

# The War of Independence

## *Part Two*



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

## Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

## Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.





The First Continental Congress proved that the colonies wanted better treatment and that they were willing to campaign for it together.



The Coercive Acts showed how harshly Parliament could react to any colonial rebellion. Some people worried what the British government might do to keep control.

Some colonies prepared for a war by raising the militia, including the **minutemen**. They also stockpiled firearms and gunpowder.

What effects do you think this might have had?

There were two major battles that opened the War of Independence:

- **Battle of Lexington and Concord:** the battle where the first shots of the war were fired. On April 19, 1775, British redcoats marching back from a small confrontation in Lexington were ambushed and defeated by a large force of minutemen in Concord.
- **Battle of Bunker Hill:** On June 17, 1775, redcoats stationed in Boston were sent to capture Breed Hill from minutemen. In the assault, British forces lost 1,000 soldiers before finally capturing the hill.





# The Second Continental Congress

The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in May 1775, this time with all 13 colonies represented.

The minutemen around Boston were formed into the Continental Army and **George Washington** was named as its commander.

Many delegates wanted peace and were loyal to the king. Others, like John Adams, believed that America should declare **independence**.



Many delegates at the Congress hoped to compromise with King George III and prevent a war with Britain.

In July 1775, the Congress drew up the **Olive Branch Petition**.



John Dickinson wrote the petition, which confirmed the loyalty of the colonists and asked the king to stop further conflicts.

The king rejected the petition.

How did this help radical colonists like John Adams?



# Patriot or Loyalist?

The American colonists were divided. Some supported the rebellion (the **Patriots**), but others wished to show their loyalty to the king (the **Loyalists**).



Most Patriots were laborers, artisans, merchants and elected officials.



Loyalists were usually members of the elite class.

Native Americans and slaves often supported the loyalists because Britain promised them protection and freedom from the colonists.





Following the failure of the Olive Branch Petition, the Continental Congress signed the **Declaration of Independence** on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776.

The Congress chose five delegates to create the document:

- Thomas Jefferson (Virginia)
- Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania)
- John Adams (Massachusetts)
- Robert Livingston (New York)
- Roger Sherman (Connecticut).



The Declaration of Independence was personally written up by Jefferson.







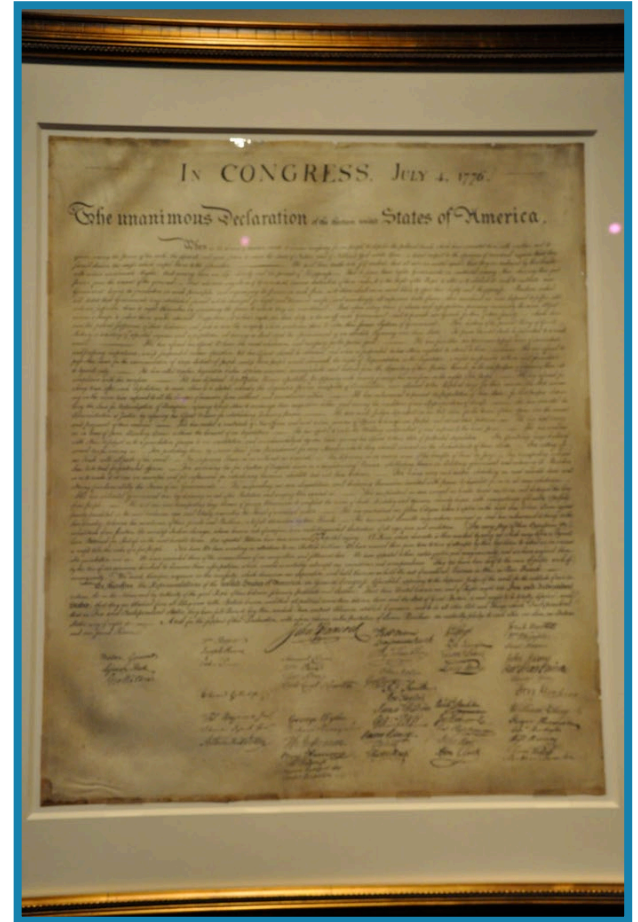
# Declaration of Independence



The Declaration of Independence outlined the reasons why the Congress had decided to separate from Britain.

It stated that all men are created equal, and have the right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Every delegate signed their name on the declaration.



The Declaration of Independence was a crucial turning point in the Revolutionary War.

In signing the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress showed that the 13 colonies were united against the British government.

However, many Patriots believed that America could not defend itself against the full power of the British Empire.

