The American Revolution
1775-1783

- The revolutionary war is also known as the **American Revolution**
- The war was fought between the **British** and the **Colonists**
- The result of the American Revolution was a **new nation** called the **United States of America**
EVENTS LEADING TO REVOLUTION
ESSENTIAL QUESTION: WHICH BRITISH POLICIES IN THE COLONIES LED TO DISAGREEMENTS?
King George III used an old law to make the colonists pay taxes on goods shipped in English ships. The colonists responded by smuggling goods!
The British won the French and Indian War but had a large debt because of it. They decide to tax the colonies for defending them in the war.
Writs of Assistance

The king angered the colonists again by enacting the **Writs of Assistance**, which was another old law. This allowed the use of general search warrants, which let them search anyone, anytime, anywhere. The colonists were very angry and **protested**.
The **Proclamation of 1763** was an act in which the king said **NO!** to settling west of **Appalachian Mountains**. The colonists **disobeyed** his orders.
By 1763, the colonists had enjoyed a great amount of **freedom**. They resented the new orders issued by the king and of being taxed **without their consent**.
Sugar Act of 1764

The Sugar Act actually lowered taxes from the Molasses Act, but was more strictly enforced than the Molasses Act.
The Stamp Act of 1765 placed taxes on any articles written on paper. This included newspapers, wills, licenses, deeds, and pamphlets.
Steps to Revolution
Each step moved us closer to war

British Actions
- The Proclamation of 1763
- The Sugar Act
- The Stamp Act

1763 1764 1765 1767 1770 1773 1774

Colonial Responses
- Colonists were angry
- Smuggling
- The Stamp Act
- Congress & Sons of Liberty
- Smuggling
The Stamp Act of 1765

The colonists responded by creating the Stamp Act Congress and refused to buy stamps or stamped paper. They also burned pictures of the King in effigy!
The **Quartering Act 1765** said that colonists must provide for salaries, housing, and supplies for British soldiers. The colonists did not agree and did not obey!
Another act, the Townshend Acts of 1767, placed taxes on glass, lead, paint and tea and was used to pay salaries of colonial officers – including governors & judges. In response, the colonists boycotted all British goods.
Steps to Revolution
Each step moved us closer to war

British Actions
- The Proclamation of 1763
- The Sugar Act
- The Stamp Act
- The Stamp Act & The Quartering Act
- Townshend Acts

1763 1764 1765 1767 1770 1773 1774

Colonial Responses
- Colonists were angry
- Smuggling
- The Stamp Act
- Congress & Sons of Liberty
- More boycotts & Daughters of Liberty
In NC- Penelope Barker and the ladies of Edenton joined forces to boycott the purchase of tea. They instead served locally grown herbal teas at their gatherings. This event has become known as the *Edenton Tea Party.*

**The Daughters of Liberty** organized themselves to teach each other how to make their own cloth and do other things to keep from buying British goods.
Violence erupts as British troops are sent to Boston 1768. This leads to the Boston Massacre.
The Boston Massacre

- occurred on March 5, 1770
- It happened as tensions between **colonists** and **redcoats** peaked
- Townspeople pushed to the customs house and the British guard called for help as colonists were crowding
The crowd of colonists began to throw stones, wood, etc. at the soldiers, and several soldiers were knocked down.

They fired shots at the crowd, and several colonists were killed.

The riot was used as propaganda by the colonists.
The Bloody Massacre Perpetrated in King Street
Fallout from the Boston Massacre

• **Crispus Attucks** was the first colonist killed. He was of African-American descent.

• The British soldiers were put on trial in Boston. They were defended by **John Adams**.

• Adams argued that the shootings occurred as a result of self-defense, and they were found to be **innocent**.
Steps to Revolution
Each step moved us closer to war

British Actions
- The Proclamation of 1763
- The Sugar Act
- The Stamp Act & The Quartering Act
- Townshend Acts
- Boston Massacre

Colonial Responses
- Colonists were angry
- Smuggling
- The Stamp Act Congress & Sons of Liberty
- More boycotts & Daughters of Liberty
- Committee of Correspondence
- Currency
• About **one fifth of the colonists were Loyalists** who felt that British laws must be obeyed.

• About **two fifths of the colonists were Moderates** who, in general, wanted Britain and the American colonies to resolve their differences peacefully. Moderates are not clearly depicted in the painting but could have been present at the scene.

• In NC- 1/3 Loyalists and 1/3 Patriots
Committee of Correspondence

• Founded in 1772 by Samuel Adams, James Warren, and Mercy Otis Warren
• Wrote pamphlets and letters that were sent throughout the colonies to stir hatred of the British
• Mercy Otis Warren also drafted the first American history of the Revolutionary War
The **Tea Act of 1773** was passed by Parliament so that the British East India Tea Company could sell tea cheaper than the price of **smuggled** tea. This ignited the **Boston Tea Party**.
BOSTON TEA PARTY

• On December 16, 1773, **Sam Adams** led a group of **Patriots** disguised as Indians on a raid of British ships docked in Boston’s harbor.

• They dumped the cargos of **tea** overboard.
The **Intolerable Acts of 1774**

- punished Boston for the Tea Party. It closed the harbor, **self-government** was denied in Massachusetts, and the Quartering Act was enforced.

- The colonists were appalled!

- They set up the **1st Continental Congress** to decide their plan of action.
The First Continental Congress
September 5 – October 26, 1774

• in Philadelphia
• 55 men met and represented the colonies
• It was a political body to represent American interests
Representatives at the 1st Continental Congress

- Massachusetts – **Sam Adams** & **John Adams**
- New York – **John Jay**
- Virginia – **Patrick Henry** & **George Washington**
What does this quotation illustrate?

“The **distinctions** between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders are **no more**…I am not a Virginian, but an **American**”

– Patrick Henry
Decisions of the Congress

• The Congress wrote a Statement of Grievances which **repealed** the 13 acts of Parliament because they **violated** colonists’ rights

• They **boycotted** ALL British goods and trade and vowed to arm themselves against British if necessary
Britain’s Soldiers

Britain’s soldiers were trained and wore uniforms with bright red jackets. This earned them the nickname of “redcoats”.
The **Colonial Militia**

• Was a **citizens army** that consisted of ordinary citizens, farmers, craftspeople, and businessmen

• They were prepared to drop everything at a moment’s notice, and were thus nicknamed the **Minutemen**
Colonists Viewpoints

• **Patriots**:  
  • Wanted to fight for **independence** from the king

• **Loyalists**:  
  • Loyal to the king and the **mother country**
The **Sons of Liberty**

- Were a Patriot group that was led by Sam Adams and John Hancock
- They were involved in the **Boston Tea Party**
- They constructed “liberty poles”, where they displayed pictures of the British tax collectors
- They even had one tax collector **tarred** and **feathered**
The Battles of Lexington and Concord occurred in 1775.

British troops planned to destroy military supplies in Concord and to capture Sam Adams and John Hancock.
Messengers

• Three men served as messengers to warn the colonists of the upcoming attacks.
• They were Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Sam Prescott
• They rode through the town and announced, “The British are coming!”
In the Battle of **Lexington**

- the British soldiers marched all night from Boston
- They were met by minutemen at the **Old North Bridge**
Battle of Lexington

• The Americans were told, “Do not fire unless **fired upon**...but if they mean to have a **war**, let it begin **here**!”

• WHO fired the 1\textsuperscript{st} shot of the American Revolution?????? No one knows for sure…but it is believed that the British fired the first shots.

• When the fighting was over, **8** minutemen were dead.
To Concord...

- The British arrived outside of Concord, where they were ambushed by the militia.
- The Americans had fired the "shot heard around the world" at the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- The British retreated to Boston.
Steps to Revolution
Each step moved us closer to war

British Actions
- The Proclamation of 1763
- The Sugar Act
- The Stamp Act
- The Quartering Act
- Townshend Acts
- Boston Massacre
- Tea Act
- Intolerable Acts

Colonial Responses
- Colonists were angry
- Smuggling
- The Stamp Act Congress & Sons of Liberty
- More boycotts & Daughters of Liberty
- Committee of Correspondence
- Continental Congress
- Boston Tea Party
- WAR

1763 1764 1765 1767 1770 1773 1774
2nd Continental Congress

- Met to decide what to do now
- Initiated a last effort with King George III for peace – they extended an **Olive Branch Petition**, which he rejected
Patrick Henry

- Was a passionate orator from Virginia
- Famous for his immortal words of “Give me liberty or give me death!”
GENTLEMEN, WE MAY CRY PEACE, PEACE—BUT THERE IS NO PEACE. THE WAR IS ACTUALLY BEGINN! THE NEXT GALE THAT SWEEPS FROM THE NORTH WILL BRING TO OUR EARS THE CLASH OF RESOUNDING ARMS! OUR BRETHREN ARE ALREADY IN THE FIELD! WHY STAND WE HERE IDLE?..... IS LIFE SO DEAR, OR PEACE SO SWEET, AS TO BE PURCHASED AT THE PRICE OF CHAINS AND SLAVERY? FORBID IT, ALMIGHTY GOD! I KNOW NOT WHAT COURSE OTHERS MAY TAKE, BUT AS FOR ME, GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR GIVE ME DEATH!
Continental Army

• The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Continental Congress established a \textbf{Continental Army} that was commanded by \textbf{George Washington}

• This organized the militia into an official army
At the **Battle of Bunker Hill** in 1775

- The militia waited for the redcoats at the top of Breed’s Hill.
- Because the militia was low on ammunition, they were told, “**Don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes**”
- The redcoats charged up the hill 3 times, before the colonists retreated ------but it proved that the militia could fight
Thomas Paine

- Was a revolutionary writer & philosopher who wrote “Common Sense”
- It said all Americans should support independence
- He said it was crazy for an island to rule a continent!
- Thomas Paine gave all profits from his book to the war!
Benjamin Franklin was a Pennsylvanian who was sent to France to convince them to help the Americans in the revolution with soldiers, supplies, and ships.
Abigail Adams – “Remember the Ladies”

• Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams, felt that the Founding Fathers should “remember the ladies” and extend rights to the women in America.
Battle of Moore’s Creek

- The British thought they should try to gain control of the South first since there was a strong Loyalist presence.
- Feb 1776 Highland Scots Loyalists led by Donald McDonald marched from Cross Creek (Fayetteville) to Wilmington where they were to meet up with British forces.
- They were cut off by Patriot militia at Moore’s Creek Bridge in Pender County.
- Militia tore up bridge, greased girders, and used cannons and gunfire to defeat Loyalists.
- Major victory for Patriots; British rethink Southern Strategy and return North.
NC’s Call for Independence

- **Mecklenberg Resolves** - adopted May 31, 1775 - the people of Charlotte drafted a list of statements declaring independence and encouraged other colonists to do the same.

- **Halifax Resolves** - April 12, 1776 - members of NC’s Provincial Congress meeting in Halifax County declared NC’s independence from Britain in a series of statements; empowered their delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence.
The Declaration of Independence

- was drafted by Ben Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson

- The main author was Jefferson, and he actually wrote the 1st copy.
Declaring Independence 1776

- Declaring independence in **1776** was not easy for the colonists. They discussed it for 1 month.

- On July 2, 1776, 12 states decided to declare independence from **Britain**.

- Only New York did not vote.
The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776.

13 states unanimously approved, and the United States of America was born!

This was treason in the eyes of the king!
IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the us States of America.

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 hitherto is most unfavourable to the success of others.

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 States 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. 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 Honour.
D of I – Section I

• The introduction to the Declaration of Independence explains why colonists want to separate from Britain.

• It is called the Preamble.

“...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.
The 2nd section of the D of I “We hold these truths… happiness” says that

- **governments** are formed to **protect** the rights of the **people**

- that if the government ignores the rights of the people, then a **new** government can be **created**
Established the concept that “all men are created equal” and are given “certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”
D of I – Section III

• The 3rd section of the Declaration of Independence lists the grievances the colonists have with King George

• They are upset with his actions and they call him a tyrant!
There were 27 grievances listed against King George III:

- Changed how colonies governed when he closed colonial legislatures after the Boston Tea Party
• Had to **quarter** troops in homes
• No **laws** to help colonies

(Proclamation of 1763)
• Taxation without representation
  (Sugar Tax, Stamp Tax, Townshend Taxes, etc.)
• Wouldn’t allow them to **trade** with other countries (only the Mother Country)
• No **jury trials** (and he arrested people in Boston after the Tea Party if broke curfew)
• No *protection* from enemies (did nothing to stop Indian raids in the Ohio River Valley)
• Declared **war** on his own people (at **Lexington** and **Concord**).
D of I – Section IV

- Section 4 of the Declaration of Independence pointed out that King George III ignored the colonists when they reached out to him with the Olive Branch Petition.
D of I – Section V

• Section 5 of the Declaration of Independence was the actual section in which the colonies declare INDEPENDENCE.
On July 9, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time in New York in front of George Washington and his troops. In reaction to what had been read, soldiers and citizens went to Bowling Green, a park in Manhattan, where a lead statue of King George III on horseback stood. The mob of people pulled down the statue, and later the lead was melted down to make musket balls, or bullets for use in the war for independence.
The militia had many strengths:
(AKA – the Continental Army)

• They were fighting on their home territory
• They wanted INDEPENDENCE
• They were excited about the war.
• They had a large territory to hide in.
There were many weaknesses of the militia

- They were **untrained** soldiers
- They had no **money** and no **Navy**
- They were low on supplies
- John Adams said, “We *will* have a long and bloody war to go through!”
The USA was divided – there were

- **Loyalists** – did not want independence (lots in the **South**)

- **Patriots** – wanted independence (lots in the **middle** & **north**)

- **Neutralists** – found **all over**
ON THE FRONT LINES

Important participants on the battle fields
George Washington

- Was a **Colonel** in the **French and Indian War**
- He became **Commander-in-Chief** of the Continental Army
- Despite his leadership, the Continental Army **lost** most early battles.
Women

• Women played important roles in the Revolutionary War. They were
  – nurses
  – cooks
  – spies

• One of the most famous was Molly Pitcher, whose real name was Mary Hayes McCauley
Notable African Americans

- **James Armistead** was a freed African-American slave who acted as a spy on the British.
- He worked closely with the Marquis de Lafayette.

- **Wentworth Cheswell** was a church leader and judge who fought at the Battle of Saratoga.
- He is known as the first African-American elected to public office in America.
Nathan Hale

- Was the **hero** at the Battle of **Long Island**
- He was a teacher from **Connecticut** who volunteered to **spy** on the redcoats
- He **disguised** himself as a **Dutch schoolteacher** and was **hanged** when he was captured by the British
- He was quoted as saying, “**I regret** that I have but **one life** to lose for my **country**”
MAJOR BATTLEGROUNDS
The war continues…

- Britain sends more **troops** to fight in the war
- The Hessians begin to assist the British
- They were **German** mercenaries who were trained to fight in the American Revolution
The Battle of Trenton

- Occurred on December 26, 1776
- Washington and his troops snuck across the Delaware River during the night of December 25th and attacked in the morning.
- They staged a surprise attack on Hessian and British soldiers in Trenton, New Jersey.
Washington crosses the Delaware
The Battle of **Saratoga** in 1777

- Occurred in New York
- The Patriots destroyed **bridges**, cut trees for blocks, hid in trees etc…
- The Americans defeated the larger British force and **won** the battle

**IT WAS THE TURNING POINT OF THE WAR! WHY?** **BECAUSE FRANCE AGREES TO HELP THE AMERICANS!**
Valley Forge – Winter of 1777-78

- The Patriot troops traveled to Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78
- It was a miserable winter, very cold and snowy
- The troops had little food, clothing, and supplies
- By spring, \( \frac{1}{4} \) were dead
- During this time, Washington read Thomas Paine’s books “Common Sense” and “The Crisis”
The **Marquis de Lafayette**

- Was a **French** nobleman who was enthusiastic about helping the Americans defeat the British.
- He stayed at **Valley Forge** and trained American troops.
- He was a **friend** and advisor to George Washington, and he used his OWN **money** to pay troops!
War in the South

- **Bernardo de Galvez** commanded Spanish troops in Louisiana to help protect New Orleans from British attack.

- **Haym Solomon** was a Polish Jew who gave loans to the American government and to revolutionary leaders to pay for the war.
The Southern Strategy

• After Saratoga, the British began to concentrate on winning the South.
• They returned and took over Charleston and Savannah.
• They met resistance in the upper country of South Carolina.

• Francis Marion (aka The Swamp Fox) led a band of militia who used guerilla warfare tactics against the British, often hindering their progress.
Southern Campaign

- **King’s Mountain** Oct 1780
  - First major Patriot victory after British invasion of the South
  - Patriot forces surrounded loyalists led by Patrick Ferguson, who died after charging down the mountain to meet in battle
  - Many of his men were slaughtered after battle
  - Gave Patriots a morale boost and forced Cornwallis to delay plans to invade NC

- **Guilford Courthouse-March**
  - Cornwallis invades NC and is met by a Patriot force led by Nathaniel Greene
  - The British win a tactical victory, but the Patriots inflicted heavy casualties to Cornwallis’ forces
  - Cornwallis was forced to abandon his invasion of NC and headed to Virginia, instead.
John Paul Jones

- Is known as the “Father of the American Navy”
- He **raided** British ports, and a battle began
- His ship was badly **damaged**, and the British commander asked him if he was ready to **surrender**
- He famously replied, “I have **not** yet begun to **fight**!”
The **Battle at Yorktown** in **1781**

- Was a big one for the Americans
- They traveled over 200 miles in 15 days
- They met General Cornwallis & the British troops in **Virginia**
- 3 sets of troops were used to close in on the redcoats at **Yorktown**
- The British were confused, low on supplies and many were sick

![Map of Virginia](image)
Surrender at Yorktown!!

- The Americans trapped Cornwallis on the peninsula.
- He and his troops were surrounded on 3 sides by the Continental army.
- The French fleet arrives 6 hours before the British fleet and blocked his escape.
- Cornwallis surrenders, and the war is OVER!
- Video Clip – Hamilton-Battle of Yorktown
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWZy3zRbBH
General Cornwallis surrenders to General Washington
Abandonment

- King George III **abandons** the idea of **controlling** the colonies
The **Treaty of Paris 1783**

- Ended the **American Revolution**

- “The American colonies hereby **recognize**…all lands **east of Mississippi**…”
  
  – King George III

*Treaty of Paris 1783*
• John Adams was one of the American negotiators of the Treaty of Paris 1783.
Treaty of Paris 1783

1783: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA now extends to the Mississippi River.
What did the U.S. gain?

1. INDEPENDENCE
2. Land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River and from Canada to Florida (Ohio River Valley)
3. All redcoats were forced to leave the U.S.
What did the British gain?

- Merchants could collect *debts* owed by Americans

- Patriots have to give back the items taken from the *Loyalists*
Patriots won...now what?

- The Americans are free from the tyranny of King George III...so who gets to rule America?