Your textbook has been organized to help you learn about the significant events and people that make up American history. Before you start reading, though, here is a road map to help you understand what you will encounter in the pages of this textbook. Follow this road map before you read so that you can understand how this textbook works.

**Units**

Your textbook is divided into 7 units. Each unit begins with two pages of information to help you begin your study of the topics.

**Why It Matters**

Each unit begins with *Why It Matters*. This is a short summary about what you will study in the unit and the important topics in the unit.

**Quotation**

A short quotation gives a glimpse of the idea of a key figure from the era.

**Primary Source Library**

This tells you where to find the *Primary Sources Library* readings that accompany the unit.

**Visuals**

A photograph or painting shows you what life was like during the time period.
The chapter title tells you the main topic you will be reading about.

Why It Matters
Why It Matters tells you why events you will study are important.

The impact today
The Impact Today explains how these events changed the way we live today.

Time line
The time line shows you when and where events happened during the period of time covered in the chapter.

Visuals
A photograph or painting shows how people of the time lived.

Web site
History Online directs you to the Internet where you can find more information, activities, and quizzes.
The first page of the section introduces the main idea here. Below it, are important terms you will encounter as you read the section.

**Reading Strategy**
Completing the Reading Strategy activity will help you organize the information as you read the section.

**Main Idea**
The Main Idea of this section is introduced here. Below it, are important terms you will encounter as you read the section.

**Time Line**
The time line identifies important events you will study in the section.

**An American Story**
Think of An American Story as a moment in time. It introduces you to an important event that you will read about.

**Read to Learn**
Keep the Read to Learn statements in mind as you read the section.

**Section Themes**
Your textbook organizes the events of your nation’s past and present around themes. You can read about the themes on pages xx-xxi.

### Early Peoples

**Main Idea**
The first Americans spread throughout North, Central, and South America.

**Key Terms**
archaeology, artifact, Ice Age, nomad, migration, maize, carbon dating, culture

### Migration to the Americas

- **C. 30,000 B.C.**
  - Asian hunters enter North America

- **C. 10,000 B.C.**
  - Last Ice Age ends

- **C. 7000 B.C.**
  - Farming develops in Mexico

- **C. 3000 B.C.**
  - Early villages established in Mexico

**An American Story**

No one knows for sure how the first people arrived in America. They may have crossed a land bridge that many scientists think connected Asia and North America thousands of years ago. They may have come by boat from Asia or Europe. Why they came is also a mystery. Possibly they followed mammoths or other game animals or were hunting seals and whales along the coast. Over time these people settled in America, becoming the first “native Americans.”

### The Journey From Asia

These first Americans arrived thousands of years ago. As food supplies improved, the population of the Americas increased. By A.D. 1500, millions of Native Americans, belonging to more than 2,000 different groups, lived on the two continents of North America and South America.

When Europeans arrived in the Americas in the late 1400s, they found Native Americans living there. The Europeans wondered where these peoples had come from and how they happened to settle in the Americas. Some believed the Native Americans had come from Atlantis, an island that was supposed to have sunk beneath the waves of the Atlantic Ocean.
CHAPTER 2 Exploring the Americas

PHOTOGRAPHS

Walsh Library, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

MAPS

1. Analyzing Information

2. Concept Map

READING CHECKS

This Reading Check helps you check yourself. Did you understand the main ideas?

OUTLINE

Think of the headings as forming an outline. The blue titles are the main heading. The red titles that follow are the subsections.

VOCABULARY

The terms in blue are the key terms. The definition is also included here.

SECTION ASSESSMENT

The Section Assessment is the last item in every section. Completing the assessment can help evaluate how well you understand.

Photographs show you important people, places, and events of the time.
Jefferson Davis, a former senator from Mississippi, as the president of the Confederacy. The South Secedes

The Confederacy

The war began. At any moment the South was prepared to use force, if necessary, to preserve their rights.

Reactions to Secession

The South had no choice but to secede. The Union was split, and the South would never accept the abolition of slavery.

Johnny Tremain

Johnny Tremain, a fictional work, tells the story of such an apprentice. The Confederacy was organized, and the South was ready to defend its liberties.

America's Literature

America's Literature analyzes excerpts from famous pieces of American fiction and describes its historical lessons.