

The American Revolution (1765-1783)

Headings	Notes
THE CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1607 saw the establishment of the 13 colonies along the east coast of North America by British settlers. These colonies were overseen by local assemblies while a governor represented the British Crown in each colony. They prospered and their populations grew but over time, the colonies became unhappy with British rule for several reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Enlightenment was the movement of thinkers who valued science and reason above faith or authority as the basis for society in the eighteenth century. This led to many challenging the idea that kings had a divine right to rule. Restrictions on trade – Britain wanted America as both a cheap source of material but also as the market to sell the finished goods made by British industry as it did not want America as its competition. To stop this, the British Parliament in Westminster passed the Navigation Acts which forced the American colonies to sell some of the produce (cotton, sugar and tobacco) to Britain alone. The Seven Years War (1756-1763) – Britain defeated France during the war and seized a lot of French colony territories as a result. The British government wanted the colonies to contribute to the cost of the army's stay in the 13 colonies. No Taxation Without Representation – Britain introduced two Acts which angered many of the colonists. The first was the Stamp Act (1765) that placed a fee for stamps on all legal, documents, wills, newspapers, certificates and playing cards. The second was the Quartering Act (1765) which taxed colonists in order to cover the costs of the soldiers in the colonies. Opposition groups to these taxes began to use slogan 'No Taxation Without Representation' against a government in which they had no voice. Widespread violence and protests followed these Acts.
ROAD TO WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Boston Massacre (1770) – a crowd protesting the Townsend Acts (taxes on goods such as tea, glass, paint and lead) confronted a group of British soldiers who then opened fire, killing five civilians.
Keywords 13 Colonies Local Assemblies Governor The Enlightenment Navigation Acts The Seven Years War No Taxation Without Representation Stamp Act Quartering Act The Boston Massacre	Summary Britain founded 13 colonies on the North East coast of North America from 1607. These colonies were ruled by local assemblies while a governor represented the British Crown in each. While the colonies prospered, they began to become angry with British rule for numerous reasons. The Enlightenment saw a change in attitude, changing from a belief in faith and authority towards a belief in science and reason as the basis for society. Restrictions on trade to prevent the American colonies from becoming competition resulted in the passing of the Navigation Acts . The Seven Years War , provided more tensions between the colonists and the British Parliament who wanted the colonists to pay for the keep of British soldiers in the colonies. Tensions worsened with the Stamp Act and the Quartering Act which resulted in the slogan ' No Taxation Without Representation '. The road to war began with the Boston Massacre and the death of five civilians.

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THE ROAD TO WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Boston Tea Party (1773) – The British had withdrawn the Townsend Acts and all other taxes with the exception of a small tax on tea imports. The Tea Act was passed in 1773 which Exempted the East India Company from paying the tea tax, angering many colonists once more. In December 1773, a group from the Sons of Liberty dressed up as Native Americans to board East India Company ships, dumping 342 crates of the Company's tea into the Boston Harbour. As a result, Boston was put under military rule with their assembly suspended. • The First Continental Congress (1774) – The results of the Boston Tea Party made other colonies worried that the same could be done to them. September 1774 saw representatives of each colony meet up in the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, America's largest city. The Congress opposed British taxes, urged boycotts of British goods and demanded the removal of British soldiers. They set up secret groups in each colony, training soldiers and stockpiling weapons as they prepared themselves for war. • The Battles of Lexington and Concord (1775) – General Gage set 800 British troops to seize weapons at Concord but the rebels were warned at a small force of American militiamen went to Lexington to intercept the British troops. Ten Americans were killed and eight were capture. Their actions slowed down the marching troops so that by the time they reached Concord, the weapons had been moved. On their way back to Boston, the troops were ambushed again by a larger force, resulting in the death of 273 British soldiers. • The Second Continental Congress (1776) – War was now inevitable and the desire for a fully Independent America grew, especially after the publishing of Thomas Paine's Common Sense which argued that Britain had been oppressing the rights of the American people. The Second Continental Congress elected George Washington as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. On the 4th July 1776, the Congress issued the Declaration of Independence in which they declared their separation from the British Empire. • The Continental Army now faced a seemingly impossible task; to defeat an imperial army that was made up of professionally trained, well-equipped soldiers and was supported by the biggest navy in the world.
Keywords	Summary
The Boston Tea Party Tea Act Sons of Liberty Continental Congress Lexington & Concord Thomas Paine George Washington Commander-in-chief Declaration of Independence	The road to war continued with the Boston Tea Party that came as a result of the Tea Act (1773) and disguised Sons of Liberty dumped 342 crates of East India Company tea into the Boston Harbour in protest. The First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in 1774 which secret groups began to prepare themselves for war. The first conflicts of the revolution came with the Battles of Lexington and Concord where British soldiers tried to confiscate rebel weapons but failed. The Second Continental Congress met again as the desire for an independent America grew after the publishing of Thomas Paine's Common Sense . The Congress elected George Washington as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army and issued the Declaration of Independence on the 4th July 1776 .

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MAIN EVENTS OF THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Washington (1732-1799), as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, faced an uphill battle. His army was only one-quarter the size of the British Army, was poorly equipped and its soldiers had little-to-no military training and part-time. • The rebelling forces lost the first battle at Bunker Hill but managed to inflict heavy casualties on the British troops. The Continental Army captured cannons and rifles in their victory at the Battle of Boston. They lost in New York but gained two small victories at Princeton and Trenton. • General Howe's army of 18,000 men captured Philadelphia in 1777, landing a huge blow to the moral of the Americans. The Americans managed to defeat a smaller British force of 8,000 men at Saratoga later that year. • After Philadelphia, Washington and his 11,000 men regrouped at Valley Forge during the Winter of 1777-1778. The men suffered great hardship and hunger in the freezing cold while disease killed many and others deserted. Washington won the loyalty of his men by staying with them. The Prussian Baron Von Steuben drilled the soldiers until they were as well trained and disciplined as any European army. • France, Spain and the Netherlands joined the war against the British in 1778, turning the tide of the war. • The decisive victory of the war came at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781 when 7,000 British soldiers under Lord Cornwallis were surrounded by and surrendered to 9,000 American and 5,000 French troops alongside the French fleet, marking the end of the war. • In 1783, Britain and its former colonies signed the Treaty of Paris which recognised the colonies as independent from the Empire.
Keywords George Washington Bunker Hill Battle of Boston Princeton and Trenton Saratoga Valley Forge Battle of Yorktown Lord Cornwallis Treaty of Paris	Summary George Washington and his part-time army faced a seemingly impossible task to defeat the British Army. They lost their first battle at Bunker Hill but managed to inflict heavy casualties on the British. At the Battle of Boston , they managed to capture cannons and rifles before gaining two victories at Princeton and Trenton . Following the significant capture of Philadelphia by the British General Howe, the rebels responded by a victory at Saratoga the same year. Washington and his men regrouped at Valley Forge during the Winter of 1777-1778 where they were trained by Prussian soldier, Prussian Baron Von Steuben . The newly trained American army, aided by France, Spain and the Netherlands, resulted in a decisive victory at the Battle of Yorktown (1781) which forced Lord Cornwallis to surrender. The Treaty of Paris marked the end of the Revolution.

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THE RESULTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foundation of the United States of America – over the next 200 years, the United States grew to 50 states.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This expansion came at a human price as indigenous American peoples and their cultures were all but wiped out.• By 1900, millions of immigrants from all over the world such as Ireland and Italy had made the US their home.• The impact on France and Ireland – reports of the events in America spread quickly.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• France was bankrupted by successive involvements in the Seven Years War and the American War of Independence which would help lead to the French Revolution in 1789 as the rule of King Louis XVI began to collapse.• Ireland, which had been under British rule since 1171, wished to repeat the success of the American Revolution to create an independent Ireland, leading to the 1798 United Irishmen Rebellion.• Influence of Ideas – The Declaration of Independence states that ‘<i>all men are created equal</i>’ but this was limited to white Christian men.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women were treated as second-class citizens who were seen as property of their fathers and later their husbands.• Millions of black slaves were kept by owners across the southern United States.• Indigenous Americans saw their culture almost wiped out.• The ideals of the Declaration still inspired these groups, and others, to keep fighting for equal rights over the next few centuries.
Keywords	Summary
United States of America Indigenous Americans Immigrants Seven Years War American War of Independence French Revolution 1798 Irish Rebellion Declaration of Independence Black Slaves	<p>The American Revolution resulted in the foundation of the United States of America which would grow into 50 states over the next 200 years. Indigenous Americans and their cultures were all but wiped out. Millions of immigrants arrived in America from countries all over the world by the 1900s. The Seven Years War and the subsequent American War of Independence would have a profound impact on France and Ireland. France would see the French Revolution bring about the end of the French monarchy that had stood for 948 years. Ireland would see the 1798 United Irishmen Rebellion fail to reach the same success as both the French and American Revolutions. The Declaration of Independence states ‘<i>all men are created equal</i>’ but women, black slaves and indigenous Americans had to fight (and are still fighting) for equal rights for the next 250 years.</p>

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Keywords	Definition
Bill of Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A legal document giving Americans a set of rights, including free speech, ownership of property, and fair trial. These rights were not extended to slaves or Native Americans.
Boston Massacre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The killing of five American colonists by soldiers during a brawl on the streets of Boston.
Boston Tea Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An event in which American colonists dressed up as Native Americans and boarded three ships in Boston Harbour. They dumped 342 chests of tea into the water in protest at British taxes.
Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The actions that result in events happening, actions that bring about effects
Consequences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results from an action or an event; an effect
Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set of fundamental rules for running a country that outlines the powers of government and the rights of citizens.
Continental Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The army of American colonists that fought the British in the American Revolution.
Continental Congress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assembly of delegates from each of the thirteen American colonies. It set out complaints against British rule and acted as a temporary government during the Revolution.
Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The events that take place during a period of time
Declaration of Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A document declaring America to be independent of British rule. It was adopted by the Continental Congress on 4th July 1776.
Federal Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A system of government where power is divided between a central government (usually headed by a president) and various regions or states.
Guerrilla warfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hit-and-run or surprise military tactics. Most often used by a small, mobile force against a larger, less mobile force.
Loyalist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A colonist in 18th Century America who favoured or remained loyal to Britain
Militias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part-time, amateur armies.
Minutemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston militia prepared to fight the British at a minute's notice.
Navigation Acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws stating that some American goods such as tobacco, cotton and sugar could be sold only to Britain.
Patriots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans who favoured independence for America
Revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rapid and significant change in society, politics, technology or the economy.
Stamp Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tax on documents including newspapers, playing cards, stamps and legal documents.
The Enlightenment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A period from the late 1600s to the early 1800s when writers and thinkers questioned traditional ideas such as the divine right of kings. Also known as the Age of Reason.
Townshend Acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws imposing taxes on goods imported into America, including wine, glass, paint and tea; all of which had to be bought from Britain.
Turning point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A time when decisive events occurs which changes the future