

Cahill History

Dear Book Club Host:

Welcome back to The 39 Clues Book Club! This month's theme is **Cahill History**. In preparation for the upcoming **The 39 Clues Reading Club Virtual Field Trip to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History**, we've created tie-in activities that explore how the Cahill family is connected to some fascinating and important moments in American history.

Activity 1: Unlock the Secrets of the Beale Cipher

Prepare ahead: 1) Photocopy the **Unlock the Secrets of the Beale Cipher** handout, making enough copies for every club member. 2) Familiarize yourself with how the cipher works so you can offer club members help if necessary. 3) Have enough pens or pencils available for everyone present.

This activity is based on the most famous unsolved code in American history, the 1820 Beale Cipher. Read the **Unlock the Secrets of the Beale Cipher** handout aloud to the group. Then, have club members work individually or in pairs to decode the new message, using the book cipher shown on the handout.

The decoded text should read: THE CIPHER BOOK IS IN THE HIDDEN LIBRARY OF THE LUCIANS

Activity 2: Which Famous American Cahill Am I?

Prepare ahead: 1) Print out one copy of the **Which Famous American Cahill Am I?** handout and cut out the nametags. 2) Have tape available.

Have club members sit in a circle. Use tape to attach a nametag to each club member's forehead, making sure that no one sees their own nametag. Randomly decide who goes first. Each player will ask the group a series of up to twenty "yes" or "no" questions (i.e., "Am I a woman?" or "Did I invent something?") to help them guess the name on their nametag. Allow each player to finish his or her turn before moving on to the next club member. Be prepared to offer hints as needed. Whoever figures out who they are first wins!

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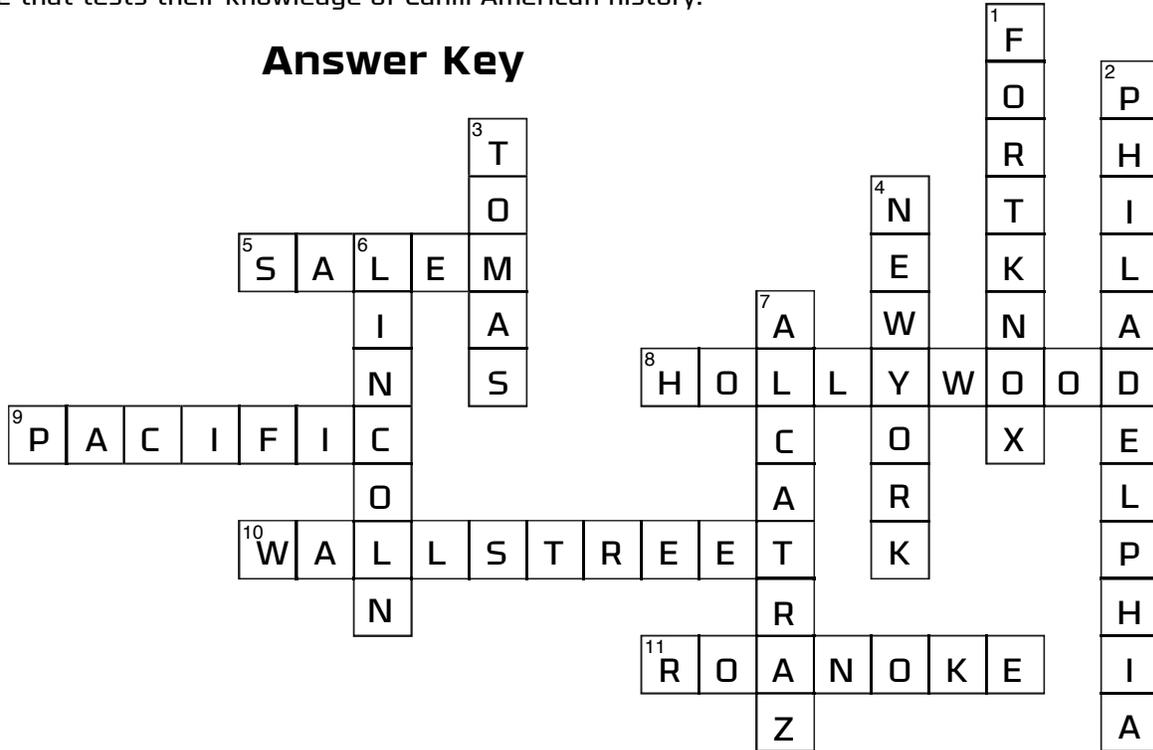
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Activity 3: Cahill Moments in History Crossword

Prepare ahead: 1) Photocopy the **Cahill Moments in History Crossword** handout, making enough copies for every club member. 2) Have plenty of pencils available for everyone present.

From important political doctrines to groundbreaking inventions, Cahills have made great contributions throughout history. For this activity, have club members work individually to complete this crossword puzzle that tests their knowledge of Cahill American history.

Answer Key



That's all for the February meeting of The 39 Clues Book Club. See you in March!

—The 39 Clues Book Club

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Cahill History Unlock the Secrets of the Beale Cipher

The most famous unsolved code in American history is the Beale Cipher. In 1820, a merchant named Thomas Beale left behind three ciphers that led to the location of a treasure he buried in Virginia. To this day, only one of the three codes was ever cracked. It was solved using a book cipher based on the Declaration of Independence. Some suspect that the other two Beale codes are also book ciphers, but the books have never been identified. The cipher below is based on the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence text. It reveals an important secret about the other two remaining Beale codes, and their relationship to The 39 Clues. Can you crack it?

Directions:

Fill in each space below the numbers with the appropriate letter. To start you off we've already decoded the first letter of the first word.

How the Book Cipher works:

Every group of three numbers represents one letter:

- The first number tells which line of the text.
- The second number tells which word on that line.
- The third number tells which letter in that word.

The Preamble to the Declaration of Independence text:

1. When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary
2. for one people to dissolve the political bands which have
3. connected them with another, and to assume among the
4. powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which
5. the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent
6. respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should
7. declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

131	161	315	731	643	411	132	615	415	191	221	412	664	252	254
T	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
332	541	321	345	462	762	643	711	553	414	314	521	274	281	465
_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
442	671	694	622	152	431	295	318	256	143	141	643	715	342	461
_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_



Cahill History

Which Famous American Cahill Am I?

Host Instructions:

Cut out the nametags below, distributing one per club member until everyone has one.

Eli Whitney

Thomas Edison

Abigail Adams

Abraham Lincoln

Thomas Jefferson

Harry Houdini

Mark Twain

Benjamin Franklin

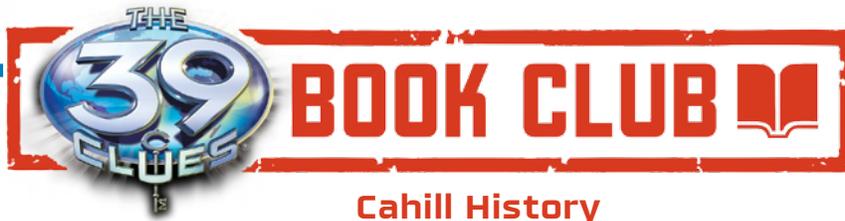
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Cahill History

Which Famous American Cahill Am I?

Host Instructions:

Cut out the nametags below, distributing one per club member until everyone has one.

Barack Obama

Theodore Roosevelt

Annie Oakley

George Washington

Sacagawea

Amelia Earhart

Neil Armstrong

Elvis Presley

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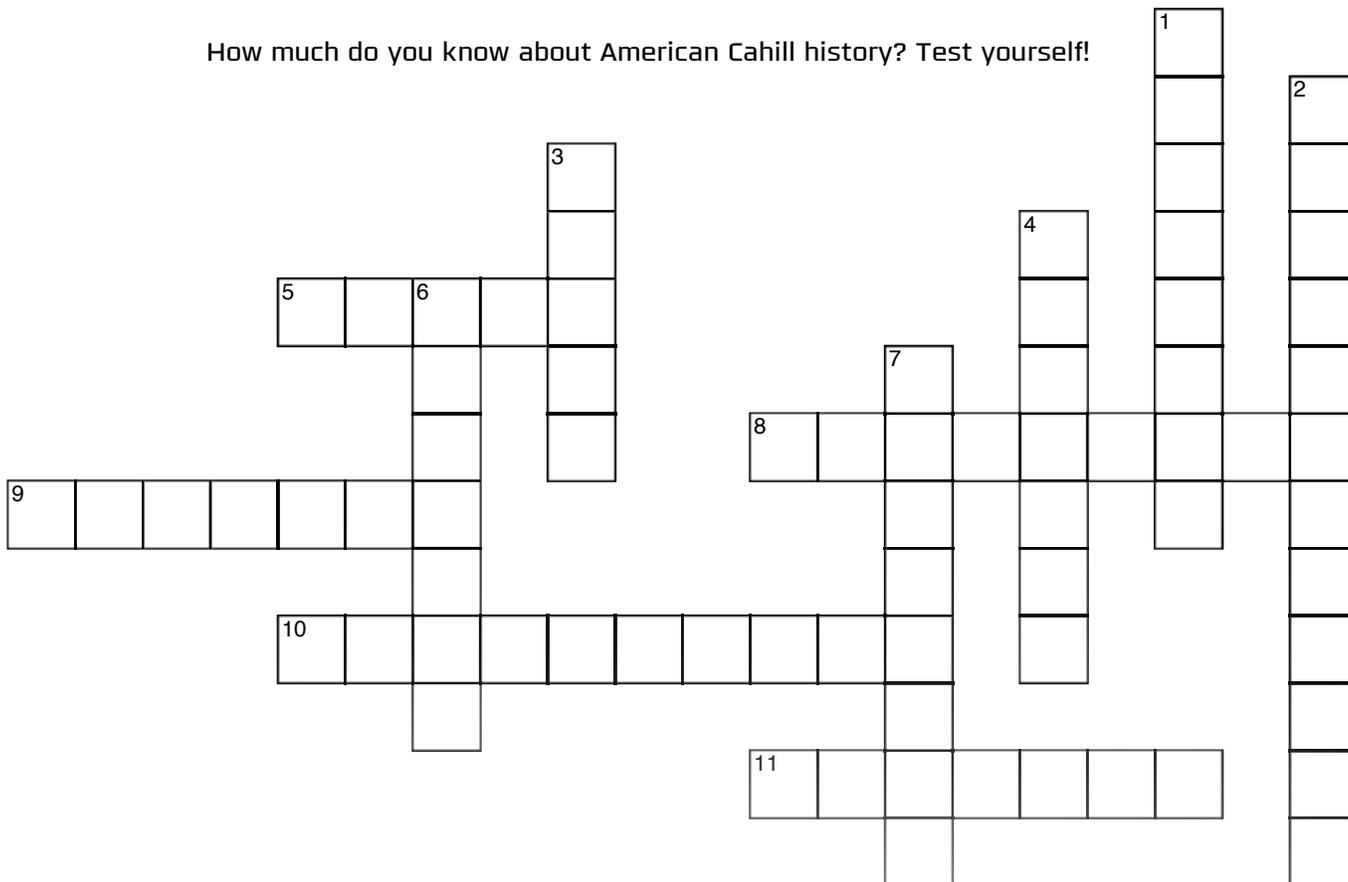
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Cahill History Cahill Moments in History Crossword

How much do you know about American Cahill history? Test yourself!



ACROSS

- 5. Lucian judge William Stoughton presided over the witch trials in this New England town.
- 8. A Janus stronghold was built underneath this famous Los Angeles sign.
- 9. In 1937, Amelia Earhart vanished while flying over this ocean.
- 10. This Lucian hot spot is the financial capital of the world.
- 11. This was the site of the famous "lost colony" of English Settlers.

DOWN

- 1. American gold deposits are kept in this city in Tennessee.
- 2. The Declaration of Independence was signed in this city.
- 3. The first U.S. president, George Washington, was also a secret member of this Cahill branch.
- 4. The designer and builder Alfred Ely Beach kept the details of this city's first subway tunnel secret until just before it was finished.
- 6. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by this Ekaterina U.S. president.
- 7. This infamous former prison and Tomas hot spot sits in the middle of San Francisco bay.