

CHAPTER

4

1763–1783

The Revolutionary ERA

THE BIG PICTURE

Great Britain began to increase taxes on the American colonists, who protested because they were not represented in Parliament. Small rebellions led to tighter controls, which triggered all-out war.



North Carolina Standards

Social Studies Objectives

1.01 Identify the major domestic issues and conflicts experienced by the nation during the Federalist Period.

Language Arts Objectives

2.03 Demonstrate the ability to read, listen to and view a variety of increasingly complex print and non-print informational texts appropriate to grade level and course literary focus, by:

- making inferences, predicting, and drawing conclusions based on text.

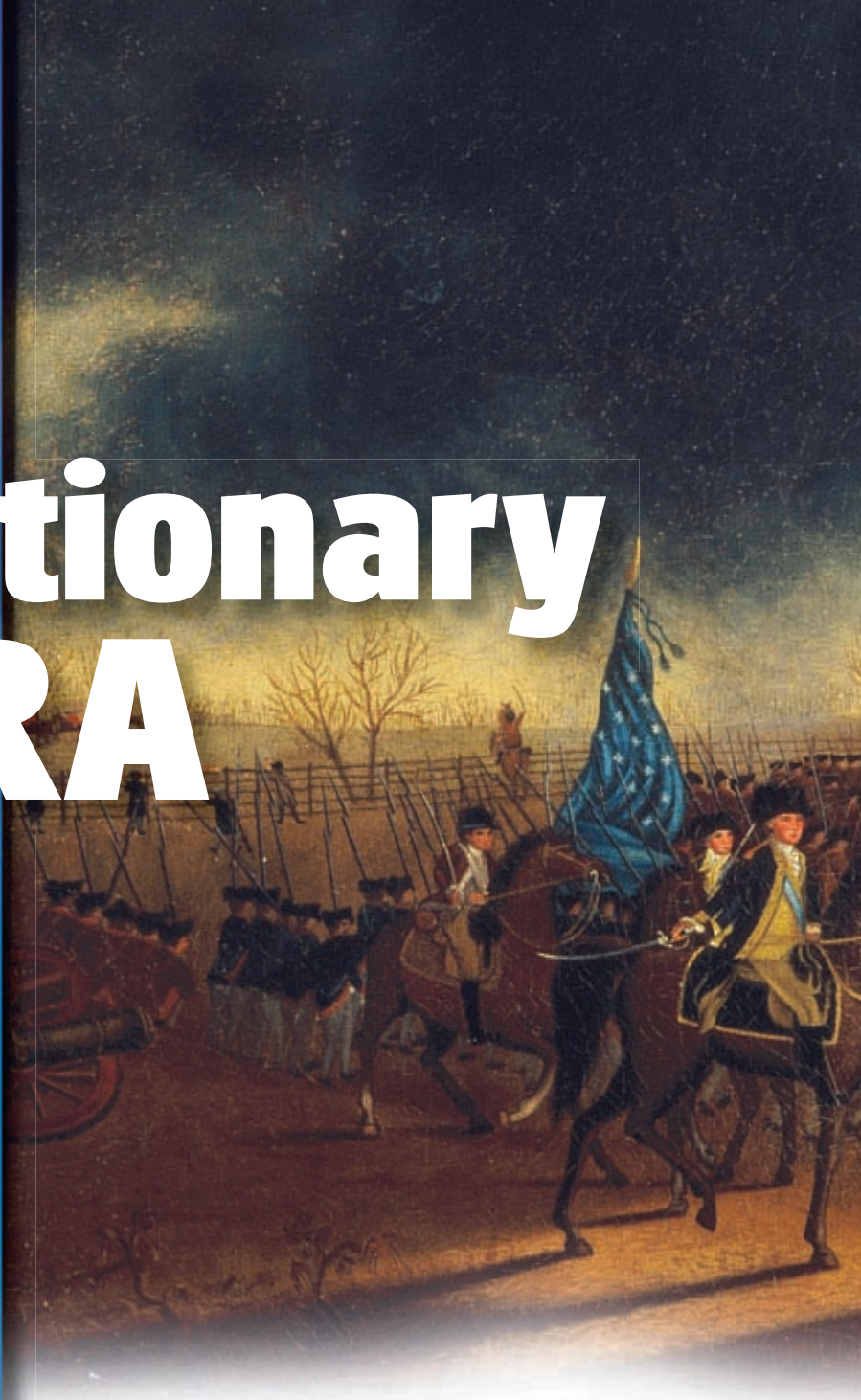
Skills FOCUS

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

Cannon fire lights up the early morning sky in *The Battle of Princeton*, a 1777 painting by early American artist James Peale. The victories at Trenton and Princeton helped Americans believe that their independence was more than just words on paper.

Identifying Points of View Why do you think Peale chose to commemorate this battle?

See **Skills Handbook**, pp. H28–H29



U.S.



October 1763
The Proclamation of 1763 bars colonists from settling in Indian lands west of the Appalachians.

1765



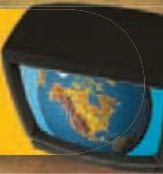
World



1765
Parliament passes the Stamp Act, angering colonists.

History's Impact video program

Watch the video to understand the impact of the Declaration of Independence today.



March 1770

Five protesters are killed by British soldiers in the Boston Massacre.



April 1775

Revolutionary War begins with battles of Lexington and Concord.

July 4, 1776

Congress approves the Declaration of Independence.

October 19, 1781

British surrender at Yorktown, ending the war.



1770



1775

1775

King George III issues a proclamation banning overseas trade for American colonies.

1780

1778

Following the Battle of Saratoga, France formally recognizes the U.S. and promises military help.

1785

1783

Treaty of Paris ends the Revolutionary War. Britain signs subsidiary treaties with America and allies France and Spain.

The Road to Revolution

BEFORE YOU READ

MAIN IDEA

A series of increasingly restrictive laws angered many American colonists, leading to rebellion against Britain.

READING FOCUS

1. Why did Great Britain pass new laws in America?
2. How did the colonists respond to the new laws? How did their response lead to even stricter measures?
3. Why did the First Continental Congress meet?
4. What was the significance of the battles at Lexington and Concord?

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

Samuel Adams
Stamp Act
writs of assistance
Boston Massacre
Committees of Correspondence
Intolerable Acts
First Continental Congress
minutemen

TAKING NOTES

As you read, take notes on the events and laws that led up to the battles at Lexington and Concord. Record your notes in a graphic organizer like the one shown here.

Events	Laws

The Boston TEA PARTY

THE INSIDE STORY

How did tea start a rebellion in Boston?

In 1773 Parliament passed the Tea Act, which was designed to help a struggling British company and reduce smuggling. Because of colonial boycotts, the British East India Company had millions of pounds of unsold tea. Colonists instead were drinking smuggled Dutch tea or making "liberty tea" from dried raspberry or currant leaves.

Under the new law the East India Company was allowed to sell tea directly to the colonists. This meant East India Company tea was actually cheaper than smuggled tea. Still, the colonists resisted. In November 1773 three ships arrived in Boston Harbor. Bostonians allowed the ships to dock but not unload.

On the night of December 16, 1773, a large and angry crowd gathered in downtown Boston. They demanded that the tea ships be sent back to London. Then another group of people arrived, disguised as Indians. In fact, they were Samuel Adams and about 70 others. Protected by the crowd, they boarded the ships. They broke open the chests of tea and dumped them into the harbor. Hundreds of Bostonians watched from the shore, enjoying the Boston Tea Party. The loss of the valuable cargo infuriated British officials and brought more repressive laws. ■

◀ **Colonists in crude disguises destroy tea at Boston Harbor.**



Britain Passes New Laws

By the time the Boston Tea Party took place, tensions had been rising between Great Britain and its colonies for some time. As you read in the previous chapter, colonists had rebelled against arrogant royal officials such as Edmund Andros. They had also disobeyed laws they did not like, such as the Navigation Acts.

Then the French and Indian War created even more tension between Britain and the colonies. Colonists had fought beside British soldiers, who treated them poorly and refused to learn how to fight in the American wilderness. Families also resented being forced to house British soldiers.

After the war, Parliament tried to deny the colonists access to western lands with the Proclamation of 1763. But colonists thought they had a right to those lands because they had helped defeat the French. Resentment of this and other British laws would increase over the next decade, eventually leading the American colonies to revolution.

Grenville and the Sugar Act The French and Indian War left Britain with a huge debt and with an army of 10,000 in the colonies. The British government said the troops were there to protect the colonies from lingering threats after the war. But many colonists felt the British troops were in fact there to intimidate them. Colonists also felt that they did not need British protection because they had been defending themselves for over 150 years.

The issue of British soldiers became even more of a problem for the colonists when Prime Minister George Grenville decided that the colonists should pay for the troops themselves. Grenville's plan was to tax the colonies to raise money. The first law Parliament passed to accomplish this was the Sugar Act, which put a tax on sugar and molasses imported from the French and Spanish West Indies. Northern merchants especially disliked the Sugar Act. They feared that the new tax would hurt the rum industry because the molasses used to make rum would be more expensive.

Other colonists raised a different issue. In the Boston town meeting, **Samuel Adams** said that making colonists pay taxes without a representative in Parliament changed them from being “free Subjects to the miserable state of

BOYCOTTING BRITISH GOODS



**Skills
FOCUS**

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

To protest unpopular British laws, some colonial women boycotted, or refused to buy, British goods. The British illustration shown here criticized women's boycotts.

Identifying Point of View How are the women depicted here?

tributary Slaves.” The cry of “no taxation without representation” became a major issue in the years before the Revolutionary War.

The Stamp Act brings protests Looking for another way to raise money, Grenville next proposed a stamp tax. Passed early in 1765, the **Stamp Act** required a government tax stamp on all legal documents, such as contracts and licenses. Newspapers, almanacs, and even printed sermons and playing cards had to have the official stamps.

The Stamp Act proved to be a very bad idea. It was the first time Parliament had taxed Americans directly, and colonists protested the law openly. In part this was because the people the Stamp Act affected most—lawyers, merchants, printers, ministers, innkeepers—were the same people who led public opinion. In many places mobs forced stamp agents to resign. In Philadelphia colonists even conducted a mock hanging of a dummy representing a stamp agent.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

imported bought from another country

In Virginia, a young lawyer named Patrick Henry made a fiery speech to the House of Burgesses. Henry proposed that Virginians should pay only the taxes voted by their own assembly. Then the Massachusetts assembly organized the Stamp Act Congress to protest the Stamp Act. In October 1765, delegates from nine colonies met in New York to send a petition to the king and Parliament. The petition stated that Parliament did not have the right to tax the colonies without representation.

In response to the new laws, a group called the Sons of Liberty organized protests. At first this group had been made up of unskilled workers, artisans, and small farmers. Now the group included prominent citizens such as merchants and lawyers. One protest tactic was to boycott, or refuse to buy, British goods. This had started with the Sugar Act. Women joined the protests as Daughters of Liberty. They stopped buying British goods and wore clothes of homespun cloth. They also put pressure on merchants who did not join the boycott.

As merchants in Great Britain saw sales drop because of boycotts, they asked Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act. Parliament did eventually repeal the act, but still insisted it had the right to tax the colonies.

Another unpopular law passed in 1765 was the Quartering Act, which said that colonists must find quarters, or living space, for the British soldiers stationed in America. The colonists saw the Quartering Act as another attack on their rights.

Townshend Acts Many powerful people in Britain thought that Parliament was giving in to the colonists too often. So in 1767 a new government minister, Charles Townshend, came up with a new way to tax the colonies. He proposed a tax on lead, paint, paper, glass, and tea that were imported from Britain. The money raised would pay the costs of the army in America and the salaries of colonial officials. But the Townshend Acts angered the colonists. To them, it was another case of taxation without representation.

The Townshend Acts also brought back **writs of assistance**, which Parliament had used unsuccessfully in the colonies in the 1600s. A writ gave customs officers the right to search colonial homes for smuggled goods—without a search warrant. This violated the right to privacy in one's house, a cherished right in Britain. In a protest against writs, James Otis wrote:

HISTORY'S VOICES

“A man's house is his castle; and while he is quiet, he is as well guarded as a prince in his castle. This writ, if it should be declared legal, would totally annihilate [destroy] this privilege. Custom-house officers may enter our houses when they please; we are commanded to permit their entry. Their menial servants may enter—may break locks, bars, everything in their way . . .”

—James Otis, speech before Superior Court of Massachusetts, 1761

READING CHECK

Making Inferences Why did colonists object to writs of assistance?

Tensions between Britain and America, 1765–1775

STAMP ACT, 1765

British Action Great Britain passed a law requiring colonists to pay tax—in the form of stamps—on certain documents.

Colonists' Reaction Refusing to use the stamps, colonists burned them and started riots. In 1765 the colonists formed a Stamp Act Congress asking Parliament to repeal the law.

TOWNSHEND ACTS, 1767

British Action Britain passed a series of four laws declaring its authority over the colonies. The Townshend Acts suspended one colonial representative assembly and also set up strict measures for collecting taxes in the colonies.

Colonists' Reaction The colonists resented the threat to their self-government and protested what they considered “taxation without representation.”

BOSTON MASSACRE, 1770

British Action British troops quartered in Boston opened fire after being harassed by an angry mob of colonists. Five colonists died.

Colonists' Reaction Boston colonists, including Samuel Adams, demanded the removal of British troops from Boston.

The Colonists Respond

Customs officials strictly enforced the new laws. But Boston merchants were used to avoiding customs duties. Now they joined with merchants in Philadelphia and New York in nonimportation agreements. Some southern merchants and planters joined them.

The plan worked. Most of the Townshend Acts were repealed in March 1770. Parliament kept the tax on tea, however, to show that it still had the right to tax the colonies. But by then the colonists' anger was growing. The first serious confrontation happened in Boston on the same day that the Townshend Acts were repealed, though that news had not yet reached America.

The Boston Massacre Seeing the British soldiers on their streets angered the people of Boston. The troops were a reminder of British control and arrogance. Laborers especially disliked them, since the poorly paid soldiers took part-time jobs when they were off duty. Street fights were common.

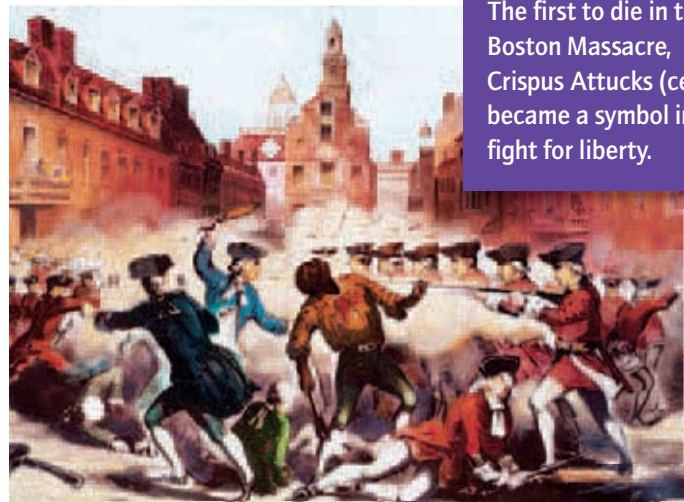
On March 5, 1770, a crowd of colonists began to throw snowballs at the sentry guarding the customs house. A British officer brought soldiers to help, but the scuffle went on. Workers taunted the British soldiers—known as Redcoats for their red uniforms—calling them “lobster scoundrels.”

Accounts disagree about what happened next. Someone shouted “Fire!” and the British

soldiers fired into the crowd. Five people died, including an African American sailor named Crispus Attucks, who may have led the crowd.

Colonial leaders called the event the **Boston Massacre**. They played it up as a deliberate attack on innocent civilians. The soldiers were put on trial for murder. To make sure that the law was followed, attorney John Adams (a cousin of Samuel) agreed to represent the soldiers in this unpopular case. All the soldiers were freed except for two who were given a light punishment. To avoid more violence, the troops moved out of Boston.

Samuel Adams and his fellow radicals made sure that no one would forget the Boston Massacre. A few years later, Adams introduced the idea of **Committees of Correspondence** to spread the news of British injustices from colony to colony. By communicating with each other, the committees became the basis of a political network to unify the colonies.



The first to die in the Boston Massacre, Crispus Attucks (center) became a symbol in the fight for liberty.



TEA ACT, 1773

British Action Great Britain restructured the tax on tea to give a special advantage to the British East India Company. Under the Tea Act, colonial tea merchants would lose business.

Colonists' Reaction In what became known as the Boston Tea Party, colonists dumped shiploads of British tea into Boston Harbor.

INTOLERABLE ACTS, 1774

British Action In response to colonial protests, Britain passed a series of laws designed to punish the colonies, especially Massachusetts. The laws essentially took away the power of self-government in Massachusetts.

Colonists' Reaction The First Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia and sent a list of grievances to Great Britain.

BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD, 1775

British Action 700 British troops advance toward Concord to seize the colonists' military supplies.

Colonists' Reaction In Lexington, about 70 minutemen fight the British, and in Concord hundreds of colonists force the British troops to withdraw. It is the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

The Tea Act and the Intolerable Acts

Another new prime minister, Lord North, took office in 1770. At first he tried policies to keep the colonies quiet. Then at his request, Parliament passed the Tea Act. As you have read, the Tea Act led to the Boston Tea Party.

The Tea Act also led to one of the earliest organized political efforts by American women. In 1774 a group of women gathered in Edenton, North Carolina, and agreed to boycott tea. A British political cartoon satirized the women because, at the time, politics was not considered a proper activity for women.

Angry officials in London wanted the colonists to pay for the Boston Tea Party. Some British politicians, such as William Pitt and Edmund Burke, warned that stricter laws would unite the colonists. But Lord North insisted. In 1774 Parliament passed a series of laws, the Coercive Acts, to punish the rebellious colonists. In the colonies, these laws were called the **Intolerable Acts**.

The first of the Intolerable Acts closed the port of Boston. Another gave the royal governor much more control over Massachusetts. He could hire and fire local officials, and limit town meetings. Still another act imposed more rules for quartering soldiers.

The Quebec Act An additional annoyance for the colonists was a law known as the Quebec Act. Britain had won French territory in Canada after the French and Indian War. Incorporating that territory into British North America proved difficult, however. Settlers in Canada were used to French law. In addition, the scattered French settlements were difficult to protect from Native Americans.

Parliament attempted to solve these problems with the Quebec Act. This act expanded the province of Quebec southward to the Ohio River and west to the Mississippi, including the scattered French settlements there. The Roman Catholic Church would be legal, and French Catholics were guaranteed their rights.

American colonists were alarmed. They assumed that the Quebec Act would limit their chances to settle on the western frontier. They also felt the act threatened their security against the French.

READING CHECK **Summarizing** How did colonists respond to increasingly strict laws from Britain?

The First Continental Congress

As some British political leaders had predicted, the Intolerable Acts brought more unity among the colonies. Other colonies sent food and money to support the people of Massachusetts. Colonists also organized boycotts.

In September 1774 delegates met in Philadelphia at the **First Continental Congress**. In attendance were Patrick Henry, George Washington, John and Samuel Adams, and John Jay. They agreed that each colony would have one vote, despite differences in size.

John Adams, who kept careful notes at the Congress, reported a speech by Patrick Henry:

HISTORY'S VOICES

“The distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders are no more. I am not a Virginian but an American.”

—Patrick Henry, quoted in *The Works of John Adams*

In many ways, the First Continental Congress did bring the colonists together as Americans. All the delegates agreed that Parliament was exerting too much control. Still, their views varied from moderate to radical. One delegate suggested a plan for union under British authority, much like the Albany Plan of Union. The delegates, however, rejected that proposal by a very close vote.

The Congress then issued a Declaration of Rights protesting Great Britain's actions. This document reflected the delegates' mixed views toward Britain. In the document, the Congress accepted Parliament's right to regulate trade. But the Declaration of Rights also called for the removal of British troops and the repeal of taxes and the Intolerable Acts.

Boycotts had worked before, so the Congress used those tactics again. They agreed not to import or use British goods and to stop most exports to Britain. The Continental Congress also formed a force of **minutemen**, colonial soldiers who would be ready to resist a British attack with short notice.

After taking these actions, the Continental Congress agreed to meet again in the spring. At that time they would decide if further action was necessary.

READING CHECK **Making Inferences** Why did colonists accept British regulations on trade but not taxes?

The Battles of Lexington and Concord

Before the Continental Congress could meet again, however, war began. Minutemen in Massachusetts had been drilling on their village commons and stockpiling gunpowder and weapons. The British commander in Boston, General Thomas Gage, was waiting for reinforcements. He knew that colonial militias all across the Massachusetts countryside were preparing for a conflict.

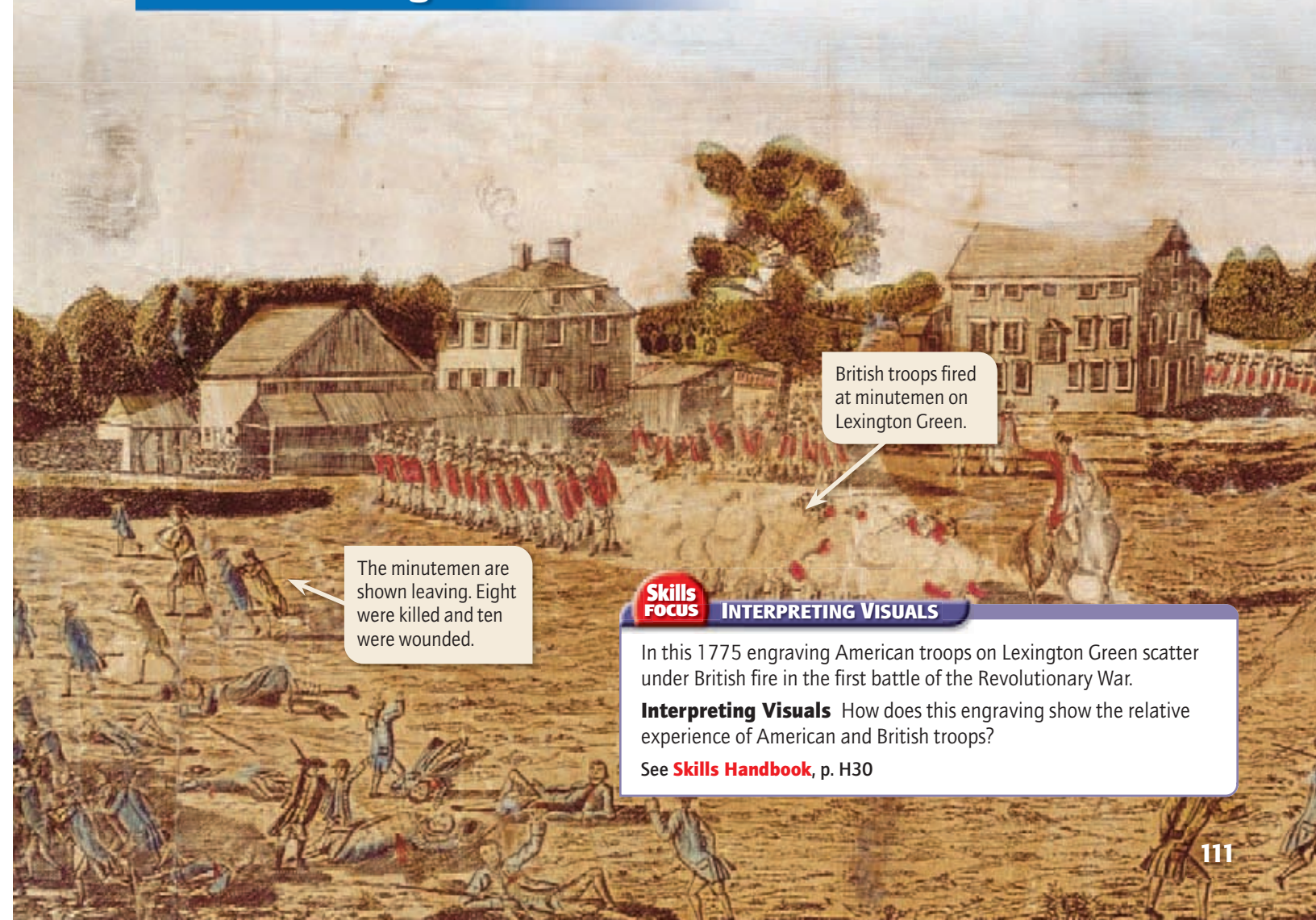
Gage was also becoming more hostile to the unruly American colonists. He wrote to a British official that “conciliating, moderation, reasoning is over. Nothing can be done but by forceable means.” In preparation Gage sent several of his officers to survey the local

countryside. He also organized small groups of British soldiers to take short marches in the hopes that the colonists would see his well-trained troops and be intimidated by them.

Then in April 1775, new orders came from Great Britain. King George III wanted to take action against the colonists. The king ordered General Gage to arrest colonial leaders, particularly Samuel Adams and John Hancock. Gage also began to prepare the British troops to capture the colonists’ gunpowder. The gunpowder was stockpiled in Concord, a town several miles west of Boston.

To accomplish this Gage planned a surprise attack for the night of April 18, 1775. At 10 o’clock that night, about 700 British troops crossed the Charles River in small boats and set out by road for Concord.

Battle of Lexington



British troops fired at minutemen on Lexington Green.

The minutemen are shown leaving. Eight were killed and ten were wounded.

**Skills
FOCUS**

INTERPRETING VISUALS

In this 1775 engraving American troops on Lexington Green scatter under British fire in the first battle of the Revolutionary War.

Interpreting Visuals How does this engraving show the relative experience of American and British troops?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H30

THE IMPACT TODAY

Daily Life

Each year, the Boston Marathon takes place on Patriot's Day, a day in April that commemorates Paul Revere's 1775 ride.

Spreading the alarm Colonial leaders had watched Gage's preparations, so they knew something was about to happen. A secret system of alarm riders was already in place to warn the minutemen of any unusual activity among the troops in Boston. The alarm riders were a group of about 30 men who were ready to ride their horses across the countryside to warn their fellow colonists about any action taken by the British troops.

The most famous of these riders was Paul Revere, a Boston silversmith and engraver who belonged to the Sons of Liberty. On the night of April 18, he and William Dawes learned about the British movements. They set off toward Lexington to warn Adams and Hancock.

Revere crossed the river to Charlestown, got a horse from friends, and started for Lexington. On the way, he escaped from two British guards who chased him. Revere later told how in Medford he "awaked the captain of the minute men and after that, I alarmed almost every house, till I got to Lexington."

Dawes set off from Boston. At about midnight, he met Revere in Lexington at the house

where Adams and Hancock were staying. They warned the two leaders, then set off for Concord. A young doctor, Samuel Prescott, another of the Sons of Liberty, caught up with them on the road. As Dawes and Prescott went to warn people in a nearby house, Revere rode on. British officers surrounded him and tried to arrest them all. Prescott and his horse jumped a low stone wall and escaped to warn the minutemen at Concord. Dawes also escaped.

The British captured Revere and continued along the route toward Lexington. But soon they heard the guns of the colonial militia. They took Revere's horse and let him go. He escaped back to the house where Adams and Hancock were staying.

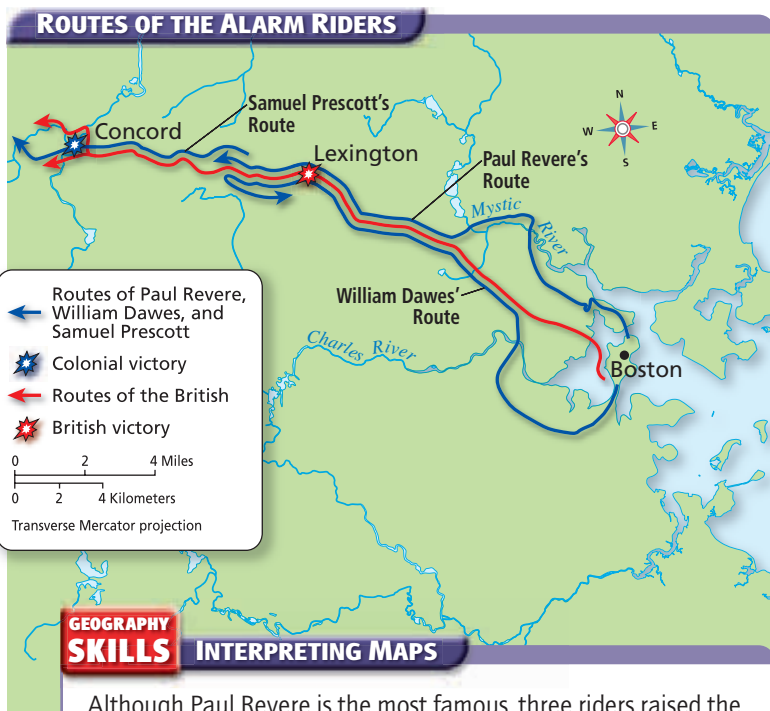
Lexington and Concord The alarm riders had awakened the countryside. Alarm bells everywhere began to ring. Besides, 700 armed British soldiers could not move along a quiet country road without being heard. By the time the British reached Lexington, the militia had been waiting a long time. In fact, some colonists had already left. Still, about 70 minutemen remained waiting for the British soldiers on the Lexington town green.

When the British troops arrived, the minutemen realized they were badly outnumbered. Their captain ordered them to leave. But then, according to colonial accounts, British soldiers charged toward them. According to one account, Major Pitcairn, leading the British troops, shouted at the minutemen, "Ye villains, ye rebels, disperse!" Then from somewhere on the Lexington town green, a shot rang out.

More shots followed, and the militia fled. Eight Americans were killed, and others were wounded. The first shots of the Revolutionary War had been fired—although to this day no one is sure whether it was the colonists or the British who fired first.

The British next moved on to Concord. There the scene was very different. Hundreds of minutemen had assembled at Concord. Most of their store of gunpowder had already been used or hidden in the woods. The militia backed away from the narrow bridge as the British advanced toward them. The two sides exchanged gunfire.

Finally, the British turned and retreated toward Boston. All along the way, angry militia



Although Paul Revere is the most famous, three riders raised the alarm that the British soldiers were coming.

Movement Which rider told the minutemen at Concord that the British soldiers were approaching?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H19

PRIMARY SOURCES

The Battle of Lexington

The colonists and the British troops saw the Battle of Lexington very differently. British officer John Pitcairn gave General Gage this account of the battle.

“I gave directions to the troops to move forward, but on no account to fire, or even attempt it without orders; when I arrived at the end of the Village, I observed drawn up upon a Green near 200 rebels; when I came within about 100 yards of them, they began to file off towards some stone walls on our right flank. The Light Infantry, observing this, ran after them. I instantly called to the soldiers not to fire, but surround and disarm them, and . . . some of the rebels who had jumped over the wall fired four or five shots at the soldiers . . . and at the same time several shots were fired from a meeting house on our left. Upon this . . . the Light Infantry began a scattered fire, and continued in that situation for some little time, contrary to the repeated orders both of me and the officers that were present.”



READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

- Analyzing Primary Sources** Why do you think Pitcairn is emphasizing that the British soldiers did not fire first?
- Identifying Points of View** How does this source compare to other points of view you read about in this section?

See **Skills Handbook**, pp. H28–H29

hid behind barns, stone walls, and fences, firing at the British soldiers as they passed. At the end of the day, the number of British casualties was far greater than the number of colonial casualties.

The shot heard 'round the world Many years later, on July 4, 1837, Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote a poem for the dedication of

the Battle Monument at Concord. Emerson's grandfather had fought at the Battle of Concord. In the poem, Emerson wrote an unforgettable phrase to describe the importance of the battle: “Here once the embattled farmers stood/ And fired the shot heard 'round the world.”

READING CHECK Sequencing Trace, in order, what happened on April 18 and April 19, 1775.

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

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Online Quiz

Keyword: SD7 HP4

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- Identify** How did the Sons and Daughters of Liberty respond to new British laws?
 - Analyze** In what ways did the French and Indian War increase tensions between the British and the colonists?
 - Evaluate** Why did the **Stamp Act** anger colonists more than other taxes?
- Describe** What happened at the Boston Tea Party? Why did it happen?
 - Make Inferences** Why did colonists pay more for smuggled Dutch tea?
 - Evaluate** Were the colonists justified in dumping the British tea into Boston Harbor?
- Identify** Who were the major colonial leaders at the First Continental Congress?
 - Summarize** What actions did the First Continental Congress take?
 - Predict** Was the meeting of the Congress a final step toward independence? Why or why not?

- Recall** What did alarm riders do?
 - Summarize** Describe what happened at the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
 - Evaluate** Why did Emerson refer to the Battle of Concord as “the shot heard 'round the world”?

Critical Thinking

- Sequencing** Copy the chart below and make a time line of the events and laws leading up to the battles at Lexington and Concord.

Lexington and
Concord

FOCUS ON SPEAKING



- Persuasive** As a delegate to the First Continental Congress meeting *before* the Battles of Lexington and Concord, make a speech explaining what course you think the colonies should take next.

Declaring Independence

BEFORE YOU READ

MAIN IDEA

As a revolutionary ideology grew and conflicts with Britain continued, the Second Continental Congress declared American independence.

READING FOCUS

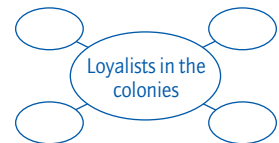
1. What actions did the Second Continental Congress take?
2. How did violence in Boston push the colonies closer to revolution?
3. What revolutionary ideology lay behind the writing of the Declaration of Independence?
4. How did colonists' reactions to the Declaration of Independence differ?

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

Second Continental Congress
Thomas Jefferson
Continental Army
John Adams
Battle of Bunker Hill
Loyalist
Thomas Paine
Common Sense
Virginia Declaration of Rights
Abigail Adams

TAKING NOTES

As you read, take notes on the reasons that some colonists remained Loyalists. Use a graphic organizer like the one below to organize your notes. You may need to add more circles.



"Give Me LIBERTY"



THE INSIDE STORY

Were Americans ready for the Revolution?

Patrick Henry was known as a fiery speaker and a radical leader. His brilliant arguments in the courtroom made him a successful lawyer. As early as 1765, speaking against the Stamp Act, Henry criticized the king and Parliament and defended the colonies' right to self-government.

Ten years later in early 1775, Massachusetts minutemen were organizing a self-defense force. Grandfathers and teenagers were drilling with muskets on the village commons. On March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry once again stirred up his audience in the Virginia Convention of Delegates:

"Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Henry's rousing speech inspired Virginians to raise a militia. Only a few weeks after his speech, as you have read, fighting began at Lexington and Concord. ■

◀ Patrick Henry's words fanned the flames of revolution.

The Second Continental Congress Takes Action

In May 1775, a few weeks after Lexington and Concord, the **Second Continental Congress** met in Philadelphia as planned. New members included Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, and **Thomas Jefferson**. When the group convened, delegates' attitudes toward Britain was mixed. Many still felt loyalty toward King George III, blaming his ministers and Parliament for bad policies. All delegates rejected Parliament's authority to tax the colonies, but only a few actually wanted independence. During the next months they made several crucial decisions.

Creating a Continental Army War had already begun, and New Englanders and British troops were fighting around Boston. The Congress agreed to support the war, even though its members did not agree on the final goal. The Congress made the New England forces the core of a **Continental Army**.

Then in June 1775 the Congress chose George Washington to lead the new army. **John Adams** of Massachusetts suggested Washington for the position, pointing out his "skill and experience as an officer" in the French and Indian War. Adams also noted Washington's "independent fortune, great talents, and excellent universal character."

War or peace? In July the Congress issued two very different documents. The differing positions in these documents reflected the colonists' divided feelings. The first, called *A Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms*, explained why Americans were at war. It accused Parliament of having "an inordinate passion for power." It also charged General Gage with "cruel aggression." Finally, the document concluded:

HISTORY'S VOICES

“We have not raised armies with ambitious designs of separating from Great Britain and establishing independent states. . . . In our own native land, in defence of the freedom that is our birth-right . . . for the protection of our property, acquired solely by the honest industry of our forefathers and ourselves, against violence actually offered, we have taken up arms.”

—*A Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms*, July 6, 1775

THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, 1775

QUICK
FACTS

- Formed the Continental Army; appointed George Washington commander in chief
- Issued a Continental (national) currency
- Wrote *A Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms*
- Proposed reconciliation with King George III in the Olive Branch Petition

A few days later, the Congress sent King George III what became known as the Olive Branch Petition. Its authors called themselves the king's "faithful subjects in the Colonies." They begged him to use his "royal authority and influence" to reach a "happy and permanent reconciliation."

Despite the petition, the king declared the colonies to be in rebellion. In response, Parliament passed a harsh law banning colonial trade outside the British Empire.

READING CHECK Contrasting How did the actions of the Second Continental Congress reflect the delegates' differences of opinion?

More Violence in Boston

Even while the Continental Congress was meeting, fighting continued in several parts of the colonies. The British at first treated these encounters as local rebellions. Then colonial forces expanded the war.

On May 10, 1775, as the Continental Congress was just beginning, the Green Mountain Boys captured the British fort at Ticonderoga in New York. The Green Mountain Boys were a local Vermont militia organized by Ethan Allen. Other members of this militia captured the fort at Crown Point a few days later. Both forts were on the strategic Lake Champlain–Lake George route to Canada.

The siege of Boston After the battles at Lexington and Concord, British troops withdrew back into Boston. Several thousand British troops occupied the town. The Americans quickly put together a larger army, bringing



Attack on Bunker's Hill, with the Burning of Charlestown

British troops crossed the Charles River from Boston to Charlestown to meet the colonists on Breed's Hill. After finally capturing the hill, the British set fire to Charlestown. **Why did the British nevertheless feel discouraged—and the colonists encouraged—by the outcome of this battle?**

together some 15,000 militia from all over New England. The standoff at Boston led to the first major battle of the Revolutionary War, the **Battle of Bunker Hill**.

Boston could be attacked from several hills overlooking the city. Dorchester Heights was to the south. Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill were across the river in Charlestown. General Gage was planning to occupy the hills as soon as reinforcements arrived.

But a colonial force led by Colonel William Prescott moved quickly to fortify the hills. While under attack from British cannons across the river and warships in the harbor, they hastily built a fort on Breed's Hill.

On June 17, 1775, British troops led by General William Howe tried to dislodge the colonists from the hilltop. Some 2,500 troops stormed the hill twice as the colonists fired from behind barricades. The colonists were short of ammunition and so waited until the enemy was a few yards away, then fired with deadly aim. One commander shouted the now-famous phrase, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes!"

On the third British attempt, the colonists ran out of gunpowder. They were forced to retreat to nearby Bunker Hill (which gave the

battle its name). About 1,000 British soldiers and about 400 American colonists were killed or wounded.

Although the British won, the brave defense at the Battle of Bunker Hill encouraged the colonists' resistance. The battle gave them confidence in their ability to fight the better-trained and better-equipped British army.

Washington takes command Two weeks after the Battle of Bunker Hill, George Washington took command of the Continental Army in Boston. The army was seriously short of heavy weapons and gunpowder, so Washington sent Henry Knox to Fort Ticonderoga to bring back captured British weapons. Knox was a former Boston bookseller who was now in charge of artillery for the Continental Army. Using troops, horses, and oxen, Knox moved more than 50 cannons and mortars across 300 snowy miles to Boston.

As a result, by March 1776, Washington had enough guns and ammunition to recapture Boston. His troops captured and fortified Dorchester Heights. From there he forced the British to evacuate the city and the harbor. From Boston, the British sailed for Halifax, Nova Scotia, along with about 1,100 **Loyalists**,

colonists whose sympathies were with the king and Britain. This first test proved Washington's ability as a general.

Other battles There were clashes in other colonies, too. In the winter of 1775–1776 Benedict Arnold led a small Continental force through the snowy wilderness in an unsuccessful attack on the city of Quebec.

In the southern colonies, colonial victories discouraged a British invasion there. In February 1776, Scottish Loyalists waving broadswords attacked a colonial force at Moores Creek, North Carolina. But well-armed colonists were waiting. Their victory ended British control in North Carolina. In June, British ships launched an attack on a fort at Sullivan's Island near Charleston, South Carolina, but the fort's commander held them off.

READING CHECK **Making Inferences** Why was the Continental Army short of gunpowder and weapons?

The Declaration of Independence

The events of 1775 pushed more American colonists toward supporting independence. They were angry at the king's reaction to the Olive Branch Petition. They also learned that the British were recruiting Native Americans and African Americans to fight against them. In addition, they heard that the king was hiring mercenary soldiers from the German state of Hesse.

By the spring of 1776, some colonists were still doubtful, but their leaders were becoming certain of their cause. When the Continental Congress met again, it opened seaports to foreign trade except with Britain.

Revolutionary ideology The colonists still thought of themselves as British. Even though they lived an ocean away, they believed they were entitled to all the rights that British citizens had claimed over the years. Those rights, such as trial by jury, went as far back as the Magna Carta. But many of Parliament's recent laws seemed to differentiate between the rights of citizens in Britain and those in America. That was why colonists refused to pay taxes imposed by a Parliament where they had no representative.

Colonial leaders knew the philosophy of Enlightenment thinkers such as John Locke. The idea of natural rights was part of their revolutionary ideology. Under Locke's theory of the social contract, the present British government was failing to protect the rights and liberties of its citizens in America. That would justify a rebellion against it.

A matter of Common Sense One powerful voice speaking out for independence was a British journalist who had been in America for only two years. **Thomas Paine** came to America on the advice of Ben Franklin, whom he met in London. Early in 1776 Paine published a pamphlet called *Common Sense*. In it he condemned

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

differentiate
make a distinction between
philosophy
set of ideas

PRIMARY SOURCES

Common Sense

In January 1776 many colonists were divided about their relationship with Great Britain. Then Thomas Paine published *Common Sense*, a pamphlet that stated in easy-to-understand terms why the colonies should break free from Britain. This widely read document strengthened support for the American Revolution.

"Any submission to, or dependence on, Great Britain, tends directly to involve this continent in European wars and quarrels, and set us at variance [odds] with nations who would otherwise seek our friendship, and against whom we have neither anger nor complaint. As Europe is our market for trade, we ought to form no partial connection with any part of it. 'Tis the true interest of America to steer clear of European contentions, which she can never do while by her dependence on Britain she is made the weight in the scale of British politics."

Paine used direct language to make his arguments for independence from Great Britain.

Skills FOCUS

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

- Analyzing Primary Sources** According to Paine, what is a major problem with remaining under British rule?
- Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think Paine named his pamphlet *Common Sense*?

See **Skills Handbook**, pp. H12, H28–H29

KEY DOCUMENTS THAT INFLUENCED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



Magna Carta (1215)	Guaranteed civil and political freedoms to feudal lords. These freedoms later became fundamental for all English citizens.
Mayflower Compact (1620)	Established the first colonial government in the colonies.
English Bill of Rights (1689)	Placed limits on the English king's power and more power in the hands of a representative government.
John Locke's <i>Two Treatises of Government</i> (1690)	Declared rights of life and property to be part of "natural law." Justified the overthrow of government if these rights were denied.
Thomas Paine's <i>Common Sense</i> (1776)	Argued that American colonists should not only rebel against unfair taxation but also declare independence from Britain.

monarchy and particularly the rule of George III. Paine called for an American declaration of independence, not just a protest against taxes.

Thomas Paine was a brilliant political writer, and his words stirred many colonists. Within a few months, the 50-page pamphlet sold more than 100,000 copies. It was one of the first American bestsellers.

Virginia calls for independence In May 1776 the Virginia Convention of Delegates issued a declaration of citizens' rights called the **Virginia Declaration of Rights**. This was the first official call for American independence. It would influence not only the Declaration of Independence but also the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution and many state constitutions.

Drawing on Locke's idea of natural rights, the Virginia declaration stated:

HISTORY'S VOICES

“That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, . . . namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.”

—Virginia Declaration of Rights

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia then presented three resolutions to the Continental Congress. The first stated that the colonies should be independent. The second resolution stated that Americans needed to form foreign alliances for support. Finally, the third resolution recommended that the colonies form a plan for unification.

Writing the Declaration Congress discussed the Virginia proposals, and no one seriously objected. That showed how far their thinking had moved toward independence. Moderates such as John Dickinson did urge people to wait to be certain of foreign help.

Finally, the delegates named a committee to write a draft of a declaration of independence. Its members were John Adams, Robert Livingston, Roger Sherman, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. Jefferson was chosen to write the draft.

Jefferson was young, but Adams wrote that he came to Congress with “a reputation for literature, science, and a happy talent of composition.” In fact, Adams told him, “You can write ten times better than I can.” In addition, Jefferson was a Virginian, which was an advantage to him politically.

Adams and Franklin did make some changes in Jefferson's draft, however. Then the Congress as a whole made some more. They toned down some of his language about the king. Because of pressure from some southern colonies, they also cut out an entire section attacking the slave trade. The colonial economy depended on the slave trade, so including it in the Declaration of Independence would have opened up the signers to charges of hypocrisy. Jefferson later noted that the Declaration did not present new ideas but simply stated “an expression of the American mind.”

On July 2, 1776, the final document was presented to the Congress, which voted to declare independence. Two days later, on July 4, they approved the entire document. Copies were sent out and read in public. Crowds in Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and other cities cheered and rang church bells. Now, in British eyes, the colonists were all rebels.

READING CHECK Identifying Cause and Effect How did Enlightenment thinking influence the Declaration of Independence?

THE IMPACT TODAY

Daily Life

The Continental Congress voted to declare independence on July 2. However, because the Declaration was not approved until July 4, today we celebrate Independence Day on July 4.

Reactions to Independence

Not everyone was convinced of the need for American independence, however. Until the last minute, many colonists hoped for a compromise that would let the colonies remain part of Great Britain.

In addition, colonists living on the western frontier had not previously been part of political quarrels. They feared that a fight for independence would expose them to Indian attack, since any fighting against the British would draw men away from the defense of the frontier. Therefore, many frontier settlers did not support American independence.

Even after the Declaration, some colonists remained loyal to Britain. During the war, Britain would enlist the help of Loyalists to fight against the Patriots, those who supported independence. The Declaration of Independence forced the colonists to take sides. Would they be Patriots fighting for independence? Or would they be Loyalists?

The Loyalists Probably about a quarter of the colonists remained loyal to Great Britain and the king for the course of the Revolutionary War. Patriots called these Loyalists Tories, which was the name of the more conservative political party in Great Britain.

Loyalist feelings varied from region to region and from family to family. Most New Englanders and Virginians were strongly on the Patriot side. Feelings were mixed in the middle colonies and especially in New York. Loyalists were strong in southern colonies such as Georgia and South Carolina.

Close ties to Great Britain mattered, too. Loyalist sympathies were strong among people who had been government officials or belonged to the Anglican Church. Landowners, merchants, doctors and lawyers could be found on both sides. Most debtors, small farmers, and shopkeepers were Patriots.

In many places it was dangerous to be a Loyalist—at least publicly. Local Patriots sometimes harassed Loyalists, attacking their farms and

COUNTERPOINTS

Loyalist and Patriot

Benjamin Franklin's son, William Franklin, was a Loyalist who took his responsibilities as royal governor of New Jersey seriously.

“I think that all laws until they are repealed ought to be obeyed and that it is the duty of those who are entrusted with the executive part of government to see that they are so.”

William Franklin,
1771

Benjamin Franklin was a Patriot who believed that the British Parliament should not make laws in the colonies. He expressed his views in a letter to his son.

“I am indeed of opinion, that the parliament has no right to make any law whatever, binding on the colonies . . . I know your sentiments differ from mine on these subjects. You are a thorough government man, which I do not wonder at, nor do I aim at converting you. I only wish you to act uprightly and steadily.”

Benjamin Franklin,
1773

**Skills
FOCUS**

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

Identifying Points of View How did Benjamin Franklin and William Franklin differ in their views of the British government?

See **Skills Handbook**, pp. H28–H29



FACES OF HISTORY

Abigail ADAMS

1744–1818



Intelligent and outspoken, Abigail Adams is best known for the eloquent letters she wrote to John Adams while he was away attending to his duties.

Abigail's letters show an active interest in politics. In 1775 she encouraged her husband to support the growing independence movement. Abigail also urged him to support the education of women and the abolition of slavery. In one of her most famous letters, she reminded John to "remember the ladies" when planning the new nation's government.

Interpret What do Abigail Adams's letters tell us about her political beliefs?

property, or even driving them out of town. Families were sometimes bitterly divided. Some states passed laws taking away Loyalists' property.

During the war, several regiments of Loyalists fought with the British. Others left the country for Canada, Great Britain, or British-held islands in the Caribbean. Some simply lived quietly and avoided politics. After the American Revolution ended, perhaps 100,000 more Loyalists left the United States, mainly to settle in Canada.

A cheer for the Patriots When the news of the Declaration of Independence reached Boston in July 1776, **Abigail Adams**, the wife of John Adams, had no doubts about how she felt. In one of her famous letters to John, who was then a delegate serving in the Continental Congress, Abigail described hearing the Declaration of Independence read from the State House in Boston.

HISTORY'S VOICES

“Great attention was given to every word. As soon as he ended, the cry from the balcony was ‘God save our American States,’ and then three cheers which rent the air. The bells rang . . . the cannons were discharged, the platoons followed, and every face appeared joyful . . . After dinner the King’s Arms were taken down from the State House, and every vestige of him from every place in which it appeared, and burnt in King Street. Thus ends royal authority in this State. And all the people shall say Amen.”

—Abigail Adams, letter, 1776

Abigail Adams continued to write letters to her husband throughout the Revolutionary War and later during the early years of the new American republic.

READING CHECK

Making Inferences Why did Loyalists leave the colonies?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

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Online Quiz

Keyword: SD7 HP4

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Describe** What were the delegates' points of view when the **Second Continental Congress** began?

b. Evaluate Should King George III have rejected the Olive Branch Petition?
- a. Identify** Who were the Green Mountain Boys?

b. Explain Explain the events at the **Battle of Bunker Hill**, focusing on why the battle was a British victory.

c. Predict How did the Battle of Bunker Hill encourage the American cause?
- a. Recall** What British actions in 1775 pushed the colonists toward independence?

b. Analyze What was the effect of Paine's *Common Sense* on colonial thinking?

c. Elaborate How did ideas from the Enlightenment become part of revolutionary ideology?
- a. Describe** What was the position of **Loyalists** after the Declaration of Independence?

b. Make Inferences Why would a farmer or shopkeeper tend to be a Patriot?

c. Evaluate What were the strengths of the Declaration of Independence? What were some weaknesses?

Critical Thinking

- Contrasting** Copy the chart below and fill in reasons why someone would choose the Loyalist or Patriot side.

Loyalist	Patriot

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Persuasive** As a colonist writing to your family in Great Britain about the events of July 1776, explain why you have chosen to be a Patriot or a Loyalist.

The Declaration of Independence

In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which **impel** them to the separation.

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. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and **usurpations**, pursuing invariably the same Object **evinces** a design to reduce them under absolute **Despotism**, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute **Tyranny** over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a **candid** world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

EXPLORING THE DOCUMENT

Thomas Jefferson

wrote the first draft of the Declaration in a little more than two weeks. **How is the Declaration's idea about why governments are formed still important to our country today?**

Vocabulary

impel force

endowed provided

usurpations wrongful seizures of power

evinces clearly displays

despotism unlimited power

tyranny oppressive power exerted by a government or ruler

candid fair

EXPLORING THE DOCUMENT

Here the Declaration

lists the charges that the colonists had against King George III. **How does the language in the list appeal to people's emotions?**

Vocabulary

relinquish release, yield

inestimable priceless

formidable causing dread

annihilation destruction

convulsions violent disturbances

naturalization of foreigners the process by which foreign-born persons become citizens

appropriations of lands setting aside land for settlement

tenure term

a multitude of many

quartering lodging, housing

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would **relinquish** the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right **inestimable** to them and **formidable** to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of **Annihilation**, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and **convulsions** within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws of **Naturalization of Foreigners**; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new **Appropriations of Lands**.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the **tenure** of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected **a multitude of** New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislature.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended legislation:

For **quartering** large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

EXPLORING THE DOCUMENT

Colonists had been angry over British tax policies since just after the French and Indian War. **Why were the colonists protesting British tax policies?**

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an **Arbitrary** government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to **render** it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislature, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has **abdicated** Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of **foreign mercenaries** to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & **perfidy** scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic **insurrections** amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have **Petitioned for Redress** in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People.

Nor have We been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an **unwarrantable jurisdiction** over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and **magnanimity**, and we have **conjured** them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of **consanguinity**. We must, therefore, **acquiesce** in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the **rectitude** of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United

Vocabulary

arbitrary not based on law

render make

abdicated given up

foreign mercenaries soldiers hired to fight for a country not their own

perfidy violation of trust

insurrections rebellions

petitioned for redress asked formally for a correction of wrongs

unwarrantable jurisdiction unjustified authority

magnanimity generous spirit

conjured urgently called upon

consanguinity common ancestry

acquiesce consent to

rectitude rightness

EXPLORING THE DOCUMENT

Here the Declaration calls the king a tyrant. What do you think **tyrant** means from this passage?

Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

EXPLORING THE DOCUMENT

Here is where the document declares the independence of the colonies. **Whose authority does the Congress use to declare independence?**

EXPLORING THE DOCUMENT

The Congress adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. A formal copy, written on parchment paper, was signed on August 2, 1776.

EXPLORING THE DOCUMENT

The following is part of a passage that the Congress removed from Jefferson's original draft: "He has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither." **Why do you think the Congress deleted this passage?**

John Hancock	Benjamin Harrison	Lewis Morris
Button Gwinnett	Thomas Nelson, Jr.	Richard Stockton
Lyman Hall	Francis Lightfoot Lee	John Witherspoon
George Walton	Carter Braxton	Francis Hopkinson
William Hooper	Robert Morris	John Hart
Joseph Hewes	Benjamin Rush	Abraham Clark
John Penn	Benjamin Franklin	Josiah Bartlett
Edward Rutledge	John Morton	William Whipple
Thomas Heyward, Jr.	George Clymer	Samuel Adams
Thomas Lynch, Jr.	James Smith	John Adams
Arthur Middleton	George Taylor	Robert Treat Paine
Samuel Chase	James Wilson	Elbridge Gerry
William Paca	George Ross	Stephen Hopkins
Thomas Stone	Caesar Rodney	William Ellery
Charles Carroll of Carrollton	George Read	Roger Sherman
George Wythe	Thomas McKean	Samuel Huntington
Richard Henry Lee	William Floyd	William Williams
Thomas Jefferson	Philip Livingston	Oliver Wolcott
	Francis Lewis	Matthew Thornton