

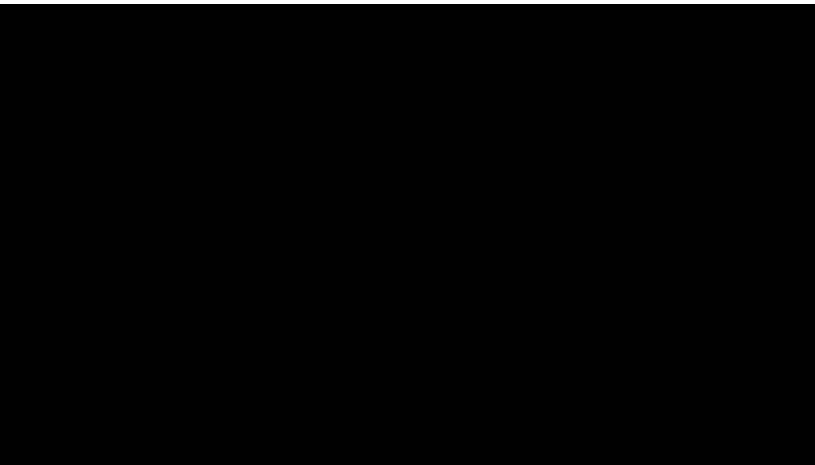
# Noah Webster

## Video Treatment

RT approx., 5 minutes

### Notes:

- Text passages indicate the narrative direction, i.e., they are not the proposed script for the voiceover.
- The use of white male hands in the storyboards reflects the dearth of diversity in stock art. Options being explored for final storyboards include showing the book/mobile devices being passed along through a sequence of hands reflective of the community's diversity.



1

*INFO:.*

ACTION:



2

ACTION:



3

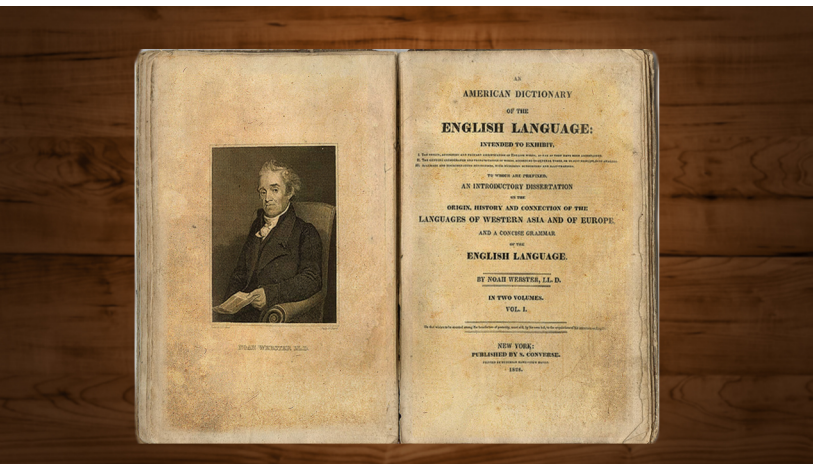
ACTION:



1

*INFO: Verbal chatter composed of different pronunciations of the same word in different accents. Alludes to the rich, chaotic variation in Colonial American English as the backdrop for Webster's best-known undertaking.*

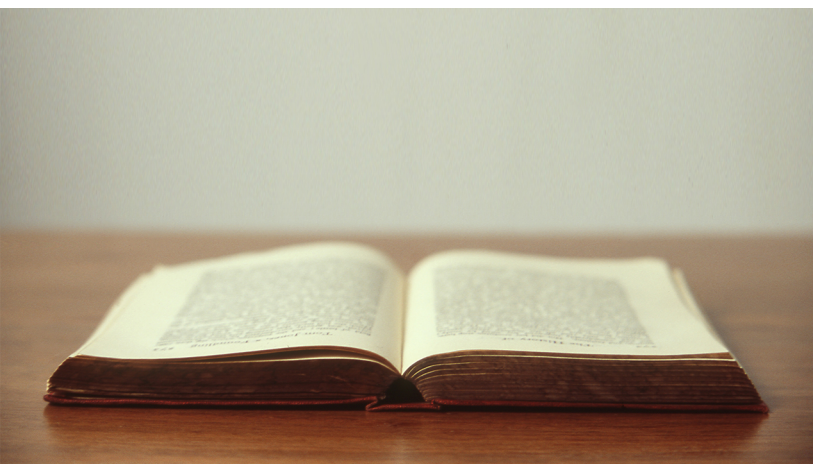
ACTION: Fade from black, closed book



2

ACTION: Book opens, pages turn, introducing Noah Webster and the Webster Dictionary title page

Introduces significance of the *American Dictionary of the English Language* in an age before spellcheck, online dictionaries, etc. Transitions to the person behind the book: Noah Webster.



3

ACTION: Camera pans down on book

And before his *American Dictionary of the English Language* set the standard for a new nation he was simply Noah Jr, one of five children growing up and working on a farm in the western division of Hartford. [Now known as West Hartford]



4

**ACTION:** Out of the pages a modest home, pops/peels up. A door opens and young Noah, represented as a paper cutout, walks across the screen/book. As he walks he grows into adulthood

Born in 1758, when Connecticut was still a British Colony. The family was not well off but they had lived in the colonies for six generations.

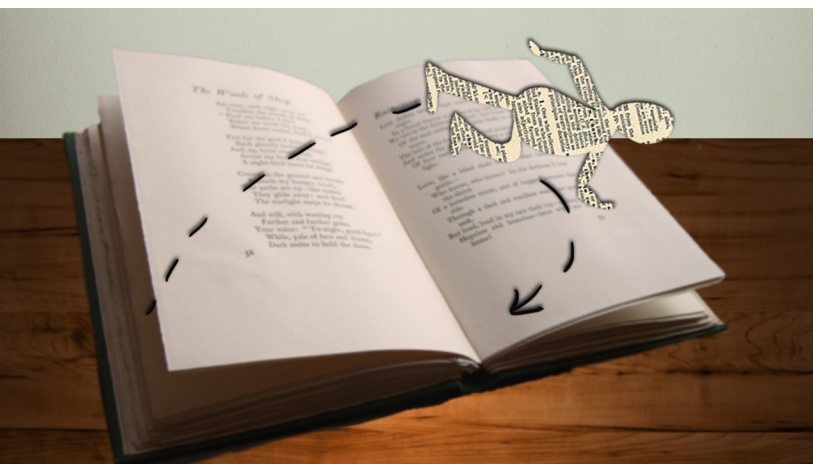
Noah had a gift for language, so his parents arranged for him to be tutored. And at age 16, he enrolled at Yale College. He was the only one of his brothers and sisters to be educated beyond grammar school.



5

**ACTION:** Paper Noah continues to walk across screen/book, travelling to a paper cutout version of Yale University

Came of age during the American Revolutionary War. Joined the local militia while still in college. And while he never saw activity duty he later used his way with words to help the new United States of America create a national identity for itself after the break with Britain.



6

**ACTION:** Yale University pops down, as paper Noah and the book begin to spin slightly





7

ACTION: As the book spins we see hands reach for the book. On its pages we see Noah Webster and his love of books, language and literature

Brilliant student. But always felt a bit awkward, like he did not truly fit in.

Graduated in 1778. Wanted to continue his education by studying law. Looked to his father for help. But Noah Sr handed him a few dollars and said, "Take this; you must now seek your living. I can do no more for you."

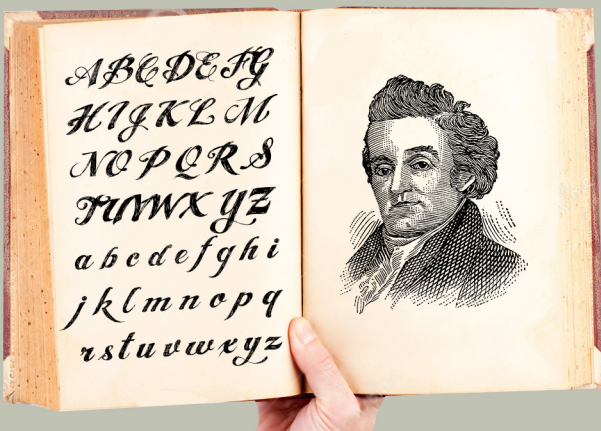


8

ACTION: Etched Noah speaks from the pages, explaining that "Language is the great unifier"

Noah paid his own way by teaching school. He remained fascinated with language in part because it was a hot button political issue.

Should English, the language of the newly vanquished British remain the free nation's official language? Particularly when about a quarter of the nation's population were not native English speakers?



9

ACTION: Etched Noah's Statement dissolves into an alphabet...as the book closes...

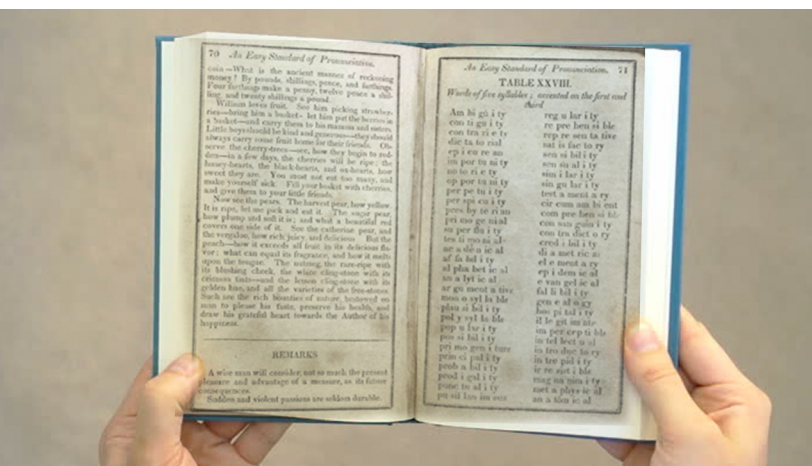
Noah's thought was to Americanize the English language. He wrote, "Now is the time and this the country in which we may expect success in attempting changes to language, science, and government. Let us then seize the present moment and establish a national language as well as a national government."



10

ACTION":...as the book closes we see its been transformed into the blue back speller

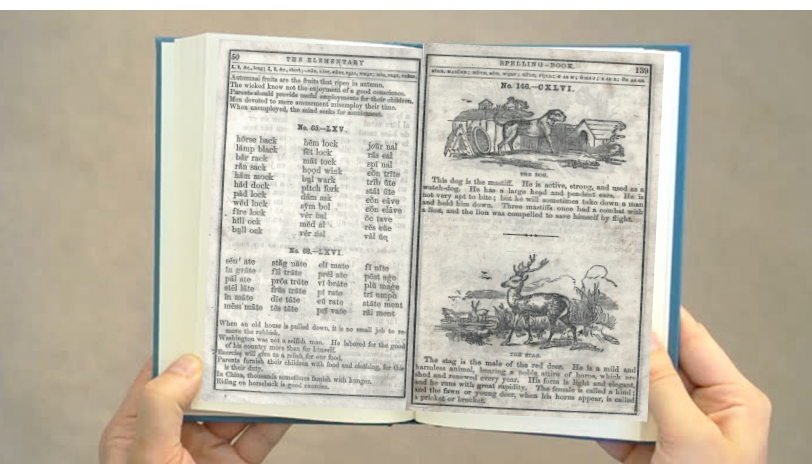
Using his experience as a teacher, he created a textbook, called a speller, for children. He was just 25 years old at the time.



11

ACTION: Hand hold book and turn pages

Other textbooks followed. All incorporated American heroes and authors with the goal of creating national symbols to unify the still – new country.



12

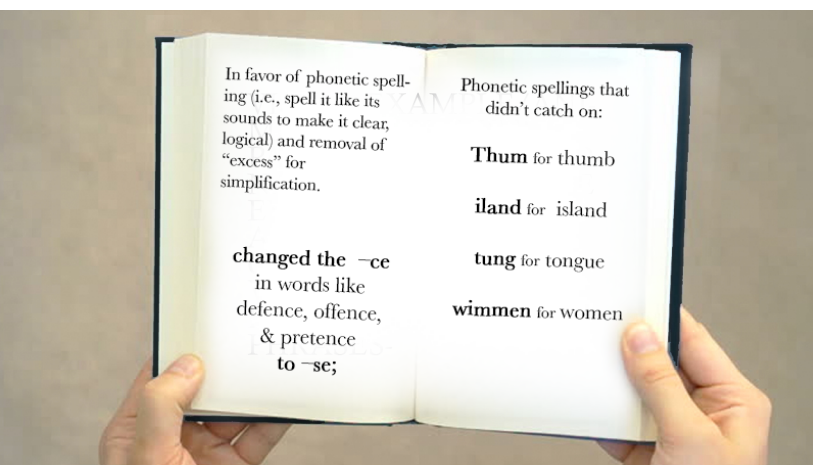
ACTION: Potential animation for these blanks book pages include how language/words were unified citing specific examples, or Noah's evolution as teacher/writer





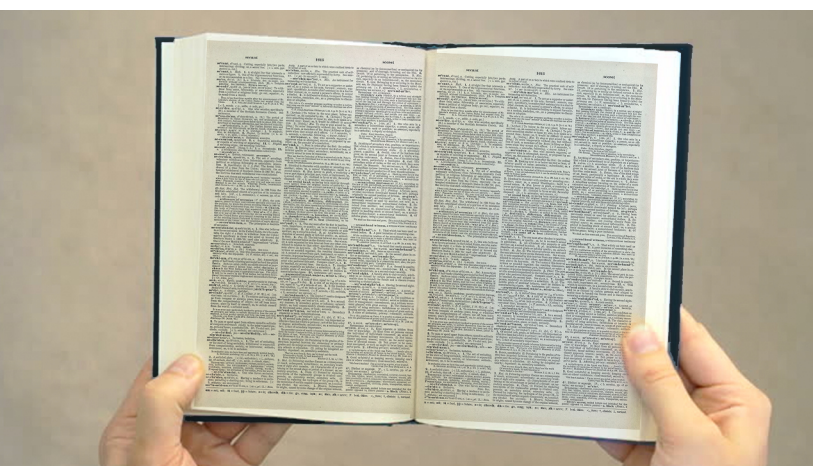
13

ACTION: as the book closes we see its been transformed into the Webster Dictionary



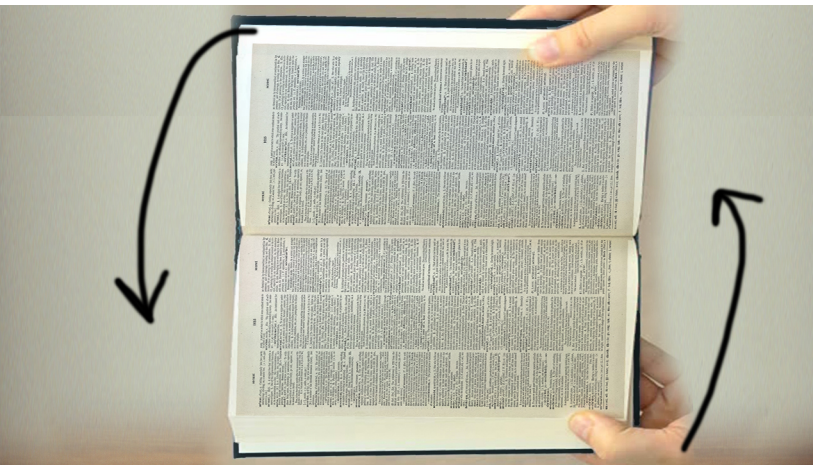
14

ACTION: : Potential animation for these blanks book pages include how language/words were unified citing specific examples, or Noah's evolution as communicator



15

ACTION: Hand hold book and turn pages



16

ACTION: Book rotates and closes to become a laptop



17

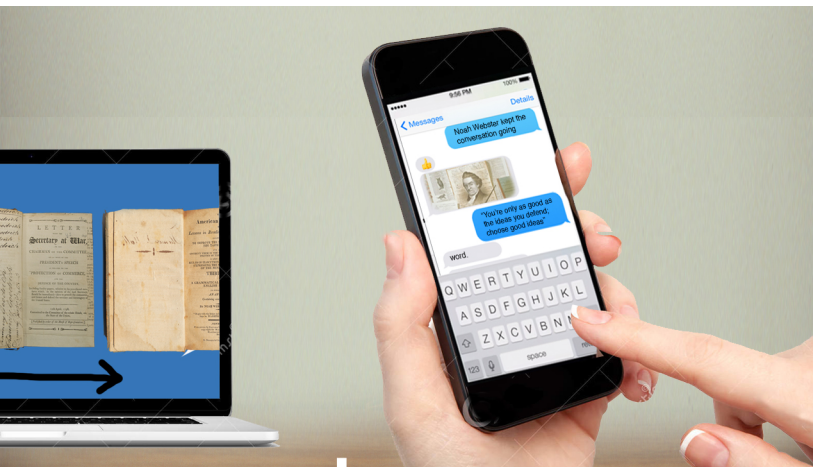
ACTION: Closed laptop is opened



18

ACTION: pamphlets are cycled as language/text defines each pamphlet topic on laptop screen





22

ACTION: camera pushes back to reveal text conversation on Webster via phone/text/ image/emoji (aka: contemporary language reimagined)



23

ACTION: Phone rotates and person taps on image of Noah via text, enlarging image....



24

ACTION: Finger swipes to Logo reveal and fade to black



1

INFO:.

ACTION:



2

ACTION: