**![C:\Users\Shelley\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\026MU3AH\MC900149426[1].wmf]()![C:\Users\Shelley\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\FY4KA3OX\MC900149424[1].wmf]()The American Revolution Study Guide**

**Events Leading up to the the Revolution;**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Image DetailFrench and Indian War** | The French and Indians on one side against the British colonies. They were fighting over whether the upper Ohio River valley was a part of the British empire or part of the French Empire. A young Col. **George Washington** served in this war and learned a different type of fighting than the British had usually done. In the Treaty of [Paris](http://www.answers.com/topic/paris-treaty-of-modeuro-in-encyclopedia) (1763) France ceded (gave) its North American territory to Britain. However, it was a very expensive war for England. |
| **Image DetailThe Stamp Act** | The first direct tax to be levied on the American colonies, it required that all newspapers, pamphlets, legal documents, and other papers issued in the colonies bear a stamp. The money they got from the sale of stamps was to be used for colonial defense. The colonists did not like it….not at all! People formed the Sons of Liberty to organize opposition to the Stamp Act. Merchants boycotted English goods. The Stamp Act Congress met to protest the tax. The congress declared that Englishmen could not be taxed without their consent, and, since the colonists were not represented in Parliament, any tax imposed on them without the consent of their colonial legislatures was unconstitutional. Later the tax was repealed. |
| **Image Detail“No taxation without representation”** | A slogan of the [Revolutionary War](http://www.answers.com/topic/american-revolutionary-war) and the years before. The colonists were not allowed to choose representatives to [parliament](http://www.answers.com/topic/parliament) in [London](http://www.answers.com/topic/london), which passed the laws under which they were taxed. To be taxed only with the consent of one's representatives in Parliament was a right of the people under English law. However, this right was taken away from the colonists. Taxation without representation is one of the principal offenses of [Britain](http://www.answers.com/topic/britain) listed in the [Declaration of Independence](http://www.answers.com/topic/united-states-declaration-of-independence). |
| **Image DetailSons and Daughters of Liberty** | In Boston in early summer of 1765, a group of shopkeepers and artisans organized to oppose the Stamp Act. As that group grew, it came to be known as the Sons of Liberty. It was made up of mostly workers and tradesmen. By the end of that year the Sons of Liberty existed in every colony. The various *Sons and Daughters of Liberty* throughout the colonies began to correspond and develop a larger organization. |
| **C:\Users\Shelley\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\QD9GC2TI\MC900149883[1].wmfBoston Tea Party** | Victory in the French and Indian War was expensive for the British. After the war, King George III and his government decided to tax the American colonies as a way of paying their war costs. A series of actions including the Stamp Act (1765), the Townsend Acts (1767) and the Boston Massacre (1770) angered the colonists. But it was the attempt to tax tea that caused the colonists to act and laid the groundwork for the American Revolution. In Boston, three tea ships arrived. One night a group of about 200 men, some disguised as Indians, assembled on a near-by hill. Whopping war chants, the crowd marched two-by-two to the wharf, went on the ships and dumped the tea into the harbor waters.  |

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**![C:\Users\Shelley\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\6P4LLS9A\MM900046599[1].gif]()The Declaration Of Independence**

**July 4, 1776**

 The Declaration of Independence was a statement adopted by the [**Continental Congress**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Continental_Congress) on July 4, 1776. The purpose was to announce that the [thirteen American colonies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirteen_Colonies), then at war with [Great Britain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain), regarded themselves as independent states. They were no longer a part of the [British Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire). A [committee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_of_Five) had been assembled to draft the formal declaration, which was to be ready when congress voted on independence. **John Adams** persuaded the committee to select [**Thomas Jefferson**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson) to compose the original draft of the document. Then the members of the congress would edit to produce the final version. The Declaration was a formal explanation of why Congress had voted on July 2 to [declare independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Resolution) from Great Britain, more than a year after the outbreak of the [American Revolutionary War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War). The birthday of the [United States of America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States)—[Independence Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independence_Day_%28United_States%29)—is celebrated on July 4, the day the wording of the Declaration was approved by Congress.

The 4 parts of the Declaration were:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that [all men are created equal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/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](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life%2C_liberty_and_the_pursuit_of_happiness).”

Thomas Jefferson

Declaration of Independence

1) Preamble
2) Natural Rights
3) King's Wrongs (List of Grievances)
4) Independence

**Revolutionary War**

**Three Major Battles:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Battle Information** | **Geography** | **Importance** |
| **Lexington and Concord****Massachusetts****1775** | The British wanted to capture the colonists’ guns and ammunition. Paul Revere and William Dawes rode ahead to warn the colonists that the British were coming. Fighting first in Lexington and then Concord, the colonists (minutemen) were able to turn back the British. The guns were safe! | **FIRST**The first battles of the revolution.Emboldened the colonists- gave them confidence because they knew they could fight well. |
| **Saratoga,****New York****1777** | The Americans set up a long wall of earth and logs and fought behind them. The colonists won this battle. | **TURNING POINT**Brought in the French. Benjamin Franklin had been trying to convince the French to help the colonists. This victory helped the French decide that the colonists had a chance to win, and they entered the war and to help the colonists fight for independence from England. |
| **Yorktown,****Virginia****1781** | Yorktown is located on the coast and French ships were waiting in the harbor to help fight against the British. The British were surprised and trapped with no way to escape. | **LAST**The final battle of the war. The colonists’ victory here convinced the British that they could **not** win. They surrendered. The war was over… the colonists…against all odds…had won!!!!!!!!!!!! |

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**Extras**

**The Armies-**

**British Army** Well trained and supplied. Wore bright red uniforms, were better trained than the colonists. Uniforms were wool, itchy and included a heavy back pack to hold their supplies. They used a band when they fought like drummer boys and flute players, used a box formation in which there would be rows and columns of about 10 and they would move up in line and fire, run to the back of the line and reload on the way up. Over confident- did nt believe they could lose.

**Continental Army**- The American army had little in the way of training, equipment and supplies. But, they did have the will to fight the British oppression of America.

**Boston Massacre-** In March of 1770 a fight broke out between colonists and British soldiers. The colonists threw snowballs at the soldiers. At some point a soldier fired shots into the crowd and five colonists were killed.

**Crispus Attucks**- an African American sailor. Killed in the Boston Massacre.

**Continental Congress**:

**First Continental Congress**- Colonists sent representatives to meeting to discuss independence from England. Sent list of demands to King George.

**Second Continental Congress-** Decided to form a Continental Army and choose George Washington to be the Commander-in-Chief. They also wrote and signed the Declaration of Independence.

**Nathan Hale**-Sent by Washington to spy on the British, he was captured and the British sentenced him to death. Before he was hung he requested a Bible; his request was denied. Sometime later, he requested a clergyman. Again, the request was denied. Reportedly his last words were: “I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country.” He was 21 years old.

**John Hancock**- President of the Continental Congress.

**Marquis de Lafayette**- 19-year-old French soldier who came to the colonies to fight with the colonists against the British.

**Thomas Paine**- Wrote “Common Sense”- A pamphlet that argued that the only choice that made sense was for the colonists to be independent.

**William Prescott**- “Don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes.”

**Mercy Otis Warren-** Wrote plays criticizing British officials in Boston.

**Treaty of Paris- 1783** Officially ended the war and gave the colonists the two things they wanted most---- their independence and more land. (North to Canada, south to Spanish Florida, and west to the Mississippi River.)

**Victory at Trenton**- Christmas 1776- Washington and his troops secretly crossed the Delaware River in the middle of a freezing night. They surprised the British early in the morning after Christmas and won an important victory.

**The Winter at Valley Forge**- 1777-1778-Washington’s army spent a bitterly cold winter at Valley Forge. They had little to eat. Many only had a shirt…no coat. Some soldiers went without shoes. There was very little food. Yet they stayed. Many stayed in respect for their Commander-in-Chief, General George Washington.

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**Glossary**

**Embolden-** To inspire with courage or confidence.

**Liberty-** Freedom from being controlled by government.

**Loyalists**- Colonists who supported the King and wanted to remain part of England.

**Minutemen**- Colonial militia. Trained to be ready to fight in a minute.

**Natural rights-** Any right that exists by virtue of natural law… a gift from nature or God.

**Patriot-** Colonists who supported breaking from England---They wanted independence.

**Representation-** Action or speech on behalf of a person or group by an agent or representative.

**Quarter-** To give food and shelter to people. Colonists were forced to quarter British soldiers.

**Smallpox-** An infectious viral disease that killed many troops during the revolution.
**Surrender-** To give up.

**Taxation-** A sum of money a government gets from its citizens for its support.

**Tyranny-** Oppressive or unjustly severe government on the part of any ruler.

**The Cost of Liberty-**

**Our nation is now over 200 years old. Many brave people have given their lives defending the liberty that we won during our Americana Revolution. The current total of people who have died or been wounded defending the freedom of our country is approximately 2,717,991. An additional 38,159 are listed as MIA-missing in action.**

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