

NEW NATION: REVOLUTION AND WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

FLIP CARD

Big Idea: What do we mean when we talk about “revolution?” The citizens of what became the United States had given voice to new ideas about how government should (or shouldn’t) work before the first shots at Lexington and Concord.

Timeline of the Events of the American Revolution and War of Independence

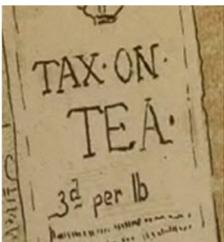
1754-1763 The French and Indian War - began due to French and British claims to the Ohio River Valley. The English succeeded in driving the French back and ending the threat to the American colonies, including requiring the French to give up claims to the Mississippi River and Great Lakes region, but the war had cost a great deal of money.



1763 Proclamation of 1763 – English settlers began moving west over the Appalachian Mountains into what had been French territory. The English pioneers were moving into Native American lands. Many Native American tribes agreed to resist this move west in an uprising called *Pontiac’s Rebellion*, after one of the Native leaders. After the fighting ended, the British government made the Proclamation of 1763, which **forbade English settlers to cross the Appalachian mountains** to keep the peace between Native American tribes and the British. This made many English pioneers upset—they had just helped in the French and Indian War, and they wanted to clear new farms in the land the French had given up.



1765 Stamp Act to help pay for the war – taxation without representation. In 1765, to help pay the debts from the French and Indian War, England passed the Stamp Act. This meant that anything printed on paper in the colonies, from newspapers to playing cards now had to carry a stamp saying that the tax had been paid. The colonists were angry about this, even though it was only a small amount of money, because they had not been given a choice. They formed a *Congress*, a meeting of representatives from the different states, to write letters against the Act. The British government got rid of the tax, but they still needed money . . .



The Tea Act of 1773 allowed a British company to sell tea in the colonies more cheaply than other tea traders. On the night of December 6, 1773, the **Sons of Liberty** dressed up like Indians and dumped the tea on ships in Boston into the harbor. This protest became known as the **Boston Tea Party**. The British closed Boston Harbor until all the tea had been paid for, put redcoats in colonists' homes, and excused government officials from being tried in the colonial law courts. The colonists called these the **Intolerable Acts**, and militias (citizen soldiers) began practicing with their muskets . . .

The Battles of Lexington and Concord (near Boston, Massachusetts) April 19, 1775.

- The British wanted to capture trouble-makers (members of the Sons of Liberty, Sam Adams, and John Hancock on their way to the Continental Congress) at Lexington and destroy the military supplies in Concord.
- Paul Revere warned the colonists that the redcoats were coming. As a result, the minutemen were ready when the army arrived in Lexington.
- The first shots of the American Revolution were fired at Lexington. This battle became known as “the shot heard around the world”.



The Battle of Bunker and Breed’s Hills (near Boston, Massachusetts) June 17, 1775.

- The American troops surrendered when they ran out of gunpowder, but the lessons learned that day were valuable.
- It showed the Americans that they needed allies to help supply them with military supplies and assistance.
- The British left Boston and went to Canada, then tried moving into New York and Charleston, South Carolina in hopes of finding Americans who were still loyal to the king.

The Declaration of Independence (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), July 4, 1776



Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet called *Common Sense*. It was easy to read and it persuaded the colonists that independence from the British was a good idea. It moved colonists from thinking of their “rights as Englishmen” to their “rights as Americans.” The members of Congress selected **John Adams** of Massachusetts, **Benjamin Franklin** of Pennsylvania, **Thomas Jefferson** of Virginia, **Robert Livingston** of New York, and **Roger Sherman** of Connecticut to draft a declaration of independence. Thomas Jefferson made 4 main points about our nation at the beginning--

- 1. All men have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;**
 - 2. Rights are not given by their government, but are inherent and undeniable.**
 - 3. The purpose of government is to protect the rights of the people.**
 - 4. It is the right of the people to change their government if the government does not protect their rights.**
- The Declaration also listed complaints against King George III in order to persuade the colonists that their rights had been violated by the king, so they should form a new government. It was very dangerous to go along with the Declaration of Independence because you could be considered a traitor (which was punishable by death). Ben Franklin said, “We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.”

The Battle of Saratoga (New York), October 17, 1777

- The Patriots defeated the British in open battle lines instead of hiding behind trees and stone walls.
- **This was a turning point: the French, Spanish, and Dutch decided to become allies with the Americans.** The alliance supplied the Americans with ships, soldiers, supplies, and money in exchange for weakening the British Empire and agreements to trade with the new United States.

The Battles of Charleston, South Carolina, May 12, 1780

- The British turned to South Carolina in hopes of finding a large number of Loyalists among the plantation owners
- The first attempt to capture Charleston was stopped by the tides and the soft palmetto logs of **Fort Moultrie in 1776.**
- The British succeeded with their second attempt in **1780.** The British **blockaded the harbor and cut off supply lines.**

The Battle of the Cowpens, South Carolina, January 17, 1781

- The militia and partisan forces led the attack and fled into the woods, **tricking the British into thinking the Americans were retreating.**
- Instead the partisans led the British into the range of the American army. The British were defeated and retreated into North Carolina.



The Battle of Yorktown, Virginia, October 19, 1781

- The French navy helped George Washington by blockading Chesapeake Bay, which prevented British ships from evacuating their army to escape the American troops on land.
- The British surrendered because they were surrounded by French and American troops on land and sea.
- **The final battle of the American Revolution.**

The Treaty of Paris (France), September 3, 1783. Negotiated by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay in Europe, the treaty **gave the United States the lands east of the Mississippi** previously captured by the British and the colonists during the French & Indian War.

Winners and Losers: What Did They Mean When They Wrote “*All men are created equal*?”

- **Native Americans:** Northeastern and Southeastern Woodlands tribes had to move west or change their way of life to stay out of the way of American pioneers moving into the new frontier west of the mountains to the Mississippi River.
- **African-Americans:** Some African-American soldiers gained their freedom because of their service as Patriots. Some northern states abolished slavery after the war. Many remained slaves in the plantation culture of the southern states. Even as freed men, they did not have the same freedoms (land ownership, voting rights) as their neighbors.
- **Remember the Ladies:** Women ran farms and businesses in their husbands’ absence during the war (Abigail Adams), provided food and clothes for soldiers (Martha Washington), and traveled with the army to cook for soldiers, nurse the sick or wounded, and even fight (Molly Pitcher). Even though they did their share as “Daughters of Liberty,” women would not win the right to vote until the 1920 presidential election (144 years later).