

SECTION

3

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What British laws and acts angered colonists?
2. How did the colonists respond to British actions?
3. Why did the colonists declare independence?
4. How did the colonists win the Revolutionary War?

IDENTIFY

Stamp Act
 Samuel Adams
 George III
 Intolerable Acts
 George Washington
 Battle of Bunker Hill
 Thomas Paine
Common Sense
 Declaration of Independence
 Thomas Jefferson
 Abigail Adams
 John Adams
 Battle of Yorktown
 Treaty of Paris

WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

At times Americans still have to defend their liberties. Sometimes the United States also helps protect the freedoms of people in other countries. Use **OWFL** or other **current events** sources to find a country in which the United States is protecting basic human rights. Record your findings in your journal.



Independence!

**EYEWITNESSES
 TO History**

“It seems we have troublesome times a coming, for there is great disturbance abroad in the earth and they say it is tea that caused it. So then if they will quarrel about such a trifling thing as that, what must we expect but war. I think or at least fear it will be so.”

—Jemima Condict Harrison, quoted in *Weathering the Storm*,
 by Elizabeth Evans



COLONIAL
 WILLIAMSBURG
 FOUNDATION

Teapot bearing an anti-British slogan

Jemima Condict Harrison was a young woman from New Jersey. She described the tension between Great Britain and the colonies in her diary in October 1774. During the early 1770s relations between Britain and the colonies worsened. Despite the growing crisis, some colonists still hoped for a peaceful resolution. Many, however, became convinced that war was inevitable.

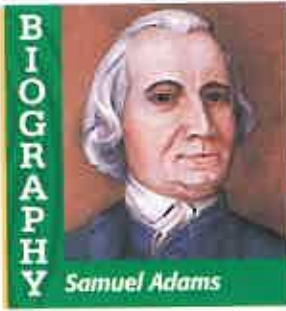
Trouble in the Colonies

In the 1700s conflict between Great Britain and France spilled over into their North American colonies. The French had established colonies along the St. Lawrence River in what is now eastern Canada. British soldiers and colonial militia fought the French and their American Indian allies in what became known as the French and Indian War. With victory in 1763, the British gained Canada, Spanish Florida, and most French land east of the Mississippi River.

As large numbers of British settlers arrived in these areas, the American Indians already living there became alarmed. Ottawa chief Pontiac called upon Indian nations to unite and attack British forts on the frontier in what was known as Pontiac's Rebellion. Fear that conflict with American Indians would disrupt trade convinced British authorities to issue the Proclamation of 1763, which banned settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. Many colonists ignored this proclamation.

Violations of colonists' rights. The British government passed a series of new colonial laws, which created new taxes to recover the costs of the war with France. These laws also violated a number of colonists' rights. British officials first passed a tax on sugar, molasses, and other items entering the American colonies. Because the colonists had no official representation in the British parliament, they objected to what they called “taxation without representation.” In addition, the act violated colonists' right to a speedy trial by jury.

In 1765 Parliament passed the **Stamp Act**. It levied a tax on printed matter of all kinds—including legal documents, newspapers, and even playing cards. Angry colonial merchants vowed to boycott, or not to buy or import, British goods. Committees of artisans, lawyers, merchants, and politicians formed to protest the Stamp Act. They came to be called the Sons of Liberty.



THE GRANGER COLLECTION, NEW YORK

Samuel Adams was a leader of the Boston Sons of Liberty. The son of a local merchant and brewer, Adams was born in 1722. He graduated from Harvard College and then worked for his family's brewing business. He also became involved in Boston politics and served in a series of local offices, including tax collector. In 1765 Adams was elected to the legislative assembly of Massachusetts. The Stamp Act crisis turned him into a key political leader.

Adams proved particularly skillful at staging demonstrations and writing articles that influenced the public's perception of events. His eloquent writings both expressed and heightened the colonists' anger at the British government.



“When the people are oppressed, when their Rights are infringed [violated], when their property is invaded, when taskmasters are set over them . . . in such circumstances the people will be discontented, and they are not to be blamed.”

—Samuel Adams, *Boston Gazette*, August 8, 1768

The colonists respond. Led by Samuel Adams and others, the colonists decided to inform King **George III** of their dissatisfaction. In October 1765, delegates met in New York City for the Stamp Act Congress. They voiced their objections to the Stamp Act and declared that Parliament did not have the right to tax the colonies. The Stamp Act Congress marked an important step toward more unified resistance in the colonies.

Britain repealed this act in 1766 but passed the Declaratory Act at the same time. It stated that Parliament had the “full power and authority to make laws . . . to bind the colonies and people of *America*” in “all cases whatsoever.” The following year Parliament passed the Townshend Acts, which placed import duties on common items such as glass, lead, and tea. These payments were used for military costs, which violated the colonists' right to not have a standing army without their consent. To enforce these acts, British custom officials revived the use of special search warrants called writs of assistance.

Once again the colonists opposed the tax. The British government sent troops—known as Redcoats because of their bright red uniforms—to Boston to enforce the law. In 1770 a confrontation between colonists and Redcoats led the soldiers to open fire on the crowd, killing five people. Colonists called this incident the Boston Massacre.

The Tea Act. Parliament repealed some of the new duties but again angered colonists when it passed the Tea Act in 1773. Colonists believed that the act gave Britain a monopoly on the tea trade. After the governor of Massachusetts allowed three shiploads of tea to enter Boston Harbor, colonists boarded the ships at night. They threw 342 chests of tea into the water. News of the so-called Boston Tea Party spread rapidly.

British officials were furious. Parliament passed the Coercive Acts, which colonists referred to as the **Intolerable Acts**. These laws closed the port of Boston, revoked the colony's charter, and ordered local

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Boston Tea Party. On December 16, 1773, a group of Boston colonists snuck onto British ships in the harbor. **Why did the colonists throw the tea in the water?**



officials to provide food and housing for British soldiers. The acts went against many traditional rights of British citizens, such as freedom of travel in peacetime and no quartering of troops in private homes.

✓ **READING CHECK: Finding the Main Idea** What laws and actions contributed to the colonists' resentment toward the British government?

The Revolution Begins

In the fall of 1774, representatives met in Philadelphia at the First Continental Congress to discuss how to respond to British actions. The colonists resolved to remain loyal to the Crown but also claimed their rights as British subjects. King George considered the delegates and colonists who agreed with them to be rebels. Parliament ordered General Thomas Gage to stop the rebellion.

Early battles. General Gage tried to seize rebel military supplies stored in Concord, Massachusetts. On April 18, 1775, under cover of night, some 700 British troops left Boston and rowed across the Charles River. Patriots—colonists who supported independence—had stationed watchmen on the far shore. They spotted the British troops as they emerged from the darkness. Paul Revere and two other men rode horses through the countryside sounding the alarm that the British were coming. Patriots hurriedly gathered to confront the British.

The next day, Redcoats and Patriots clashed in Lexington near Concord. At the battle someone fired what was later called “the shot heard round the world.” Eight colonists were killed, and 10 others were wounded. The Redcoats continued on to Concord but found few Patriot weapons. The colonists had hidden them elsewhere. Minutemen—members of the militia who promised to be ready at a minute’s notice—fired on the British troops as they marched back to Boston. The Patriots killed or wounded 273 British soldiers while suffering fewer than 100 casualties in the day’s fighting.

News of these events had spread through the colonies by the time the Second Continental Congress opened in May. The congressional delegates agreed to establish the Continental Army “for the defense of American liberty.” The delegates unanimously chose **George Washington** of Virginia to command this new army. Washington had acquired military experience and a reputation for bravery while fighting for the British in the French and Indian War.

The Battle for Boston. On June 17, 1775, Patriot forces were again put to the test. Atop two hills overlooking Boston Harbor—Bunker Hill and Breed’s Hill—New England militiamen waited for an attack by British troops. To save ammunition,



Patriots and Redcoats battled at Concord bridge.

Research on the ROM

Free Find: George Washington

After reading about George Washington on the Holt Researcher CD-ROM, create a resumé for him that lists the information you think led the Second Continental Congress to select him to command the Continental Army.

an American commander ordered his soldiers: “Don’t one of you fire until you see the whites of their eyes.” British troops commanded by General William Howe advanced in three bold assaults. Corporal Amos Farnsworth of the Massachusetts militia described the battle.



“We . . . sustained the enemy’s attacks with great bravery . . . and after bearing, for about 2 hours, as severe and heavy a fire as perhaps ever was known, and many having fired away all their ammunition . . . we were overpowered by numbers and obliged to leave.”

—Amos Farnsworth, diary entry, June 17, 1775



During the **Battle of Bunker Hill**, the British took both hills but suffered more than 1,000 casualties. Fewer than 450 colonists were killed or injured. Even after the battle, some colonists worked to avoid a permanent break with Britain. They persuaded the Continental Congress to send a final plea to King George. Known as the Olive Branch Petition, this plea affirmed the colonists’ loyalty to the king and asked for his help in ending the conflict. The king rejected the petition and ordered the Royal Navy to blockade all shipping to the colonies.

Meanwhile, Washington planned

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Battle of Bunker Hill. Flames erupt on Bunker Hill in this British engraving. *What obstacles did the hills pose for the British soldiers?*

new military maneuvers. In a surprise move on March 4, 1776, he positioned troops and cannons on Dorchester Heights, which overlooked Boston. From there, the Patriots could fire on British forces in the city. On March 26 the British, joined by some 1,000 colonists loyal to the Crown, sailed for Nova Scotia. They left, according to Washington, “in so much . . . confusion as ever troops did.”

Declaring Independence

Many colonists believed that the British government had violated their rights as British subjects. Patrick Henry and **Thomas Paine** emerged as powerful supporters of independence. Henry expressed these views in a speech he made in Virginia. He declared, “Give me liberty, or give me death!”

Paine promoted the Patriot cause in his January 1776 pamphlet *Common Sense*. It roused public support for the Revolution and called for the end of British rule. Paine argued, “Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one.” *Common Sense* eventually sold some 500,000 copies and helped transform a disorganized colonial rebellion into a focused movement for independence.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced a resolution in the Second Continental Congress declaring the colonies “to be free and independent States.” The resolution called for a plan of confederation, or an alliance,

The Fight for Independence, 1776-1781

Interpreting Maps The Revolutionary War was fought over a vast and varied landscape. Both sides faced the challenges of moving men and supplies across rivers and mountains and through dense forests and swamps.

THE USES OF GEOGRAPHY George Rogers Clark moved his men and supplies from Fort Pitt to the western frontier by way of the Ohio River. Why do you think he chose this route? How much shorter or longer would his trip have been if he had taken a direct overland route from Fort Pitt to Kaskaskia?



Bernardo de Gálvez, the Spanish governor of Louisiana, defeated the British at Baton Rouge and Natchez in September 1779, Mobile in March 1780, and Pensacola in May 1781.



THE GRANGER COLLECTION, NEW YORK

Before becoming a member of Virginia's Committee of Correspondence, Patrick Henry worked as a storekeeper and an attorney.



“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.”

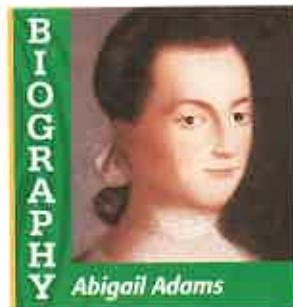
—Declaration of Independence

The document also proclaimed the right of people “to alter or abolish” a government that deprived them of these “unalienable Rights.”

✓ **READING CHECK: Evaluating** Why did the colonists declare their independence?

Reactions to Independence

The Declaration of Independence inspired mixed reactions throughout the colonies. Patriots rejoiced wildly—ringing “liberty bells,” singing and dancing around bonfires, and celebrating at banquets. On July 13, Patriot Ezra Stiles noted in his diary, “The *thirteen united Colonies* now rise into an *Independent Republic* among the kingdoms, states and empires on earth.”



THE GRANGER COLLECTION, NEW YORK

Some people, such as **Abigail Adams**, had a different reaction. The daughter of a Congregational minister, Adams was born in 1744 and grew up in rural Massachusetts. With little formal education, Adams was nevertheless a constant reader and developed remarkable letter-writing skills. In 1764 she married **John Adams**, with whom she raised four children, one of whom later became president.

During the Revolutionary War, John Adams spent much of his time attending to government matters in Philadelphia. Back in Massachusetts, Abigail Adams cared for their family and business interests. She also wrote a series of letters to her husband that frequently commented on important political issues. Abigail Adams strongly supported independence and women's rights and opposed slavery. A few months before her husband was chosen to serve on the committee that would draft the Declaration of Independence, she wrote to him:



“By the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could.”

—Abigail Adams, letter to John Adams, March 31, 1776

Her ideas did not make it into the Declaration. Abigail Adams continued to remark on political affairs until her death in 1818.

Other Americans opposed or ignored the Declaration of Independence. A minority of colonists were Loyalists, also known as Tories. They remained loyal to Britain. Some Loyalists believed that resisting the king was the same as rebelling against God. Others feared losing power and wealth if royal authority ended.

✓ **READING CHECK: Categorizing** What were the different reactions to the Declaration of Independence?

War!

To declare independence was one thing; to fight for it and win was another. The lack of a strong central government made the American war effort difficult. The Second Continental Congress could ask the states for help and supplies, but it had no formal authority to force them to comply. Some colonial merchants charged high prices for shoddy goods. Many farmers sold their produce to the highest bidder, whether American or British.

Without adequate supplies, George Washington’s troops suffered. They endured bitter weather at Morristown, New Jersey, in January 1777 and at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, the next winter. Washington also faced constant troop shortages. He had about 20,000 Continentals, or Patriot soldiers, available nationwide at any one time.

With General Howe’s evacuation of Boston in March 1776, Washington knew that the British would soon strike elsewhere. The Redcoats attacked and captured New York City in September. They were close to winning the war until Washington’s troops launched a Christmas-night attack on soldiers based in Trenton, New Jersey. This victory marked the Patriots’ first major offensive attack, and it greatly raised American morale.

After setbacks in New Jersey, the British redoubled their efforts. In control of Canada and New York City, they decided to cut New England off from the other British colonies. British general “Gentleman Johnny” Burgoyne devised a plan to take New York and thus divide New England from the colonies to the south. His strategy failed miserably. Burgoyne’s troops were badly outnumbered when they clashed with Patriot soldiers at Saratoga, New York, in October 1777. The Patriots achieved their greatest victory in the war up to that point.

Scots-Irish in the Backcountry



Some of the strongest opposition to the acts of the British government came from young Scots-Irish colonists. In the 50 years before the Revolutionary War, as many as 250,000 people of Scottish descent immigrated to North America. They came from Ulster, a province in northern Ireland. Their ancestors



An anvil used by Scots-Irish in Tennessee

had come to Ulster in the early 1600s. In the early 1700s, facing economic depression, drought, and religious discrimination, the Scots-Irish began crossing the Atlantic to start a new life in America.

Many of the Scots-Irish moved to the western backcountry, where they worked small farms and faced the danger of conflict with local American Indians. Despite the hardships of frontier life, they highly valued the institutions of church and school. Presbyterian ministers who doubled as schoolmasters taught Scots-Irish youngsters.

A strong distaste for the British government caused many Scots-Irish teens to enthusiastically support American independence. Andrew Jackson, for example, participated in a battle against the British when he was 13 years old. He and his brother Robert were captured and thrown in prison, where Andrew contracted smallpox. Robert died on the difficult journey home, but Andrew survived and went on to become the seventh president of the United States.



Independence

The meaning of the American Revolution has provoked heated and ongoing debates among historians. While independence was

one obvious consequence of the Revolution, Thomas Jefferson's words "all men are created equal" have been a source of controversy from the time they were written.

Some historians have chosen to focus on the limitations of revolutionary ideas. Clearly, the Declaration of Independence did not create political liberty for everyone. American women were excluded from political life until 1920. Some slaves fought for and gained their freedom during the Revolution, but slavery as a system did not end until after the Civil War. Many American Indians lost their lands and homes as a result of the war.

Other historians have viewed the Revolution as an event of great social consequence. While America in the 1700s was full of inequalities, these scholars argue that the Revolution began to change Americans' ideas about how power should be distributed in society. No longer did people assume that a few "well-born" individuals should rule over everyone else. This fundamental change in attitude would eventually lead to the expansion of democratic rights to include all Americans, whatever their gender, race, or economic condition.

This victory persuaded France to ally itself with the United States and to provide military and economic support. Individual French citizens, like the Marquis de Lafayette, were already fighting for the Patriots. Lafayette believed that "the welfare of America is intimately connected with the happiness of all mankind." The alliance with France came just in time. During the severe winter of 1777–78, Washington's army had been reduced to a handful of soldiers. The news of the alliance gave the Patriots new hope.

✓ **READING CHECK: Sequencing** What event led the French to support the Patriots?

Fighting in the West and South

The Patriots also had success in the West. In 1778 George Rogers Clark led an expedition to secure the Illinois country. In February 1779 Clark's troops surprised

the British at the Battle of Vincennes (vin-SENZ). Clark's army scored an easy victory and went on to neutralize British forces in the West.

Late in 1778 the British focused their attacks on the southern colonies. Backed by their navy, they occupied the seaport towns of Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina. From Charleston, General Charles Cornwallis attacked inland. After crushing the Americans in the Battle of Camden in 1780, British forces marched toward North Carolina.

Cornwallis did not find the Loyalist support he had expected. Some Loyalist militia patrolled the countryside, but so did small groups of Patriot soldiers. Continental officer Francis Marion led one of the most aggressive outfits. Marion and his South Carolina militia disrupted British communications and discouraged many Loyalists from fighting. Patriot commander Nathanael Greene ultimately stopped the British in the South. Greene was a master of guerrilla warfare—wearing down the enemy in hit-and-run battles. Even in defeat, Greene bragged, "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again." Greene, Marion, and the Patriots eventually forced Cornwallis to retreat.

✓ **READING CHECK: Summarizing** How did Patriot forces fight the British in the West and the South?

Victory

During the summer of 1781, General Cornwallis moved his army to Yorktown, Virginia, located on the peninsula between the York and James Rivers. There

he had access to the British fleet and supplies.

On August 14 General Washington received news that a French naval commander was moving his fleet north to block Chesapeake Bay. Washington's army, along with a French force, rushed south to complete the trap. Boxed in by the French fleet, the British troops at Yorktown soon found themselves vastly outnumbered by American and French forces. Cornwallis soon admitted defeat.

On October 19, 1781, the British surrendered at the **Battle of Yorktown**. Cornwallis's surrender effectively marked the end of the war. The **Treaty of Paris**, signed on September 3, 1783, granted the United States independence. The nation also gained land from the Atlantic coast westward to the Mississippi River and from the Great Lakes south to Florida. The treaty also declared that Americans should repay any debts owed to the British. A new nation was born.



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

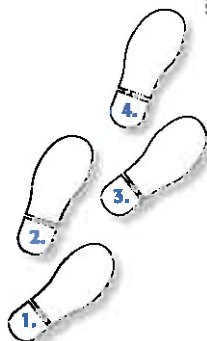
American troops. Minutemen march to the front lines. *What purpose did the drummer serve?*

✓ **READING CHECK: Drawing Conclusions** How did the Treaty of Paris affect the growth of the United States?

SECTION 3 REVIEW

1. Identify and explain:

- Stamp Act
- Samuel Adams
- George III
- Intolerable Acts
- George Washington
- Battle of Bunker Hill
- Thomas Paine
- Common Sense*
- Declaration of Independence
- Thomas Jefferson
- Abigail Adams
- John Adams
- Battle of Yorktown
- Treaty of Paris



Revolutionary War

2. Sequencing Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to identify the colonists' responses to the British government's actions.

3. Finding the Main Idea

- a. Why did the colonists object to taxes the British government imposed on them?
- b. Why might rulers in Europe have viewed the Declaration of Independence as a dangerous document?
- c. How were the colonists able to defeat the British forces?

4. Writing and Critical Thinking

Supporting a Point of View Imagine that you are an American colonist in the late 1700s. Write an editorial expressing your reaction to British taxation.

Consider:

- the right of the British Parliament to tax the colonies
- specific laws and acts that angered colonists
- other ways colonists could have responded

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The Declaration of Independence

Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration in a little more than two weeks. He drew upon the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by George Mason, for the opening paragraphs.

*In Congress, July 4, 1776
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen
united States of America,*

Government

According to the first paragraph, why is it important for the signers to justify their political break with Great Britain?

impel: force

endowed: provided

"Laws of Nature" and "Nature's God" refer to the belief common in the Scientific Revolution that certain patterns are constant and predictable and that they come from a supreme being. Natural or "unalienable" rights (the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness) cannot be taken away. English philosopher John Locke had argued that people create governments to protect their natural rights. If a government abuses its powers, it is the right as well as the duty of the people to do away with that government.

usurpations: wrongful seizures of power

evinces: clearly displays

despotism: unlimited power

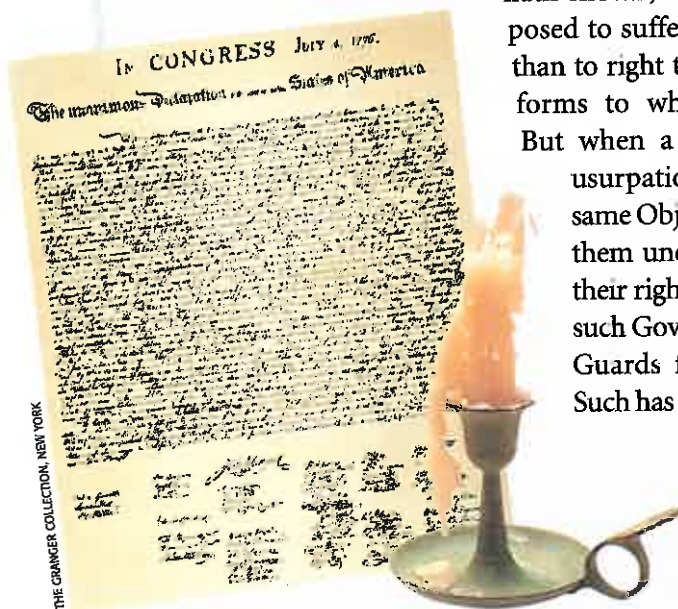
When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to 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 shown, 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



The Declaration of Independence