



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 3

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 803

The American Revolution (1763–1789)

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The American Revolution (1763–1789)

Introduction

The struggle for independence by the United States has often baffled historians. Raw courage and determination in many cases were the only resources the colonists had to depend upon. The American government during the war was ineffective and disorganized. The army lacked basic supplies and regular soldiers. Yet, these raw colonials defeated the greatest military power of their era, Great Britain.

Historians have also long debated the reasons for the war. At the end of the French and Indian War, the American colonies were joyfully, deeply British. No one dreamed in 1763 that there would be a war between the colonies and Britain just twelve years later. Those years were a litany of miscalculations on the part of Britain that drove the colonists further and further from the loyalty of 1763.

This LIFE PAC® will discuss the events that caused the Revolution. It will also present a history of the Revolution itself, the major battles, ideas, and events. Finally, this LIFE PAC will show how the colonists finally managed to create a stable government under the United States Constitution

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Identify the men who contributed to the Revolution.
2. Identify and describe the incidents and thinking which led to the Revolution.
3. Identify and describe the governing bodies that acted for the colonies/states.
4. Name the major battles of the war and tell their significances.
5. Outline the terms of the peace agreements that the United States signed with Great Britain.
6. Explain the Articles of Confederation and why they were replaced.
7. Describe the Constitutional Convention.
8. Describe the main features of the Constitution and the process by which it was approved.

Survey the LIFE PAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study and write your questions here.

A large rectangular area with horizontal green lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the box, providing a template for students to write their questions.

1. GROWING CONFLICT

The American colonists were delighted with the outcome of the French and Indian War. The hated French had finally been driven out of their land. They were free to expand into the rich lands of the eastern Mississippi Basin. They were proud to be British, part of the mighty British Empire.

But, even in the midst of the joy, the first signs of the difference between the colonists and the government in Britain appeared, the Proclamation of 1763. The king tried to block the colonists behind the Appalachian Mountains, but the colonists chose to ignore the order. Worse was to come.

In the years that followed, the British tried to tax and control the colonies for the first time in colonial history. The Sugar Act, the Stamp Act, the Townshend Acts, and the Intolerable Acts beat a steady path to rebellion in the colonies. The colonists saw a conspiracy to deprive them of their liberty and reacted with resistance. The British saw no valid reason for the increasing resistance to their “lawful” decrees and reacted with more force. Finally, the colonists gave up hope of a peaceful settlement and chose to fight rather than submit.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Identify the men who contributed to the Revolution.
2. Identify and describe the incidents and thinking which led to the Revolution.
3. Identify and describe the governing bodies that acted for the colonies/states.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

arbitrary (är' bi trer' ē). Not going by any rule or law.

conservative (kon sēr' va tiv). A person who is opposed to change.

militia (mu lish' a). Army of citizens who are not regular soldiers.

moderate (mod' er it). A person whose political views are not extreme in any way.

Prime Minister (prīm' min' i stir). The chief official in certain types of government.

propaganda (prop' a gan' da). Systematic efforts to spread opinions or beliefs.

protocol (prō' tu kol). Rules (written or unwritten) for a procedure.

providential (prov' u den' shul). Good fortune happening by God's intervention. (The Christian version of “good luck.”- author)

radical (rad' i kal). A person who favors extreme changes or reform.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

Britain Flexes its Muscles

British attitudes. Britain was the greatest power on earth after the Seven Years (French and Indian) War. It had soundly defeated its great rival, France, and taken her North American empire. The British were proud and arrogant about their victory. They were confident of their own glory and were not in a mood to compromise with anyone, especially their backwoods colonies.

Moreover, the war had left Britain deeply in debt. The national debt had doubled and the new territory in America would be expensive to administer. Pontiac's War by the Indians in 1763, clearly showed the need to maintain troops in the colonies for their protection. That was expensive. The government felt it was high time the colonists bore some of the cost of their own defense.

Mercantilism. The popular economic theory of the 1700s was mercantilism. This theory held that only gold or silver was real wealth, and countries must work to obtain more of



| An Early U.S. Flag

it. Colonies were used to doing this through trade. Colonies were to supply the mother country with raw materials such as wood, iron, and indigo. Then, the colonies would be a market for goods manufactured by the mother country, like cloth, hats, and tools. The colony was not to compete with the mother country by building its own manufacturing and industry. This theory held that the colony only existed to



| The American British Empire in 1763

serve the mother country and should never be allowed to develop. It should be kept dependent on the mother country at all times.

British policy towards America was based on mercantilism. The Navigation Acts, which were passed mainly in the late 1600s, were intended to force the colonies to act in accord with this theory. One of the laws required that all trade with the colonies had to be on English or colonial ships. Another required all colonial trade to go through England to be taxed. That meant that goods going from the colonies to the French West Indies, just south of Florida, had to go to England, be unloaded, stored, and taxed before they could go to their destination. The same was true in reverse for goods coming from the West Indies or Europe to the colonies. This gave English merchants a virtual monopoly on colonial trade, because the cost of going through England made foreign trade too expensive. Other laws stated that certain important goods like tobacco and naval supplies could only be sold to Britain, even if Britain could not possibly buy all that the colonies could produce. These laws would have crippled colonial trade, but until 1763 they were rarely enforced, and the colonists traded with many nations by smuggling.

There were other laws on the books by 1763 that were intended to keep the colonies economically backward and dependent on Britain. The colonies were forbidden to export wool cloth, hats or tools. They were also forbidden to build iron mills to make tools. The Molasses Act of 1733 put a high tax on molasses, sugar, and rum imported from non-British sources, primarily the French West Indies. The problem was that the British West Indies could not supply half of the molasses needed by the distilleries in New England. (The molasses was made into rum for sale at home and abroad). So, the law was routinely and easily avoided by smuggling.

One of the more damaging laws forbade the colonies to mint coins. British merchants could



| George III, King of England

not pay for colonial products in hard money (coins). That meant the colonies were always short of coins they needed to pay for British goods. It also made it difficult for colonists to collect enough money to start any large businesses. The colonists had to barter for most of their goods and try to get coins by trade with French and Spanish lands. These restrictions were very unpopular in the colonies, but, obviously, very popular in London.

Changes in Policy. After the Seven Years War, Britain began to change her policy toward the colonies. The British government had been content for over a hundred and fifty years to let the colonies govern themselves. Now, flush with pride in their victory, they felt it was time for Parliament to establish better control over the empire. There was also a strong feeling that since the British had spent both blood and treasure to protect the colonies, the colonies owed them something in return. What the British expected to get was loyalty and some income to help defray the huge costs of stationing troops in America.

George Grenville became **Prime Minister** of Great Britain in 1763. He moved quickly to

meet the new mood of the king, George III, and Parliament. He began in 1763 by ordering that the Navigation Acts be strictly enforced. He obtained the Sugar Act of 1764 from the Parliament that decreased the high tax on French molasses but kept high taxes on sugar and rum. He arranged for this act to actually be enforced by customs offices and an Admiralty Court. That court did not use a jury and the

defendant was assumed to be guilty, not innocent as in regular courts. The colonists saw this as a threat to their English liberties. The next law was a Quartering Act in 1765 that required colonists to provide food and lodging for British troops. These acts angered the Americans, but it was the next one that set fire to the dynamite, the Stamp Act.



Answer these questions.

1.1 What was the popular economic theory of the 1700s?

1.2 According to that theory what should a colony do for a mother country?

1.3 What were the goals of the British government toward the colonies in 1763?

- a. _____
- b. _____

1.4 What were the major parts of the Navigation Acts?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

1.5 What was the Molasses Act of 1733? Why would it have hurt the New England colonies and why didn't it? _____

1.6 Why were the colonies short of hard money? _____

1.7 What did George Grenville do to anger the colonies in:

1763? _____

1764? _____

1765? _____

The Stamp Act. Grenville proposed to raise a substantial amount of money in the colonies by the Stamp Act, passed in 1765. The law required all legal documents and public papers, such as wills, playing cards, newspapers, and bills of sale, to be marked with a stamp purchased from the government. Grenville thought this was a reasonable way to raise money. The amount charged for the stamps would be less than a similar stamp in Britain and the money would be used to pay British troops in the colonies. Even Benjamin Franklin, the colonial representative in London, who disapproved of the law expected the colonists to accept it after a few protests.

However, the Stamp Act was seen as a threat in America. It was the first time Britain had tried to directly tax the colonists. Taxes before had been on imports and were intended mostly to control trade. Any other taxes had only come from the colonial assemblies elected by the colonists. The tax fell on everyone from the card playing sailors to wealthy merchants or lawyers whose trade depended on documents. Moreover, the colonists were constantly short of the money needed to buy the stamps. Even worse, people who violated the act were to be tried in Admiralty Courts! The colonists thought Britain was trying to reduce them to virtual slavery with all these new laws.

It was the very visible Stamp Act that drew the wrath of the colonists, who were united in their opposition to it. The Americans said Parliament could not tax them, since there were no American representatives in Parliament. The battle cry that would open the Revolution was: “No taxation without representation.” But, more than shouting slogans, the Americans began to organize, unite, and resist. This was the real legacy of the Stamp Act.

The controversy was a repeat of the conflict between Parliament and the king in England. The Glorious Revolution (1688) had established that political power in England would be in the hands of an elected body, Parliament, not an



| Patrick Henry

autocratic king. The colonists felt that if they indeed had the rights of Englishmen, then the political power in their land should be in the hands of their representatives. The British Parliament could not step in as a new monarch to rob the colonists of their traditional English liberties. Parliament thought of the colonists as subjects who should obey, not as citizens who should participate. This arrogant attitude was intolerable.

The House of Burgesses in Virginia debated and passed the Virginia Resolves, which declared the act illegal, stating that only Virginians could tax Virginians. The debate over the Resolves included a famous speech by **radical** member Patrick Henry. He said, “Caesar had his Brutus—Charles the First, his Cromwell—and George the Third—may profit by their example.” When the **conservative** members of the Burgesses began to whisper, “Treason,” Henry replied, “If this be treason, make the most of it.”

The reaction to the Stamp Act came in three major ways: the Stamp Act Congress, boycotts, and mob action. The Massachusetts assembly invited all the colonies to send delegates to New York to discuss the Stamp Act. Nine of the

colonies sent delegates to what became known as the Stamp Act Congress. The delegates were wealthy, distinguished men from the elite of the colonies. They passed a Declaration of Rights and Grievances stating that only the colonies could tax their own citizens. Britain ignored it. It was, however, a significant step in uniting the colonies, most of which thought of themselves almost as separate nations.

A much more effective message was sent to Parliament when the colonies began to boycott British goods. They were very successful in organizing agreements not to import British products. Colonists found other sources to meet their needs, or self-sufficiently went without them. The boycott began to threaten the prosperity of the English merchants who complained to Parliament. Parliament listened.

The last way that the colonists resisted the Stamp Act was by mob action, this was also

very effective. The “Sons of Liberty,” secret societies opposed to the act, took the law into their own hands. They attacked stamp sellers, royal officials, and people who violated the boycott. On the date the law was to take effect, November 1, 1765, there were no officials to sell the hated stamps. All had resigned in fear of the mobs.

Faced with an outcry in Britain and the colonies, and knowing they were not collecting any revenue, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act four months after it went into effect. At the same time they passed the face-saving Declaratory Act, stating that Parliament had the right to tax the colonies. The colonists rejoiced at their victory and, with a few exceptions, ignored the dark implications of the Declaratory Act. They had acted together, sometimes with violence, and accomplished what they wanted. The lesson would be remembered.



Name the requested item or person.

- 1.8 British Prime Minister who passed the Stamp Act. _____

- 1.9 Colonial representative in London who thought the Act would be obeyed.

- 1.10 Radical in House of Burgesses who said, “If this be treason, make the most of it.”

- 1.11 Burgesses statement against the Stamp Act. _____

- 1.12 Three ways the colonies reacted to the Stamp Act.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
- 1.13 Secret societies that led mob action against the Stamp Act.

1.14 The slogan against the tax. _____

1.15 Law stating that Parliament had a right to tax the colonies.

Answer these questions.

1.16 What did the Stamp Act require? _____

1.17 Why did the colonists object so much to it? (four reasons) _____

1.18 What did Patrick Henry mean in his speech about Brutus and Cromwell? (Look up the named people in the encyclopedia, if you need to). _____

Actions and Reactions

Townshend Acts. The failure of the Stamp Act did not help Britain’s financial problems. The debt remained along with the huge expense of protecting North America. The king and the powerful people in Britain were furious. They wanted the rebellious colonies brought in line. Finally, Britain had another change in government (this happened frequently). The new Chancellor of the Exchequer (Treasury), Charles Townshend promised to pluck the colonial goose with a minimum of squawking.

Townshend succeeded in passing a series of laws through Parliament in 1767. Called the Townshend Acts, they were designed to increase revenue and control. The most important put a tax on a large number of goods such as paint, lead, glass, paper, and tea that the colonies imported from Britain. This was an indirect tax which Townshend thought the colonies

would accept. Another act greatly increased the power of customs officials to enforce the tax laws, including the use of writs of assistance which allowed **arbitrary** searches of homes and businesses. Another law threatened to shut down the New York assembly if it did not comply with the Quartering Act (it had refused up until that point). Moreover, the money raised was to be used to pay British officials, including governors, in the colonies. This meant the colonists could no longer hope to control royal officials by limiting their salary!

The colonists were alarmed. They had fought with royal governors often enough to know the loss of the power of the purse would leave them helpless against arbitrary rule. They also saw the strict enforcement procedures as a violation of the basic legal rights of all Englishmen. The threat to suspend the New York legislature

threatened every assembly in the colonies. The uneasy colonists began to believe there was a conspiracy afoot to take away their rights. The taxes themselves, however, did not create the unanimous outcry of the Stamp Act. They were subtle and indirect, but still not acceptable.

The colonists objected to the Townshend Acts, but the reactions were not as strong or as quick as under the Stamp Act. Radicals like Samuel Adams from Boston wrote pamphlets urging action. John Dickinson, a lawyer and legislator, wrote a series of widely read articles called *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*, which argued that the Parliament had no power over colonial affairs. Several colonial assemblies were dissolved for supporting that idea. A boycott was slowly pulled together. The colonists also engaged in widespread smuggling to bring in products and avoid paying the taxes.

Boston Massacre. Massachusetts, founded by independent-minded Puritans, had always been a restive colony. Boston quickly became a center for the opposition to Britain. The Sons of Liberty were especially active there, interfering with the British officials and creating public disturbances. Finally, the government sent in British soldiers to keep order. The presence of soldiers in the midst of an angry population was asking for trouble, and it came.

On the evening of March 5, 1770, a crowd decided to entertain themselves by throwing snowballs at a soldier guarding the Customs House. Troops were sent to his aid. The crowd threw snowballs and debris at them. Despite the efforts of Captain Preston, the commander, to prevent it, someone opened fire on the mob. Five people were killed. The colonial **propaganda** called the incident the Boston Massacre.

Radicals spread the news all through the colonies. The public story made martyrs out of the dead. The soldiers involved were tried for murder. John Adams, patriot and future president, took the unpopular job of defending them. He did so well that only two were convicted and



| The Boston Massacre

those received light sentences. The results added to colonial distrust and anger.

Repeal. In Britain, the boycotts slowly began to have some effect on commerce. Thanks in part to colonial interference, the taxes were bringing in very little money. Moreover, the British government realized it was foolish to tax their own goods they were trying to sell in America. Lord North, who was now in control of the government, repealed the taxes in 1770, except for the tax on tea. The king and others insisted it must remain as a symbol of the government's right to tax.

The repeal calmed the **moderates** and relieved the conservatives, but radicals still looked for a confrontation with the British. Samuel Adams of Boston took the lead in organizing groups to communicate between the towns in Massachusetts. These *Committees of Correspondence* were set up to exchange information and the latest news. They also kept the rebellious spirit active. Eventually, they were set up by all the colonies to communicate with each other, laying the foundation for future cooperation.



Write true or false on the blank. If the statement is false, change some of the nouns or adjectives to make it true.

- 1.19 _____ The Townshend duties taxed goods imported from France.
- 1.20 _____ Charles Townshend was the Prime Minister.
- 1.21 _____ Money from the Townshend taxes was to be used to pay British officials in the colonies.
- 1.22 _____ The Townshend Acts threatened to dissolve the Massachusetts assembly if it did not comply with the Stamp Act.
- 1.23 _____ The colonists did not react as fiercely to the Townshend Acts as they had to the Stamp Act.
- 1.24 _____ *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania* argued that colonial assemblies had no power over affairs in the colonies.
- 1.25 _____ The Townshend Acts were also met with a boycott.
- 1.26 _____ Lord West repealed all of the Townshend duties except the tax on paint.
- 1.27 _____ Committees of Correspondence encouraged communication and cooperation between the colonies.
- 1.28 _____ Britain was deeply in debt and was paying to protect America.

Describe the following.

- 1.29 The Townshend Acts. _____

- 1.30 The Boston Massacre. _____

Boston Tea Party. In 1773 the British East India Company was in serious financial trouble. Lord North decided to help it by giving it a monopoly on the sale of tea to the American colonies. The prices were set so that, even with the tax, it was cheaper than tea smuggled in from other sources. The colonists distrusted the monopoly and saw the lower price as a way to sneak the tax by them. They made sure that none of the tea was ever sold in America.

The colonies reacted differently to the tea when it arrived. Pennsylvania stuck it in a warehouse to rot. Charleston also stored it, and later sold it to support the Revolution. But, it was the reaction of the Sons of Liberty in Boston that gained the most fame. Three tea ships were floating in Boston harbor on the night of December 16, 1773. None had been able to unload their cargo. That evening a group of colonists, thinly disguised as Indians, boarded the ships, took the tea, and dumped it into the harbor. The entire protest, known as the Boston Tea Party, was orderly and completely without violence. They simply refused to accept the tea. The tea party was repeated in New York harbor by a group of patriots there.

The Intolerable Acts. The reaction in London to the Tea Party was one of uncontrolled fury. The public destruction of valuable property in defiance of the king was the last straw. Public opinion was united behind Lord North and the king as they decided that Boston must be brought to heel. A series of laws called the Coercive Acts in Britain, and the Intolerable Acts in America were rapidly passed by Parliament.

The most important of the Intolerable Acts was the Boston Port Bill. It ordered the port of Boston blockaded and closed until the tea was paid for, with the tax. The implication of this was staggering. The closing of the harbor would mean the destruction of the city which depended on commerce for its supplies, jobs, and revenue. An entire city was being destroyed for the non-violent actions of a few

individuals, clearly an excessive and dangerous use of force.

The other parts of the Intolerable Acts were equally as odious. The Massachusetts charter was changed so that all important officials were appointed and controlled by the Crown. Town meetings were forbidden without the express approval of the governor. A military governor was appointed for Boston and more troops were sent in, putting it under military rule.

The British government expected the other colonies to see this as a matter only involving Boston and stay out of it. They expected other port cities to jump at the chance to take over some of Boston's trade. In fact, the other colonies did not see it that way. They realized that if Britain could successfully use that kind of force against Boston, it would likely be used later against other colonies. They acted, therefore, in support of Boston, sending supplies to the city by land from as far away as South Carolina.

Quebec Act. Passed with the Intolerable Acts in Britain was a piece of legislation called the Quebec Act. It was not a part of the laws aimed at the colonies, but the touchy Americans assumed it was. The law confirmed the rights of the French in Quebec to follow their own customs (which did not include the usual traditions of English liberty) and protected the Catholic religion. Moreover, it extended the boundaries of Quebec down into the Ohio Valley south of the Great Lakes. That cut the Americans off from any possibility of controlling that coveted land, and put the land under a foreign system of government. The Quebec Act was a wise attempt by Parliament to win the support of the citizens in the former French lands. The Americans saw it as a spread of hated Catholicism, and a further attempt to contain their liberties.

The First Continental Congress. The primary response to the Intolerable Acts was the First Continental Congress. The colonies realized they needed to act together. Using the

Committees of Correspondence, they set up a meeting for September 1774 in Philadelphia. Every colony except Georgia sent delegates. The fifty-four delegates included Samuel and John Adams from Massachusetts, John Jay from New York, as well as George Washington and Patrick Henry from Virginia.

The Congress accomplished several things during the seven weeks it met. They passed a Declaration of Rights that included life, liberty, property, the right to assemble and to tax themselves. Several acts of Parliament were declared to be illegal and an Association was formed to enforce a *full stoppage* of trade until the acts were repealed. A petition was sent to the king to address the colonial complaints. The Congress further agreed to meet again in May of 1775 if their demands had not been met by then.



| The First Continental Congress



Choose the correct word(s) to complete these sentences.

- 1.31** Lord North gave the _____ a monopoly on the sale of tea to America to in 1773.
- 1.32** The tea that was shipped to the city of _____ was stored and later sold to support the Revolution.
- 1.33** A second tea party occurred in the city of _____ after the one at Boston.
- 1.34** The _____ Bill closed Boston harbor until the tea and tax were paid for.
- 1.35** The _____ Act protected the traditional customs of the French in Quebec and expanded their territory.
- 1.36** The primary colonial response to the Intolerable Acts was to organize the _____.
- 1.37** The Intolerable Acts were the British reaction to the _____.



Describe the named item.

1.38 The Intolerable Acts. _____

1.39 The Boston Tea Party. _____

1.40 The actions of the First Continental Congress. _____

1.41 The American view of the Quebec Act. _____

Rebellion

Lexington and Concord. All of the American colonies had **militias** in the 1700s. They had been organized to protect the colonists from the Indians and the French. In the wake of the occupation of Boston, the militias began to drill and collect supplies to defend themselves against British troops. The Massachusetts assembly, which had been meeting illegally, chose the city of Concord as a major supply depot for the militia. The assembly also began meeting there to be out of the reach of General Gage, the military commander of Boston.

Gage found out about the supplies and decided to destroy them. He also hoped to arrest some of the colonial leaders such as Samuel Adams and John Hancock, who were staying

in Lexington. In April of 1775, Gage sent over 700 men to Lexington during the night. Paul Revere, a Boston silversmith who had worked for many years as a courier for the Sons of Liberty, rode to warn the patriots. In accordance with plans laid in advance, two lights were put in the steeple of the Old North Church to let the patriots know that the soldiers were coming across the Charles River. Revere only made it as far as Lexington before he was captured by a British patrol. But, other riders brought word to Concord.

When the British arrived at Lexington on the morning of April 19th, they were met by two companies of militia drawn up in battle order. Battle order in the 1700s was two lines of men,

one behind the other, close together. This was the standard because of the type of weapon they used, muskets. Muskets were very inaccurate and could not be counted on to hit a target more than 100 yards away. The only way to be sure of hitting anything was to have a large mass of men, firing together at the target at close range. Military **protocol** required that this be done on an open field until one side withdrew leaving the victors in command of the field.

The American commander realized that he was heavily outnumbered. When he was ordered to disperse, he began to do so. As the Americans began to leave, someone fired a shot. That bullet has been called “The Shot Heard Around the World” because it started the Revolutionary War. When the British officers finally got their men back under control, eight Americans were dead.

The British went on to Concord where they destroyed some supplies. There, they confronted a larger militia force who forced them to retreat. The retreat quickly became dangerous. The Americans, contrary to all the rules of gentlemanly warfare, began firing at the soldiers from behind trees, rocks, and buildings as they withdrew. The arrival of reinforcements at Lexington kept the British from being destroyed. Even then, it was a long march back to Boston as the militia opened fire from any vantage point they could find all along the route back. In the end, about seventy British soldiers were killed. America was at war with Britain.

Capture of Lake Champlain. Roads in the colonies were terrible. The best and most reliable transportation was by water. In central New York, there was a key water route that almost bridged the gap between Canada and the Atlantic coast. The Richelieu River connected the St. Lawrence with Lake Champlain. The southern end of the lake was only 23 miles from the Hudson River, which flowed through Albany to New York City. This key route was protected by

two old forts, Ticonderoga and Crown Point. Both forts were taken by a New England force under Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold in May of 1775, to protect New England from a Canadian-based invasion. The forts were in bad shape, but Ticonderoga had a large supply of good cannon, something the colonists needed. Henry Knox, who would eventually become the first Secretary of War, went to Ticonderoga to get them. In the dead of winter in 1775-76, he moved 59 cannons across miles of wilderness to give the British a nasty surprise.

Bunker Hill. Militia from all over New England began to gather around Boston after Lexington and Concord. The slowly assembling citizen’s army was put under the command of Artemas Ward of Massachusetts. Ward decided to fortify Bunker Hill on the Charlestown Peninsula facing Boston. By mistake, his men put up their fortifications on nearby Breeds Hill, but the battle that followed was named for the place where it should have happened.

The British foolishly decided to make a frontal attack on the entrenched, protected Americans at the top of the hill. They probably believed that the amateurs would run at the first sight of a regular army. The Americans did not bring enough gunpowder with them for a long battle, but they were determined to stay.

On June 17, 1775, about 2,000 British soldiers in neat lines marched up the hill toward the Americans. The militia calmly waited and held their fire until they “could see the whites of their eyes.” Then, the Americans opened fire, mowing down the unprotected “Redcoats.” The British retreated and came again, with the same result. The Americans held until they ran out of gunpowder and then managed to retreat. The British had lost almost half of their men, dead or wounded. Even though the British took the hill, the heavy losses made it more of an American victory. One colonial leader commented that he would gladly sell the British another hill at the same price.

A Colonial Army. The Second Continental Congress assembled in May of 1775 as they had arranged. This time all thirteen colonies were represented, and Benjamin Franklin, newly returned from London, was a Pennsylvania delegate. The Congress at that time still did not want independence, nor did most of the country. They saw the fighting more as a civil war in defense of their rights. Congress, however, agreed to take on the assembling forces around Boston as an *American* army and to appoint a commander-in-chief. They chose George Washington for the post. It was a **providential** choice.

Washington was the son of a wealthy Virginia planter and had increased his fortune by marrying a rich widow, Martha Custis. He had been a colonial officer in the French and Indian War. He was not a brilliant strategist, but he was very determined and faithful. He was able to win and hold the loyalty of the men who served under him. His religious beliefs were private, but appeared to follow traditional Christianity, not Deism. He believed deeply in the patriot cause and took a fearful chance when he



agreed to lead the army. He would have been hanged as a traitor if the Americans had lost.

Washington did accept the commission from the Congress to lead the new “army.” He refused to accept any pay, however, and asked only to be reimbursed for his expenses. He left at once for Boston and took command two weeks after Bunker Hill on July 2, 1775.



Choose the correct match for each item.

- | | | |
|------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1.42 _____ | Ethan Allen | a. Lexington and Concord |
| 1.43 _____ | Shot Heard Around the World | b. Ticonderoga |
| 1.44 _____ | Artemas Ward | c. Bunker Hill |
| 1.45 _____ | valuable cannons captured | |
| 1.46 _____ | fortified Breeds Hill | |
| 1.47 _____ | militia fires along the road at British in retreat | |
| 1.48 _____ | British destroy supplies, but are forced to retreat | |
| 1.49 _____ | protects water route from Canada to New York | |
| 1.50 _____ | Americans forced to quit when they run out of gunpowder | |

- 1.51 _____ About half of the British forces are killed or wounded
- 1.52 _____ April 1775
- 1.53 _____ May 1775
- 1.54 _____ June 1775

Complete these sentences.

- 1.55 The assembled militia around Boston were taken as an American army by the _____
_____.
- 1.56 After the occupation of Boston, the American _____ began to drill and gather supplies.
- 1.57 Congress appointed _____ as commander-in-chief of the colonial army.

Olive Branch Petition. Congress was still hoping that the British government would come to terms and they could end this revolt. The Americans blamed most of what had happened on Parliament. They still declared their loyalty to the king. In July of 1775, the Congress made one last attempt to stop the war. At the insistence of John Dickinson of Delaware, the colonists prepared a petition directed to the king in July of 1775. The “Olive Branch Petition” affirmed their loyalty to the crown and asked the king to intervene with Parliament on behalf of the colonists. The petition was sent to Britain in the hands of one of William Penn’s descendants. The king refused to even receive him. Instead he declared the colonies to be in rebellion.

The king further alienated the colonists by hiring German soldiers to fight the Americans. This was a common practice among European powers. Germany was divided into many small states, each with their own army. The kings would hire out these well-disciplined men to raise money. The Americans were shocked by the involvement of the foreign “Hessians”

(many of the mercenaries came from the German state of Hesse) and many who had favored the king now joined the patriots.

Invasion of Canada. The war continued even while Congress and the country debated what to do. Several of the colonial leaders thought that the French Canadians might be persuaded to join the rebellion. In any case, New England needed to be secure from invasion from the north. So, American Generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold led an assault on Canada in late 1775.

Montgomery led his forces up from Lake Champlain and successfully captured Montreal. He then met up with Arnold at Quebec. Arnold’s men had been struck by disease and reduced to eating shoe leather on their long march through the wilds of Maine. Still, the commanders attempted an attack in December. It failed miserably. Montgomery was killed. Arnold was wounded in the leg and retreated after a siege failed. The French, who had been treated generously by the Quebec Act, did not join the Americans; they remained firmly on the British side.

Common Sense. The double life most Americans were leading, fighting British soldiers while declaring loyalty to the British crown, was shattered in early 1776 by the publication of a pamphlet called *Common Sense*. *Common Sense* was written by Thomas Paine, a recently arrived English immigrant. It was one of the most influential pamphlets ever written. Paine argued that British control over America was a violation of common sense. Why should an island rule over a continent? The colonists had no reason to be loyal to a king who had treated them so harshly. The Americans had a clear choice between independence or tyranny.

Common Sense was a phenomenal best seller. The pamphlet sold hundreds of thousands of copies in a few months. Public opinion turned in favor of independence. The American people

decided to cross the line from loyal subjects defending their rights to a free and independent nation. Delegates at the Second Continental Congress were instructed by their state governments to vote for independence.

Declaration of Independence. On June 7, 1776 Richard Henry Lee of Virginia proposed to the Second Continental Congress that “These United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states...” Debate began on the proposal and, since it was expected to pass, a committee was appointed to write a document explaining their reasons. The committee included Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin. As the best writer in the group, Jefferson was elected to do the writing. The other members only made suggestions after they had seen his draft of the paper.



| The Signing of the Declaration of Independence

Jefferson's document became one of the most famous in American history. It included a brilliant preamble which was accepted by Congress without any changes. The remainder, a list of the acts of tyranny committed by the king and the actual statement that the colonies were now independent, were accepted with some changes. The document was accepted by Congress on July 4, 1776. A perfect copy was written and signed later by fifty-six of the delegates, including the president of the congress, John Hancock, who deliberately signed in very

large letters. That bold act was the origin of the American saying that a person's signature is their "John Hancock."

The Fourth of July is celebrated as Independence Day in the United States. Congress voted for independence, in favor of Lee's proposal, on July 2, 1776. The day the Declaration of Independence was accepted, July 4th, has become the holiday. That document is simply too vibrant and stirring to take a second place to anything. You will study why as you examine the document in the next few pages.



Match these items.

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------------------|
| 1.58 | _____ American general killed, invasion of Canada | a. Richard Henry Lee |
| 1.59 | _____ Congressman who insisted on one more petition to the king in July of 1775 | b. Thomas Paine |
| 1.60 | _____ author of <i>Common Sense</i> | c. Thomas Jefferson |
| 1.61 | _____ American general wounded in the invasion of Canada | d. Richard Montgomery |
| 1.62 | _____ Congressman who proposed independence | e. John Dickinson |
| 1.63 | _____ author of the Declaration of Independence | f. Benedict Arnold |
| 1.64 | _____ president of the Second Continental Congress | g. John Hancock |

Complete these sentences.

- 1.65 The Second Continental Congress sent a petition called the _____
_____ Petition to request the king's help in July of 1775.
- 1.66 Montgomery succeeded in capturing the Canadian city of _____.
- 1.67 American public opinion was turned in favor of independence by the popular pamphlet called _____.
- 1.68 Congress voted for independence on _____.
- 1.69 The American Revolution was fought for _____ months before independence was declared.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

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

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long

train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time

of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.



THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

**Answer these questions.**

- 1.70** Which full paragraph(s) are the preamble? _____
- 1.71** The center section lists the grievances against the crown and Parliament as well as the American attempts to gain a fair hearing. What are the phrases that begin and end this section?
- a. Beginning phrase: _____
- b. Ending phrase: _____
- 1.72** Which paragraph(s) are the statement of independence? _____

Do this activity.

- 1.73** In a class setting, read the preamble aloud and discuss what each phrase means. In an independent study setting, read the preamble (aloud, if possible) and write out what it means in your own words.

TEACHER CHECK

_____ initials

_____ date

Look at the list of grievances in the Declaration. For each incident listed below give the phrase in the Declaration that refers to it (enough to identify it).

- 1.74** The dissolution of the colonial assemblies _____

- 1.75** The use of royal authority to veto colonial laws _____

- 1.76** The use of income from the Townshend Acts to pay salaries of officials _____

- 1.77** The Stamp Act _____

- 1.78** Use of Admiralty Courts _____

1.79 Changing the Massachusetts charter _____

1.80 Closing Boston Harbor _____

1.81 Encouraging Indian attacks _____

1.82 Hiring of Hessians _____

1.83 Quartering Act _____

1.84 Setting up a military government in Boston _____

1.85 Quebec Act _____



Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

SELF TEST 1

Match the following people. (each answer, 2 points)

- | | | |
|-------|---|----------------------|
| 1.01 | _____ Boston radical, started Committees of Correspondence | a. George Grenville |
| 1.02 | _____ American commander at Ticonderoga and the invasion of Canada | b. Benjamin Franklin |
| 1.03 | _____ commander-in-chief of American army | c. Charles Townshend |
| 1.04 | _____ Prime Minister of Britain, Stamp Act | d. John Dickinson |
| 1.05 | _____ author of the Declaration of Independence | e. Lord North |
| 1.06 | _____ <i>Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania</i> , Olive Branch Petition | f. Samuel Adams |
| 1.07 | _____ Chancellor of the Exchequer, Britain | g. John Hancock |
| 1.08 | _____ Prime Minister who gave East India Co. a monopoly on American tea sales | h. George Washington |
| 1.09 | _____ president of Second Continental Congress, large signer of Declaration of Independence | i. Benedict Arnold |
| 1.010 | _____ colonial representative in London before the war | j. Thomas Jefferson |

Describe each of these giving the important points.

1.011 Stamp Act (5 points) _____

1.012 Townshend Acts (5 points) _____

1.013 Boston Massacre (5 points) _____

1.014 Boston Tea Party (4 points) _____

1.015 The Intolerable Acts (5 points) _____

1.016 Quebec Act (5 points) _____

1.017 Battle of Bunker Hill (5 points) _____

1.018 Colonial reaction to the Stamp Act (6 points)

a. _____ b. _____

c. _____

Complete these sentences. (each answer, 3 points)

1.019 British policy toward the Thirteen Colonies was based on the economic theory of _____

_____ .

1.020 The laws that were passed in the late 1600s, but rarely enforced, that restricted America to trade to the benefit of England were called the _____ Acts.

1.021 The _____ Act was passed when the Stamp Act was repealed and stated that Parliament could tax the colonies.

1.022 The _____ were secret societies opposed to British power that led mob action.

1.023 The _____ Act required colonists to house and feed British troops.

- 1.024** The _____ Act kept high taxes on sugar and rum and allowed violators to be tried in Admiralty Court.
- 1.025** The First Continental Congress met in response to the _____ Acts.
- 1.026** The Revolutionary War began at _____ .
- 1.027** The key fort, with its cannon, that was captured on Lake Champlain was Fort _____ .
- 1.028** _____ was an influential pamphlet written by Thomas Paine that urged America to become independent.

Write true or false on the blank. (each answer, 1 point)

- 1.029** _____ Britain was deeply in debt after the Seven Years War.
- 1.030** _____ The colonists carefully obeyed the trade laws before 1763.
- 1.031** _____ The American invasion of Canada encouraged the French colonists to rebel against the British.
- 1.032** _____ Congress voted for independence on July 4, 1776.
- 1.033** _____ The king's decision to use German mercenaries to fight in America turned many Americans against the British.
- 1.034** _____ The Olive Branch Petition was an offer of surrender by the American army after the defeat at Bunker Hill.
- 1.035** _____ The American army was organized from militia units.
- 1.036** _____ In 1773 Boston was the only city that refused to accept for sale the tea shipped in under the new monopoly to the East India Company.
- 1.037** _____ Britain wanted the Americans to bear some of the cost of their own defense.
- 1.038** _____ The colonies were always short of hard money because of British laws.

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials _____	date _____
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HIS0803 - May '14 Printing

ISBN 978-0-7403-0030-1



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070
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