IMPORTANT PEOPLE – STUDY GUIDE 1

PAUL REVERE-

Paul Revere was born in 1735. He had many jobs growing up but was most remembered being a silversmith, mail carrier, and messager for the Patriots. Revere belonged to the Sons of Liberty. Members believed the colonies should be free of British rule. People who thought this way were later known as Patriots. In 1773, Revere helped plan a protest against a tax on tea. For 2 years, Revere rode to New York, Philadelphia, Portsmouth, and New Hampshire carrying messages. The Patriots asked Revere and William Dawes to warn people in Lexington that British soldiers were coming. In 1860, (85 years after Paul Revere made his ride to warn colonist that the British troops were coming) Henry Longfellow wrote a poem that made people remember Paul Revere as a hero.

FREDRICK DOUGLASS-

Fredrick Douglass was born in 1818 as a slave to Hugh & Sophia Auld. Slaves were not allowed to learn to read. People didn’t want slaves to learn about freedom. Fredrick decided he wanted to learn and gave neighborhood boys pieces of bread to teach him what they learned in school. When the Aulds were away, he read their books. By the time Fredrick was 12, he was a good reader. His knowledge gave him a dream. He wanted liberty. The Aulds sent Douglass to work for a shipbuilder in Baltimore but they took his money. Some free African Americans lived in Maryland at this time. In 1838, Douglass dressed up as a sailor and got aboard a train heading north. Douglass lived in a number of places but he finally decided to live in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He attended abolitionist meetings. Abolitionists wanted to abolish, or end, slavery. He began to work for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society and give powerful speeches. He spoke in many states. Douglass started an anti-slavery newspaper called The North Star. Douglass helped to hide enslaved people (Underground Railroad).

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MARY BETHUNE-

Mary Bethune was born in Mayesville, South Carolina in 1875. Mary attended Scotia Seminary. When she finished, she went to Chicago, Illinois and studied at the Moody Bible Institute. She wanted to become a missionary and teach people about her religion. She hoped to go to Africa but was told that she couldn’t. Bethune was sad but she knew that the children in the US could use her help. She became a teacher. Soon, Bethune started a school of her own in Daytona Beach, Florida. At the end of the 1920s, a depression began in the US. President Franklin D. Roosevelt hired Bethune to work in the NYA (National Youth Administration). The NYA helped to create jobs for teenagers and young adults. Bethune’s job was to make sure that the NYA helped African Americans. In 1952, her dream of going to Africa came true. Bethune died in 1955 but her work continues. Bethune-Cookman College has been open for 110 years.

THURGOOD MARSHALL –

Thurgood was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1908. Thurgood was smart and curious. His father taught him how to debate. Thurgood worked for justice and to end unfair treatment of African Americans. Marshall worked to protect civil rights for African Americans. He was a lawyer for the NAACP in 1934 (National Advancement of Colored People). Marshall fought the case Brown vs. the Board of Education. He argued that separate schools were NOT equal and that African Americans had to be able to go to the same schools as other children. In 1954, the Supreme Court decided that school segregation had to end. Thurgood Marshall was also called Mr. Civil Rights. In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson chose Marshall to serve a s a judge on the US Supreme Court. Marshall served on the Supreme Court for 24 years working to protect the rights in the Constitution.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON –  
LBJ was born near Stonewall, Texas in 1908. LBJ wanted to improve life for people in poverty. He saw these problems as he was growing up. LBJ’s father was a representative in the Texas legislature. (A legislature is a group of leaders that make laws.) LBJ enjoyed listening to his father talk about politics. LBJ became a Congressman (at age 28!) and later a Senator. (The US House of Representatives is one part of the US Congress. The other part is the Senate.) Martin Luther King, Jr and Thurgood Marshall were civil rights leaders while LBJ was a Senator. In 1963, LBJ became Vice President of the US. He worked with John F Kennedy. After 2 years in office, John F Kennedy was killed. LBJ was assigned the job as the 36th President of the United States of America. President LBJ continued to help people. He worked to create a “Great Society.” As part of his Great Society plan, LBJ suggested hundreds of new laws to Congress. Some laws meant to improve education, the environment, and medical care. The biggest part of his plan was to help people who did not have much opportunity. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act was signed into law. Another part of his plan was the “War on Poverty.” In his last years as President, the US began fighting a war in Vietnam, a country in Southeast Asia. LBJ decided not to run for President again.