

The American Revolution



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?!?



- Foundation of all U.S. history
- American Revolution=birth of our nation
- To help better understand who we are and the vision of our founding fathers

French & Indian War

- French vs. British (Both sides had Native American allies)
 - French, Shawnee, Lenape, Ojibwa, Ottawa, and Algonquin
 - British, Iroquois, Catawba, and the Cherokee
- This conflict is part of the Seven Years War that was fought throughout much of the world
 - French & Indian War was fought mainly in the northeast along the border between British colonies and the French colonies of New France
- As the American colonies began to expand to the west, they came into conflict with the French.
 - War ended Feb 10, 1763: France was forced to give up all of its North American territory
 - Result: Britain gained all of the land east of the Mississippi River



Consequences of the French & Indian War

- Expensive for the British government to fight
 - Britain in debt
 - Issued heavy taxes on the colonists—caused colonists to unite against a common enemy just as they did during the F & I War
 - Generated resentment between colonists and British
 - British forbid colonists from settling on newly acquired land— guarded by soldiers that colonists were forced to pay for

The Basics

King George III



- Officially began in 1775
- Overall cause: French & Indian War AND colonists saw themselves as a separate entity
 - King George III & Parliament needed the colonists in order to remain a world power
 - Gained revenue from colonists through taxes and trade
- Result: British govt. tried to increase control and levied taxes → REBELLION
- Ended with the Treaty of Paris signed in 1783

The Sons & Daughters of Liberty...

They were the ones who were not afraid. They knew instinctively that talk and politics alone would not bring an end to British tyranny. They were willing to resort to extralegal means if necessary to end this series of injustices. They were American patriots — northern and southern, young and old, male and female. They were the Sons and Daughters of Liberty.

Sons of Liberty

Some called them the “Boston Mob”

The Sons were a secret, underground organization that was founded in Boston. Some believe it was founded by Samuel Adams but others disagree.

- All levels of society (lawyers to craftsmen)
- Often met at Boston’s Green Dragon Tavern to plot
- Had secret code words and symbols

Purpose: to force all the British stamp agents to resign and to stop American merchants from ordering British trade goods

- No taxation with representation

Sometime resorted to force and violence

- Aimed their protests and actions towards royal officers, politicians, royalists, and tax collectors
- threats
- Burning effigies from the Liberty Tree
- Stoned houses
- Tared and feathered
- Organized the Boston Tea Party



With respects to the Lieut. Governor’s House, where they ended their vile [transactions]...they had rais’d a greater Number and were intoxicated with Liquor, broke trio Windows, threw all his furniture out of kilo House, stamp’d upon the Chairs, Mahogany Tables, very handsome Large gilt-framed Pictures, the Pieces of which lay in Piles in the Street, open’d his Beds and let all the Feathers out, took ten thousand pounds in Cash, took all his Cloathes, Linnen, Plate, and everything he had, cut the Balcony off the Top of his House, pulled down all the Fruit Trees in his Garden, and did him in all 25,000 pounds damage.

Daughters of Liberty

- Urged colonists to weave own cloth and use American products
 - Facilitated boycotts
 - So they weren't dependent on Great Britain
 - They were recognized as patriotic heroines for their success



The Tension Increases...

- Sugar Act: 1764
 - placed taxes on sugar and molasses
- Stamp Act: 1765
 - required to pay for a stamp or seal to be placed on all paper goods bought
 - Provided a way to fund paying British soldiers to prevent colonists from traveling west of the Appalachian Mountains
 - Refusal to buy led to jail time/fine
 - ex: legal documents, licenses newspapers, pamphlets, playing cards
 - colonists boycotted goods



More Acts = More Problems

- Townshend Acts: 1767
 - taxes on imported glass, lead, paint, paper, tea
 - Money collected from this tax paid for military costs in colonies and salaries of colonial governors
 - British troops had the right to enter colonists businesses and houses.
- Colonists protested again
 - Peaceful
 - GB sent more troops—irritates colonists more

Boston Massacre

- In 1770: 1,000 GB soldiers arrive in Boston
 - Aka: redcoats, lobsterbacks
- Colonists surround soldiers, mob mentality
 - Two groups shouting, throwing snowballs
 - Soldiers fire into crowd
 - Killed 5 colonists
- Massacre??? Why do you think the colonists referred to it as a massacre?



Response to the Massacre

- People of Boston = outraged
- Anti GB propaganda
 - Biased or misleading information
- Victims depicted as heroes
- GB soldiers = villains
 - Charged with murder
 - Eventually acquitted because of self-defense
- Colonies begin to unite



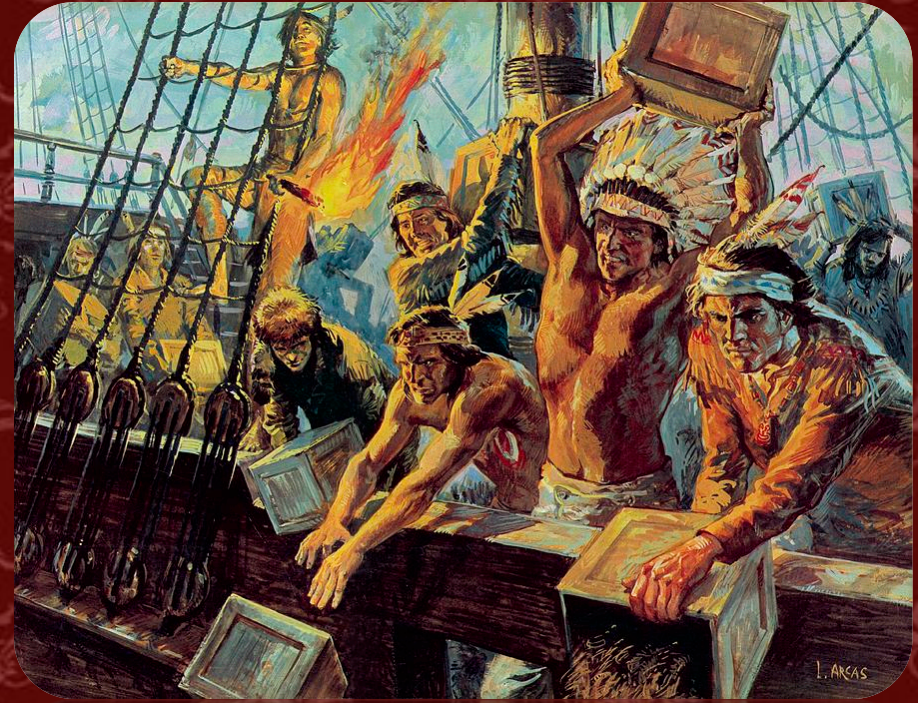
Tea Act

- April 1770: Parliament repeals Townshend Acts
 - BUT keep a tax on tea
 - Colonists didn't drink GB tea, drank tea from a Dutch company
 - Then GB, only allowed East India Tea Company to sell tea in the colonies
- Tea Act: 1773
 - did not increase price; sold tea from East India Co. at cheaper prices
 - Led to the Boston Tea Party



Boston Tea Party

- December 16, 1773
 - Same year the tea act is passed
- Bostonians dressed up as Native Americans
 - Board 3 ships in Boston Harbor
 - Throw overboard 342 chests of tea
 - Purpose???
- No attempt to compromise between GB and colonies



The Final Straw

- Intolerable Acts: 1774 (Boston Port Acts)
 - Laws imposed on colonists: closed Boston Harbor until colonists paid for all the tea
 - Banned town meetings; can't meet publicly or advertise it
 - Replaced elected officials with appointed ones
 - Protected British officials accused of crimes
 - Anyone accused of a crime had to be tried in England
 - UNFAIR = Caused all colonies to band together and prepare for a war}
- “The Shot Heard Round the World”
 - April 1775
 - Lexington, MA
 - Officially kicks off the war



Patriots vs. Loyalists

After the French and Indian War ended, Americans in the 13 colonies became divided.

• Patriots:

- Outnumbered the Loyalist population
- Believed British taxes were illegal
- Didn't feel their voices were heard in British Parliament
- Goal: independence, supported a revolution
- Wanted to break away from Great Britain
- Majority were ordinary men and women: farmers, merchants, and shopkeepers
- Desired to become a new country
- Dangerous to go against England

• Loyalists:

- 15-20% supported England: wanted to remain English and loyal to King George III
- Also referred to as Royalists
- Many fled the country at the start of the revolution
- Many were merchants and wealthy
- Believed colonists should obey British laws
- Felt American colonies would be weak without Britain
- Dangerous to be a loyalists, often killed or attacked by Patriots

Patriot, Loyalist, or Neutral? You Decide!

Colonist A is a poor farmer in the Hudson Valley of New York. Colonist A has paid no attention to the trouble brewing in the colonies. His day to day struggle to maintain his farm and family is what worries him. His problems have recently become worse; his landowner, a Loyalist, has had some financial troubles and to get himself out of his enormous debts, his landowner raised Colonist A's rent three times in the last five months. Colonist A barely earns enough from selling his crops to pay the original rent amount and now with the raise in the rent, Colonist A will be evicted from his farm. He and his wife have six children and fear they will have no where to go if they are forced to leave the farm.

Colonist B

Colonist B is a wealthy woman from New York City. Her husband's business earns tremendous wealth and honor for the family. She frequently claims to be related to several members of the House of Lords in the British Parliament. She worries about the amount of violence being committed by mobs of men called the Sons of Liberty. She and her husband fear that their wealth and their connections to Britain may cause them to be targets of the mob.

Colonist C

Colonist C is a wealthy tea merchant in Boston. Colonist C's goal in life is to make money and he doesn't care if he violates the law. Since the Townshend Acts placed a tax on tea, Colonist C has been illegally importing tea from the Dutch. His ships frequently have to hide from the British navy and British customs officials who can board his ships whenever they please. Recently he was caught smuggling in tea, but fortunately he was able to buy off the official with a large sum of money. Friends have informed Colonist C that the Royal Governor of Massachusetts has issued an arrest warrant for Colonist C, and friends advise him to go into hiding.

Colonist D

Colonist D is a merchant from rural Virginia. He follows the British laws and sells all of his goods, mainly tobacco to the British. Colonist D's lifestyle is extravagant and spends large amounts of his money purchasing the finest clothes and furnishings from Europe. As a young boy, his father sent him to study in Britain and he hopes that next year, he too will send his son to Britain, the only place in his mind one can get a decent education. Due to his rich lifestyle, Colonist D is in heavy debt with several British banks. He fears that the people he owes money to will foreclose his property.

Colonist E

Colonist E is originally from Germany and lives on the Pennsylvania Frontier. Colonist E decided to move his family out of the Pennsylvania colony into the fertile Ohio Valley. He plans to move near a British fort in the Ohio Valley which can provide protection from Indians. As Colonist E and his family moved towards the Ohio Valley, British soldiers stopped him and informed him that the Proclamation of 1763 prohibits him from moving into the Ohio Valley.

Colonist F

Colonist F is a merchant in New York City. His business imports many products from Europe, especially Britain. Colonist F has secretly grown concerned over the recent talk of independence from Britain. He fears an independent America could not protect his ships at sea; the British navy escorts colonial ships as they cross the Atlantic to protect the ships from pirates or foreign ships wanting to steal goods. Since the Townshend Acts, the Sons of Liberty have been bullying storeowners into removing British goods from their shelves. A store owner friend of his was badly beaten up by a mob of Son's of Liberty for selling British products. Since hearing of his friend's attack, Colonist F has participated with the boycotts.

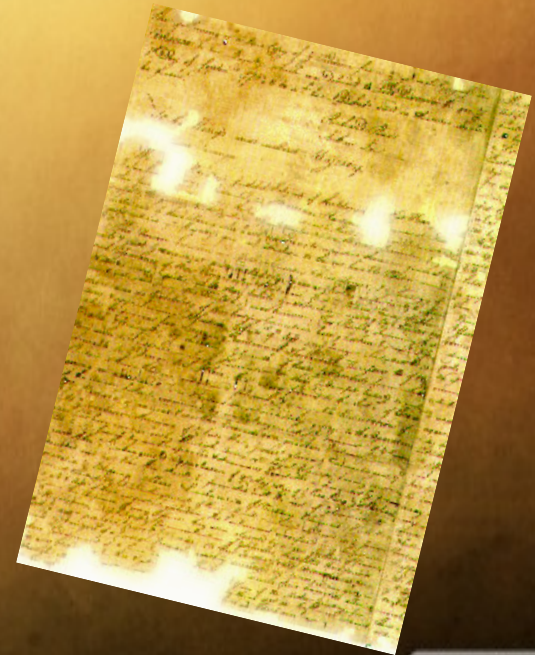
Colonist G



Colonist G lives close to Boston's waterfront. He has very little money and cares little about politics. He works on docks loading and unloading the ships and at night he hangs out and plays cards in one of the many taverns along the waterfront. He has been known to spend a few nights in jail after fighting in the taverns. His toughness has caught the eye of the Sons of Liberty and for months they have been trying to recruit him. Colonist G accepted their rum and ale but refused to join the Sons of Liberty. Yesterday, Colonist G was informed that he was out of a job because the British passed a series of acts called the Intolerable Acts which closed Boston Harbor to trade.

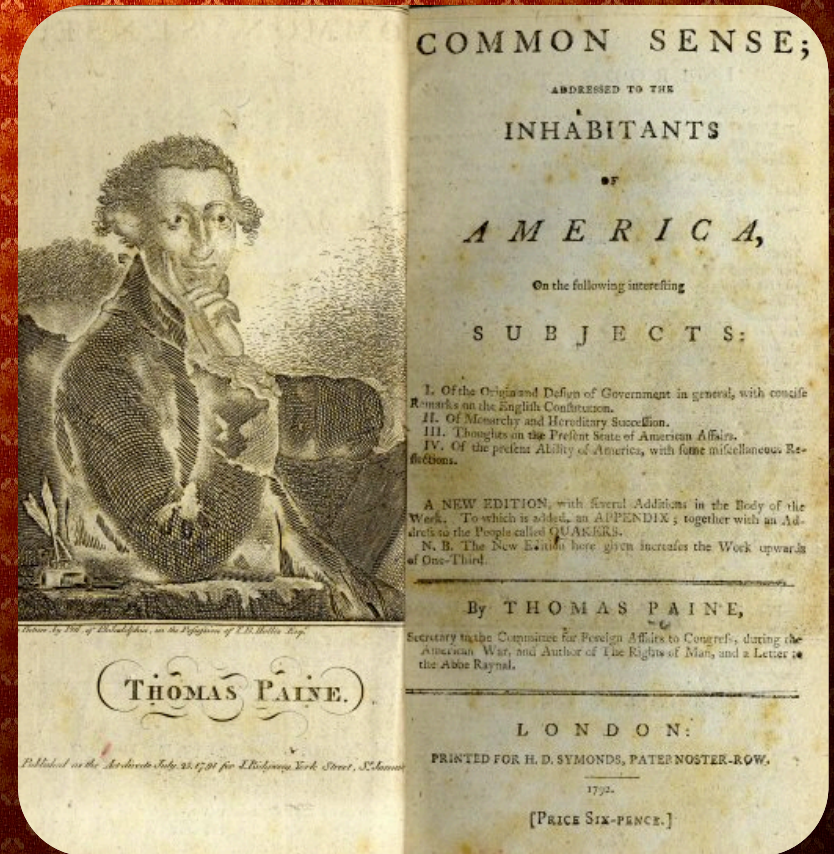
Olive Branch Petition

- American Revolution began April 19, 1775 but The Americans still hadn't declared their independence.
- Petition was the last attempt to a peaceful resolution
- Letter to King George from members of the Second Continental Congress (second letter written to the king)
 - Outlined their issues
 - Asked the British to deal with their complaints
 - The king refused to accept the petition—wouldn't even read it.



Common Sense

- A pamphlet written by Thomas Paine—January 10, 1776
- Outlined the reasons he felt it was time for the colonies to part ways with the British.
- Expressed the colonists' right to fight against a tyrannical king
- The Declaration of Independence would soon follow



End of the American Revolution



An Important Ally

- The French had joined the colonists in the fight against Great Britain.
 - With their support the Patriots managed to trap the British in Yorktown, Virginia.
 - Cut off all supplies
 - British General Cornwallis was forced to surrender



War Comes to a Close

- September 3, 1783:
Treaty of Paris signed
 - Ended the American Revolution
 - Lasted 8 years
 - Cost 2.4 billion
 - 5,000 deaths
 - Treaty recognized a new United States; independent country

