

Discussion Questions for

[School: The Story of American Public Education](#)

Video 1:

- Was school free and public?
- What types of schools existed?
- What was most schooling linked to in colonial times?
- Who attended college?
- During this time period, what was the purpose of school?
- Was there any mention of children with disabilities?

Video 2:

- How do schools play an important role in establishing a nation?
- During this time period, what was the main purpose of a general education?
- How many years of schooling did Jefferson propose?
- Who was the first secretary of education and what did he discover as he visited schools?
- What inclusive practices existed in schooling at this time?

Video 3:

- What were teacher qualifications during this early time period?
- What was Horace Mann's perspective of common schools?
- What was the view of inclusion at this time period?
- How were common schools funded?

Video 4:

- What were the Great Schools Debates of 1840 about?
- What were prominent issues around education at this time?
- What was the view of inclusion at this time?
- How does the concept of "neighborhood schools" of this time connect with current day education principles?

Video 5:

- What was one of the first court cases around education about?
- What was the ruling of the Brown vs. Board of Education case in the Supreme Court?
- After the civil war, what did Congress require of states in regard to education?
- How did areas attract settlers to their communities?
- What were teacher qualifications at this time?
- What were conditions like for students in teachers?

Video 6:

- What types of schools existed?
- What was the focus of schooling during this time?
- What was the view of inclusion at this time?
- Describe American universal education then and now.