

Social Studies 9AP

The American Revolution: The Declaration of Independence; Major events of the Revolution

A. The Declaration of Independence

The **Declaration of Independence** is one of the most famous and significant documents in the world. Why? Because it encompasses many of the ideas of Enlightenment thinkers, and it created a country, the United States of America. The Declaration reflects the work of John Locke and other Enlightenment philosophers in establishing the equality of all people and the role of government in protecting fundamental human rights. It wasn't the first document to do so, but it greatly influenced the development of individual rights and democratic rule in many other countries, including France and Canada.

Some basic facts about the Declaration of Independence

From Rakove, Jack N. "Declaration of Independence." World Book Student. 2009. [Place of access.] 9 April 2009
<http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar151520>

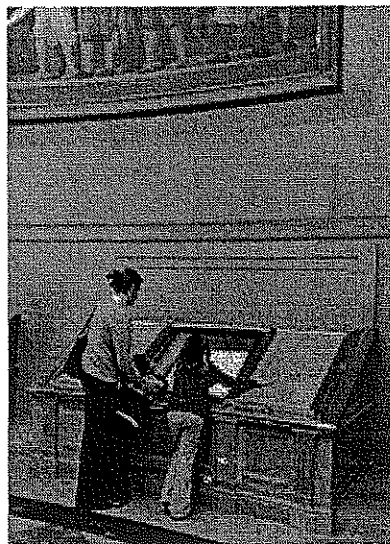
Who wrote it? Thomas Jefferson

When? 1776

Who signed it? 56 members of the Continental Congress (meeting of delegates from each of the 13 colonies) signed the Declaration, including Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Sam Adams, Thomas Payne, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock (president of the 2nd Continental Congress)

Why was it written and signed? To declare independence from Britain and to create a democratic republic

Where is the original? The original copy of the Declaration is in the National Archives in Washington, DC



What events led to the writing of the Declaration?

The American colonists were angry at being taxed by the British government without representation. Laws such as the Stamp Act, the Tea Act, and the Boston Tea Party led the Continental Congress to meet twice – first in 1774 and again in 1775 – to try to convince King George III to pay attention to their grievances and remove the Intolerable Acts. It's important to recognize that most colonists wanted to remain loyal to Britain, not to rebel against the mother country. Nonetheless, the king would not change his mind and refused to consider their complaints. He declared that the colonists were in a state of rebellion...which they were, considering that fighting had already broken out at Lexington, Massachusetts in the spring of 1775.

One interesting step along the way to the Declaration was a pamphlet written by Thomas Payne, a political writer, called *Common Sense*. In his pamphlet, Payne boldly 'attacked the concept of monarchy and made a powerful case for the independence of the American Colonies' (Rakove, 1).

The Declaration of Independence

The document is divided into four sections:

- The preamble
- A declaration of rights – this section tells why the Continental Congress drew up the Declaration
- A bill of indictment
- A statement of independence

See <http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar151520&st=declaration+of+independence#h2> for the document and a summary of each section.

The American Revolution: The Declaration of Independence

Name _____

Date _____

Use this handout and pages 305-308 in *Crossroads* to complete this work.

A. The Declaration of Independence

1. What was the purpose of the Declaration of Independence? (1)

2. Why do you think the Declaration of Independence failed to end the fighting between Britain and the colonies? (2)

3. Read the obituary of John Hope Franklin. In a short paragraph, identify the rights he fought for, and was often denied, as an American citizen in the 20th century, and suggest why, despite the success of the American Revolution, it took so long for rights to be granted to Black Americans like Franklin. (8)

...more space on next page...

Social Studies 9AP

The American Revolution

Text reference: pp. 306-309; throughout the chapter and your notes for the terminology

Name _____

Date _____

A. Terminology

Define or explain each of the following terms.

New Englander	
United Empire Loyalist	
Upper Canada	
Lower Canada	
Land speculator	
To repeal	
To tar and feather	
Inalienable	
Intolerable Acts	
Patriots	
Sons of Liberty	
Liberty pole	

B. Answer these questions from pp. 306-307.

1. How were the American colonists able to defeat the British in the American Revolution?

2. List three places that the British surrendered to the Americans during the Revolution.

3. Read 'The Price of Loyalty' box on p. 309.

a. In your own words, summarize this excerpt.

b. Do you agree or disagree with the views expressed by the Boston shopkeeper? Explain your answer.

American Revolution – Causes, Events, Maps

The American Revolution, 1775-1783, gave birth to a new nation: the United States of America. It began April 18, 1775 when a group of colonists fought British soldiers at Lexington, Massachusetts. Later the same day in nearby Concord, colonists fired the 'shot heard round the world' when they battled British troops.

At the First Continental Congress, 1774 American colonists demanded that Britain abandon their efforts to make Massachusetts bow to British authority; they asked Britain to admit that parliament had no right to tax colonists for revenue; the British government considered Massachusetts and its neighbours to be in rebellion, and British troops in Boston were ordered to take swift action.

The Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776; by this document, ties between the 13 colonies and the British were now severed.

Britain launched a great offensive to crush the rebellion

Causes of the Revolution

- Political conflicts
 - Colonists were typically self-reliant, optimistic, and independent-minded
 - Whereas in English society position and wealth usually determined what a person could or couldn't do, in the colonies colonists could obtain land easily
 - Colonists had begun to gain control of their local affairs and chipped away at the authority of Br-appointed officials
- Economic rivalry
 - For many years Br laws controlled overseas trade of the colonies; this didn't really bother the American colonists who could evade the laws if they had to or bribe Br officials
 - In 1763 things changed; Br gov't decided to keep a standing army in the colonies and charge taxes to pay for them; they also began to enforce acts governing colonial trade and navigation.

Immediate causes

- Standing army
- Royal Proclamation 1763 – recognized Natives as owners of lands they had occupied; prohibited settlement west of Appalachian Mts.
- Navigation Acts – sought to force the colonies to be dependent on Br for manufactured goods by restricting American trade with West Indies and Africa in rum, slaves, gold, and molasses
- Stamp Act
- Quartering Act
- Townshend Acts – duties in tea, paper, lead, paint imported into the colonies; tax on tea was the only law not repealed
- Boston Massacre
- Committees of Correspondence – Samuel Adams and James Otis were leaders in establishing committees throughout New England that would show that Br had violated basic rights
- Tea Act 1773 – allowed English East India Company to pay tea tax and still sell tea cheaper in the colonies than anyone else, including the Dutch
 - Boston Tea Party
- Intolerable Acts
 - Closed Boston harbor to commerce
- First Continental Congress

The War

Initial Advantages: British	Initial Advantages: colonists
<p>Br navy</p> <p>Br army in colonies consisted of regular soldiers led by experienced officers</p> <p>Cash and credit to support their troops</p>	<p>Plenty of troops</p> <p>Didn't have to transport supplies across ocean</p> <p>Knew the terrain</p> <p>Br's enemies in Europe would likely support colonists – France and Spain</p>

Fighting forces

British	Colonists
<p>Redcoats, or regulars</p> <p>Loyalists, or Tories</p> <p>Mercenaries</p> <p>First Nations tribes, especially Six Nations and Cherokee</p> <p>Peak strength: about 50,000 soldiers; 468 naval ships</p>	<p>Militiamen and volunteers in Continental Army</p> <p>Minutemen were militia ready to act at a moment's notice</p> <p>Peak strength: 20,000 men; 50 naval ships in Continental Navy, aided by about 2,000 privateers</p>

Weapons:

- Rifles
- Muskets
- Cannon
- Bayonet

Leaders

British	colonists
<p>John Burgoyne</p> <p>Sir Guy Carleton – led British in Canada</p> <p>Sir Henry Clinton</p> <p>Charles Cornwallis</p> <p>William Howe – commanded the redcoat forces in the American colonies</p>	<p>George Washington – appointed general and commander in 1775</p> <p>Principal commanders under Washington included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benedict Arnold ▪ Horatio Gates ▪ Nathaniel Greene ▪ Henry Knox ▪ Marquis de Lafayette ▪ Charles Lee

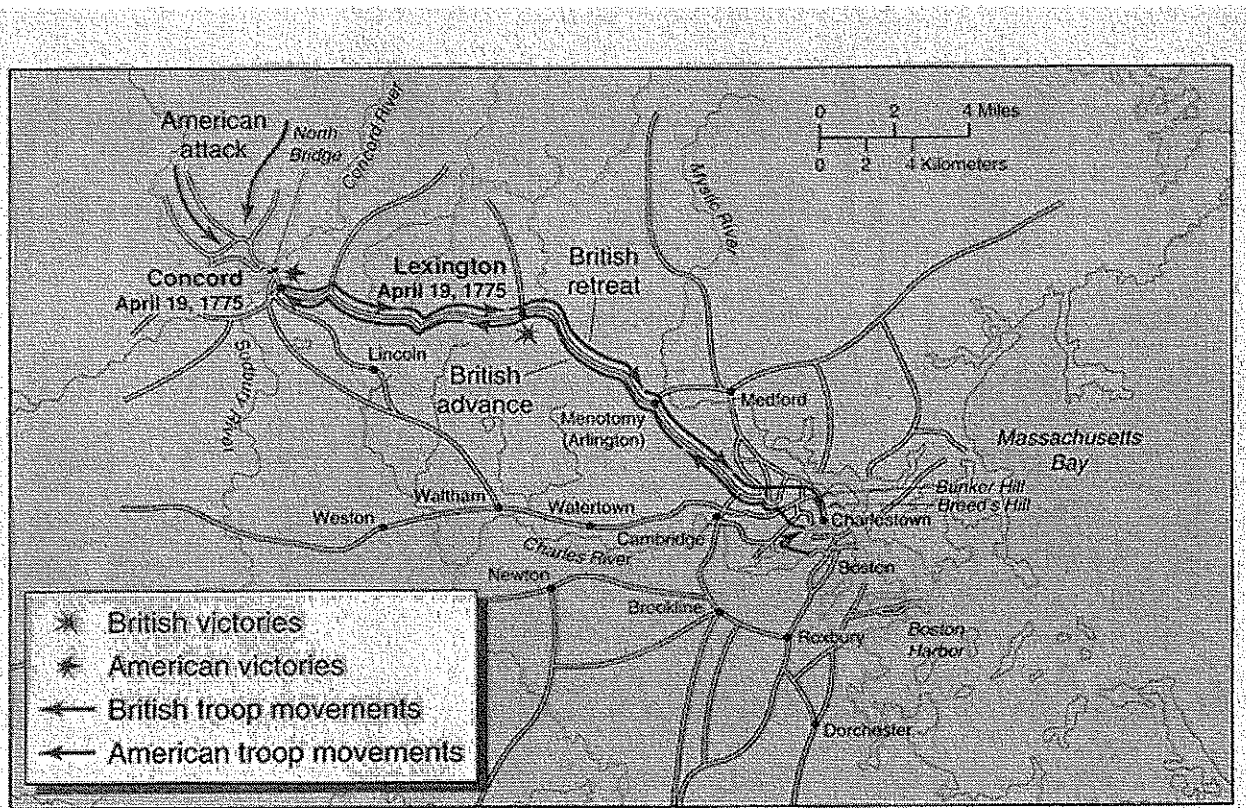
First Battles

1. Lexington and Concord, 1775

On April 18, 1775 Lt. Gen Thomas Gage ordered his redcoats to destroy the patriots' main supply depot at Concord, Mass. The move was to be secret. But Joseph Warren, a doctor, found out the British plans. He quickly sent Paul Revere and William Dawes to ride the 16 miles to Lexington on the road to Concord and arouse the patriots. "The regulars are out!" Revere warned John Hancock and Sam Adams. The two colonial leaders, who had been hiding from the British, fled.

The redcoats arrived at Lexington in the early dawn of April 19. Captain John Parker and his band of minutemen faced them on the village green. "Don't fire unless fired upon," Parker commanded, "but if they mean to have war, let it begin here." No one knows who fired the first shot. But 8 colonists were killed and 10 wounded. One British was wounded.

The British then marched on and destroyed the military supplies stored at Concord. Minutemen opposed their advance, and a skirmish followed. But the shots already fired at Lexington had brought out many of the colonists. Farmers, business people, mechanics, merchants, and planters streamed forward to join the cause of liberty, forcing the British to withdraw to Boston.



2. Bunker Hill

In Boston, the British found themselves besieged by New England militia. The patriots could not hope to drive the redcoats away from the city, except by bombarding them from a hill overlooking it. They intended to fortify Bunker Hill, but decided to occupy Breed's Hill, closer to Boston.

On June 17, 1775 the British attempted to drive the patriots away from the hill. Colonel William Prescott, commanding a force of militia, is said to have ordered: "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes." British troops under Major General William Howe mounted three charges before the colonists fled. This fight became known as the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Map of war

