

Revolution/Declaration of Independence

The events that followed the French and Indian War laid the foundation for Revolution and the Declaration of Independence. Anger towards the British taxation policy and increasing control over the colonies led to many events like the Stamp Act Congress, Boston Tea Party, and Boston Massacre. These events coupled with influential writings like Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, added to the fervor for independence. From the first shots fired at Lexington and Concord in April 1775, to the Declaration of Independence in July of 1776, the American colonies began a trek towards independence that it seemed unlikely they would win. But with amazing resolve and international assistance, the colonies pulled off the impossible at Yorktown. The thirteen British colonies were now free.

Directions: Use the content from the Bee in a Box website to help answer the following questions:

PEOPLE

Abigail Adams

- 1) Why did Abigail Adams believe it was important for her husband, John Adams, to “remember the ladies” as they worked to establish the new nation?

John Adams

- 1) Why was John Adams inspired by James Otis's courtroom speech?

Samuel Adams & John Hancock

- 1) How were Samuel Adams and John Hancock indirectly responsible for the first shots fired at Lexington that began the American Revolution?

James Armistead, Crispus Attucks, & Wentworth Cheswell

- 1) James Armistead, Crispus Attucks, and Wentworth Cheswell were all African Americans who played a role in the American Revolution. Explain the role each of these men played.

John Dickinson

- 1) Why did John Dickinson leave the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia?

Benjamin Franklin

- 1) Why did Benjamin Franklin live in England from 1757 to 1775?

Bernardo de Galvez

- 1) How did Bernardo de Galvez impact the outcome of the American Revolution?

Patrick Henry

- 1) Why did Patrick Henry famously utter “give me liberty or give me death?”

Thomas Jefferson

- 1) How did John Locke influence Thomas Jefferson's writings?

John Paul Jones & Marquis de Lafayette

- 1) How were John Paul Jones and Marquis de Lafayette instrumental in American success during the American Revolution?

Richard Henry Lee

- 1) Why is the Lee Resolution important?

Robert Morris & Haym Salomon

- 1) Describe the important role both Robert Morris and Haym Salomon had in the American Revolution.

John Peter Muhlenberg

- 1) How did John Peter Muhlenberg use his Lutheran faith and his experience as a minister to support the American Revolution?

James Otis

- 1) Why did James Otis resign his position as an advocate general in the Vice Admiralty Court?

Thomas Paine

- 1) How did the *Common Sense* and *The American Crisis* impact the Revolutionary War?
- 2) Despite Thomas Paine's immense impact on the success of the American Revolution, what later actions saw him lose the support of Americans?

Benjamin Rush

- 1) Explain several social issues that Benjamin Rush supported that proved controversial.

Jonathan Trumbull Sr.

- 1) As colonial governor of Connecticut during the American Revolution, why was Jonathan Trumbull Sr. allowed to remain in his post after the war was over?

Mercy Otis Warren

- 1) How did Mercy Otis Warren criticize the royal government and help advance the ideas of revolution?

George Washington

- 1) After the Revolutionary War, what drew George Washington out of retirement and back into public life?

John Witherspoon

- 1) How was John Witherspoon influential in James Madison's life?

DOCUMENTS

Proclamation of 1763

- 1) Why was the Proclamation of 1763 issued and what effect did it have?

Stamp Act of 1765

- 1) Why was the Stamp Act of 1765 passed?
- 2) Was the strong opposition of many colonists to the Stamp Act of 1765 effective? Why or why not?

Coercive Acts (Intolerable Acts) or 1774

- 1) Why were the Coercive Acts passed?
- 2) Which action taken by the British as part of the Coercive Acts do you believe was the most intolerable and why?

Common Sense

- 1) Describe the role of Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* in the American Revolution.

The American Crisis

- 1) How did George Washington use *The American Crisis* pamphlet to his benefit during the winter at Valley Forge?

Declaration of Independence

- 1) How has the Declaration of Independence remained relevant in modern times?

Treaty of Paris

- 1) Why is the Treaty of Paris significant?

EVENTS

Meeting of the Stamp Act Congress

- 1) Why was the Stamp Act Congress unique?

Boston Massacre

- 1) How did American Patriots use the events on March 5, 1770 to further their cause?

Boston Tea Party

- 1) What was the British response to the Boston Tea Party? And how did this lead to further colonial action?

Meeting of the First Continental Congress & Meeting of the Second Continental Congress

- 1) How were these two meetings the same and how were they different?

American Revolution

- 1) How did “salutary neglect” influence the American Revolution?

Battles of Lexington and Concord, Battle of Saratoga, & Battle of Yorktown

- 1) Explain the importance of each battle in the American Revolution?

Winter at Valley Forge

- 1) Why was the Winter at Valley Forge both a negative and a positive for Washington’s troops?

CONNECTION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Of the many minorities who contributed to the American Revolution, whose role do you believe was the most important and why?
- 2) Which Founding Father had the most important role in the revolutionary period? Explain your answer.
- 3) The Proclamation of 1763, the Stamp Act of 1765, or the Coercive Acts of 1774 are all actions taken by the British that helped cause the American Revolution. Which do you believe was the most important in causing the revolution and why?
- 4) Explain why the outcome of the French and Indian War can be considered a cause of the American Revolution?