

h. American Revolution

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **Social Studies 5**
Time Period: **Trimester 3**
Length: **-**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

Essential Questions

- Why did the British have power over the American colonists?
- How did individual citizens support the fight for independence from the British?
- Who were the Sons and Daughters of Liberty and what did they do?
- What did the Stamp act force the colonists to do?
- What were the Townshend Acts?
- Why was the Boston Massacre an important event in history?
- What were the Committees of Correspondence and why were they important?
- How might our country be different today if colonists had not protested British policies?
- What was the purpose of the First Continental Congress?
- Why did Paul Revere and William Dawes ride?
- Where was the first battle of the American Revolution?
- Who is Patrick Henry and why is he important in our history?
- Who were the Loyalists? Patriots?
- Why do you think some colonists were not Loyalist or Patriots?
- What was the Olive Branch Petition and how did the King react to it?
- What was Thomas Jefferson's purpose when writing the Declaration of Independence?

Content

Britain needed to raise money to pay for the French and Indian War so they decided to impose taxes on the

colonists.

The Stamp Act forced colonists to pay a tax everytime they bought a newspaper or pamphlet or signed a legal document.

The Quartering Act forced colonists to provide British soldiers with a housing, food, drink, and candles. This act violated the colonists right as English not to have a standing army during peace time.

Patrick Henry, a member of the House of Burgesses, felt only Virginia could tax Virginians and called the acts treasonous.

The colonists did not agree with these taxes because they had not representation in the British government.

The Sons of Liberty formed to oppose the Stamp Act. They held protests to oppose the tax.

England then imposed the Townshend Acts which which taxed tea, paper, glass, lead and paint imported from Britain.

The colonists decided to boycott, not buy, these taxed goods.

The Daughters of Liberty formed in support of the boycotts. The women would have "spinning bees" to spin thread to make clothes so they would not have to import clothes from England. The English merchants then fought to stop the Townshend Acts.

Because of the problems in Boston, England sent soldiers to control the colonies.

The Boston Massacre was a confrontation that left 5 colonists dead, this horrified the colonists and they began to turn against the British.

The Committee of Correspondence was formed by Samuel Adams in 1772. The committee of each colony was to write to each other about any important political events in the colonies.

Britain repealed the Townshend Acts but continued to tax tea. On December 16, 1773, a group of colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded ships in the Boston Harbor and threw the tea overboard. It became known as the Boston Tea Party. As a result, Britain wanted to punish the colonists and banned town meetings.

Colonists called Parliament's actions the Intolerable Acts.

On September 5, 1774, the First Continental Congress met in Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, PA. they agreed to 1. Ask King George to repeal the Intolerable Acts, 2. stop trade with Britain, 3. establish a militia in every colonial town.

A militia was a military force made up of volunteers. Minutemen were men who had to be ready for battle in a minute's notice.

King George III was angry with the colonists' actions and felt he could make the rebellious colonists obey. In February 1775 Parliament declared Massachusetts in rebellion and sent soldiers to Concord to arrest Sam Adams and John Hancock.

Paul Revere and William Dawes made their famous ride warning the colonists that the British were coming. The battles of Concord and Lexington were the first in the American Revolution and the colonists fought well.

Many battles followed, Fort Ticonderoga (colonist win) and the Battle of Bunker Hill (British victory that cost

1,000 British lives)

Loyalists were people who remained loyal to Britain and believed independence would mean the loss of economic trade benefits with England.

Patriots supported the fight for independence.

Quakers did not believe in war.

In 1775 Congress tried to make peace with Britain. The delegates sent the Olive Branch Petition to King George. Olive branch is a symbol of peace. The petition stated that the colonists were loyal to Britain and asked the King to repeal the Intolerable Acts and end the fighting.

The King refused and treated to bring the traitors to justice. A traitor is someone who turns against his own country.

In 1776, the Second Continental Congress met and made a committee to write a statement of independence: John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson was well educated and wanted to place before mankind the common sense of the subject. He took two weeks to write the document and the committee made few changes. He wrote that all men should have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

On July 4, 1776 the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence. Signing the document took courage as it was an act of treason against Britain punishable by death.

Skills

Identify the contributions of notable individuals during the Revolutionary Period.

Describe why there was unrest between England and the colonists.

Analyze how the First Continental Congress responded to the intolerable acts.

Tell some causes of the American Revolution and the effects they had on the colonists.

Identify examples of representative government in the American colonies.

Explain the importance of the Declaration of Independence.

Summarize the main points of the Declaration of Independence.

Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the British and Continental Armies.

Explain George Washington's role in the war.

Identify key battles in the American Revolution.

Assessments

Teacher made tests

Teacher made worksheets

Discussions and class observations

completed map activities

notes

quizzes

Lessons/Learning Scenarios

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- The Stamp Act
- The Quartering Act

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Standards

SOC.5-8.6.1.8.A.2.a

Determine the roles of religious freedom and participatory government in various North American colonies.

SOC.5-8.6.1.8.A.2.b

Explain how and why early government structures developed, and determine the impact of these early structures on the evolution of American politics and institutions.

SOC.5-8.6.1.8.A.2.c	Explain how race, gender, and status affected social, economic, and political opportunities during Colonial times.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.A.3.a	Examine the ideals found in the Declaration of Independence, and assess the extent to which they were fulfilled for women, African Americans, and Native Americans during this time period.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.A.3.b	Evaluate the effectiveness of the fundamental principles of the Constitution (i.e., consent of the governed, rule of law, federalism, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, and individual rights) in establishing a federal government that allows for growth and change over time.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.A.3.c	Determine the role that compromise played in the creation and adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.B.2.b	Compare and contrast how the search for natural resources resulted in conflict and cooperation among European colonists and Native American groups in the New World.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.B.3.a	Assess how conflicts and alliances among European countries and Native American groups impacted the expansion of the American colonies.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.B.3.b	Determine the extent to which the geography of the United States influenced the debate on representation in Congress and federalism by examining the New Jersey and Virginia plans.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.B.3.c	Use maps and other geographic tools to evaluate the impact of geography on the execution and outcome of the American Revolutionary War.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.B.3.d	Explain why New Jersey's location played an integral role in the American Revolution.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.C.3.a	Explain how taxes and government regulation can affect economic opportunities, and assess the impact of these on relations between Britain and its North American colonies.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.D.2.a	Analyze the power struggle among European countries, and determine its impact on people living in Europe and the Americas.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.D.3.a	Explain how the consequences of the Seven Years War, changes in British policies toward American colonies, and responses by various groups and individuals in the North American colonies led to the American Revolution.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.D.3.b	Explain why the Declaration of Independence was written and how its key principles evolved to become unifying ideas of American democracy.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.D.3.c	Analyze the impact of George Washington as general of the American revolutionary forces and as the first president of the United States.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.D.3.d	Analyze how prominent individuals and other nations contributed to the causes, execution, and outcomes of the American Revolution.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.D.3.e	Examine the roles and perspectives of various socioeconomic groups (e.g., rural farmers, urban craftsmen, northern merchants, and southern planters), African Americans, Native Americans, and women during the American Revolution, and determine how these groups were impacted by the war.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.D.3.f	Analyze from multiple perspectives how the terms of the Treaty of Paris affected United States relations with Native Americans and with European powers that had territories in North America.
SOC.5-8.6.1.8.D.3.g	Evaluate the extent to which the leadership and decisions of early administrations of the national government met the goals established in the Preamble of the Constitution.

Resources

Our Nation Teacher's Edition, Volume 1

Our Nation Student Edition

The Nystrom Atlas of Our Country's History

Activity Maps

Activity Globes

Teacher made tests

Teacher made worksheets

Digital media

Safari Montage videos

Primary documents (Declaration of Independence, Constitution)