

PRINTED NOTES

# Social Studies Notes



# War for Independence



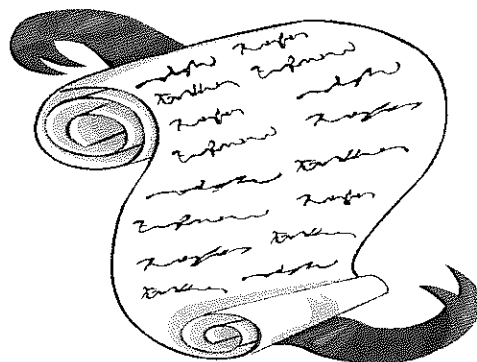
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

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## War for Independence Critical Vocabulary Words

1. **olive branch**: a symbol of peace
2. **Continental**: A soldier in the first colonial army, which was headed by George Washington.
3. **mercenary**: A hired soldiers.
4. **enlist**: To join.
5. **revolution**: A sudden, complete change in government.
6. **independence**: Freedom to govern on one's own.
7. **allegiance**: Loyalty.
8. **declaration**: An official statement.
9. **grievance**: A complaint.
10. **neutral**: Not taking sides in a conflict.
11. **pacifist**: A believer in a peaceful settlement of differences: against war.
12. **movement**: An effort by many people.
13. **encroach**: To move onto without asking permission.
14. **regiment**: A troop of soldiers.
15. **siege**: A long-lasting attack.
16. **treaty**: An agreement between two countries.
17. **negotiate**: To talk with one another to work out an agreement.



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## War for Independence Timeline

- 1765. Stamp Act. Colonial Congress in New York.
- 1770. "Boston Massacre."
- 1773. Destruction of tea in Boston Harbor.
- 1774. September 5. Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia. Boston Port Bill.
- 1775. April 19. Fight at Lexington and Concord.  
May 10. Capture of Ticonderoga. Meeting of Second Continental Congress at Philadelphia.
- 1775. June 17. Battle of Bunker Hill.  
December. Daniel Boone settles in Kentucky.
- 1776. July 4. Declaration of Independence.  
August 27. Battle of Long Island.  
December 26. Washington captures Hessians at Trenton.
- 1777. June 14. Flag of stars and stripes adopted by Congress.  
September 11. Battle of Brandywine.  
October 17. Surrender of Burgoyne.  
Washington encamps at Valley Forge and Howe occupies Philadelphia.
- 1778. French-American alliance.  
June 28. Battle of Monmouth.  
December 29. British take Savannah.
- 1779. September 23. Naval victory of John Paul Jones.
- 1780. May 12. Charleston taken by British.  
August 16. Battle of Camden.  
October 7. Battle of King's Mountain.
- 1781. Adoption of the Articles of Confederation.  
October 19. Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.
- 1782. November 30. Preliminary treaty of peace.
- 1783. September 3. Final treaty of peace signed.  
November 25. British army evacuates New York.  
December 4. Washington's farewell to his officers.
- 1786. Shays's rebellion in Massachusetts.

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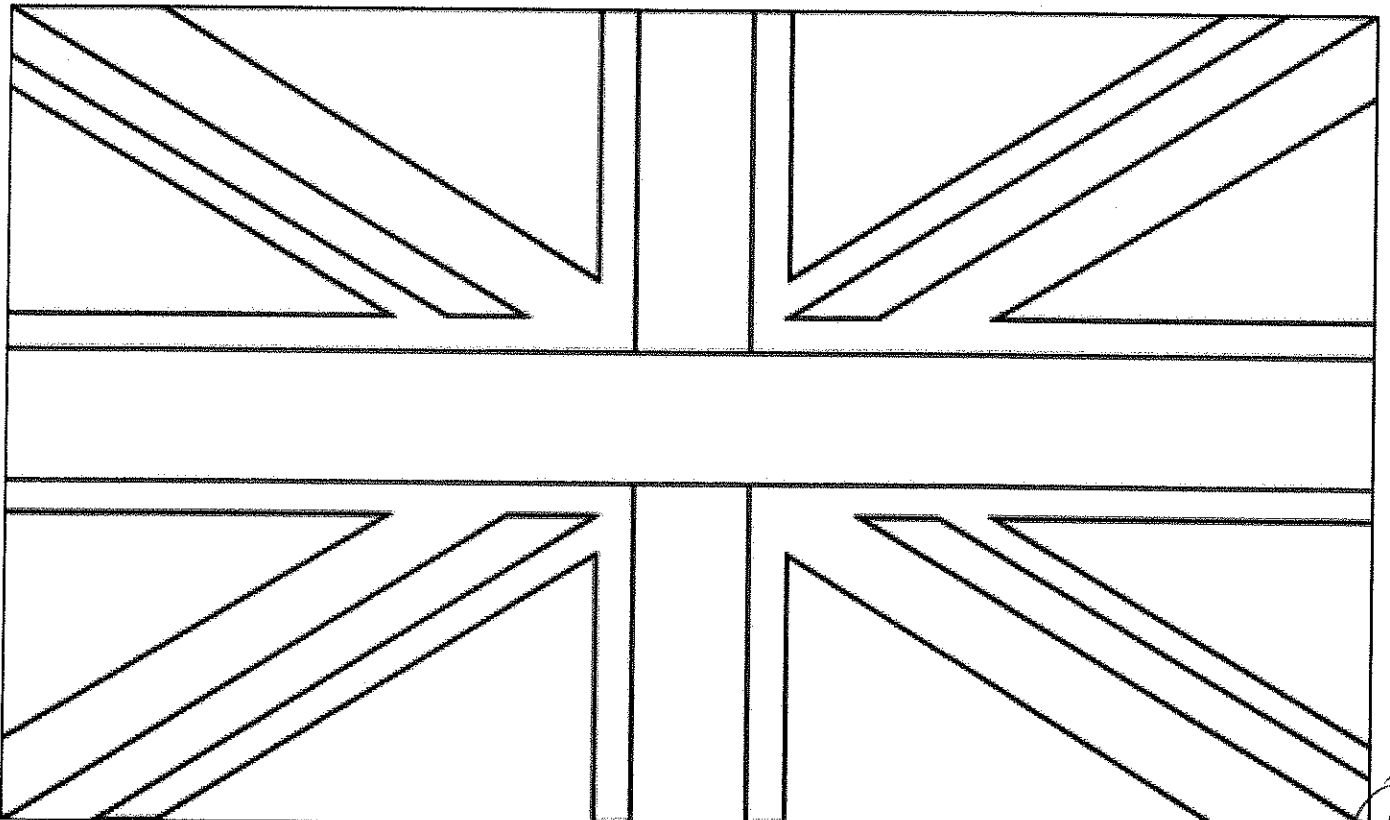
### Lesson 1: The French and Indian War

1. After the 1607 settlement of Jamestown in Virginia Colony and the 1620 settlement of Plymouth in Massachusetts Colony, the Thirteen British colonies began to grow and expand. They made a lot of money for the king, who at that time was King George II.
2. West of the Appalachian Mtns. lay a fertile land around what is now the states of Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana called the Ohio River Valley.
3. The British claimed the Ohio River Valley because it was so close to colonies they had already claimed and settled. However, the French claimed the Ohio River Valley, too. They said since they controlled the Northwest, and that river flows through the territory, they should have a claim to the land. There were also many French colonists who already lived in the Ohio River Valley.
4. The French had been part of the fur trading business with the Native American tribes that lived in and around what is today Canada. Then, the French called Canada New France and they had many settlements and colonies there like Quebec. The French wanted to expand their fur trade into the Ohio River Valley.
5. The dispute over this land led to the French + Indian <sup>war</sup> This war began in 1754. In this war, the British fought against the French and Indians friendly with the French.
6. A Native American group called the Iroquois agreed to help the British fight the French. They taught the British how to wage war in a way that was more practical in a frontier land. Many British colonists in the Thirteen Colonies also fought in

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this war. These colonists helped the British Win the war. The war ended in 1763.

7. The Ohio River Valley now belonged to Great Britain and many British colonists were looking forward to moving Westward to live there. However, the king, who was now King George III decided to give this land to the Indians.
8. This angered the colonists who had fought in the French + Indian War. They could not understand why the king would ask them to fight in a war, but not let them partake in the reward. King George III called his decision the Proclamation of 1763. It said that colonists could not settle on land West of the Appalachian Mountains. This meant the Ohio River Valley.
9. The Proclamation of 1763 was the first of many decisions King George III would make that would lead to the colonists wanting to break away and begin their own country.



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### Lesson 2: The Colonists Rebel

10. Great Britain decided to make the colonies to help pay for the cost of the French and Indian War. King George III felt fighting had not only been done for the Ohio River Valley, but the war had also been to protect the colonies.
11. To do this, Parliament, the law-making assembly in Great Britain, passed the Stamp Act in 1765. The Stamp Act placed a tax on anything paper in the colonies. This tax made the colonists very angry because they had not voted for Parliament.
12. Those who lived in Great Britain itself did not have to pay this extra tax. Therefore, the colonists felt Parliament had no right to tax them. The colonists felt that they shouldn't be taxed by a Parliament that did not represent, or speak for, them. They called this "no taxation without representation."
13. Patrick Henry was one of the first colonists to protest against the Stamp Act. He urged others to speak out against the new tax.
14. A meeting called the Stamp Act Congress was held in New York in October of 1765. Delegates from nine colonies tried to make Parliament repeal, or cancel, the Stamp Act.
15. Samuel Adams formed a group called the Sons of Liberty. The Sons of Liberty protested against the new tax. These protests appeared in cities all through the colonies. The groups broke stamps and rallied in the streets.
16. The majority of the colonists ignored the stamp tax. It worked. Stamp agents were afraid to enforce the law.
17. Parliament voted to repeal the Stamp Act in 1766. But Great Britain still needed money. Parliament may have ended the Stamp Act, but they replaced it with another tax called the Tea Tax in 1767.

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18. These taxes placed a duty, or tax, on items such as paper, glass, and tea imported from Great Britain.
19. Colonists decided to boycott, or refuse to buy, these goods. They refused to pay British taxes.
20. A new group called the Daughters of Liberty was started to help with the boycott. The Daughters of Liberty began weaving cloth that could be used instead of wool from Britain. They used berries and herbs to make tea.
21. The boycott angered British merchants and many of them complained to the king. Great Britain was in worse shape financially now than they were before all the taxes.
22. In 1768 British army arrived in Boston Harbor in hopes of stopping the protests and to force the colonists to pay the taxes.
23. Things went from bad to worse. On March 5, 1770, a group of angry colonists argued some British soldiers in Boston. The soldiers were intimidated and fired into the crowd. They killed five people. One of them was Crispus Attucks a runaway slave who had found work working on a ship in Massachusetts. This event is known as the Boston Massacre.
24. The Sons of Liberty snuck aboard a British ship full of tea and dumped chests of it overboard. This became known as the Boston Tea Party.

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## War for Independence Lesson 3: The Revolution Begins

1. The British passed laws to punish the people of Boston for the Boston Tea Party. British soldiers returned to Boston. The colonists had to house and feed the (quarter) soldiers. A British general was put in control of all of Massachusetts.
2. Also, the British closed Boston Harbor until the people paid for the ruined tea. Colonists called these laws the Intolerable Acts.
3. Colonists had to choose Sides. They became Loyalists or Patriots. Patriots were opposed British rule. Loyalists supported British rule.
4. Events had reached a Crisis point and the colonists decided they needed to decide what to do next. They created Committees of Correspondence to share congress information and called for the First Continental to meet in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1774.
5. Leaders from most colonies decided to stop trade with
6. Britain until the Intolerable Acts were repealed.
7. They also decided that all colonies should train soldiers. Some militias called themselves minutemen. They could be called to fight at a minute's notice.
8. Patrick Henry made a famous speech in Virginia in March 1775. He warned militias that there was going to be a war between Britain and the colonies. He said "Give me liberty or give me death!"
9. On April 18, 1775, 700 British soldiers began marching from Boston to Lexington, Massachusetts. They were coming to find and destroy guns that Patriots were hiding in Concord. The Patriots heard rumors that the British were also going to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock. Adams and Hancock were both in Lexington, Massachusetts, a city between Boston and Concord.
10. Paul Revere, Isaiah Bissell and William Dawes set out to warn the militias in Lexington and Concord.



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because they were part of the Committees of Correspondence. As they rode, they called a warning to the people. Revere reached Lexington first. He warned Adams and Hancock, who ran before the soldiers arrived. Revere, Dawes, Bissell, and another man, X X X then rode to Concord but were captured by British soldiers. Revere was ~~arrested~~ arrested, but the other three escaped. They continued the ride to Concord to warn the colonists.

11. On April 19, 1775, the Lexington militia prepared for war. British soldiers marched into Lexington and faced the colonists. A shot was fired. The British won the battle that followed. Eight colonists were killed and nine were injured. Only one British soldier had been injured.

12. The British then marched on to Concord. When they reached Concord, they were stopped by the militias already there. After a brief battle, the British returned to Boston. The Patriots fired on the British as they marched back to Boston and killed or injured

⑬ 250 British soldiers. These battles marked the start of the American Revolution, or the war colonists fought for independence.

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### Lesson 4: Independence is Declared

1. The Second Continental Congress began meeting in Philadelphia in May 1775. The Congress formed the

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Continental Army with soldiers from all colonies. George Washington was chosen to lead the

2. Continental Army as head general.

3. The members of Congress wanted to try once more to make peace with Great Britain. After all that had happened, many still did not want to break away.

4. So, the Congress sent King George III a letter called the Olive Branch Petition. The letter said that the colonists were still loyal to Great Britain. They did not want to fight a war. The Congress asked the king to

5. give the colonists more freedom. If the king did this, the colonists promised there would be no more fighting. The king refused and said that he would use force to end the rebellion.

6. John Adams said "The revolution is over. All that remains now is the war."

7. On June 16, 1775, ~~many~~ Continental Army soldiers went to Charlestown, Massachusetts to get control of Boston and nearby towns. They planned to fire cannons into

8. Boston from nearby cities to force the British to leave.

9. Overnight, the Patriots built a fort on Breed's Hill. The next day, more than 2,000 British soldiers attacked the fort. The Patriots drove the British back two times,

10. but the British took the fort on the third attack. The British won the battle that became known as

The Battle of Bunker Hill, but they suffered heavy casualties. The Patriots had proven to the British they could fight well and were not a joke.

11. Thomas Paine was a colonist. In 1776 he wrote a pamphlet called Common Sense. The pamphlet convinced many Americans to support the colonies' independence from Great Britain.

12. The Continental Congress wanted to make a formal split from Great Britain and to make sure each colony declared independence. It set up a group to put together the Declaration of Independence.

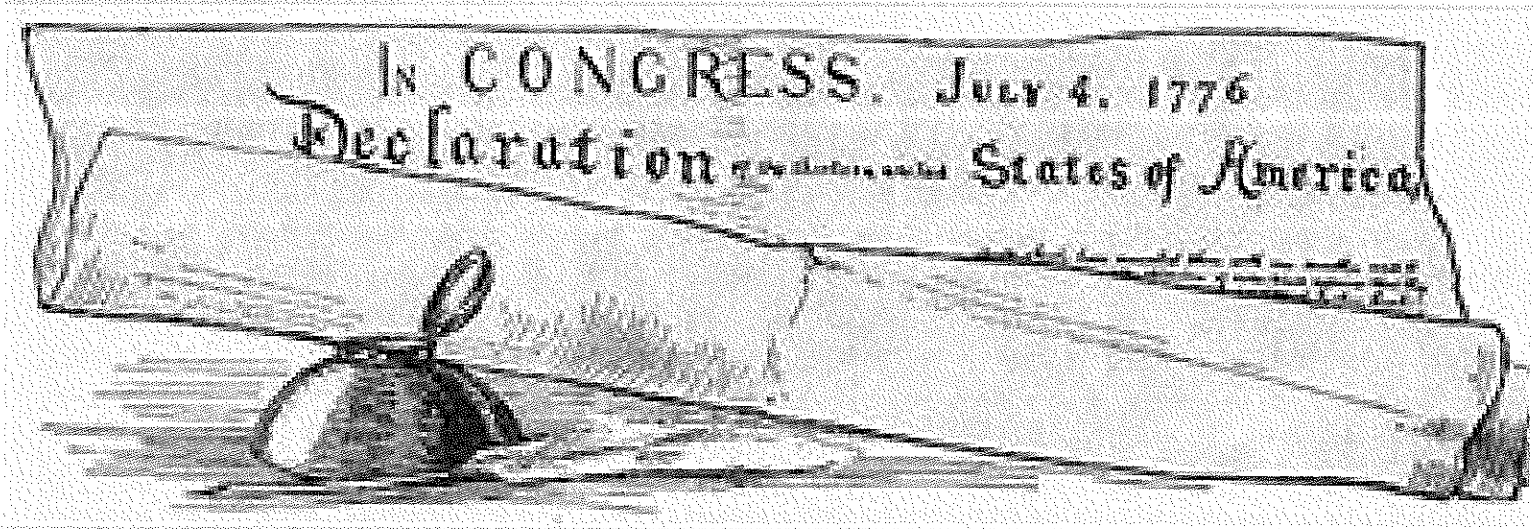
13. The Declaration of Independence explained why

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14. the Colonies wanted independence. Benjamin Franklin, Phillip Livingston, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Thomas Jefferson brainstormed and decided what would be in the Declaration of Independence. Then, Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.
15. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote that people are born with rights that cannot be taken away or Unalienable Rights. These are the right to Life, to be free, and to seek happiness. He called them Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.
16. He also wrote that if a king tries to take these rights, the people have the right to form a new government. The Declaration showed the ways Great Britain tried to smother colonists' rights.
17. For example, it said that Great Britain taxed the colonists without their consent. This list showed that the king had abused the colonists' rights. Therefore, the colonists had the right to leave Great Britain and form their own country and government.
18. Those who supported the Declaration promised to form the new nation.
19. The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. In August, members of the Congress approved the Declaration. They knew it would be treason to sign it. The British government would think they were traitors or people who work against their country.
20. By this time, George Washington had taken care and leadership of the Continental Army. The Patriots would have to fight against overwhelming massive odds to make their declaration a reality.
21. The Declaration of Independence brought hope to the Patriots that they may actually succeed in breaking away from Great Britain. George Washington read the Declaration aloud to his soldiers before the Battle of New York.

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22. If the Patriots lost the war, the signers and Writers of the Declaration of Independence would be the put to death for treason.



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## **Declaration of Independence**

### **Quote**

“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.”

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## What Does the Declaration of Independence Quote Mean?

**We:** the American people

**self-evident:** obvious; common sense

**created:** made

**equal:** no one is better than anyone else

**endowed:** blessed; given something by a higher power

**Creator:** higher power of universe

**certain:** specific

**unalienable:** something that can't be taken away

**Rights:** things people should have

**Life:** freedom from fear of being hurt; living in safety

**Liberty:** the ability to choose to make one's own laws

**pursuit of Happiness:** the ability to have the chance to chase your dreams and do whatever it is in life to make you happy.