



## Reader's Guide

*Shaping of America, 1783–1815: Almanac* presents a comprehensive overview of the period in history from 1783 to 1815 when the United States was forged into a politically and economically independent nation. The *Almanac* covers the post-American Revolution era; the Continental Congresses; the creation of the U.S. Constitution; the election of George Washington as the new nation's first president; the early battles between those who favored a strong central government and those who favored strong state governments; the debut of party politics; foreign relations with Britain and France; the War of 1812; and the spread of nationalism.

### **Coverage and features**

The *Almanac* is divided into fifteen chapters. The first ten chapters chronologically address different timeframes during this early period in U.S. history. Featured subjects include the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution; the War of 1812; the dramatic Louisiana Purchase, which instantly more than doubled the United States; and the presidential administrations

of George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. The final five chapters describe topics that are of importance throughout the period—farming, religion, women’s roles in everyday life, black slaves and Native Americans, and the westward expansion of the United States.

Each chapter contains two types of sidebar boxes: “Words to Know” boxes, which define important terms discussed in the chapter; and boxes that describe people, events, and facts of special interest. Each chapter concludes with a list of additional sources students can go to for more information. Nearly 120 black-and-white illustrations and maps help illustrate the material.

Each volume of *Shaping of America, 1783–1815: Almanac* begins with a timeline of important events in the history of early America; a “Words to Know” section that introduces students to difficult or unfamiliar terms (terms are also defined within the text); and a “Research and Activity Ideas” section. The volume concludes with a general bibliography and a subject index so students can easily find the people, places, and events discussed throughout *Shaping of America, 1783–1815: Almanac*.

### **Shaping of America, 1783–1815 Reference Library**

*Shaping of America, 1783–1815: Almanac* is only one component of the three-part U•X•L *Shaping of America, 1783–1815 Reference Library*. The other two titles in this set are:

*Shaping of America, 1783–1815: Biographies* (two volumes) presents the life stories of fifty-one men and women who played key roles in the early history of the young nation. Profiled are well-known figures such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, Dolley Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, and Eli Whitney. Also featured are lesser-known individuals such as the first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, John Jay; the founder of the first school dedicated to the higher education of women, Sarah Pierce; black social activist Prince Hall; and religious leader John Carroll.

*Shaping of America, 1783–1815: Primary Sources* (one volume) tells the story of early America in the words of the people who lived and shaped it. Eighteen excerpted documents

provide a wide range of perspectives on this period of history. Included are excerpts from presidential addresses; treaties with other nations and Native American tribes; national and state legislation; speeches by prominent early Americans; an everyday diary; and letters by individuals who lived through the eventful period.

A cumulative index of all three titles in the U•X•L Shaping of America, 1783–1815 Reference Library is also available.

## **Dedication**

These volumes are dedicated to Hazel Hanes, who has a love of history.

## **Special thanks**

Gratitude to Sue Van Leuven for assistance on literature research. Much appreciation also goes to copyeditor Jane Woychick, proofreader Amy Marcaccio Keyzer, indexer Theresa Murray, and typesetter Integra Software Services.

## **Comments and suggestions**

We welcome your comments on *Shaping of America, 1783–1815: Almanac* and suggestions for other topics to consider. Please write: Editors, *Shaping of America, 1783–1815: Almanac*, U•X•L, 27500 Drake Rd., Farmington Hills, Michigan 48331-3535; call toll free: 1-800-877-4253; fax to (248) 699-8097; or send e-mail via <http://www.gale.com>.