploy er war ri or man u fac ture su per i or la bor er
 lit er a ture Qua ker in fer i or le gi sla ture care ta ker
 bar ri er in ter i or fil i bus ter tem per a ture pro pri e tor
 ex pen di ture am bas sa dor for eign er ar chi tec ture

● Write the words under the correct spelling. (Write each word as one word.)

-er

-or

-ure

<u>employ</u> er		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

-WORD SORT 4, GAME BOARD / ANSWER KEY-

employ<u>er</u>	warr<u>ior</u>	manuf<u>acture</u>
laborer	superior	literature
Quaker	inferior	legislature
caretaker	interior	temperature
barrier	proprietor	expenditure
filibuster	ambassador	architecture
foreigner		

UNITED STATES HISTORY WORD SORT 5

✓ cul ture dam age de vel op ment Scrip ture man age
 struc ture mon u ment hos tage doc u ment voy age
 a gree ment vil lage sculp ture pas sage a mend ment
 suf frage gov ern ment ag ri cul ture en force ment

● Write the words under the correct spelling. (Write each word as one word.)

-ture

-ment

-age

<u>culture</u>		