

Name :

Directions: Read each article. Use the information from the articles to answer the following questions in the chart.

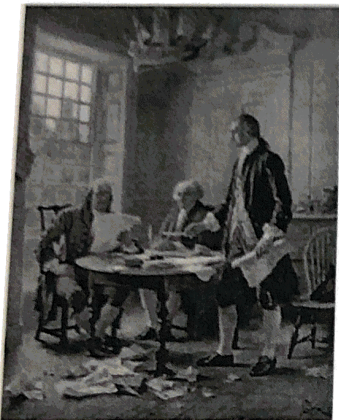
STAMP ACT	What happened?	Why was this important?
BOSTON TEA PARTY	What happened?	Why was this important?
1ST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS	What happened?	Why was this important?
LEXINGTON & CONCORD	What happened?	Why was this important?
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE	What happened?	Why was this important?

Colonial Chronicle

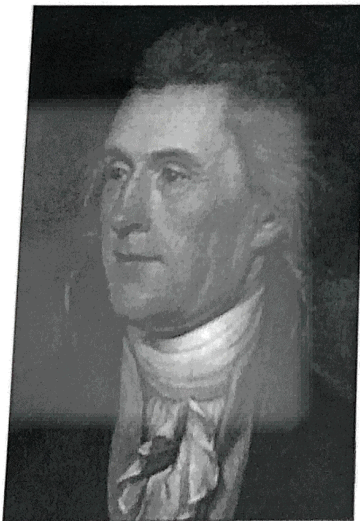
Volume 1 Issue 5

July 1776

Free from King George! Second Continental Congress Ratifies Declaration of Independence



(left to right) Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson working on the Declaration.



Thomas Jefferson

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress ratified, or approved, the Declaration of Independence. This document declares that the colonies are a new nation—the United States of America. It announces that we are no longer under British rule.

The longest section of the document explains the colonies' reasons for leaving Great Britain. For example, King George III is criticized for “imposing taxes on us without our consent” and “cutting off our trade with all parts of the world.” Furthermore, the signers assert that “all men are created equal” and have natural rights like “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

The main author of the Declaration was Thomas Jefferson, a Virginian lawyer. After working on it for several weeks, Jefferson and his committee presented it to Congress where it was voted on. A majority of delegates voted to adopt it on July 4. Later, on July 19, the declaration was unanimously accepted by all thirteen states.

Copies of the declaration have been printed in newspapers in dozens of cities. General Washington read the document to his soldiers. In New York City a crowd pulled down a statue of King George after they heard the declaration. How will the king react to the Declaration of Independence? One thing is certain — we have not seen the end of fighting with Great Britain.

Colonial Chronicle

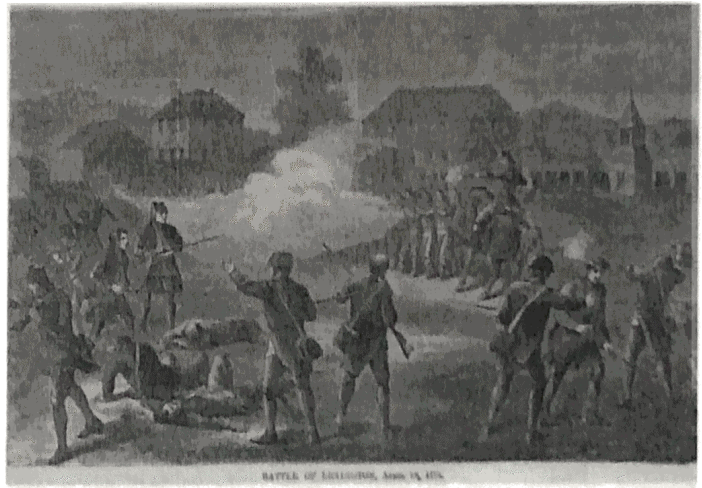
Volume 1 Issue 4

April 1775

The Fighting Begins!

49 Men Killed by British Soldiers at Lexington and Concord

After passing the Intolerable Acts, the British government went one step further by declaring Massachusetts to be in a “state of rebellion.” In response colonists formed militias and prepared for possible violence from British soldiers. Violence came on April 19, 1775. It all began when 700 British soldiers marched to Concord to destroy militia supplies. Patriot spies, including Paul Revere, informed the militia about the plan.



The Massachusetts militia and the British soldiers faced off in Lexington. The first shots were fired early in the morning. No one knows who began the battle. After a time the militia fell back because they were outnumbered. Later in the day the militia and the soldiers fought again and this time the British were driven back to Boston. In the end, forty-nine colonists were killed and nearly as many were injured. The British suffered worse losses. More than seventy British soldiers were killed while more than 150 were injured.

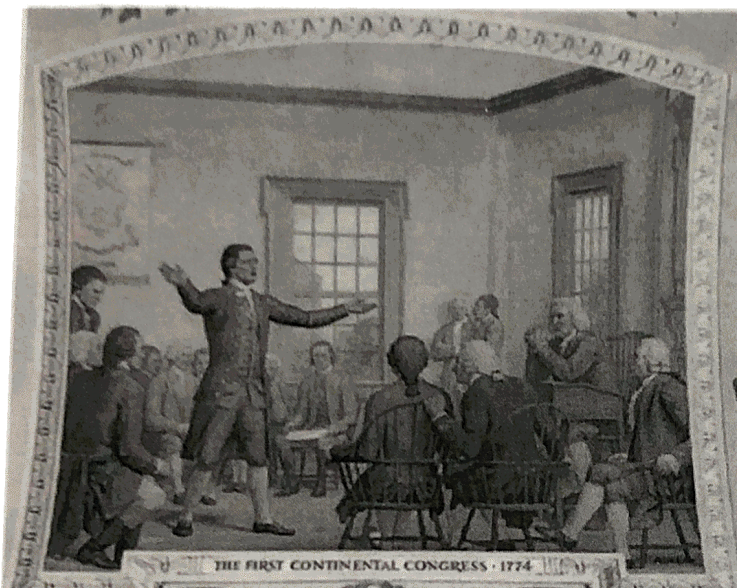
The battles of Lexington and Concord mark the first military engagements between Britain and her American colonies. What does this mean? Is it the beginning of a war? The Continental Congress will discuss what to do when it meets in a few months.

Colonial Chronicle

Volume 1 Issue 3

October 1774

Our First Government? Twelve Colonies Send Delegates to First Continental Congress



This past spring Parliament passed laws meant to punish colonists for the Boston Tea Party. Many call these laws “The Intolerable Acts.” These harsh laws put the city under martial law and closed Boston Harbor. In addition, Massachusetts’ colonists are not allowed to hold town meetings. If the British could take such drastic steps in Boston, what will they do elsewhere? Many felt it was time to take action.

In September delegates from twelve of the thirteen colonies met in Philadelphia. More than fifty delegates attended! Their goal was to make a unified plan to resist the Intolerable Acts. They called for colonists to boycott, or refuse to purchase, British goods. They asked families to wear homespun clothes rather than British ones.

This Continental Congress is the first colony-wide government in America. What does this mean for the future? Will King George end these injustices? Or will colonists have to take more drastic steps? The Congress will meet again next year to discuss further action.



The Congress was held at Carpenters' Hall in Pennsylvania.

Colonial Chronicle

Volume 1 Issue 2

Spring 1774

Boston Tea Party!

90,000 Pounds of Tea Destroyed!



When British soldiers stationed in Boston woke on December 17, 1773, they were in for quite a shock. Hundreds of chests of British tea were destroyed. The Sons of Liberty, a secret Patriot group, were responsible. During the night they had disguised their faces, boarded the ships, and dumped the tea into Boston Harbor. Some had dressed as Mohawk Indians. Perhaps this shows that these colonists feel more loyalty to America than Britain.

What were the Patriots protesting? Taxation without representation! Britain has continued to tax the colonies even though the colonists do not have elected representatives in Parliament. The Boston Tea Party is a clear, organized act of rebellion.

British Parliament has already retaliated by passing harsh laws. Some are calling them "The Intolerable Acts." Boston Harbor has been closed. Massachusetts is under martial law and colonists are not allowed to hold town meetings. These laws are only deepening the hate against Britain. Many feel that their natural rights have been taken away. If this can happen in Massachusetts, could it happen in other colonies too? What will the Sons of Liberty do next?

Colonial Chronicle

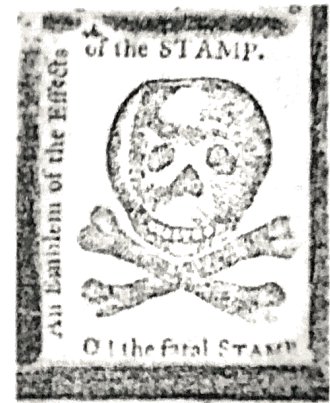
Volume 1 Issue 1

March 1766

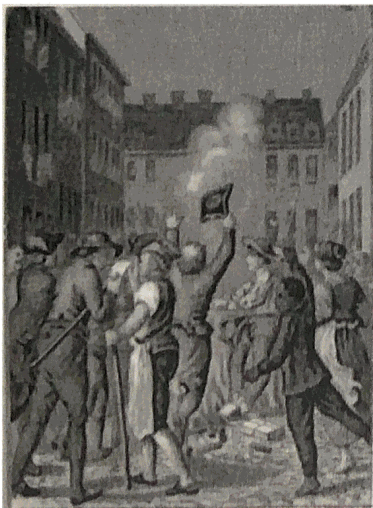
No Taxation Without Representation

The Stamp Act is Repealed!

The loathsome Stamp Act has been repealed! After months of boycott and street protests, Parliament has finally heard the colonists' message: "No taxation without representation." The act was passed in March of last year. This law said that all printed materials must carry a stamp. Naturally, the stamp cost money. The British were hoping to use this money to repay war debts. This law targeted colonists who use a lot of paper like lawyers, newspapermen, and writers. However, ordinary people were outraged for another reason. This law ignored the British Constitution. The Constitution guarantees that British subjects cannot be taxed without representation in Parliament. Do colonists have even one elected member of British Parliament? No!



Newspapers printed a skull and crossbones to show their hatred for the Stamp Act.



Violent protests in the streets

In October, protestors decided to organize a formal meeting. If we could not have representatives in Parliament, we would create our own form of Parliament. They called this the Stamp Act Congress. After discussing the issues the representatives agreed to call for a boycott of British goods. They declared that colonists should refuse to buy anything being sold by Great Britain.

Resistance was not limited to formal meetings, however. Rich and poor colonists alike were outraged. Mobs organized in the streets and protested the unfair tax. A new secret organization called the Sons of Liberty planned many of these demonstrations. Protests in the streets have turned to celebrations now that the act is repealed! Great Britain has backed down and liberty is preserved.