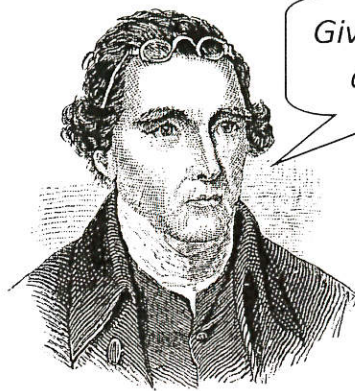


Hey, King: Get Off Our Backs!

Name: _____



Patrick Henry

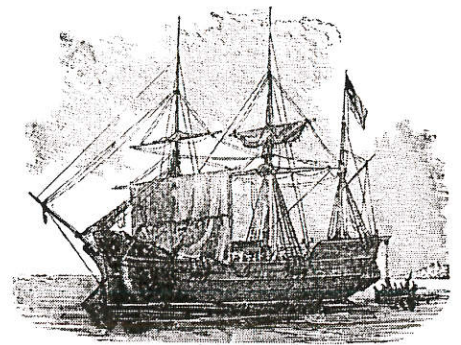
*Give me liberty,
or give me*

Really? Was it that bad? By 1776, the American colonists living under English rule thought so. In fact, things were so bad that they went to war to gain their independence. But why? What could have been so intolerable?

The first Englishmen came to America four hundred years ago looking for gold, silver, and a waterway to Asia. They were part of a trading company that convinced the king of England to grant them a **charter** giving them permission to set up a colony in America. But they did not find what they were looking for. Times got so hard those first settlers had to eat rats and even each other to keep from starving to death. Pretty soon, though, more people arrived and times got better. The English were here to stay.

Hail to the King

Back in England, the King probably figured he had a pretty good deal. Other people got seasick sailing across the ocean to settle an untamed land while he sat in his palace ruling England. Except that being king just wasn't what it used to be. Back in the 1200s, a king could really do what he wanted! But this was the 1600s, and now the English people had representatives in **Parliament** who made laws and stood up for peoples' rights. They even gave advice to the king. Bah!



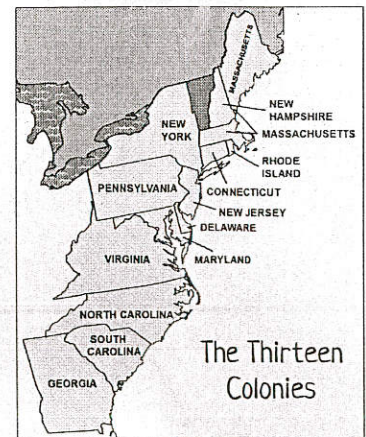
You Don't Mind If We . . . Uh . . .

Govern ourselves, do you? In America, the colonists needed some kind of government to deal with everyday problems. After all, the king was on the other side of the ocean. And because of Parliament, the colonists were used to having a say in government. In Virginia Colony, the first settlers decided each community should have two representatives and that all the representatives would meet together. Farther north, in Plymouth, the colonists signed a **compact** agreeing to form a majority-rule government where all the men would vote on whatever issues came up. (Women didn't get to vote in 1620.) Even so, the king still controlled the colonies, and the colonists had to follow England's laws.

The House of Burgesses was the group of representatives in Virginia. The Mayflower Compact was the agreement the Plymouth colonists signed while they were still on board the Mayflower, before they set foot on dry land. Even then, they knew they would need a government!

We're Doing Just Fine, Thanks

England had a lot of other colonies besides those in America and plenty of other problems to deal with. The king and Parliament didn't have much time to pay attention to the American colonists. By the mid-1700s there were 13 colonies, and each colony had its own government. These little governments grew stronger and more used to being in control. When problems came up, the colonial governments took care of things themselves. The colonists were out on their own, making their own decisions, governing things the way they wanted to without much interference.

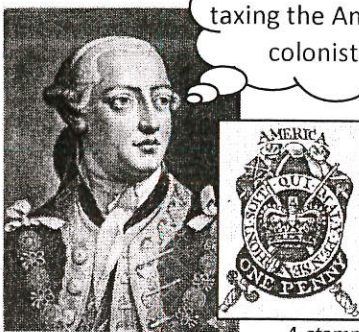
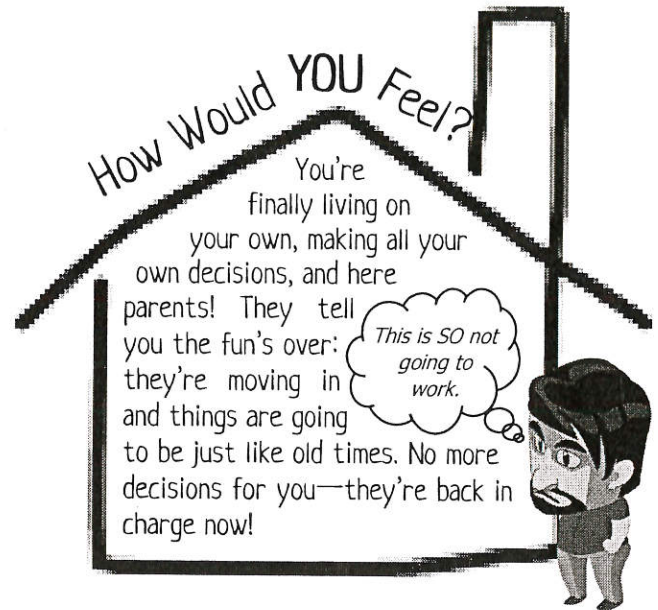


Hey, King: Get Off Our Backs!

Name: _____

A Raw Deal

But then times got tough, and the British government went looking for money. Great Britain, which now included both England and Scotland, saw its colonies around the world as a source of profit. Colonies were places to cut timber, grow crops such as cotton and coffee, and mine for valuable minerals. The king forced the colonists to sell these raw materials back to England at really cheap prices. People in England would use the materials to make finished products. But did the colonists get a bargain on these items because they provided the materials? No way! The king forced the colonists to buy the finished products at extra high prices.



King George III

Hmm... What about taxing the American colonists?

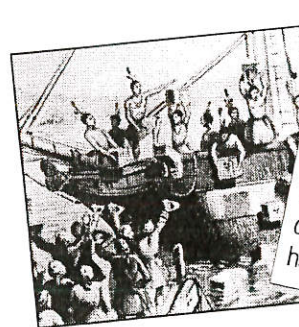
A stamp

Looking for a Fast Buck?

That was only the beginning. In the mid-1700's, Britain fought two expensive wars. Britain had taken out a lot of debt to pay for the war, so it went looking for a way to make money fast. Taxing the American colonists seemed like the perfect idea. So in 1765, Britain passed the **Stamp Act**, which forced colonists to put expensive tax stamps on all legal documents, as well as newspapers, calendars, and almanacs. The colonists had an answer for that: They quit buying British goods! But this *boycott* didn't work for long. Britain repealed the Stamp Act after one year, but things did not get better.

From Bad to Worse

As soon as the Stamp Act was gone, the British passed the **Declaratory Act** saying that the colonies were dependent on the king and declaring that all laws passed in the colonies had no effect. As if that weren't bad enough, Britain also passed the **Townshend Revenue Act**, taxing things it knew the colonists couldn't make for themselves: paint, glass, paper, lead, and tea. This Act also allowed British government workers to search peoples' houses and even break down doors to seize items the homeowner hadn't paid taxes for. On top of that, the **Quartering Acts** of 1765 and 1774 forced certain colonists to let British troops live in their houses. The soldiers didn't even have to pay rent! Then, in the 1770s, a series of laws cracked down on rebellious activity in Massachusetts colony. Colonists called these the **Intolerable Acts**.



During the Boston Tea Party, colonists were so angry about a law called the Tea Act that they snuck onto a cargo ship during the night and dumped hundreds of crates of tea into the Boston harbor!

Enough is Enough!

The colonists finally decided there was only one solution: self-government! On July 4, 1776, the colonies adopted the **Declaration of Independence**, announcing that the United States was free from Great Britain. It wasn't that easy, though. There was the small matter of fighting a war against Britain to make that freedom real. When the Americans won the Revolutionary War, Britain lost all control of the colonies. The United States of America was born.

Hey, King: Get Off Our Backs!

Name: _____

A. Fill In the Blank. Look in the reading to find the missing piece of each sentence.

1. A _____ is a signed agreement.
2. The _____ Acts forced colonists to house British troops.
3. Britain saw its colonies as a source of _____.
4. If you sold a newspaper in 1765, you would have to put a _____ on it.
5. We celebrate the 4th of July because that's when the _____ was signed.
6. The Townshend Revenue Act allowed the government to _____ peoples' homes.
7. Virginia Colony's first government was called the _____.
8. The colonists had to follow the laws of _____.



B. Odd One Out. In each set, cross out the word that doesn't belong. In the oval, explain what the three remaining words have in common.

Glass
Cotton
Lead
Tea

9.

Mayflower Compact
Stamp Act
Declaratory Act
Quartering Act

10.

Minerals
Timber
Crops
Paint

11.

Legal documents
Newspapers
Troops
Calendars

12.

Boycott goods
Search houses
Fight a war
Destroy tea

13.

C. Cause and Effect. Match each effect with its cause listed below.

EFFECTS

- ____ 14. In the 1600s, the king could not just do what he wanted.
- ____ 15. The first colonists started their own governments.
- ____ 16. Colonists were used to having a say in government.
- ____ 17. Britain needed a way to make money.
- ____ 18. The colonists boycotted British goods.
- ____ 19. The British taxed paint, glass, and lead.
- ____ 20. The colonists declared independence.
- ____ 21. Britain lost control of the colonies.

BECAUSE...

- A. They were angry about the Stamp Act taxes.
- B. The British government was too far away to deal with daily problems.
- C. They were tired of the way the British were treating them.
- D. He shared power with Parliament.
- E. The colonists won the Revolutionary War.
- F. They knew the colonists could not make those products themselves.
- G. In England, the Parliament represented people in government.
- H. It was in debt after fighting expensive wars.

C. Fill In the Blank. One of the most famous parts of the Declaration of Independence is written below. Use words from the word bank to complete it. HINT: Look for phrases from the matching activity!

consent	life	evident	happiness	people
powers	abolish	liberty	equal	rights

We hold these truths to be self-_____, that all men are created _____, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable _____, that among these are _____, _____, and the pursuit of _____:

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just _____ from the _____ of the governed,

That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the _____ to alter or _____ it

D. Find Those Rights! The Declaration lists three (3) rights. Circle them!

A. Phrases to Know. Learn these phrases from the Declaration of Independence by matching each one with its definition.

- ___ 1. Unalienable rights
- ___ 2. Pursuit of happiness
- ___ 3. Natural rights
- ___ 4. Consent of the governed
- ___ 5. Just powers
- ___ 6. Self-evident

- A. Rights people are born with
- B. Can be seen just by looking at it
- C. Permission of those under the government's rule
- D. Rights that cannot be taken away
- E. Trying to find joy and contentment
- F. Powers that are fair

B. Reconstruct the Declaration. The outline below shows the 4 parts of the Declaration of Independence and what each part is for. You will get a set of cutouts with statements that are in the Declaration. Decide which section each statement belongs in and piece the Declaration back together!

Part 1: Preamble

An introduction explaining why the Declaration is being written.

Part 2: Natural Rights

The colonists explain the rights of people and the role of government power.

Part 3: Grievances

A list of the colonists' complaints.

Part 4: Resolution of Independence

The colonists declare their independence from Britain.

PREAMBLE

NATURAL RIGHTS

GRIEVANCES

RESOLUTION OF INDEPENDENCE

The king has refused to agree to laws that would benefit the people.

Our own governments have been abolished.

All men are created equal.

The king has caused fighting among the colonists.

Our trade with the rest of the world has been cut off.

We pledge our lives, fortunes, and honor in support of this Declaration of Independence.

Sometimes it becomes necessary for one group of people to cut ties with another group of people.

The king gets to decide whether the judges keep their jobs and how much they get paid.

New laws have taken away our right to a jury trial in many cases.

When government threatens peoples' natural rights, the people have the right to abolish it and make a new government.

We now cut all political connection with Great Britain.

The king has opened new government offices and sent "swarms of officers to harass our people."

The king has housed large numbers of troops in our communities.

Government must get its power from the consent of the governed.

When one group of people decides to separate from another, they should explain why.

We declare that the colonies are and should be free and independent states.

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are "unalienable rights."

The king has tried to keep people from coming to the colonies to live.

Fill in the blanks to the best of your ability. Use a pencil.

Why were the American colonies unhappy with the British government?

By the 1770's, Great Britain had established a number of _____ in North America. The American colonists thought of themselves as _____ of Great Britain and subjects of King George III. They were tied to Britain through trade and by the way they were governed. Trade was restricted so the colonies had to rely on Britain for imported _____ and supplies. There were no banks and very little _____, so colonists used barter and credit to get the things they needed.

Following the French and Indian War, Britain wanted to control expansion into the western territories. The King issued the Proclamation of 1763 prohibiting settlements beyond the Appalachian _____. Colonists who had already settled on these lands were ordered to return east of the mountains.

In 1765 Parliament passed the Quartering Act that said the colonists needed to find or pay for lodging for British soldiers stationed in America. With the French and _____ War over, many colonists saw no need for soldiers to be stationed in the colonies.

Britain also needed money to pay for its war _____. The King and Parliament believed they had the right to tax the colonies. They decided to require several kinds of _____ from the colonists to help pay for the _____ and Indian War. These taxes included the Stamp Act, passed in 1765, which required the use of special paper bearing an embossed tax stamp for all legal documents. Other laws, such as the Townsend Acts, passed in

1767, required the colonists to pay _____ on imported goods like tea.

Many colonists felt that they should not pay these taxes, because they were passed in England by Parliament, not by their own colonial governments. They protested, saying that these taxes _____ their rights as British citizens.

The colonists started to resist by boycotting, or not buying, British _____. In 1773 some colonists in Boston, Massachusetts demonstrated their frustration by dressing up like Indians, sneaking onto _____ in the harbor, and dumping imported tea into the water. This was called the Boston _____ Party. The British took action by closing the Boston port. A similar but smaller tea party took place in Yorktown, Virginia in 1774.

The First Continental Congress met in 1774 to make a list of complaints about the way Britain was _____ the colonies. Many people in America felt their concerns were not being heard, and this caused more unhappiness in the

In April of 1775, a group of colonists fought against the British army in the Battles of Lexington and Concord. In 1775, the Second Continental Congress decided to form a Continental Army, which consisted of citizens from 13 _____. George Washington was selected to be the Commander-in-Chief of the Army. The colonies were ready to _____ for their rights.

Complete pages 9 and 10. Use pages 7-11 to complete the timeline on p. 12. Include the 8 most important events that took place between the French and Indian War and the writing of the Declaration of Independence.

Causes of the American Revolution

Date	Event	Significance
1756 – 1763	French and Indian War	British vs. French and Native Americans They were fighting over the _____. The _____ won. This war was very expensive because the British had to send over extra troops in order to win. In order to pay for the war, the British came up with _____ for the colonists to pay.
1763	Proclamation of 1763	This saved the British money. It told people where they could settle. People were settling too far _____. By limiting the areas people could settle tensions between the colonists and the _____ were reduced.
1764	Sugar Act	This was created so people would stop _____ goods in and out of the colonies. Certain valuable goods like tobacco, sugar, and timber had to be directly shipped to Britain. _____ were placed on cloth, sugar, wine, and coffee coming into the colonies.

1765	Stamp Act	Paper products were taxed. These included legal documents, playing _____, newspapers, and pamphlets.
	Parliament	This was the British lawmaking assembly.
1765	Quartering Act	The British Army moved into colonial cities. Colonists were required to _____ and _____ them.
1766	Declaratory Act	This basically said that _____ and KG3 had power over the colonies and could _____ laws for them.
1767	Townshend Acts	A tax on household items like paint, lead, glass, and tea.
	No taxation without Representation!	Parliament made all the rules. All members of parliament lived in Britain and were loyal to the king. The colonists wanted to have a _____ in what was happening.
1770	Boston Massacre	As tensions rose between colonists and British soldiers this event happened. Some colonists threw sticks and _____ at some British soldiers. British troops became agitated with the mob and fired shots. _____ people were killed. This event led to a united front of colonists who were unhappy with the British.

1772	Committees of Correspondence	These groups aided in _____ between the colonies and colonists. They sent letters and created publications that spread messages and united the colonies.
1773	Tea Act	This gave the East India company the sole right to sell tea to the colonies. The purpose was to keep the company from going _____.
	Sons of Liberty	A group of colonists lead by Samuel _____ that opposed British Rule.
1773	Boston Tea Party	Colonists dressed as Native Americans and were led by the Sons of Liberty onto British ships that contained lots of _____. They dumped 342 chests of tea into the _____.
1773	Intolerable Acts	A response to the Boston Tea Party. The port of Boston was closed. A British General was put in charge of Massachusetts. Quartering Act #2.
1774 October	1 st Continental Congress	This was a meeting that took place because the colonists were unhappy with the _____ Acts. The colonists decided to start training militias, stop all _____ with Britain, and meet again in one year if the problems persisted.
1775 March	Patrick Henry	He was a famous lawyer that gave many speeches. He warned the colonists that war was coming. His famous line is "Give me liberty or give me _____!"
1775 April	Lexington and Concord	This was the first fighting of the Revolution.
1775 July	Olive Branch Petition	Colonists sent this to King George and he refused to read it. It was their last attempt to compromise and _____ the war.
1775 Summer	2 nd Continental Congress	Delegates from all 13 colonies met in Philadelphia. They organized the continental army and made _____ Washington its leader. They started drafting the Declaration of Independence.
1776 January	Common Sense	Thomas _____ wrote this pamphlet. It explained that it was common sense for the colonies to break away from Britain.
1776 July	Declaration of Independence	Thomas _____ wrote it. Members of congress _____ it. It stated that all men are created _____ and are entitled to the unalienable _____ of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Unalienable means the rights can't be taken _____.

Parliament Acts and Colonial Responses			
Legislation	Date	Provisions	Colonial Reaction
Sugar Act	April 5, 1764	Revised duties on sugar, coffee, tea, wine, other imports; expanded jurisdiction of vice-admiralty courts	Several assemblies protest taxation for revenue.
Stamp Act	March 22, 1765; Repealed March 18, 1766	Printed documents (deeds, newspapers, marriage licenses, etc.) issued only on special stamped paper purchased from stamp distributors	Riots in cities; collectors forced to resign; Stamp Act Congress (October 1765)
Quartering Act	May 1765	Colonists must supply British troops with housing, other items (candles, firewood, etc.)	Protest in assemblies; New York Assembly punished for failure to comply, 1767
Declaratory Act	March 18, 1766	Parliament declares its sovereignty over the colonies "in all cases whatsoever"	Ignored in celebration over repeal of the Stamp Act
Townshend Revenue Acts	June 26, 29, July 2, 1767; all repealed—except duty on tea, March 1770	New duties on glass, lead, paper, paints, tea; customs collections tightened in America	Nonimportation of British goods; assemblies protest; newspapers attack British policy
Tea Act	May 10, 1773	Parliament gives East India Company right to sell tea directly to Americans; some duties on tea reduced	Protests against favoritism shown to monopolistic company; tea destroyed in Boston (December 16, 1773)
Coercive Acts (Intolerable Acts)	March-June 1774	Closes port of Boston; restructures Massachusetts government; restricts town meetings; troops quartered in Boston; British officials accused of crimes sent to England or Canada for trial	Boycott of British goods; First Continental Congress convenes (September 1774)
Prohibitory Act	December 22, 1775	Declares British intention to coerce Americans into submission; embargo on American goods; American ships seized	Drives Continental Congress closer to decision for independence

TIMELINE

