

The American Revolution

Growing Differences With England and England's Attitude Toward Her Colonies

England believed that the colonies existed for the benefit of the Mother Country (England)

England looked upon the colonies as possessions

1. source of food and raw materials
2. market for her finished products

England wanted to curb colonial manufacturing that would compete with their own industries and keep other European countries from sharing in the colonial trade. They did this by passing a few manufacturing regulations which started in 1650 called the Navigation Acts

- 1. No goods could be shipped to or from any colony but England
- 2. Certain articles produced in colonies could be sold only to England
- 3. European goods destined for the colonies must first be sent to England where duties could be collected

In 1733 Congress passed the Molasses Act - placing duties on sugar and molasses imported by the colonists from French West Indies. Other laws were passed that restricted the colonies like the Hat Act (1732) - forbade the export of beaver hats. The Iron Act (1750) - prohibited the manufacture of iron products.

Colonists struggle for Freedom

After the French and Indian War, England was faced with a huge debt that they believed the American Colonies should help pay for. England decided to enforce the existing trade laws and introduce new taxes.

Englands New Policy in the America's

1. Writs of Assistance - stop colonial merchants from illegally trading with foreign nations - this James Otis a Boston lawyer that was an act of tyranny and they violated fundamental right of Englishmen
2. Proclamation of 1763 - because of a war from Ottawa Indians that led to settlers being killed the British ordered all settlers in Ohio Valley move back, forbade establishment of new settlements west and prohibited traders from entering the region without government approval
3. Sugar Act (1764) - Law that raised duties on refined sugar, textiles, and other goods imported from any place other than Britain or a British colony - to discourage smuggling, it lowered duty on molasses. In defiance the colonies continued to smuggle goods into the country and carry on trade with foreign nations

Other Policy's put in Action

4. **Quartering Act** - give living quarters, supplies to help the British troops in America

5. **Stamp Act** - placed tax on newspapers, almanacs, playing cards, and legal documents - This caused patriotic societies known as the Sons of Liberty to resist the tax

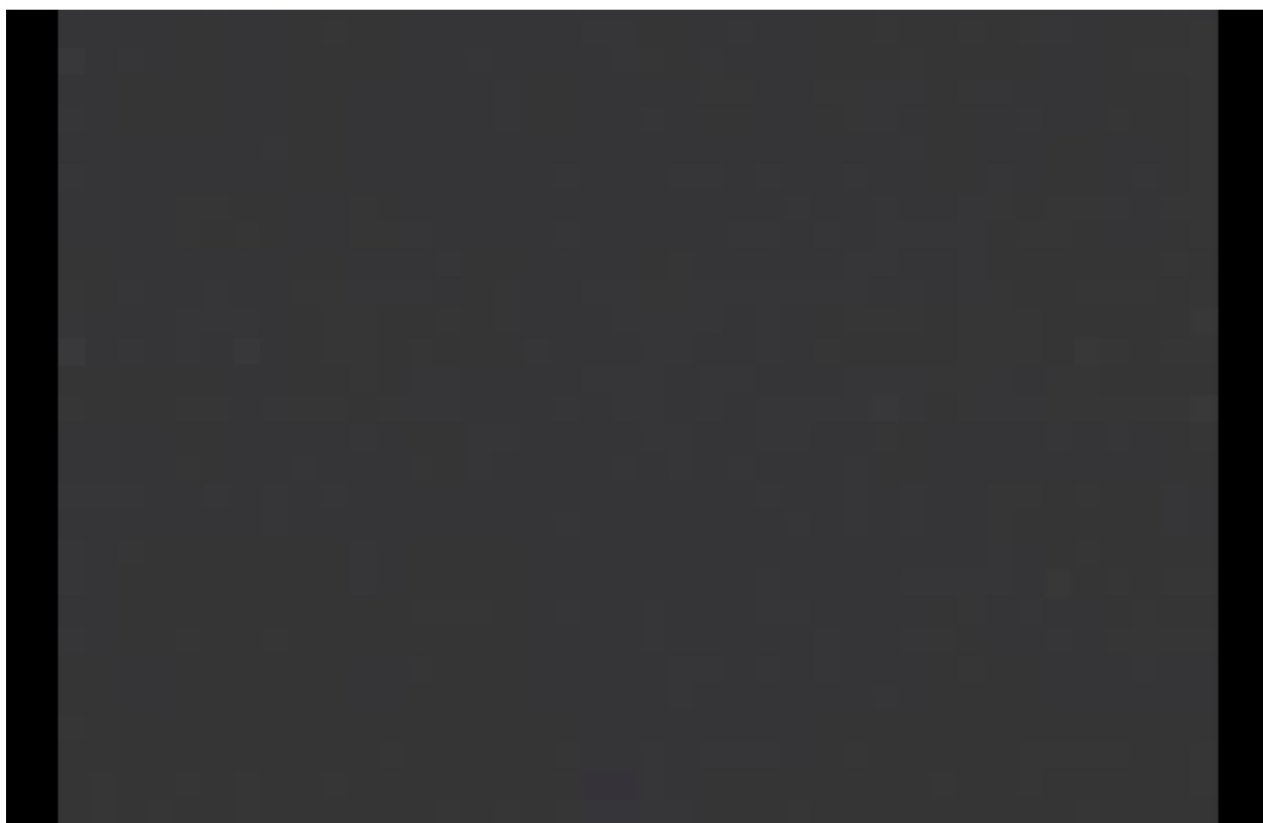
"No taxation without representation"

In 1770 the Boston Massacre - the redcoats fired into the crowd, killing 5 townspeople and wounding 6 others. The citizens demanded removal of the British troops from Boston

Tea Act - reaction to this on December 16th 1773 the Boston Tea Party took place - disguised as Indians boarded the ships and dumped 342 chests of tea (\$75,000) into the harbor

"Suffering in the common cause of America"

widespread agreement that united action was necessary against the British



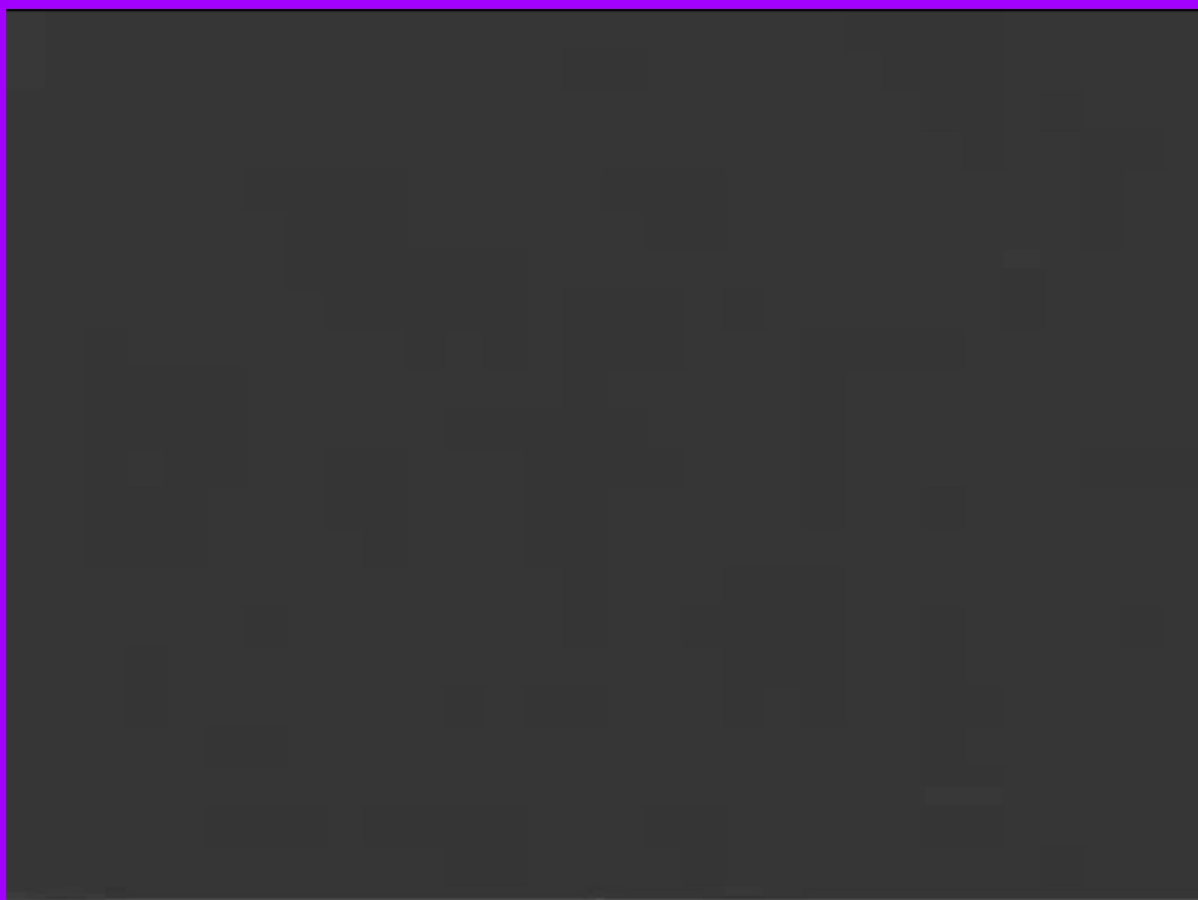
First Continental Congress 1774

Delegates from oall colonies except Georgia met in Philadelphia in September 1774

1. Declaration of Rights and Grievances- colonists were entitled to all the rights of Englishmen and colonial legislatures had the exclusive right to levy taxes on the colonists
2. Continental Associator - not to trade with Britain or to use English goods until the offensive legislation was repealed.
3. Agreed to meet again the following spring if American Grievances were not settled by then.

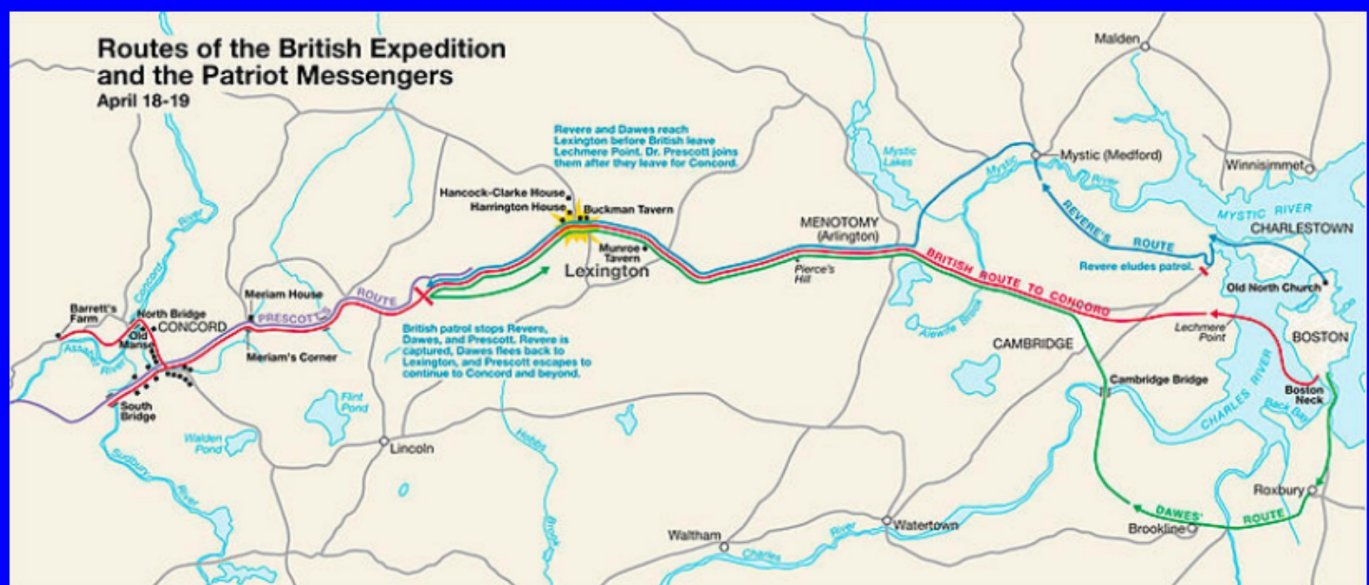
First Shot is Fired on April 19, 1775

Massachusetts began to organize themselves into an army (Minutemen) and armed themselves with ammunition and weapons. The British military was going to capture John Hancock and Samuel Adams and seize gunpowder. Two Patriots, Paul Revere and William Dawes, rode through the night warning the country. This first skirmish killed 273 British and only 93 colonials. The outbreak of the Revolution had begun



Routes of the British Expedition and the Patriot Messengers

April 18-19



The War for Independence

The Second Continental Congress was held in May 1775 where John Hancock was elected president. They decided to resist the mother country and use force if necessary.

- 1. established a Continental Army
- 2. Appointed Geroge Washington commander-in-chief of the colonial forces
- 3. a call to the colonies to raise troops and help pay for the war

The Second Continental Congress issued the Declaration of Independence - written by political leader Thomas Jefferson and based on the ideas of John Locke and the Enlightenment. It held the idea that

"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"

Battle at Saratoga

Burgoyne marched from Canada to capture Fort Ticonderoga but his men were exhausted, and supplies were short. New England militiamen surrounded Burgoyne and his men where they had to surrender on October 17, 1777. The American victory at Saratoga proved to be the turning point of the war. It wrecked the British plan to divide the colonies and boosted Continental morale.

<http://www.history.com/videos/battle-of-saratoga-turns-the-tide-of-the-american-revolution#battle-of-saratoga-turns-the-tide-of-the-american-revolution>



Formation of A New Nation

To provide a central government for the new nation, the Continental Congress drew up a written constitution, the Articles of Confederation in 1777. In 1781 the Articles of Confederation was finally adopted.

The Confederation government lacked power and was unable to function efficiently because of certain fundamental weaknesses.

Critical Period


Time in the country when many of its leaders believed that the United States would collapse. There were financial problems, unable to maintain law and order could not exercise any real authority. The states quarreled and nearly came to blows over boundary disputes.

Framing the Constitution

Delegates from Maryland and Virginia met at Washington's home in 1785 to settle some troublesome problems. The meeting went well so they held another meeting in 1786 where they invited all the states to attend at Annapolis, Maryland. Alexander Hamilton urged congress to call another convention the following year all states but Rhode Island agreed to attend. This conference eventually became known as the Constitutional Convention at Independence Hall in Philadelphia in May 1787.

New Constitution

The 55 delegates worked to frame a new constitution looking at the views of Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau. For 4 months they argued over important questions until they came up with not only compromises but new approaches to governing. These new ideas created a new system of government. They established three separate branches (legislative, executive, and judicial) This provided a system of Checks and Balances where each branch of government could check on the other



what powers
were each branch
given to balance
the others

<https://www.gaggle.net/gaggleVideoProxy.o?op=view&v=dc9496e1152fab773f4e8400725859d4>

Bill of Rights

The Constitution and Bill of Rights marked a turning point in people's ideas about government. Both documents put Enlightenment ideas into practice.

Class Work

Write down these battles and look at your blank map and locate where the battle took place and who won the battle. If the British won make it red, if the Americans won make it blue. Also label the 13 colonies.

Battle of Bunker Hill
Battle at Trenton
Battle at Princeton
Battle at Saratoga
Battles in the South
Battle at Yorktown

