



Name _____ Period _____ HRT _____

War for Independence

Section 1: The Road to War



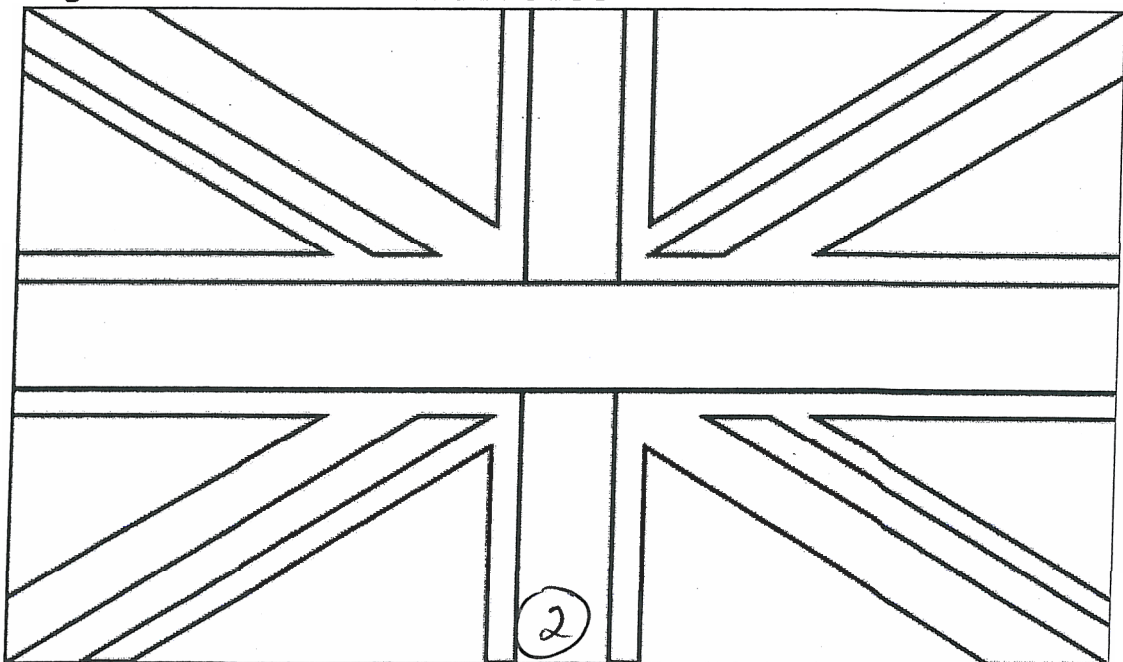
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Lesson 1: The French and Indian War

- 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 prosper. They made a lot of profit for the king, who at that time was King George III.
- West of the Appalachian Mountains lay a fertile valley around what is now the states of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois called the Ohio River Valley.
- The British claimed the Ohio River Valley because it was so close to territory they had already colonized and settled. However, the French claimed the Ohio River Valley, too. They said since they controlled the Mississippi River, and that river flows through the Ohio River Valley, they should have a claim to the land. There were also many Native Americans who already lived in the Ohio River Valley.
- 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.
- The dispute over this land led to the French + Indian War. This war began in 1754. In this war, the British fought against the French and Indians friendly with the French.

- A Native American group called the ~~the~~ Iroquois agreed to help the British fight the French. They taught the British how to Wage war in a way that was more effective in a wooded land. Many British Colonists in the Thirteen Colonies also fought in this war. These colonists helped the British win the war. The war ended in 1763.
- 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.
- This enraged 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 benefit in the reward. King George III called his decision the Proclamation of 1763. It said that colonists could not settle homes on land west of the Appalachian Mountains. This meant the Ohio River Valley.
- The Proclamation of 1763 was the first of many bad 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

- Great Britain decided to force the colonies to help pay for the cost of the French and Indian War. King George III felt the war had not only been protection for the Ohio River Valley, but the war had also been to protect the colonies.
- 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.
- 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 should not be taxed by a Parliament that did not represent, or speak for, them. They called this "No taxation without Representation."
- Patrick Henry was one of the first colonists to _____ against the Stamp Act. He _____ others to _____ against the new tax.
- A meeting called the _____ was held in New _____ in October of 1765. _____ from nine colonies tried to make Parliament _____, or cancel, the _____.
- Samuel Adams formed a group called the _____. The Sons of Liberty _____ against the new tax. These _____ appeared in _____ all through the colonies. The groups _____ stamps and _____ in the _____.

- The _____ of the colonists _____ the stamp _____. It worked. Stamp agents were afraid to _____ the law.
- _____ voted to _____ the Stamp Act in 1766. But Great Britain still needed _____. Parliament may have ended the _____, but they _____ it with another _____ called the _____ in 1767.
- These _____ placed a _____, or tax, on _____ such as paper, _____, and tea _____ from Great Britain.
- Colonists decided to _____, or refuse to buy, these _____. They refused to _____ British _____.
- A new group called the _____ was started to _____ with the boycott. The Daughters of Liberty began weaving _____ that could be used instead of _____ from Britain. They used _____ and _____ to make _____.
- The boycott _____ British _____, and many of them _____ to the king. Great Britain was in _____ shape _____ now than they were _____ all the taxes.
- In 1768 British _____ arrived in Boston Harbor in hopes of stopping the _____ and to _____ the colonists to _____ the taxes.
- Things went from bad to _____. On March 5, 1770, a group of angry colonists _____ some British _____ in Boston. The soldiers were intimidated and _____ into the _____. They _____ five people. One of them was _____, a runaway _____ who had found _____ working on a _____ in Massachusetts. This event is known as the _____.
- The _____ snuck aboard a British _____ full of _____ and dumped chests of it _____. This became known as the _____.

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Lesson 3: The Revolution Begins

- 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 soldiers. A British general was put in control of all of Boston.
- Also, the British closed Boston Harbor until the people paid for the ruined tea. Colonists called these laws the Intolerable Acts.
- Colonists had to choose sides. They became Patriots or Loyalists. Patriots were against British rule. Loyalists supported British rule.
- 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 information and called for the First Continental Congress to meet in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1774.
- Leaders from most colonies decided to stop trade with Britain until the Intolerable Acts were repealed.
- They also decided that all colonies should train militias. Some militias called themselves minutemen. They could be ready to fight at a minute's notice.
- Patrick Henry made a famous speech in Richmond, VA 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!"
- On April 18, 1775, 700 British soldiers began marching from Boston to Concord, Massachusetts. They were coming to take and destroy weapons that Patriots were storing in Concord. The Patriots heard

reports 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.

- Paul Revere, Israel Bissell and William Dawes set out to warn the militias in Lexington and Concord because they were members of the Committees of Correspondence. As they rode, they gave a warning to the people. Revere reached Lexington first. He warned Adams and Hancock, who escaped before the soldiers arrived. Revere, Dawes, Bissell, and another man, William Prescott then rode to Concord but were stopped by British soldiers. Revere was captured, but the other three escaped. They completed the ride to Concord to warn the colonists.
- On April 19, 1775, the Lexington militia prepared for battle. 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.
- The British then marched on to Concord. When they reached Concord, they were outnumbered by the militias already there. After a short battle, the British returned to Boston. The Patriots fired on the British as they marched back to Boston and killed or injured 250 British soldiers. These battles marked the start of the American Revolution, or the war Americans fought for independence.

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Lesson 4: Independence is Declared

- The Second Continental Congress began meeting in Philadelphia in May 1775. The Congress formed the Continental Army with soldiers from all 13 colonies. George Washington was elected to lead the Continental Army as Commander-in-Chief.
- The members of Congress wanted to try one last time to make peace with Great Britain. After all that had happened, most colonists still did not want to break away.
- 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 give the colonists more self-government. If the king did this, the colonists promised there would be no more trouble. The king refused and said that he would use force to end the rebellion.
- John Adams said "The Revolution is over. All that remains now is the war."
- On June 16, 1775, Patriot soldiers went to Charlestown, Massachusetts to get control of Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill. They planned to fire cannons into Boston from nearby hilltops to force the British to leave.
- 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, 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 losses. The Patriots had proved to the British they could fight and were not a joke.

- 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.
- The Continental Congress wanted to make a formal split from Great Britain and to make sure every colony supported independence. It set up a group to put together the Declaration of Independence.
- The Declaration of Independence explained why 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.
- 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 live, to be free, and to seek happiness. He called them Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.
- He also wrote that if a government tries to take away these rights, the people have the right to form a new government. The Declaration listed the ways Great Britain tried to take away colonists' rights.
- 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 declare independence and form a new government.
- Those who signed the Declaration promised to defend the new nation.

- The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. In August, members of the Congress Signed the Declaration. They knew it would be death to sign it. The British government would think they were traitors or people who work against their country.
- By this time, Frederich von Steuben had taken care of the training of the Continental Army. The Patriots would have to fight against overwhelming dangerous odds to make their declaration a reality.
- 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.
- If the Patriots lost the war, the signers and writers of the Declaration of Independence would be the first to hang for treason.



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.”

Thomas Jefferson

July 4, 1776

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.