

What is your wish for America's future?

Tomorrow starts today. Share your wish.

I wish they would bust up all of the tech monopolies.

Technology Abdul, 31

A just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Democracy Abraham, 56

Bigger and better ideas to combat climate change. Let young people have a say - since we inherit all this!

Environment Zizek, 21

That the American Dream becomes a reality for all of us

Career Kristy, 16

My Wish for U.S.

An Activity Guide for Educators or Parents

CONTEXT

The nation's history museums and civic engagement organizations, from the Smithsonian to your local history museum, have teamed up to invite visions for the future of the United States through "My Wish For U.S."

Those over age 13 can submit their wish at [MyWishForUS.com](https://www.MyWishForUS.com). As an alternative, or for those under 13 or without internet access, this home, club or classroom activity offers some other ways to participate.

OBJECTIVE

To gather input from the future generations of American leadership, ask your students what they wish to see happen in the next 250 years of our democracy.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR "WISH FOR US"

1. Ask students to think about what they wish for the country on its 250th birthday, coming up in 2026. What future do we want to share? What parts do we want to keep or change?
2. Have students write their wish on a post-it, poster or piece of paper. Individually or as a group. What do these different visions of the future mean? What might we learn from each other?
3. If you can, take a picture of your students' wishes individually or as a group. Post your wish on social media, tagging @historymadebyus and #MyWishForUS

OTHER IDEAS

- Explore the wishes on [MyWishForUS.com](https://www.MyWishForUS.com) with your students. Sort by state or topic. Check out the historical wishes, featured in the orange tiles. (Discussion questions below!)
- Submit a wish on [MyWishForUS.com](https://www.MyWishForUS.com) as a class or as a group. While kids can create the wishes, an adult must post for them.
- Decorate your "wish" on a piece of paper and post it in classroom windows, local storefronts or at home for the whole block to see.
- Display your wishes in the hallways of your school or on your sidewalk, participating in a gallery walk with your classmates or friends.

MADE BY US

POWERING OUR FUTURE WITH HISTORY

My Wish for U.S. Continued

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Look for themes in our wishes. What is similar, different or surprising? Why do you think?
- How does your family or neighborhood shape your wish? Ask an older person in your community or family what their wish for the United States might be.
- How does your wish differ from others in your group? Are any in conflict with one another? How could we resolve those differences -- or work around them?
- What other wishes do you think people had in the past, that got us to where we are today? Who were those people? Who didn't get to make a wish, and were some wishes more important than others?
- Look at the historical wishes. Do you think any of them have been fulfilled? What factors helped them become a reality and how? Do you think any of the historical wishes have not been fulfilled? What factors have prevented them from becoming a reality?

LEARN MORE

[My Wish for U.S.](#) is the first in a series of experiments from [Made By Us](#) – an unprecedented effort by hundreds of civic and history organizations to present history in relevant, provocative, and surprising ways for anyone who wants to participate in shaping the future of our country. As we approach the nation's 250th anniversary, share your wish for the future to help shape the next 250 years of the United States; discover connections with others across space and time; and contribute to a national conversation about where we've been and where we're going.

We can't wait to collaborate with you to build the future of this project, our collective story, and our legacy as a nation.

Want to help us build and grow? Get in touch at info@historymadebyus.org.

Stay in the loop: Sign up for our emails and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and

The image shows four cards, each with a historical wish, a category, a name, and an age. The cards are arranged in a row and have a dark orange background with a teal triangle in the top right corner.

Wish	Category	Name	Age
That we continuously strive to learn anew from history and, as a nation of dedicated explorers, strike new ground in our past.	Education	Daniel	41
Provide jobs to the jobless, homes to the homeless, and reclaim young people in cities across America from violence	Community	Barack	52
That men shall cease to waste strength in competition and shall come to pool their powers of production.	Economy	Jane	50
There must always be a remedy for wrong and injustice.	Justice	Ida	68

www.MyWishForUS.com