SARAH'S METHOD

Beginning + End of American History

Difficult question: When to begin American history?
   → requires thought + argument.

Several possible dates:

I. 1776  -  decl. of independence
   - no longer British colonies
   - beginning of USA
   → national beginning.

II. 1607 - Jamestown - 1st permanent English settlement in N. America - much of our heritage comes from England.

III. 1492 - Columbus
   - huge change in Europe + North America
     → disease, new raw materials, year of European history.

IV. ~12,000 BC - Clovis, NM - Native American settlement
   - their descendants still live in US today.
Complications w/ these dates

I. 1776 - we would lose 150 years of settlers in N. Amer. of trade, of conflict here → too late

II. 1607 - ignores much the English already knew about this area
       - Spanish had been here for years.

III. 1492 - Columbus - shows how settlers came; illustrates conflict surrounding

IV. ~12,000 BC - too early, too much pre-history for a class on US history

So: we will start w/ 1492.