

History of America Play Dough Mats, Volume 1

The following 16 play dough mats are the perfect way to introduce some American history to your little learners. In the first few pages of this book, you will find background information you can read aloud and share with your students as they work on their mats. Beneath the background information for each mat is a copy of the instructions for that mat. Following the background information is a copy of just the instructions that you can give to the students if they are able to read the instructions independently.

The *Mayflower* and the Voyage to America

The Pilgrims were a group of people from England who came to the New World long before it was the United States of America. They wanted to start a new country where they could be free. The *Mayflower* was the ship that carried them to America. Two of the well-known passengers were William Bradford and Myles Standish. The trip across the ocean was very hard on the Pilgrims and on the ship. Once, an important part of the ship broke and the Pilgrims almost had to turn back to England, but the crew was able to fix it. Terrible storms threw the small ship off course, and it landed in a very different spot than the passengers had planned. The *Mayflower* made it all the way to Provincetown, Massachusetts, where it landed with the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims finally left the ship at Plymouth, Massachusetts, to start a new colony.

Instructions: *Add the Mayflower in the water as it makes its long journey across the ocean. You can also add some whales that may have been swimming and jumping out of the water.*

Plymouth Colony (Parts 1, 2, and 3)

The Pilgrims who settled in Plymouth Colony had a very hard time at first. They landed during winter, so it was very hard to build homes and find ways to get food to eat. There weren't any stores, and they couldn't grow their own food until the weather got warmer. In the spring, a Native American named Samoset came to visit the Pilgrims and, later, he came back and brought Squanto. Squanto helped the Pilgrims learn new ways to grow food and hunt, and he helped them make peace with other Native Americans who lived in the area. The homes of the Pilgrims were not fancy, but they were warm and dry. The people had some of the things they were able to bring with them on the *Mayflower* and things they made after they got to their new home.

Instructions, Pt. 1: *Add vegetables to the garden and add stacks of wood for the Pilgrims to use to keep warm and cook their food.*

Instructions, Pt. 2: *Add food on the table and fill in the parts of the chair that are missing.*

Instructions, Pt. 3: *Add a baby in the cradle and put some of the children's toys on the floor so they have something to play with.*

Liberty Bell

When the colonies decided they had to fight to get their freedom from England, they signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This said that the colonies were going to be a free country. When the Declaration of Independence was read to the people for the first time, men rung the Liberty Bell. It was used different times, but after a while, it cracked. No one rings the Liberty Bell anymore, but sometimes, on very special occasions, it is struck, and the sound is sent out through televisions and computers so people can hear it all over the country.

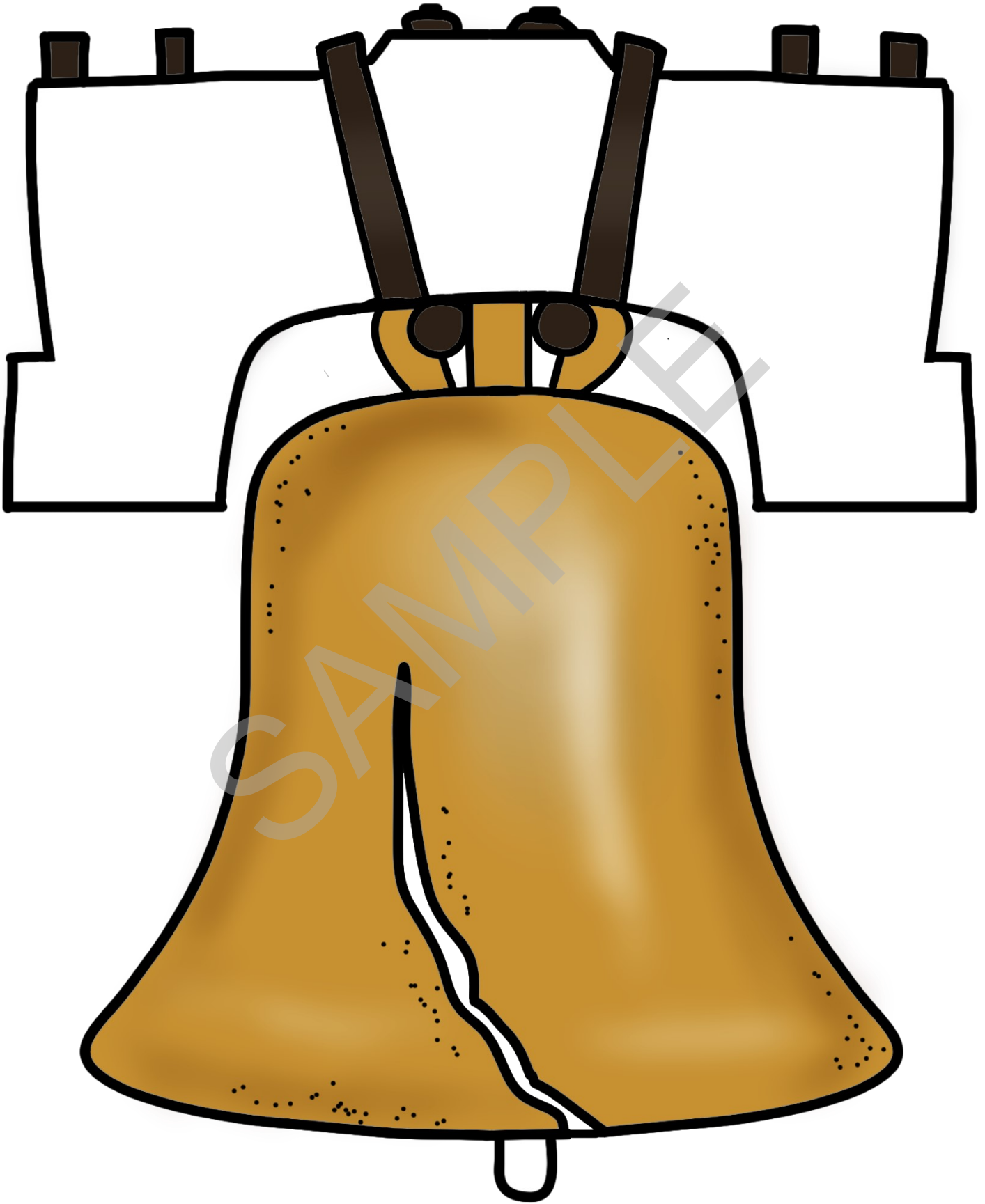
Instructions: *Fill in the board that is holding the Liberty Bell and fill in the clapper that makes the bell ring. Fix the crack if you would like.*

Valley Forge

The colonies fought a long, hard war to win their freedom from England. George Washington and his troops camped at Valley Forge one of the winters during the Revolutionary War. The army lived in small log houses they built themselves during the winter. Many of the men did not have shoes or enough clothes to keep warm. Many soldiers got very sick because they were not only cold, but they did not have enough food to eat. The troops who were very loyal and dedicated kept training through the hard winter and, by spring, they were ready to go back to fighting for freedom.

Instructions: *Add snow to the trees and add more snow coming down.*

The Liberty Bell



Louisiana Purchase

