

# Just the Facts . . . American Revolution

## Vocabulary

**boycott** - refusal to buy certain goods

**casualties** - people who are killed, wounded, captured or missing in a war

**guerilla warfare** - a hit-and-run technique used in fighting a war; fighting of small bands using tactics such as sudden ambushes.

**mercenaries** - hired soldiers

**militia** - an army made up of citizens

**minutemen** - American colony militia members who could be ready to fight at a minute's notice

**propaganda** - information giving only one side of the argument

**repeal** - to end or cancel

**siege** - military blockade of a city or fort

**writs of assistance** - special search warrants that allowed tax collectors to search for smuggled goods.

**unalienable rights** - basic human rights, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

**tyranny** - oppressive or unjustly severe abuse of government power. A ruler who uses power in this way is called a tyrant.

## Important People

**Abigail Adams** - Wife of John Adams - her letters became a valuable source for historians

**John Adams** - A diplomat - served in both Continental Congresses - becomes 2nd American president

**Samuel Adams** - founded the Sons of Liberty and Committees of Correspondence. He was the mastermind behind the Boston Tea Party.

**Ethan Allen** - Led his Green Mountain Boys in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga

**James Armistead** - an African-American slave who acted as a spy.

**Benedict Arnold** - American hero at Ticonderoga and Saratoga - later joins the British as is known as a traitor.

**Crispus Attucks** - African American killed at the Boston Massacre.

**John Burgoyne** - British General - "Gentleman" - loser at Saratoga

**Wentworth Cheswell** - was a soldier in the American Revolution. He was a teacher, historian, archaeologist and judge.

**Lord Charles Cornwallis** - British General - Surrenders to Washington at Yorktown

**Bernardo de Galvez** - governor of Spanish Louisiana. when Spain entered the war against Britain in 1779. Spain helped the Patriots on the western front.

**Benjamin Franklin** - proposed the Albany Plan of Union which would have united the colonies under one government. He helped secure French aid during the American Revolution.

**Horatio Gates** - American commander at Saratoga

**King George III** - British monarch during the American Revolution.

**Patrick Henry** - Patriot who was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses Famously said "...give me liberty, or give me death."

**Thomas Jefferson** - primary author of the Declaration of Independence.

**John Paul Jones** - American naval hero who famously said, "I have not yet begun to fight."

**Henry Knox** - Bookseller - Secretary of war - Hauls cannons from Ticonderoga

**Marquis de Lafayette** - Frenchman who believed in the Patriot cause. He aided the Patriots with money and supplies. He became a close friend and advisor to George Washington.

**James Otis** a highly respected lawyer who played a prominent role in advancing the colonists' interests, along with Sam Adams.

**Thomas Paine** - wrote Common Sense and The Crisis

**Haym Salomon** - American patriot and financier. He made loans in excess of \$600,000 to help finance the new government.

**Friedrich von Steuben** - German who helped train the Patriots at Valley Forge during the American Revolution.

**Mercy Otis Warren** - female patriot who wrote plays to make the British look foolish

**George Washington** - commander of the Continental Army

## Documents/Institutions

**Albany Plan of Union** - plan proposed by Ben Franklin that would unite the colonies under one government. The plan was rejected.

**Proclamation Line of 1763** - King George III told the colonists that they could not settle west of the Appalachian Mountains. It was ignored.

**Stamp Act Congress** - Delegates met in New York and issued a declaration stating that the Stamp Act violated the rights and liberties of the colonists. The delegates then asked Parliament to repeal the act or they would boycott British goods

**Committees of Correspondence** - Created in Massachusetts in the mid 1760s to help towns and colonies share information about resisting the new British laws

**Daughters of Liberty** - Women's groups that met to sew, support boycotts of British goods, and discuss politics

**Declaration of Independence** - formal declaration written mainly by Thomas Jefferson and signed on July 4, 1776. It stated that men possess unalienable rights. It also listed grievances against King George III. (DOI Committee included: Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman.)

**Treaty of Paris 1783** - document that formally ended the American Revolution. This made the Mississippi River the western boundary of the United States.

## Events/Acts

For all Acts, see Causes Chart.

**Boston Massacre** - 5 American colonists were shot and killed by British soldiers in March 1770.

**Boston Tea Party** - Colonists dressed as Native Americans and dumped 342 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor.

**1<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress** - (1774) meeting of colonial delegates in Philadelphia to decide how to respond to increased taxes and abuses of authority by the British government; delegates petitioned King George III, listing the freedoms they believed colonists should enjoy.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress** - (1775) meeting of colonial delegates in Philadelphia to decide how to react to fighting at Lexington and Concord

## Important Dates

**1607** - Jamestown was established. This is the first permanent English settlement in North America.

**1620** - Pilgrims founded Plymouth Rock

**1776** - Declaration of Independence was written and signed.

## Wars and Battles:

**French & Indian War** - (1754-1763) war between French and British. They were fighting for control of North America. Britain won. The consequences for the colonists were 1) taxes 2) Proclamation of 1763.

**American Revolution** - (1775-1781) Conflict between the British and their American colonies. Battles included:

1. Lexington & Concord (1775) first shots of the Revolution.
2. Battle of Bunker Hill (1776) first battle of the Revolution. Showed colonists that they could hold their own against the British.
3. Trenton & Princeton (1776) New Jersey - Washington and soldiers captured Hessians.
4. Saratoga (1777) turning point of the Revolution because France decided to aid the Patriots. Spain helped in west
5. Valley Forge - winter 1777-1778 - low on food/clothing during harsh winter 1/5 of Washington's men died from disease and malnutrition. Friedrich von Steuben trained troops and turned Continental Army into well-trained group of soldiers.
6. Yorktown (1781) Cornwallis surrenders to Washington. Final battle. We won!

## Additional Notes: