American Patriots

A Unit of Study based around the development of Colonial America through the Revolutionary War period.

1607 - 1789

Written By

Martha A. Ban

American Patriots

Description of Target Ages and Grade Levels - This unit on American Patriots has been designed for the middle elementary grades.

Purpose - ***American Patriots*** presents an interdisciplinary unit incorporating the Christian perspective of early American History. Activities are designed for small group use - as well as individual projects.

How-to-Guide - The narrative of the unit contains the information part for the unit. This can be read to the students or given individually to them. A section of inspirational stories is included for worship purposes. Following the narrative, a variety of open ended activites are found. These can be used in any order. Activities work well both in small groups and one on one. Web-based activities combined with project opportunities will give students a wide range of skill development.

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The Background

1. Roanoke Colony - 1587 Sir Walter Raleigh, an Englishman, founded a colony on Roanoke Island, off the coast of North Carolina. The first English child born in America was born on Roanoke Island. She was named Virginia Dare.

When the colony began to run short of food, Governor White returned to England for help. A war between England and Spain delayed his return for three years. When the rescue party finally arrived they found no one there. As they searched the ruined cabins, they found everyone had disappeared. Only one clue was found. Carved on a tree was the word "Croatoan." They mystery of what happened to the missing colony has never been solved.

2. Jamestown Virginia - 1607 The first successful English colony was started by two sea captains by the names of John Ratcliffe and Captain Newport. They formed the London Company and received permission from the King of England to advertise. They gathered a group of 120 men and sailed for America. They disembarked in Chesapeake Bay and began building houses on a peninsula they named Jamestown in honor of the king. It was a swampy place with mosquitoes. The settlers suffered greatly. Some refused to work and went in search of gold. Others died from bad drinking water and disease. Even with help from Powhatan – a powerful Native American Chief, they ended up with 38 men still alive at the end of the first winter.

John Smith was as a strong leader and organized the colony so that only those who would work would eat. They began to thrive. A new plan was devised which helped the colony even more. The new governor gave each man three acres of land on which to raise food. Only part of his crop was put in the storehouse. The rest was his. Under this plan, the colonists worked harder.

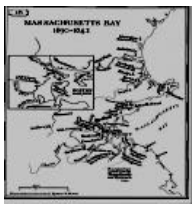
John Rolfe, a colonist, began to raise tobacco. He discovered how to ship the leaves without their spoiling. England bought all the tobacco the colonists could produce. The colony grew richer. Rolfe also married Pocahontas – the daughter of Powhatan. This helped the relationship with the Indians.

3. ***Massachusetts - 1620*** A group of people from England did not believe in the traditional beliefs of the Church of England. They believed in a more simplified, personal approach to worshiping God. Because of their beliefs, they became known as "Puritans." As they were persecuted for their way of worship, they decided to move to a personal approach to worshiping God. Because of their beliefs, they became known as "Puritans." As they were persecuted for their way of worship, they decided to move to Holland where freedom of religion was allowed. This group of people became known as "Pilgrims" because they traveled, or made a pilgrimage far from home. They were not happy in Holland because they loved England and wanted to raise their children with English customs and traditions.

Finally, they planned to go to America and set up their own colony. English merchants provided a ship, the Mayflower, in exchange for seven years of the Pilgrim's profits from the new colony. The Speedwell was another ship carrying a group of people looking for religious freedom. She planned to sail with them. After developing a leak, the Separatists were forced to abandon the Speedwell and join the group on the Mayflower. 102 passengers, including children, set off on a nine-week voyage. The ship ended up at Cape Cod. Before looking for a place to settle, the Pilgrim men gathered in a cabin of the Mayflower and made a set of rules to govern the colony. The rules were called the Mayflower compact. They all signed the compact. John Carver was elected as the first governor.

After the first hard winter, nearly half of the colony – including the governor – died. William Bradford was elected the new governor. Indians such as Samoset and Squanto helped the Pilgrims find food. Their chief, Massasoit, met with the people and agreed to live together peaceably.

4. ***Massachusetts Bay Colony - 1629*** A wealthy group of Puritans who stayed in England decided to go to America for religious freedom. In 1630, ten years after the Pilgrims landed, more than 1,000 Puritans set out for the new world. Their fleet of ships was loaded with farming tools, weapons, cows, pigs, spinning wheels, furniture and books. They settled north of Plymouth and set up eight small towns. The largest was Boston. All of these settlements together were called the Massachusetts Bay Colony.



Food was scarce the first winter and many died. Governor John Winthrop encouraged farming, fur trading, hunting, and fishing. They encouraged about 18,000 more Puritans to join them. Soon they were thriving.

While other religions could live in the Puritan colonies, only those who were Puritans could vote. Anne Hutchinson, a well-educated and strong-minded Massachusetts woman, disagreed with most of the Puritan ministers. She was forced to leave Massachusetts for being so outspoken against the Puritan church. Roger Williams was a Puritan minister who did not agree with the Puritan leaders. He later took a group of people and started another colony.

5. **Maryland – 1632** The Roman Catholics were badly treated in England because of their religious beliefs. Finally, one of the Catholic leaders – Lord Baltimore – decided the Catholics should have a colony in America. Lord Baltimore asked the king for permission to start a colony north of the Virginia settlements.

In 1632 two hundred settlers of Lord Baltimore's colony settled in Chesapeake Bay. They bought the land from the Indians who had cleared it. Soon the settlers were planting their corps. Protestants came to live in Maryland because there was religious freedom there. Settlers of all faiths were welcome in Maryland.

Maryland was named for the English Queen Henrietta Maria who was the wife of Charles I, who gave the land to Lord Baltimore.

6. ***Rhode Island – 1644*** Roger Williams, the Puritan minister, was not satisfied with the Puritan Colony of Massachusetts. When he spoke out against the Puritan church, the leaders were going to send him back to England. He escaped and spent the winter with Chief Massasoit 70 miles to the south. Other settlers who were not happy with the Puritan way of life joined him. They bought land from the Indians and built homes near springs of clear, pure water. They named the place Providence because they felt God had provided it for them.

Many people found refuge in Rhode Island. There they could worship as they chose. No one was forced to attend a certain church or pay taxes for its support. It was the first colony in New England to have true religious freedom.

7. ***New York – 1664*** In 1624 the first Dutch colonists came to America. They started a trading post on Manhattan Island at the mouth of the Hudson River. This settlement was called New Amsterdam. Because of its good harbor, it became the capital of the colony. In 1647 Peter Stuyvesant became the governor of New Amsterdam. He had a wooden leg. He was not well liked by the people of New Amsterdam because he ruled harshly and refused to let the people take any part in the government.

The English declared that New Amsterdam belonged to them. They sent four warships to seize it. A message was sent to Peter Stuyvesant demanding that the Dutch surrender. Stuyvesant flew into a rage; however, the colonists disliked him so much that they refused to fight. They felt it would be better to be captured by the English than continue under the rule of a tyrant! The name of New Amsterdam was changed to New York in honor of the Duke of York.

8. ***Connecticut – 1662*** Thomas Hooker was a minister of a Puritan church near Boston. He had heard reports from farmers along the Connecticut River of the rich soil. It was much better farmland than the rough and rocky land of most of New England. About 100 of Hooker's church members decided to go with him to the Connecticut Valley. They sold their homes and loaded their horses with all the tools and supplies they could carry. They made a difficult 100-mile trip. They were thankful when they came

to the Connecticut River. In 1636 they started a colony near the Dutch fort at Hartford. Within a few years more than 1,000 settlers had followed them to the Connecticut Valley.

The Reverend Thomas Hooker wrote the "Fundamental Orders" of Connecticut, the first written constitution in America. The colony received a royal charter in 1662.

9. ***New Hampshire – 1679*** Many years before the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth, English fishermen had been visiting the excellent fishing waters of New England. They had set up small fishing camps in the little harbors and bays. The Indians came to these fishing camps and wanted to trade furs for knives and supplies. Fur trading became profitable. Some of these fur-trading camps grew into small towns. After a while the towns were larger trading centers. New Hampshire was one of these kinds of settlements. John Mason, who owned most of the region in the 1600's, gave New Hampshire its name. He called it New Hampshire after his own county of Hampshire in England. King Charles declared New Hampshire a royal colony in 1679. By that time Dover and Portsmouth were thriving communities.

10. ***Pennsylvania – 1681*** A religious group known as Quakers were being persecuted in England because they refused to bow to the king, take part in war, or support the Church of England. Thousands were being thrown in jail.

A rich young Englishman named William Penn became a Quaker. When his father died, William inherited his father's wealth. This included a large sum of money that the king owed the father. William Penn offered to take land in America in place of the money due him. The king granted Penn a huge piece of land on the banks of the Delaware River. There were lots of trees so they called it Pennsylvania, which means Penn's woods. Penn started a new colony. He advertised that there would be freedom of worship for all who believed in God. Philadelphia or the "City of Brotherly Love" was the largest settlement. Many of the settlers were Quakers, but persons of other religions and from every country were welcome.

11. ***New Jersey – 1702*** In 1664, England took New Jersey from the Dutch after a war between the two nations. The Duke of York gave the New Jersey colony to Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. These two men became co-proprietors of the New Jersey colony. Many settlers moved to New Jersey from neighboring colonies, because Berkeley and Carteret guaranteed religious freedom. New Jersey was divided into East Jersey and West Jersey for twenty-eight years. The men governing New Jersey could not unite New Jersey so England took it back and made it into a royal colony. New Jersey was named by Sir George Carteret who was born on the Island of Jersey in the English Channel.

12. ***North Carolina – 1729*** The first English colony in America was settled on Roanoke Island off the North Carolina coast. It became known as "the Lost Colony," because the settlers mysteriously disappeared. Virginia Dare, the first child born to English parents, was born on Roanoke Island.

The first permanent settlers came to North Carolina in 1653. King Charles II gave the area to eight proprietors or businessmen. These eight men were more interested in making money from the colony than governing it. Thomas Jarvis, the first deputy governor, and those who followed him ruled the colony wisely and the colonists accepted them. The colony prospered as an agricultural colony. Poor harbors and a dangerous coast line held back the development of the region for many years.

13. ***South Carolina - 1729*** South Carolina started out as simply "Carolina." Both North and South Carolina were one region. This region was divided into two royal provinces, North Carolina and South Carolina. This was done to make colonial government more effective. Eight proprietors or businessmen were given the responsibility of governing Carolina. These eight men were more interested in making money than governing the colony. They had many problems until the colony was divided into two colonies. Both of the Carolinas were named "Carolana" at the beginning. This is a Latin form of Charles. King Charles II changed the spelling of the name to Carolina.

14. ***Georgia – 1732*** General James Oglethorpe had a friend who was put in an English prison because he could not pay his debts. This friend was kept in prison until he died. Oglethorpe wanted to do something to help these unfortunate people. He went to the king. King George gave him some land and told him to start a colony for debtors and poor people in America.

In 1733 a little band of 130 colonists sailed up the Savannah River in the new territory. They made a settlement that later became the city of Savannah. They named the colony Georgia in honor of their king. It was successful because it was carefully planned and had a good government. Oglethorpe had chosen worthy colonists, who were able to do the work needed in building a settlement in the wilderness. He had wisely chosen carpenters, bricklayers, farmers, and other workers in the group.

The Georgia settlers were each given 50 acres of land. They cleared the land to raise cotton and food. Since their leaders paid the Indians for the land, both groups lived in peace.

15. ***Delaware – 1776*** In the year 1638, a group of Swedish settlers sailed into Delaware Bay to start a new colony. They found a good harbor protected from the wind and ocean waves. The settlers had brought tools and supplies with them to the New World. They planned to build a fort to protect them and homes to live in. They wanted to farm the land.

They bought the land from the Indians. They built a fort and named it Fort Christina for their queen. Wilmington, Delaware now stands on the site of this place. The Swedes liked to work hard. They cut down trees and built the first log cabins in America. Later, many settlers built log cabins modeled after those first built by the Swedes. The Swedes farmed their land and traded with the Indians.

Both the Swedes and the Dutch were trading with the Indians at the same time. The Dutch felt the trading rights were theirs alone. They demanded that the Swedes stop trading with the Indians. The Swedes refused and the quarreling continued. Peter Stuyvesant, the Dutch governor, took an army and captured Fort Christina. The Swedish colony then became a part of New Netherland.

In 1664, the English captured New Netherland from the Dutch. The Duke of York gave Delaware to William Penn of Pennsylvania because Penn needed a connection between his colony and the ocean for trading purposes. Later Delaware separated from Pennsylvania and became its own colony.

The Beginning of a Country

More than one hundred fifty years had passed between 1607, when Captain John Smith came to Jamestown, and the close of the French and Indian War in 1763. During this century and a half, the English colonists had learned many things.

The first thing that they learned was that they must depend upon themselves and the wilderness in which they lived for their food. Supplies from England could not come often enough to feed all the settlers. Food had to be obtained by planting corn and other grains, by hunting game, and by fishing. The earliest colonists, therefore, became farmers, hunters, and fishermen.

In a few years, a family was able to raise more food than it needed. Then a carpenter or a miller could work at his own trade and exchange his labor for the food that his neighbors were raising. In this way, all sorts of business were started.

Another lesson that the colonists learned was that different parts of the country were suited to different kinds of work. In New England, the fields were hard to plow because of the rocks and hills. But fine fish were caught in great numbers all along the coast. The northern forests furnished splendid lumber, and the many short rivers gave good waterpower for running mills. The most successful colonists in New England learned to use these gifts of Nature, and became fishermen, shipbuilders, millers, and merchants.

In the southern colonies, the mountains were farther back from the seacoast. The fertile soil and mild climate made this the best part of the country for farming. Virginia farmers, or planters as they were called, became some of the most prosperous citizens of America. Great quantities of grain and tobacco were raised on their broad acres and shipped to England. In exchange, tools, harness, coaches, furniture, dishes, fine silks, and linens were brought back to be sold in America.

Almost three million people were now living on the narrow strip of land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic seacoast. Their land stretched from Maine to Georgia and was divided into thirteen English colonies.

Three thousand miles of ocean lay between England and her American colonies. Weeks were needed for messages to travel across the Atlantic. The mother country could not possibly make all the laws necessary to carry on the affairs of each little village. The result was that colonial towns and counties elected their own officers and passed laws to manage all small and unimportant matters. This was good practice in the lesson of governing themselves. The people were becoming independent and were learning to decide what laws were right and best for them.

Their greatest weakness was that the people of each colony were interested only in their own affairs and knew very little about what was going on in other parts of the country. Very few of the colonial leaders understood how much stronger and better the English colonies would be if they had some way of working together. They thought of themselves as New Yorkers, Pennsylvanians, or Virginians, rather than as Americans.

Benjamin Franklin

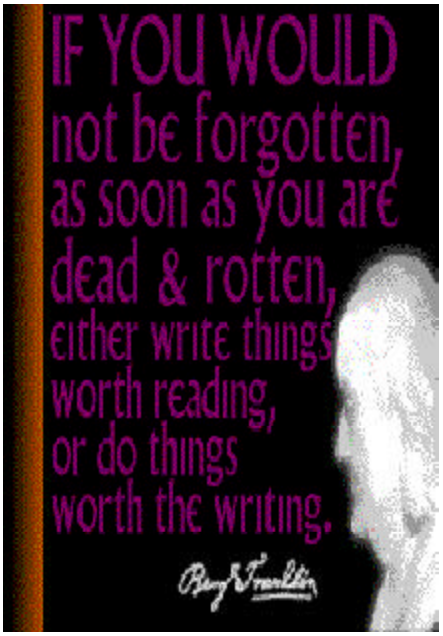
One of the wisest of the colonial leaders was Benjamin Franklin, a peaceful citizen of Philadelphia. In 1754, at the beginning of the French and Indian War, he tried to persuade the colonies to unite. A meeting had been called in Albany, New York, for the purpose of making a treaty with the Iroquois Indians. At this meeting Franklin explained a plan by which the different parts of the country could work together. He suggested that each colony elect a few of its best leaders and send them to a congress that should meet once a year. Questions concerning the welfare of the whole country could be talked over and a plan of action decided upon. Unfortunately, most of the colonies saw no need of such a congress, and the king of England did not like the plan because he feared it would give the colonists too much power. Twenty years went by before the colonists were ready to accept Franklin's idea and unite.

Benjamin Franklin has written a very interesting story of his own life. In this autobiography he tells of leaving his home in Boston as a poor boy of seventeen, and going to Philadelphia. One Sunday morning, in 1723, he arrived by boat at the foot of Market Street. His clothing was wrinkled and his pockets were stuffed with an extra shirt and a pair of stockings. He had very little money and was hungry; so he bought three large rolls at a baker's shop. Walking up Market Street, he carried one roll under each arm and ate the third one for his breakfast.

Young Franklin was a stranger in a strange city, with nothing to help him but his knowledge of the printing business, his own strong hands, and a determination to work hard and succeed. In a few years he owned and published the *Pennsylvania Gazette,* a weekly newspaper that soon became the best one in the American colonies. In addition to his newspaper, Franklin published an almanac for many years.

In colonial days almanacs took the place of our calendars, but they were bound like magazines. Besides a calendar, the almanac gave a record of tides, the time of the full moon, predictions of the weather, and advice about planting crops. Jokes and short wise sayings called proverbs were scattered through the pages.

Franklin's almanac became very popular. Many children used it for a reader at school. It was translated into other languages. This little book carried his fame into the homes of all the American colonies and even to Europe. People learned to watch for it and to plan their daily lives by it. Franklin pretended that he only printed the almanac and that a man named Richard Saunders really wrote it. For that reason Franklin called his yearbook *Poor Richard's Almanac.* But before long everyone knew that the funny little articles and wise sayings were really written by the rising young printer of Philadelphia. The people of Franklin's time read his proverbs over and over again until they knew them by heart.



Hear are some of these proverbs – still heard today:

- A word to the wise is sufficient.
- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- Never leave that for tomorrow which you can do today.
- Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

Franklin lived very simply and did many things to improve the city and colony in which he lived. The first paving and street lighting, the first fire and police protection, the first library, a college, and a hospital in Philadelphia were all started through the help of Benjamin Franklin. Franklin also invented the first good oil lamp, and made a stove to be used instead of an open fireplace. He discovered that lightning is electricity in the sky, and he made the first lightning rod.

In France and England, as well as in America, Franklin became well known and greatly admired. When the colonists of Pennsylvania needed a man of ability and good judgment to manage their business affairs in England, Benjamin Franklin was asked to go. Thus it happened that this wise leader was far away during some of the most important years of colonial history.

Duty of American Colonies Toward England

The end of the French and Indian War in 1763 brought great rejoicing. For nine years, colonial soldiers had fought side by side with the trained troops from England. The American colonies were proud of the mother country and glad that they could help in winning this great new tract of land for England. Hardly anyone even thought of an independent nation in the New World. Yet in twelve years the American colonists were once more at war. This time they were fighting against the English soldiers instead of with them.

The trouble that led to the Revolutionary War was caused mainly by King George III and the men whom he chose to take charge of American affairs. Many of the people of England did not approve of the war, and sided openly with the colonists. William Pitt, the great English statesman, was a friend of America and did all that he could to get the English Government to treat her colonies fairly.

From the time of the first settlement at Jamestown, the English kings and the American settlers had never agreed about the rights and duties of colonies. The colonists thought that they should be

allowed to trade and do business with anyone for their own profit just like the people in England. The king had always said, “It is the duty of every colony to help the mother country. What is the use of owning colonies if they do not bring a rich trade to England?”

Trade laws, called *Navigation Acts,* were made in England to force the American colonists to trade only with the mother country. One law said that all goods taken to or from the colonies must be carried in English or colonial ships. Another gave a list of colonial products such as sugar, cotton, and tobacco that must be sold only in England. Many of the useful things that the colonists needed were made in England. In order to compel them to buy these things from English merchants, a law forbade the colonists to make and sell them in America.

In spite of the grumbling about these laws, the colonists had no thought of rebelling openly against the English Government. But the Navigation Acts were often disobeyed. Ships from the French and Spanish West Indies continued to carry sugar, molasses, rice, and ginger to American merchants, and to take back goods which had been made in New England. There were not enough English officers to guard the coast, and these things could easily be smuggled into and out of the colonies.

In spite of the unpopular laws, the mother country and her colonies were still on friendly terms. Prosperous colonial families wanted to buy many things that were made in England, and a good trade went on steadily between England and America.

The Quarrel Begins

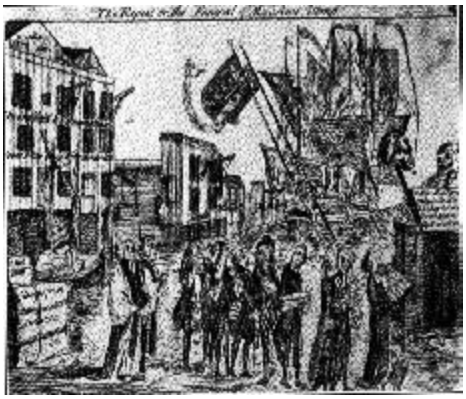
At the close of the French and Indian War, England needed a great deal of money. King George III and his officers decided that the war had given the colonies much valuable new land and that therefore these colonies ought to help pay the British debts of the war. The colonies insisted that they had raised and supported more than their share of the troops. In order to collect the money, the English Government tried to force the colonists to obey the Navigation Acts. Ships were sent to guard the coast, and English officers were told to arrest and fine any colonist found with smuggled goods. This was not an easy order to carry out. Smuggling became more dangerous, but on many a dark night, boats landed at some lonely part of the coast, and forbidden goods were safely hidden away before daylight.

In order to help the officers, the English Government decided to allow the use of *Writs of Assistance*. These were papers from the court, giving permission to enter and search a man’s house. If a colonist was suspected of storing smuggled goods, an officer secured a Writ of Assistance and searched the suspected man’s house from attic to cellar. The people became very angry when they were forced to stand by and see their property overhauled by the king’s officers.

The New England colonies carried on most of the American manufacture and trade, and they suffered most from the navigation Acts and the Writs of Assistance. The busy port of Boston became the very center of the growing quarrel with England.

Another plan, which the king carried out, was to keep an army of British soldiers in the colonies. He said that these troops were sent to protect the French and Spanish neighbors. But the colonists did not want the troops. They had always taken care of themselves, and they feared that the real reason for an army in America was to force them to obey the trade laws.

Matters became much worse when a law called the *Stamp Act* was passed in 1765. The purpose of this law was to tax the colonists for money to pay for the army. The king and his officers could not have chosen a surer way of making open trouble with the colonies. The Stamp Act declared that every business paper must carry a government stamp in order to be recognized in court as a true and legal paper. This meant that no colonist could buy or sell property, lease his farm or store, make a will, or be married without buying the English stamps. Even newspapers and almanacs had to be printed on stamped paper. This law affected all the colonies equally, and the entire country was angry at this tax.



These American citizens knew that taxes were necessary and right. No government could be carried on without money to pay its expenses. Each year their own assemblies voted taxes to keep up roads and schools, to pay the officers and soldiers who protected their homes, and to provide for all of the other needs of their colonies. But the people elected the members of these assemblies. In the different colonies quarrels often arose between the assemblies and the royal governors sent from England. But the people's assemblies had always succeeded in keeping the privilege of deciding on the kind and amount of taxes to be collected from the people.

England soon found that she had undertaken a hard task when she attempted to collect taxes from the colonists by the sale of stamps. Meetings were held in all parts of the country and angry speeches were made, urging the people to refuse to buy the stamps.

Patrick Henry, the Orator of the Revolution

News of the Stamp Act caused great excitement in the people's assembly of Virginia. A new member was attending the assembly for the first time. He was Patrick Henry, a young Virginia lawyer who was said to be a powerful speaker. For some time he listened in silence while the members of the assembly spoke on the subject of the Stamp Act. But Patrick Henry was not at all satisfied with the words that he heard. Some of the members were wealthy planters who sold their cotton and tobacco in England. Trouble with the mother country would interfere with their business, and they hoped that this dispute might be settled peacefully. One of these men advised writing a friendly letter to England telling how much the colonists objected to the Stamp Act. During this man's speech Patrick Henry tore a blank page from a law book and hurriedly wrote a statement of the rights, which he believed all colonists should have. At the first chance he got up and began to speak.

The others watched the new member with curiosity, but soon his fiery words compelled their entire attention, and many found themselves agreeing with his arguments. He read the resolutions which

he had written, and urged the assembly to have them printed in the papers as a public statement of the beliefs of the colony of Virginia.

A lively debate followed, and Patrick Henry made a second great speech. His words became so bold that some of the king's friends shouted, "Treason! treason!" But Henry calmly finished his talk even though he knew that he could be imprisoned and even put to death if treason could be proved against him. At the end of his speech the assembly was in an uproar, but when the votes were counted, the resolutions were found to have passed. The cause of liberty had found a leader in Virginia. For many years, Patrick Henry continued to stir the country with his burning words – among those, his well-known line "Give me liberty, or give me death!" Now we call him the "Orator of the Revolution."

The Colonists Resist the Stamp Act

In time of trouble it was natural for the colonies to turn to each other for help. The leaders of Massachusetts suggested that a congress be held, so that all the colonies could unite in sending a petition to the English king to ask his help in repealing the Stamp Act. This meeting was held in New York in 1765 and was called the Stamp Act Congress.

In the meantime, Samuel Adams, one of the leaders of Massachusetts, wrote resolutions like those of Patrick Henry, which were adopted by the Massachusetts Assembly. He also wrote friendly letters to many of the prominent men of England. In one of these he suggested that the Americans might refuse to buy goods form English merchants until the Stamp Act was repealed. The colonists quickly took up this idea. It was printed in newspapers and written in letters until it spread from one end of the country to the other. Everywhere people pledged themselves to buy nothing from England while the Stamp Act was in force.

The first of November came, the day on which stamps must begin to be used. Every effort of the colonists to have the law repealed had failed. Stamps were sent to America, and officers were appointed to sell them. Business immediately came to a standstill, for no one would buy the stamps. The young men in many of the colonies formed clubs and called themselves the Sons of Liberty. In North Carolina seven hundred Sons of Liberty surrounded the governor's house and would not leave until the stamp officer resigned. In other towns the stamps were stolen and burned, and in many places the English officers were threatened until they gave up their positions.

Benjamin Franklin, who was still in England, did all that he could to help the colonists. He called on many of the leaders of Parliament and urged them to work for the repeal of the Stamp Act.

Even these efforts met with no success until the English merchants discovered that their trade was falling off. When they saw that the colonists were really keeping their pledge not to buy goods from England, these merchants insisted that Parliament take some action to improve matters. The king then sent for Benjamin Franklin and asked him many questions about conditions in America. Franklin told him that the colonists would never consent to buy the stamps, and after much arguing and debate, the hated law finally was repealed.

The colonists were very happy. They felt that this action showed that their king and the mother country wished to treat them fairly after all. They celebrated their joy by ringing bells, feasting and drinking to the health of the king. In Virginia and New York, mock statues of the king were thrown down and many of the Sons of Liberty clubs disbanded.

Growing Trouble in the Colonies

In the general celebrating, very few people paid any attention to a statement, which Parliament made when the Stamp Act was repealed. The statement said that England had the right to make laws for "the colonies and people of America, subjects of the crown of Great Britain, in all cases whatsoever." Thoughtful leaders realized that those last words meant that the king still claimed the right to tax the colonists. The whole country soon realized that this was true. During the next year, 1767, a tax was placed on all glass, paper, paints, and tea, which were shipped to America. Parliament said that all Navigation Acts must be obeyed, and the officers were told to use the Writs of Assistance.

Once more the colonies were aroused, and Samuel Adams spent hours at his desk writing letters to prominent men in England. He told them that the people in America believed that "taxation without representation is tyranny." This meant that the English Parliament had no right to tax the colonies, because there was not a single member who had been elected in America and sent to the English Parliament to represent the colonists. Some people felt that this difficulty could easily be remedied, but Adams explained that London was too far away to think of sending such representatives. This was very true. In 1767, the telephone, the telegraph, and the radio were unknown. Messages traveled so slowly that an American member of Parliament could not know how the people for whom he was acting would want him to vote.

The colonists had many friends in England. William Pitt led the group in Parliament that sided with the Americans. They argued fearlessly against the taxes. But the king and his officers continued to have their own way. When Samuel Adams found that there was no hope of help in England, he wrote a letter and sent it to the peoples' assembly in every colony. This became known as the "Circular Letter." It angered the king because Adams suggested that all the colonies stand by each other and form a plan for opposing these unjust laws.

The English officers in America found the new taxes very hard to collect, and more soldiers were sent to help them. Two regiments arrived in Boston, and the sight of these Redcoats on the streets made the citizens angrier. There was constant trouble between the colonists and the soldiers. During one of their quarrels, five Americans were killed and several wounded. The Americans called this event the Boston Massacre, and when the news of it spread throughout the colonies, people became much alarmed.

On the same day an important thing happened in England. The king had been surprised to find that it cost the mother country far more to collect her taxes in America than she was getting back. Something must be done. At last all the taxes were withdrawn except the one on tea. These rebellious people, they thought, must be made to understand that England had the right to tax her colonies. Therefore, this one tax was kept. At the same time the price of tea was made so low that it cost less in America than in England.

King George III and his friends expected to trick the colonists into paying a tax, but they had no idea how strong the feeling in America had become. Samuel Adams formed a Committee of Correspondence in Massachusetts, and similar committees were started in other towns and colonies. Letters telling what was happening in different parts of the country passed back and forth, and everywhere people pledged themselves not to use any tea.

In the meantime shiploads of tea were on their way to America. What was to be done with it? In South Carolina, the tea was landed but no one would buy any; so it was stored in damp cellars and much of it spoiled. In Philadelphia and New York the ships were not allowed to land, and they sailed back to England taking the tea with them.

The greatest excitement was in Boston. Three English ships loaded with tea lay in the harbor waiting for permission either to unload their cargoes or to take it back to England. A meeting of the citizens was called on December 16, 1773, and Samuel Adams took charge of the meeting. All the stores were closed and people crowded into the famous Old South Church. Here they voted that the tea should not be landed and sent a message to the royal governor, asking for the proper papers so that the captain could sail back to England. The governor refused. Most of the day was spent in efforts to send the ships peacefully away.

At last, soon after darkness had fallen on that short winter day, Samuel Adams stood up and said; “This meeting can do nothing more to save the country.” As these words were spoken, a war whoop was heard outside and a band of men dressed as Mohawk Indians rushed by. They hurried to the ships, opened every chest of tea on board, and emptied it into Boston Harbor. The “Indians” made sure nothing but the tea was touched.

This Boston Tea Party was a lawless act, and brought much trouble to the city. In England many of the friends of America turned against them and Boston was in disgrace. The king and his friends were determined to punish the rebellious city. Laws were passed saying that Boston must pay for the tea, and that until this was done and they promised to obey the laws, no ship could enter or leave their port. Town meetings could not be held except with the permission of the king’s governor, and everyone arrested for a crime must be sent to England or to another colony for trial.

Drifting Toward War

These laws alarmed the colonists. They felt that now they must unite in an effort to have their rights respected. In September 1774, leaders from all the colonies met at Philadelphia. There they formed the First Continental Congress, and definitely planned to work together. Many were not in favor of war, yet there seemed no chance for a peaceful settlement of their troubles. In every colony there were also many citizens, called Tories, who sided with the king and felt that England had a right to make any laws that she wished for her colonies. But the greater number was determined to resist the unjust taxes, and a few began to hope for an independent country, altogether free from England.

After the First Continental Congress, citizens in every colony began to collect guns and ammunition, and men began to drill and prepare themselves for war. Companies of soldiers called *minutemen* were formed. The name meant that these men had pledged themselves to drop their work and go to the defense of the country at any minute. The Sons of Liberty were very active. They watched the king's governors, the tax officers, and the British Committees of Correspondence. Many letters traveled back and forth. In Virginia, Patrick Henry delivered his greatest speech, ending with the famous words, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

Samuel Adams and another patriot named John Hancock knew that they were in danger of being arrested and sent to England for trial on a charge of treason. Therefore they left Boston and carried on their work at the small town of Lexington. The colonists were collecting stores of guns and ammunition at the neighboring town of Concord. Then a day came when one of the Sons of Liberty learned that the British were about to arrest the two leaders and captures the stores of ammunition at Concord.

The king's troops were secretly watched. Near midnight on April 18, 1775, they began quiet preparations for the march to Lexington and Concord. One of the Sons of Liberty who was on guard waited until he was sure that the British would march by land. Then he hurried to the Old North Church and hung a lantern in the tower. Across the Charles River waited the messenger, Paul Revere. This lantern was his signal. The moment it appeared, Paul Revere leaped to his saddle and raced through the night on his famous ride. Every citizen along the way was warned that the British were coming.

At dawn, the British reached Lexington. Samuel Adams and John Hancock had fled, but a brave little army of sixty minutemen was gathered there on the village common. Here the first gun of the Revolutionary War was fired, on April 19, 1775. The colonists were scattered, and the British went on to capture the supplies at Concord. There they found that the colonists had taken most of the guns and ammunition away, and they turned back to Boston. Minutemen hidden behind trees and fences fired at the Redcoats as they passed. Many were killed and the rest were glad to reach the

shelter of Boston. At last the long quarrel between England and her colonies had ended in war.

News of the fighting at Lexington and Concord spread quickly from town to town. Messengers on fast horses were sent to the neighboring colonies. At each inn where the horsemen stopped, the story of the battle caused great excitement. At last the news reached the cities of New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and even the small settlements of the West and South. Everywhere, patriotic colonists began to collect arms and to drill small forces of volunteer soldiers. Colonial soldiers, hastily gathering from all parts of New England, guarded the city of Boston, where the British soldiers were staying.

On May 10, 1775, about three weeks after the battle of Lexington, leaders from all the colonies met at Philadelphia in the Second Continental Congress. Many serious problems faced the members of this congress. The colonies were already at war with England, but they had no united government to guide them. They could not hope to protect themselves against a powerful enemy like England unless they worked together. The Second Continental Congress, therefore, formed itself into a government to rule the United Colonies of America.

Congress had also to raise an army, for fighting had already begun. The soldiers who were gathering around Boston were taken as the beginning of an American army, and Congress asked every colony to raise troops and furnish supplies to help defend the country.

Who should be commander in chief of the new army? Where could a leader be found, wise and strong enough to form the rough colonial soldiers into a successful army? Many of the members of Congress thought of the brave Virginia soldier who had proved his ability in the French and Indian War. They decided to ask George Washington to be commander in chief.

Washington Becomes Commander in Chief

The men of Congress agreed that George Washington was the wisest and most experienced military leader in the colonies. However, when they asked him to become the commander in chief of the new Continental army, he did not accept at once. He doubted his own ability to lead the army successfully. Finally, after he had decided that his duty was to serve the colonies as their commander in chief, he got up and said, “I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in this room, that I this day declare, with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with.”

Since the army was near Boston, General Washington rode to that city to take command of the troops. Before he arrived, news reached him that a battle had been fought at Bunker Hill, just outside Boston. Twice the British soldiers had tried to take the hill, and twice the brave patriots turned them back. At the third attack the colonial troops gave way because they had no more ammunition.

Although the British won, the battle showed that untrained colonial soldiers could stand against the British regular army. The people were greatly encouraged, and Washington exclaimed, "The liberties of the country are safe!"

When Washington took command of the army, many of the men were still wearing their homespun suits and carrying the rifles that had hung on their kitchen walls at home. They were men rough in appearance and untrained in war, but they were brave and determined. Also, they were more skilful with the rifle than any other troops in the world. All during the summer of 1775 and the following winter, Washington drilled them and trained them. By the spring of 1776, Washington felt that he had a Continental army, ready to carry on the war.

In March 1776, Washington made his first move by taking possession of Dorchester Heights, just south of Boston. The guns of the Continental Army could now be fired on the British army in Boston. General Howe, the English commander, found that he must either fight or retreat. He could not risk a battle, so he put his troops on board English ships and sailed away to Canada.

The Declaration of Independence

By this time, the idea of complete separation and independence from England had grown strong in the minds of many Colonials. King George III had refused to listen to their petitions. He had called them rebels, sent his soldiers to punish them, and was even hiring Hessian troops from Germany to fight against them. More and more, the colonists were thinking of independence.

At last Richard Henry Lee of Virginia got up in Congress and made the motion, "That these United Colonies are, and right ought to be, free and independent States." Congress was not ready to vote on so important a matter at once. It appointed Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston, John Adams, and Roger Sherman to write a Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson did most of the writing. When the Declaration was ready, it was presented to Congress for adoption.

Every member of the Continental Congress felt that an important decision must now be made. If the vote was cast for independence, the colonies must face a war with England. Defeat in the war would bring ruin to the country and to the defeated colonists. After a long debate, the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776.

News of the Declaration of Independence was received with rejoicing. In every village bells rang, cannons boomed, and people crowded together to hear the Declaration read.

But not all the colonists approved of what had been done. Some believed that King George had a perfect right to make whatever laws he wished for his colonies. Many disliked the unjust trade laws and taxes and were willing to fight for their rights, but they wanted to remain Englishmen. They did not want to separate from England. When representatives from all the colonies signed the Declaration of Independence, every citizen had to choose on which side he would stand. Those who remained loyal to England – and there were many – were called *Tories.* As the war went on, they did much to help the English army and to hinder the cause of independence in America.

Hard Times for the Colonies

During the excitement over the Declaration of Independence, George Washington went quietly on with his preparations for war. He knew that the natural water route from Canada along Lake Champlain and the Hudson River, with New York as the gateway, would play an important part in the war for the independence of the colonies. If the English could form a line of strong forts along this route, the rebellious colonies of New England would be cut off from the rest of the country. The English could then conquer each part separately. In order to prevent them from carrying out this plan, Washington moved his army to Long Island. He fortified the western end of the island and built a fort on each side of the Hudson River above the city of New York.

The Continental army was not strong enough to hold New York. General Howe collected more troops and supplies in Canada and hurried to Long Island with a strong British force. Washington's brave little army was defeated in battle at the western end of Long Island – opposite the city of New York.

But the Colonials had a leader who knew how to face defeat. As darkness came after the battle was over, General Howe thought that he had the "ragged rebels" neatly trapped on Long Island. A strong northeast wind was blowing, so he delayed sailing up the East River. He could easily capture the rebels in the morning he thought. During the night the wind went down and a heavy fog hid the Colonials as they slipped quietly away in small boats and landed on Manhattan Island above New York. The "ragged rebels " had escaped from the trap. General Washington had to leave the important city of New York to the British. But the Colonials stood guard above the city to try to prevent the English from going up the Hudson River.

Meanwhile, more troops, well trained and well equipped, were arriving from England. Hessian soldiers hired from Germany (mercenaries) also came to fight in the British army. In the fall of 1776, British forces were sent to capture Philadelphia, the capital of the colonies. Washington had to divide his army. Leaving part of his troops to watch the Hudson River, he hurried into New Jersey with the rest. There he succeeded in getting between Philadelphia and the British forces. But his little army could not hope to win against the strong, well-trained troops of England. Slowly he retreated, delaying the enemy as much as possible.

Each day the country expected news of a battle. At last the British troops were only thirty miles from Philadelphia, and still the retreat continued. The colonial army reached the Delaware River with the British close behind them. Washington ordered every boat for miles up and down the river to be collected. Then the Colonials crossed the river, taking the boats with them. When the British arrived on the eastern shore, they were stopped for lack of boats. Winter was beginning, and ice would soon form in the river. The British commander thought the crossing would be easy then. So the British went into camp in several New Jersey towns and waited for freezing weather.

Washington's army was safe for a time, but things looked very dark for the cause of the colonies. The soldiers were discouraged because they saw no prospect of a victory. Their clothing was thin and ragged. Their food was scarce and poor. They had not been paid even the small wages, which colonial soldiers usually received. Many of the men had enlisted for only a year, and as soon as their time was up, they insisted upon going home. In spite of all that Washington could do, his army was steadily growing smaller. Even the people at home complained and criticized. "Why," they asked, "does Washington never fight? Does he think he can win the war by running away?"

Washington himself was doing much to help the cause for which he was working. When the Continental Congress made him the commander in chief, he had refused all pay except for his most necessary expenses. Now, when his men were suffering, Washington did all that he cold to provide for them. His own needs came last. Many times he wrote letters to Congress, begging them to send supplies more promptly. He secured some help for his army from wealthy men of the country. He himself was a wealthy man, and he used much of his own money to provide clothing and food for the men, and to pay them in order that their families at home might be cared for.

Fighting for Freedom

In the midst of the gloom and discouragement, one of the chances came that Washington was watching and waiting for. It was Christmas night, in 1776. Hessian soldiers in Trenton, New Jersey, were celebrating the day with feasting. They felt perfectly safe, for the Delaware River was full of dangerous floating ice and Washington was on the other side. Snow was falling in a blinding storm. Suddenly shouting was heard outside and messengers broke up the parties with cries of "The rebels are coming, the rebels are coming!"

The Hessians rushed out to find their only way of escape held by the Colonials. Washington had collected rowboats and with a small force had crossed the dangerous river to surprise the enemy at Trenton. The attack was successful, and prisoners and supplies were captured. A few days later Lord Cornwallis, leader of the British army in New Jersey, was surprised and defeated at Princeton. The British army marched back to New York to spend the rest of the winter.

These two successes encouraged the whole country. In England, the king and his friends began to see that this war against the colonies would not be so short and easy as they had expected. The king's secretary for colonial affairs said afterward, "All our hopes were blasted by that unhappy affair at Trenton." But the king was determined to conquer the rebellious colonies. Plans were made for a strong campaign in America, and more troops and supplies were sent.

General Washington continued to use his small army so skillfully that he escaped capture and yet hindered and annoyed the British at every turn. In spite of all that he could do, however, General Howe captured Philadelphia in September 1777. The loss of Philadelphia was a heavy blow to the colonists, but soon good news of a victory in the north encouraged them.

A British army under General Burgoyne was invading the country from Canada, using the well-known route along Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. General Howe had been expected to move up the Hudson River from New York to meet Burgoyne. If they could cut off the New England colonies, they would win the war. But through some mistake, Howe was already fighting his way into Philadelphia at the time when he should have been starting north. At first Burgoyne was successful. He led a large army of well-trained British soldiers, and many Indians from Canada came with him. They captured American forts along the way, and pushed on to the Hudson River.

In the meantime, the militia of New York and the New England colonies were quickly gathering at Albany, and many new volunteers were joining them. They were all brave men who were determined to protect their homes from this invading army. Washington sent General Gates with a small troop to take charge of these combined forces. They marched north and met Burgoyne at Saratoga, where two successful battles were fought.

The British general would have been glad to retreat to Canada, but his way was now blocked by strong forces of militia from Vermont and New Hampshire. These bold backwoodsmen had hurried into New York at the rear of Burgoyne's army. He was hemmed in on all sides, and his food was giving out. On October 17, 1777, he surrendered his entire army.
The colonists were overjoyed. The British defeat at Saratoga meant that England's plan of dividing the colonies had failed. Even more important was another result of the battle, a result that took place in France.

Franklin Seeks Help from France

Soon after the Declaration of Independence was signed, the Continental Congress had sent Benjamin Franklin to France. Congress hoped that he could persuade the French Government to help the colonies in their war against England.

Franklin was the right man for the task. His almanac and his experiments with electricity and made him better known in Europe than any other American. In Paris, Franklin quickly won the friendship of the French people. They liked his quick wit and his simple, friendly manner. Before long they were heartily in sympathy with the cause of the colonies. Many of the young nobles of

France offered to leave their homes and fight side by side with the Continentals to help them win their independence. One of these whose name will always be remembered was the Marquis de Lafayette. He became an officer in the Continental army and did much to help the colonies in their struggle.

Franklin also won the friendship of the government of France. But the king hesitated to recognize the colonies as a new nation. If they were defeated in their war for independence, he feared that France might find herself in trouble with England.

At last came the news that General Burgoyne had surrendered to the Continental army. The people in Paris celebrated the event as though it had been a great French victory, and the French Government was ready to help the colonies openly. A few weeks after the news arrived, Franklin succeeded in making a treaty of friendship between France and the United Colonies of America. The French Government agreed to lend money to the Continental Congress and to send armies and warships to help the struggling colonial army.

The good news reached Washington near the end of the hardest winter his army had spent. They were encamped at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania. Not far away, General Howe's army was enjoying the comfort of Philadelphia. At Valley Forge, however, the Continental troops were suffering from cold and hunger. Congress had no money for supplies, and Washington, in spite of all his efforts, could not provide the food, clothing, and blankets that were needed. On the coldest nights the men did not try to sleep, but sat around their campfires to keep warm. Many became sick and died. All proved themselves real heroes by patiently enduring the hardships of that dreadful winter.

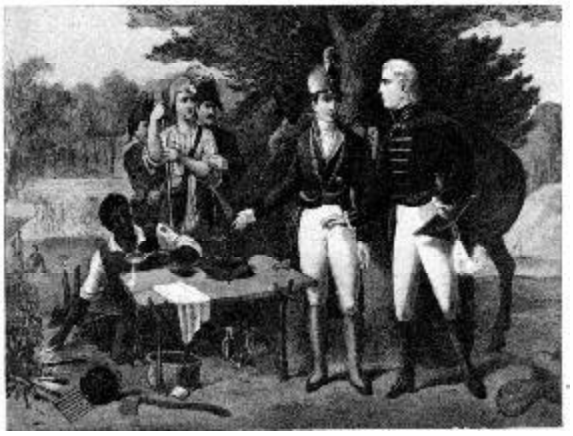
When England heard of the treaty with France, she offered to make peace with the colonies and to grant them everything they asked except independence. The colonies would not consider the offer. With the help of France, they now felt sure of success and were determined to continue their struggle for independence.

France kept her promises of help, but in spite of her help, the war dragged on for three more years. General Howe left Philadelphia and returned to New York. Washington followed him and remained near the city to protect the Hudson River district and the surrounding towns.

Fighting in the South

Much of the fighting now went on in the South, for the British were trying a new plan. They intended to start in Georgia and move north, conquering one colony after another. They hoped at least to save the rich tobacco, rice, and cotton colonies of the South for England.

The plan was successful for a time. The British conquered Georgia and most of South Carolina. At one time the Continental army in South Carolina seemed entirely destroyed. But volunteer leaders gathered small bands of devoted followers who hid in the forests and swamps. The most noted of



these leaders was Francis Marion. His nickname was the "Swamp Fox." His men were bold and skilful horsemen who could use their rifles well. They followed the British troops, hiding and watching until a small group of the enemy was sent to gather food supplies. This gave them an opportunity that was never wasted. Riding like the wind, they surprised the British, killed or scattered the soldiers, and captured their supplies. When things looked darkest for the colonists in the South, these lawless fighters kept the cause of independence alive until good generals with new troops arrived from the North.

The Surrender at Yorktown

All during the Revolutionary War, the British in America had to face several great difficulties. The first difficulty was that the British troops were unfamiliar with the land – and climate. The Americans were outnumbered, but they were fighting from their heart. They knew the land and were accustomed to the changes in climate. A second difficulty was they could not conquer a district and leave it to remain conquered. As soon as the British army marched away, the people became once more the independent citizens that life in America had taught them to be. The third difficulty was that British troops were fighting far from home. All their supplies, especially ammunition, had to be brought by ships from England. For this reason, British generals had to return often to the coast and keep in close touch with their ships. Transportation was both slow and expensive.

Washington had been patiently waiting for a chance to trap the British and cut them off from their supplies. At last the opportunity came.

In the South, General Greene's small force of Continentals was in retreat. Lord Cornwallis and his army had been following them northward. The two armies had marched entirely across the western part of North Carolina. At length Cornwallis turned toward the sea. In Virginia, Lafayette was at the head of a small Continental force. He skillfully kept near Cornwallis but avoided the necessity of fighting. The two armies marched back and forth like men in a great game of chess, each trying to corner the other. At last Cornwallis again turned toward the coast and went into camp at Yorktown. This town was on a narrow strip of land at the mouth of the James River. Many years before, Captain John Smith and the first English colonists had settled near this very place.

Cornwallis felt safe. In back of him was Chesapeake Bay. British ships could keep his army well supplied, and he could sail away if he must. From the higher ground near by, Lafayette watched the British army and sent word to Washington, describing the position of both forces.

When the news came, Washington was still on the Hudson River, standing guard over the British army in New York. He knew that his great chance had come and he acted quickly. He had just received an offer from the French to make use of their fleet near the West Indies. He now sent a message asking the French admiral to go with all speed to Yorktown, drive away the British ships, and guard the coast where Cornwallis was in camp.

Part of his army Washington ordered to make a great show of attacking New York in order to keep General Clinton from sending help to Cornwallis. Then with as many Colonial and French troops as possible, he hurried to Yorktown. Before Cornwallis knew what was happening, he was surrounded. Yorktown, which had seemed a safe camp, had become a trap. Before him stood a strong enemy. Behind him Chesapeake Bay was held by French warships instead of by his own friendly English vessels. Two attacks, one by the French under Lafayette, and the other by the Continental army, showed Cornwallis that he could not fight his way through. At last, on October 19, 1781, he surrendered his entire army.

This was the last important fighting of the war. Both sides realized that General Washington had brought victory to the American cause by his success at Yorktown. British troops were removed from the southern cities. But General Clinton's army remained in New York; so Washington returned to his old position on the Hudson River and to his old duty of watching the British troops. Then followed a long wait while the treaty of peace between England and her victorious colonies was being made in Paris.

Peace

Congress sent Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay to represent the United Colonies in Paris and to gain the best terms possible for them. The treaty of peace was finally signed in 1783 and was called the Treaty of Paris. England agreed to the independence of the thirteen American colonies, and gave up her claims to all the land east of the Mississippi River, from Canada on the north to Florida on the south.

The twenty-fifth of November 1783 was a day of rejoicing in New York City. The British army was leaving America, and Washington and his troops were to march in and take possession of the town. Early in the morning the streets were filled with excited crowds, eager to see all that was going on. The Redcoats marched to the docks at the lower end of the city, where boats were ready to take them to the waiting ships. Then General Washington and the governor of New York, leading a procession of Colonial troops, entered the city with flags flying and bands playing. The day was given up to feasting and celebration.

A few days later, General Washington said good-bye to the last of his soldiers and sent them to their homes. He himself had one more duty that must be performed. He went to Congress, made a careful report of the work which he had done, and resigned his commission as commander in chief of the army. Then with a grateful heart he set out for his peaceful home at Mount Vernon.

From United Colonies to United States

Washington saw that the dangers to the United Colonies were not all over when the war was won. There was really no United States. There were thirteen separate colonies. As long as they were fighting a common enemy, they tried to work together. Now that the war was won, each colony thought mainly of its own interest.

The same year that Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, the Articles of Confederation went into effect. These articles were supposed to provide a way for the colonies to work together as a nation. In fact they made a government that was so weak that the wise leaders of the country saw that the Articles of Confederation were of little use.

Under these articles, Congress could ask the states for money, but it had no power to make them furnish it. Congress could not pay the soldiers who had won the war. Neither could it do the many other things that must be done by all the states together rather than by separate states.

To make matters worse, some of the states began to charge a tax or duty on anything brought in from other states. For example, New York taxed a man who brought firewood from Connecticut or one who brought food from New Jersey. Such taxes were the cause of many disputes. The colonies began to be jealous and angry at one another. This, of course, made it still harder for them to work together.

The wisest leaders – like Washington and Franklin – soon began to try to form a stronger central government. But it was not until 1878, about six years after the surrender of Cornwallis, that the real work of forming the present United States Government was begun.

The men who built this government met in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Washington was president of the convention. After a long, hard struggle, the Constitution of the United States was written. It then had to be accepted, or adopted, by the states. This meant that there were many arguments and speeches. At last, in 1789, the Constitution was adopted and the United Colonies became the United States of America.

The first duty of the new nation was to elect a leader, and George Washington was chosen to be the head of the government as the first President of the United States. At noon on April 30, 1789, Washington and the chief justice of the Nation stepped out on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City. A great crowd stood in the streets below, but all were quiet while George Washington promised to uphold the laws of the United States and to protect the rights of the people.

He had led his countrymen in war and gained independence for the Nation. Now he was to lead them in peace and help to build the solid foundations of a strong and just government. George Washington was the real “Father of His Country,” for without his wise and unselfish guidance, the new Nation never would have existed. When the great leader’s work was over, he left the United States well fitted to go steadily forward and to grow into a great and prosperous Nation.

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John Winthrop

Godly Governor
1588-1649

"What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justy, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." Micah 6:8

The summer sun was bright as attorney John Winthrop and his friend rode through the English countryside to a Puritan gathering. The men talked about their children and grandchildren. Then their thoughts turned toward the future and what it held for their families.

Suddenly, Winthrop felt his horse lurch under him. Too late, he realized it had lost its footing. The horse fell, throwing Winthrop into a swampy hole. Water came up to his waist, and the mud under his feet sucked him down. With his friend's help, he struggled free.

"Thank the Lord for protecting me!" Winthrop exclaimed.

After he had recovered from his fall, Winthrop turned to his trusted friend and said, "I think England is more dangerous than this swampland. It's sunk in its sins and trying to pull us down too!" His face filled with sorrow. "Downing, I see dark days ahead."

"So do I," Emanuel Downing replied. "King Charles has no use for Puritans. He believes it is his divine right to rid England of us. No doubt it is because of your beliefs that you have lost your position in the court."

"Yes, and now that Bishop Laud is allied with the King, we are in even more danger," Winthrop said. "Just as King Charles has dismissed Parliament and locked up those who oppose him, Laud will persecute any who reject his regal religious ceremonies and traditions."

"Shall we join those leaving for America next spring?" Downing asked.

Winthrop nodded. "I see that as our only hope. Perhaps God has provided this place as a refuge . . . a place where we can build a *new* England. Let us pray the Almighty will give us a better life there.

Soon, John Winthrop agreed to lead a venture called the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He used his clear thinking and his powerful way with words to encourage other Puritans to join him. Many of the colonists were wealthy and well-educated. Some were artisans and merchants. Others were scholars. All of them had

two things in common: they wanted to worship God in the way they believed the Bible taught, and they were eager to tell others about Jesus Christ.

The following March, six shiploads of Puritans set out for New England. On board the *Arbella*, Winthrop had plenty of time to think and pray. He carefully wrote a description of the New England Puritans' covenant with God. Then he presented his message to those on board.

"Since we are fellow members of Christ, we should live together in love," Winthrop said. "God has guided us to seek out a place where we can live and work under a common government. In this effort, we must put the good of the public ahead of our private interests."

Winthrop's listeners nodded their agreement. He went on to tell them that others would be watching their example to see if their lives improved and they could do more for the Lord. "The eyes of all people are upon us."

When the colonists reached New England, they built a thriving settlement called Boston. These courageous people took a stand for morality, and Winthrop served as their governor. Just as he had hoped, thousands of Puritans heard about the Massachusetts Bay Colony and came to New England.

Note: When you visit the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C., you can see a statue of John Winthrop in the hallway beneath the chamber of the House of Representatives. On the wall in the Library of Congress, you will find one of John Winthrop's favorite Bible verses – Micah 6:8. It is a good creed for all Americans.

Courtesy of: In God We Trust
Chariot Victor Publishing, 1997

George Washington

Father of America
1732 – 1799

"We must make it clear to the French that England will not tolerate invasion of its territory," Governor Dinwiddie told the Virginia officers. "I need a volunteer to carry my warning to the French commander at Fort La Boeuf." He looked around the circle of men. "This will be a dangerous mission. Anyone who takes it will face a rugged wilderness, Indians, and wild animals. And the winter weather will make traveling on horseback difficult."

Young Major George Washington spoke up. "Five years ago I went into the frontier, so I know the risks. But I will count it an honor to take your message to the French, Governor."

In late 1753, Washington left the comforts of colonial Virginia and headed toward the wilderness of western Pennsylvania. All he had to guide him was a compass and his earlier experience as a surveyor. As he traveled, he drew a map for Dinwiddie. It showed his path through the thick snowy forests, across icy rivers, and over high mountains.

Washington looked with amazement at the awesome land that stretched out before him. *No wonder the French want America for themselves!* he thought. *They will never agree to let it go to the English peacefully.* With the thought of war in mind, Washington carefully marked on his map all the French forts he found along the way.

After twenty-six days, George reached Fort Le Boeuf. As soon as the French wrote their answer, he started back to Williamsburg. After nearly freezing in the cruel winter wilderness, he handed Governor Dinwiddie the message that started a war. "Washington, you look like death!" Dinwiddie said when he saw the young officer again.

"But I am not dead, sir," Washington answered. "Providence has chosen to save my life."

During the war with France, Washington risked his life many times. After one of the worst battles, he said in a letter to his brother: "Dear Jack, I am writing to assure you that I am still alive by the miraculous care of Providence that protected me beyond all human expectation. I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot from under me. Yet I escaped unhurt."

Over twenty years later, when America declared its independence from England, George Washington again faced great danger and hardship. By then, his courageous military service had earned him the rank of colonel. Many people believed he should be placed in charge of the entire American army.

The Continental Congress discussed whom to choose as army commander. While they debated and disagreed, Washington walked the streets of Philadelphia or paced in his room.

I will not be chosen, he thought. *It is too much responsibility, too high an honor. And the cause of freedom is so doubtful.*In spite of his worries, the delegates decided he was the best choice. "Congratulations, General," they said as they shook his hand. With tears in his eyes, Washington told his friend Patrick Henry, "I don't have the training for such an important command." But the delegates stood firm in their decision. At dinner, they saluted him and solemn silence filled the dining room.

"The sword of liberty has been put in your hands, General Washington," a delegate said. "Your country has chosen you."

The outcome of the war showed that George Washington was a good choice. But he didn't take credit for America's victory. "The hand of Providence has been so clear in the course of the war," Washington wrote in a letter to another general. "A man would have to be worse than an atheist not to gratefully admit God's help."

After the United States won its independence from England, it again chose Washington for a position of great honor and responsibility. In 1789, he became the nation's first president.

When America's great war hero arrived in New York (then the U.S. Capital) for his inauguration, the entire city was decorated. As he rode down the street, people tossed flowers down on his carriage like confetti.

At nine o'clock in the morning on April 30, all the church bells in the city called people to come and pray for their new president. Then, around noon, Washington traveled in a parade to the Federal State House. Inside, everything was ready for him to take the oath of office.

President Washington looked handsome in his dark brown suit, his silver sword by his side. He laid his hand on the Bible, which the Secretary of the Senate held on a red velvet cushion, and promised to serve his country faithfully. At the end, Washington solemnly added four words to the required oath. "So help me, God," he said and his voice trembled with strong feeling.

After the Inauguration, Washington, his vice-president John Adams, and all of Congress went to St. Paul's Chapel for a special church service.

Throughout his presidency, George Washington looked to Heaven for help and approval. "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God," he said in his Thanksgiving Proclamation, "to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly ask His protection and kindness."

** St. Paul's Chapel still stands in the heart of New York City. A painting of the coat of arms of the United States hangs above George Washington's pew.

** The Washington Monument is over 555 feet tall. At its top is a metal cap that reads, "Praise be to God." Those words seem to fit the great commander who trusted in Providence.

Courtesy of: In God We Trust
Chariot Victor Publishing, 1997

James Oglethorpe

Friend of the Poor
1696 – 1785

"Must we sentence the poor to these wretched prisons?" James Oglethorpe said to his friends as they ate dinner. "Surely there is a better way of dealing with those who can't pay their debts."

A portly gentleman sitting beside Oglethorpe spoke up. "What would you suggest? I doubt that the King or we members of Parliament are ready to pay their bills. Anyone who's too lazy to earn a living for himself and his family deserves to rot in prison."

Another of the Parliament members spoke up. "It is sad to see, but we cannot be responsible for the bad luck of everyone in England." Then the men began to talk about fox hunting and other pleasant things.

But Oglethorpe didn't listen. He was still thinking about the terrible conditions in the jails. He didn't like seeing a problem and not doing anything about it.

The next day in Parliament, Oglethorpe stood and spoke to the entire assembly about the debtors' prisons. After much discussion, the British lawmakers decided to form a committee to investigate prison conditions.

When the committee saw the prisons and met some of the men inside, they quickly agreed with Oglethorpe that something must be done.

Oglethorpe spoke, "I think I may have a plan." The committee members urged him to continue. "If the King will agree, we could establish a new colony in America – a place where these people could have a new start. Surely risking their lives to help enlarge England's claim on the New World would earn forgiveness of their debts."

Lord Percival, one of the men on the committee, said, "I know someone who would like your idea – Archbishop Thomas Bray. He may be able to help you get the support you'll need."

As soon as he could, Oglethorpe talked to Archbishop Bray about the suffering of debtors in England's prisons. The Archbishop liked Oglethorpe's idea for a debtors' colony. "I will use all my influence to help you gain approval and money for this worthy plan," Archbishop Bray promised.

In 1732, King George granted James Oglethorpe's request. The land between South Carolina and Florida became the Georgia Colony. Parliament generously supported the new venture.

The following year, Oglethorpe and the first settlers sailed to America. Together they started Savannah, the first Georgia settlement.

In early Georgia, slavery was forbidden. Oglethorpe also made sure that traders couldn't sell rum there. He didn't want a love of liquor among the settlers or the Native Americans to ruin his plans.

Oglethorpe wanted Georgia to be a safe and peaceful place for everyone. He treated the local Creek Indians with respect. He also welcomed persecuted Christians of many different beliefs. Jews found a home in Savannah as well.

Two hundred Lutherans from Salzburg, Austria, fled to Georgia in 1734 to escape persecution. They built a settlement called New Ebenezer on the Savannah River. They also gave Georgia its first church, gristmill, and sawmill.

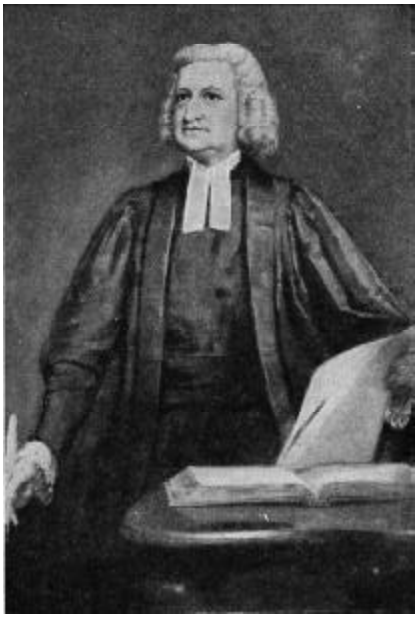
One of the most important goals of the colony was spreading Christianity. But Oglethorpe had a hard time getting Anglican priests to come to Georgia. When they came, they often grew sick and died or decided to go back to England.

Then a minister named George Whitefield came to Georgia. His great preaching made people want to know God. They filled the church to hear him. When it became too small for the crowds, Whitefield preached to them in the fields.

In addition to preaching about Jesus Christ, Whitefield built an orphanage near Savannah. He named it Bethesda, which means "house of mercy." It was one more way Georgia became a home for the homeless.

Later at Oglethorpe's urging, John and Charles Wesley (founders of the Methodist church) came to Georgia to begin their ministries in America. John began his ministry in Savannah, Georgia; Charles his ministry in Frederica on St. Simon's Island.

Oglethorpe's compassion and vision provided a home for thousands of people who were close to losing all hope and faith.



Charles Wesley

Patrick Henry

Voice of the Revolution
1736-1799

Eleven-year-old Patrick Henry listened closely as the Presbyterian preacher Samuel Davies spoke. The country church was filled with people from all over Hanover County, Virginia, who came to hear the gifted young minister. His strong, pleasant voice and dramatic speaking held Patrick's attention better than his uncle's sermons at the Anglican church.

When the service ended, Patrick followed his mother and sisters out of the church. The family climbed into the buggy and began their ride home.

"Mother, is Reverend Davies the best preacher you've ever heard?" Patrick asked.

"Folks say the only man better is Reverend George Whitefield," his mother said. "We're blessed to have a preacher like Samuel Davies." Her hands firmly on the horses' reins, she said, "Now tell me, what did you learn today?"

As he did every Sunday, young Henry repeated the main Bible verses Reverend Davies had used. Then, using his best voice, he recited as much of the sermon as he could remember.

"Well done, Patrick!" his mother said. "You have a good memory and a nice way with words. Maybe you'll be a preacher when you grow up."

In 1764, Patrick Henry was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses. The wealthy and well-educated men from coastal Virginia didn't pay much attention to the tall, thin lawyer from Hanover County – until he began to speak about things he deeply believed. Some of Patrick Henry's best speeches were about American's rights and England's wrongs.

In 1774, the House of Burgesses decided it was time for all the colonies to send representatives to an annual Congress. They chose Henry as one of their delegates to the first Continental Congress in Philadelphia later that year.

The following spring, the Virginia House of Burgesses tried to meet as usual at Williamsburg. But the Royal Governor dismissed them as punishment for their defiance of the king and parliament.

"He won't get rid of us that easily!" said the fiery young Thomas Jefferson. He and the other Burgesses agreed to meet at St. John's Anglican Church in Richmond.

In late March, 120 of Virginia's greatest men crowded into the church. Among them were George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Richard Henry Lee, Reverend Peter Muhlenberg, and Patrick Henry.

On the fourth day, conservative members began to talk about their hope for peace with England. "The only way we can return to the happy days we once enjoyed is to appeal to King George," one of the men said.

Patrick Henry stood to speak. He read two important resolutions – actions he wanted Virginia to take immediately. "Instead of paying taxes for British troops to come and watch over us, we need a trained militia to defend us," he said. "This colony should be immediately put into a state of defense and a large number of

men trained and armed for that purpose."

"You make it sound like we're already at war with our mother country," said one of the delegates. "Don't you think this is a little premature?"

Henry answered respectfully, "It is natural to shut our eyes against a painful truth. But I am willing to know the whole truth and act as it demands."

He looked at those who had spoken strongly for peace and said, "Ask yourself why our petitions to England have been answered with British soldiers on our land and sea. Has Great Britain any enemy in this part of the world? No sir, she has none. These troops are meant for us. They've been sent to fasten upon us chains which the British have been so long making."

As Henry talked, his eyes blazed and his voice became louder. "We have tried arguing with them for ten years. We have done everything that could be done to turn away the storm which is now coming on. There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to save the rights that are ours by law, we must fight!"

He continued with even more force. "They tell us that we are weak – unable to face so strong an opponent. But when will we be stronger?" He paused to let his words sink in. "We are not weak if we make use of the means God has placed in our power. Three million people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as we possess, are invincible against any force," he reasoned. "Besides, we will not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who rules over the nations. He will raise up friends to fight for us."

The room was warm and a crowd had gathered around the open church windows to hear what was happening. Henry concluded his speech with words from the Bible. "Gentlemen may cry peace, peace – but there is no peace . . . Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, that we would purchase it at the price of chains and slavery? God forbid it! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

When the House of Burgesses voted, Henry's resolution won by five votes. Then he and others created a plan for organizing the Virginia militia. It was accepted and Henry became the colony's military commander.

In 1776, Patrick Henry resigned his military position to become governor of the newly created state of Virginia. For the rest of his life, he remained concerned about the rights of common people. He deserves much of the credit for the addition of the Bill of Rights to our U.S. Constitution.

"Whether American independence will be a blessing or a curse depends on how our people make use of what God has given us. If they are wise, they will be great and happy. If they are not, they will be miserable. Righteousness alone can exalt a nation. (Proverbs 14:34) Reader! Whoever you are, remember this, and in your world practice goodness and encourage it in others."
~ Patrick Henry

Courtesy of: In God We Trust
Chariot Victor Publishing, 1997

Paul Revere

Messenger of Liberty
1735 – 1818

Paul watched closely as his father etched a design of swirling leaves around the edge of a shiny gold button. "It is beautiful, Father!" he said.

Apollos Revere smiled at his son. "You may share your mother's plain Puritan faith, but you have my French blood in you," he said. "It shows in your love of fine things and your curiosity."

His eyes shining with pride, Paul begged, "Tell me again, Father, about how you escaped from France when the King persecuted the *Huguenots."*

"You know the story as well as I, son," Apollos said. "But I will tell it again, and we will both think of what a wonderful place America is."

When Paul Revere wasn't listening to his father's stories and learning his craft, or attending Boston's North Writing School, he played with his friends at the waterfront. All year round, the ships sailed in and out. Paul liked the strange sights and sounds they brought to Boston.

Then at age nineteen, his father died. Paul took over his business and supported his mother, brothers, and sisters. His work wasn't as fine as that of Apollos Revere, but he had good ideas and lots of energy. His shop did well.

As the years went by, Paul became a husband and the father of eight children. Every Sunday he and his family attended Boston's New Brick Church, where Paul had grown up. When his first wife died, he married a young woman who gave him eight more children. They loved each other very much and worked hard to care for their "little lambs," as Paul called his children.

In spite of this loving care, five of the children died as babies. Paul and Rachel Revere were heartbroken. But Rachel told him, "Keep up your courage and trust yourself and your family into the hands of a good God who will take care of us."

In good times and bad, Paul kept busy. He continued to run his father's metalworking business. Revere also helped Boston get its first streetlights, worked to regulate the city's growing trade, started a fire insurance company and a charitable organization. He always attended town meetings where the people of Boston decided how to run their city. Somehow, he still found time to go horseback riding almost every day.

When England increased the American colonists' taxes, Paul Revere made an important decision. He joined the Sons of Liberty, a group of men who encouraged Americans to seek greater freedom from Britain. One night in 1773, Revere helped dump English tea into the Boston Harbor to protest trade laws.

The British became more and more worried about their American colonies and patriots like Paul Revere. They sent soldiers to make the people obey English laws, but this only made many Americans angrier. And the Sons of Liberty made things very difficult for the British soldiers.

By 1775, England realized it would have to use force against the American patriots. Paul Revere and his friends knew a fight was coming.

"We need a plan to warn people on the other side of the river of a British attack," he told Colonel Conant, a local militia leader. "The sexton at the Old North Church would let us use the steeple to send a signal."

"Splendid idea!" said the Colonel. "That church is tall enough for a light to be seen in Charlestown. But folks will need to know what route the British troops are taking."

"I thought of that already, sir," said Revere with a smile. "If the soldiers travel on land, we'll shine one lantern. If they go by boat across the bay and then march northwest, we'll use two lanterns."

They agreed on the signal plan and told the others who needed to know about it. Then they waited.

On April 18, 1775, a boy ran into Revere's shop. "I have important news!" he said breathlessly. "The British soldiers are getting ready to march! I work in the stable where they keep their horses and overheard them talking."

"Thank you for coming to me," Revere said. Other reports of military activity kept coming to him. By the end of the day, his friend Dr. Joseph Warren knew the British plan.

"The soldiers have been ordered to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock in Lexington," Dr. Warren told Revere. "Then they will go to Concord and destroy our ammunition. Will you ride to Lexington and Concord with a warning?"

"Of course!" Revere said. "And on the way, I'll stop and tell the men to hang two lanterns in the steeple window."

Revere rowed across the river to Charlestown. Patriots were waiting with a horse that would take him the rest of the way.

British soldiers guarded the roads, but somehow Revere got through. By morning, Samuel Adams and John Hancock had safely escaped from Lexington and the American Minutemen were armed and ready to stop the British.

Soon fighting broke out in other places, and the American Revolutionary War began. Paul Revere joined the army and served as a lieutenant colonel. He also made bullets and cannons for the Americans to use. The first American paper money was designed and printed by him.

When the Revolution ended, Paul Revere went back to his silver shop. "What shall I make now that we don't need cannons and bullets?" he wondered. "I know! I'll make bells." Soon his new foundry was supplying bells to churches throughout New England. Some of them are still ringing today.

Paul Revere's house in Boston's North End was built in 1676, and the Revere family moved there in 1770. Part of the road Revere traveled in his midnight ride is now a National Park. On Patriots' Day, April 19, Boston children ring the town bell at midnight and remember the courage of Paul Revere.

We should remember how Revere pictured the cause of American freedom. In a sketch he drew in 1775, he pictured America as a lady praying. Looking up, she said, "Lord, our hope is in You." From Heaven, God's words came down toward America, saying, "I have delivered and I will deliver."

Courtesy of: In God We Trust
Chariot Victor Publishing, 1997

Roger Williams

Founder of Rhode Island
1603-1683

"Is this how you repay my kindness?" Sir Edward Coke said. "You could be a brilliant lawyer or a respected minister. But now you're throwing it all away to join a bunch of religious fanatics!"

Roger Williams quietly waited until the storm of words ended. He had known Sir Edward would be furious over his decision to join the Puritans in their fight for church reform. He said, "I am deeply grateful for what you have spent on my education. And I am even more thankful for your friendship. But, Sir Edward, I must obey my conscience."

It was a hard choice for the young man to make because he loved his benefactor. But he was convinced that England's church was corrupt. He wanted to do whatever he could to bring it back to a true worship of God.

Since Roger was a likeable young man, he made friends easily. And he shared his ideas with everyone. This soon got him into trouble with powerful men. To escape going to prison, he quickly left England.

During the voyage to America, Williams spent much of his time studying the Bible. He decided being a Puritan reformer wasn't enough. "We will never change the Church of England. We must break away and start a new church with God's Word as our only Guide."

When Roger Williams arrived in Boston, Governor Winthrop and other leaders gave him a warm welcome. "We're in need of a minister right now," they told him. "Will you come and preach for us?"

"I must refuse your kind offer," Williams said politely. "I cannot serve in a church that is still joined to the Church of England."

The Puritans were shocked and insulted. They feared the young man would bring trouble to New England.

Soon Williams received an invitation to teach in the Salem, Massachusetts, church. But the Boston Puritans warned their friends in Salem that the new preacher was dangerous.

Eventually Williams decided that Plymouth Colony and its church would be a better place for him and his family. The Pilgrims there shared more of his ideas.

In Plymouth, Williams learned to farm and hunt. He also made friends with Native Americans in the area and learned their language. The Wampanoag and Narragansett chiefs liked Williams, and found him to be trustworthy. As he talked and traded with them, Williams thought about how the white people had stolen their land. He decided it was time to speak up for them.

"How can the King of England give you land for your colony when he does not own the land himself?" Williams asked the Pilgrims and Puritans. "No one ever paid the Indians anything or even asked their permission to be here."

This wasn't the only thing about New England that Roger Williams criticized. "The magistrates have no right to punish people for sins against God. They should deal only with wrongs against men and women, or against the community," he said.

In spite of his unpopular ideas, the church in Salem invited Williams to come back and be their pastor. He agreed, and for a while things went well. In addition to his church work, Williams started a successful trading company. Everything would have been fine if he only stayed quiet about his beliefs. But he didn't.

The Massachusetts' governors, magistrates, and ministers decided it was time to make Roger Williams be quiet. So they ordered him to appear in court.

"Since you persist in spreading many strange and dangerous opinions that oppose our authority, we order you to leave Massachusetts. You have six weeks to secure passage or the magistrates will remove you by force."

Williams returned home to Salem. He was very sick, but he continued to talk to everyone who visited him about the errors in the Massachusetts government.

Outraged, the magistrates sent soldiers and a ship to take Williams back to England. But just before they reached Salem, Williams escaped on foot. For four days he walked with a snowstorm whirling around him. At last he reached the village of his friend Chief Massasoit. "You are welcome with us!" the chief said.

When spring came, Williams, along with some Englishmen who had joined him, began a new settlement. He tried to buy the land from the Narragansett tribe, but they insisted on giving it to him.

"God has shown merciful providence to me in my distress," Williams said. "Therefore, we will call this new settlement Providence. It will be a shelter for anyone who is persecuted for reasons of conscience."

In spite of what he had suffered from fellow Christians, Williams remained strong in his faith. But when it was time to set up the government of Providence Plantation and the new Rhode Island Colony, he made sure it included complete religious freedom. His courage helped to guide the men who later wrote our U.S. Constitution.

"No person within the said colony . . . shall be any wise molested, punished, disquieted or called in question for any differences in opinion in matters of religion . . . all and every person and persons may . . . enjoy his and their own judgments and consciences in matters of {religion}, they behaving themselves peaceably and quietly, and not using this liberty to {commit immorality or irreverence}, nor to the civil injury or outward disturbance of other"
~ The Charter of Rhode Island, 1663

Courtesy of: In God We Trust
Chariot Victor Publishing, 1997

Samuel Adams

Father of the Revolution
1722 – 1803

Elizabeth Adams heard the grandfather clock downstairs announce two a.m. Samuel still hadn't come to bed. "That man!" she exclaimed. "Out speaking at one political rally after another, and then writing at all hours of the night!"

A line of soft light shone from under the door of Samuel's study. His wife got up and went to make sure he was dressed warmly enough. As she opened the door, she heard the steady scratching of a quill pen on paper.

"Sam, you need to rest," Elizabeth said. "You're not a young man like those rowdy Sons of Liberty you spend your time with."

He snorted and then replied, "I may be past fifty, but I've still got fire in my bones. And I'm old enough to understand just how much in danger our liberties really are. If we aren't vigilant, England will take away our freedoms one by one until we are little more than slaves."

He stopped speaking as several carriages clattered down the cobbled Boston street. "There go some more of those British revelers!" Sam said in disgust. "They rush from one party or tavern to another in their gilded carriages. Their idle and immoral lives are a bad influence in this city." He shook his head as he thought of the Puritan way of life that had made Massachusetts strong. It flickered now like a candle in the wind.

But Sam would not let that flame go out. He was determined to see Massachusetts, and perhaps all of the colonies, free of English control. He had discovered what mighty weapons his voice and his writing were, and he never let Boston forget the need to fight their freedom.

When England issued the Stamp Act, he stirred up so much protest it was repealed. Americans relaxed for a while, until the name of the Townshend Acts brought more taxes and restrictions. British customs officers came to oversee Boston trade. Then two regiments of British soldiers arrived.

Sam angrily remembered the five Americans shot down by the Redcoats. Now the soldiers were gone and so were the intolerable Townshend Acts. He knew it would be easy for Americans to forget the need for vigilance. But Sam would not let them forget. He organized rallies, gave speeches, encouraged the Sons of Liberty in their daring raids, and called the people of Massachusetts to fast and pray for their land.

Now he had a great new idea for keeping more people informed about English tyranny – the Committees of Correspondence.

He had already formed a Committee in Boston, and others were being organized throughout the colonies. Sam was excited about the idea of Americans pulling together to protect

their rights. That excitement kept him at his desk night after night, writing to patriots in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, and other colonies.

They needed a document that clearly stated those rights. So Sam was hard at work on The Rights of the Colonists. He reread what he had written so far. *"The right to freedom is a gift of the Almighty . . . The rights of the colonists as Christians are best understood by reading and carefully studying the God-given rights clearly taught in the New Testament."*

Sam picked up his pen and continued until he could no longer fight off sleep.

Samuel Adams' efforts paid off. Americans became so concerned about British taxation and other restrictions; they decided to hold a Continental Congress. In September 1774, each colony sent representatives to Philadelphia. Of course, Samuel Adams was there to represent Massachusetts. At last, the colonies were thinking about more than their own problems and best interests. They were beginning to act like a union of states.

The next year, Sam was elected to the Second Continental Congress. On his way to Philadelphia, the British almost captured him and his friend John Hancock. When the Congress began, Sam stood and said, "It is time to do more than talk. It is time to fight for our independence!"

Not everyone agreed with the fiery Samuel Adams, at least not right away. But he never gave up. With the help of more moderate men like his cousin John Adams, he helped to bring about the United States Declaration of Independence. When it was signed in 1776, Sam Adams said, "We have this day restored the king to whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His kingdom come."

A bronze statue of Samuel Adams stands in front of Boston's Faneuil Hall, where he spoke out for liberty in every town meeting. You can also visit the Old South Meeting House, a Puritan church attended by Samuel and his family. This church was the site of many patriotic gatherings, including the one that started the Boston Tea Party.

Courtesy of: In God We Trust
Chariot Victor Publishing, 1997

Abigail Adams

First Lady of Faith
1744 – 1814

Abigail Adams shook her head sadly as she read a newspaper article about the French Revolution. "John, what will become of France?" she asked her husband. "Is it really true that the priests are being killed and the churches are being closed?"

The Vice-President, John Adams, returned his wife's worried look. "Yes, I'm afraid it's all true. Jefferson thinks the French are simply overthrowing tyrants as we Americans did. But I see very little alike between the two."

"I couldn't agree more," Abigail said. "During our struggle for independence from England, we found great strength and support from our ministers and churches. All we have seen in the past makes me believe in the importance of true religion." John nodded in agreement and Abigail continued. "I think it is the only thing that binds people together and gives them a sense of responsibility toward their Maker."

"And of all the religions, Christianity is by far the best," John said. "It is a religion of wisdom, clean living, fairness, and kindness."

Abigail and John Adams shared a deep personal faith in God, and they did their best to pass it on to their nation and family. They felt sad as they watched many of their friends in government turn from firm belief in the Bible. They worried that the French ideas of freedom without obedience to God would take hold in the United States.

When John decided he could best serve his country as President, Abigail supported his decision. She was too sick to be beside him when he won the election, so she did what she had done during the many times they had been apart – she wrote him a letter and prayed for him.

"I don't feel proud today," Abigail wrote. "Instead, I feel a deep awareness of the trust that has been placed in you, and the duties that go with it. You are now the head of a nation.

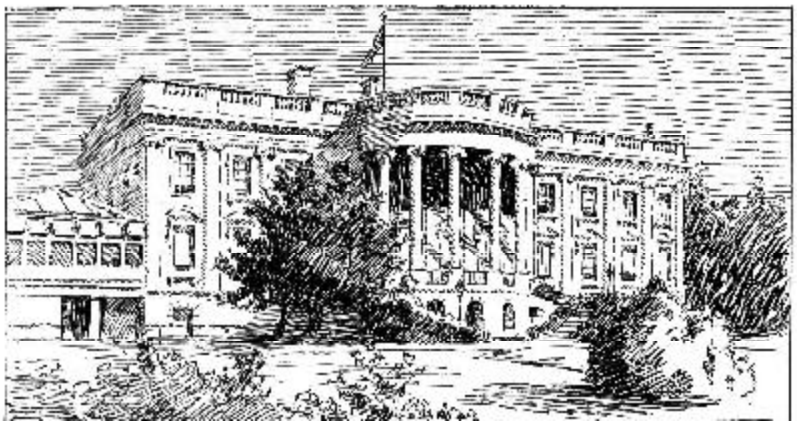
Talking to God came naturally to Abigail. She included a prayer in her letter. "O Lord, You have made Your servant ruler over the people. Give him an understanding heart to judge between good and bad." After this prayer from the Bible (1 Kings 3:9), she added her own prayer. "Though I am absent, I am asking that the things that make for peace will not be hidden from you" (Luke 19:42). Then she promised to pray for John's work as President every day.

Abigail laid down her quill pen, salted the page to keep the ink from smearing, and sealed her letter shut with hot wax. *Since I cannot be with John right now, what else can I do to help my country?* She wondered. A wonderful idea popped into her mind. "I know! I will see that our black servant boys get an education."

Right away, Abigail enrolled the boys in a local school. Some of her neighbors didn't like that at all. But Abigail said, "They are as free as any of the young men. Just because their faces are black, will we deny them the right to learn?" Her eyes flashed with anger. "Is this the Christian principle of doing to others as we would have others do to us? I'm not ashamed that I've taught the boys to read and write in my living room. I hope we will all go to heaven together.

Abigail's courage and strong beliefs made her a wonderful advisor to John. "Come as soon as you can," he wrote to her. "I need your help."

For fifty-four years, Abigail and John Adams were partners in building a strong America. Their son, John Quincy Adams, followed in their footsteps – all the way to the White House.



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James Madison

Champion of Religious Freedom
1751 – 1836

James Madison listened closely as his tutor, Reverend Thomas Martin, talked about which college he should attend. "I know most young men of well-to-do Virginia families choose William and Mary," Martin said, "but I sincerely hope you won't."

"Wait! Don't tell me. Let me guess. You want me to enroll in the College of New Jersey," James said teasingly.

Martin smiled. "Yes, but it's not just because it's where I attended. I truly believe the school has better teachers, and there's your health to think of," the minister said. "You need to get away from Virginia's Tidewater and it's sicknesses."

Madison agreed, and so he began his college studies in New Jersey at the age of nineteen. He had many outstanding teachers, especially John Witherspoon, the college president. Unlike Madison, who had been raised in the Anglican Church, most of his teachers were Presbyterians. Many of them had been part of the Great Awakening. They encouraged their students to think for themselves, to love liberty, and to practice common sense.

James studied hard and graduated in three years. Since he hadn't decided whether to become a minister or an attorney, he went on studying Hebrew, the Bible, theology, and law after he returned to Montpelier, his family's home in Virginia. Although he often heard talk of America's struggle with England and the problems of taxation, he was much more interested in how government worked and in the freedom of religion.

One day James went with his father to the nearby town of Orange. While walking down the street, he heard a voice shouting from the window of the jail.

"These are a strange sort of prisoners you're holding behind bars," Madison said to a man outside the jail. "Who are they and what are the charges against them?"

"Oh, it's just a bunch of Baptist preachers," the man told him. "They know it's against the law to hold meetings or pass out sermons on paper, but they do it anyway."

"But for the most part, Baptists believe the same as any other Christians," Madison said. "Why shouldn't they be free to practice their beliefs?"

"Perhaps you've forgotten, young man," said a gentleman nearby, "ever since its founding Virginia has been faithful to the Anglican Church."

"Even if its priests are becoming lazy, proud, and dishonest?" young Madison asked angrily. "And the people aren't becoming better citizens by being forced to support them. If anything, they're getting worse!"

When Madison returned home, he wrote to one of his college friends about his frustration with Virginia's laws. "I want to breathe your free air," he told his Philadelphia friend. "Here in Virginia, where the Anglican Church is established as the only true form of worship the result is ignorance, slavery, corruption, and persecution."

Out of concern for those whose rights were being violated by government-enforced religion, Madison decided to become active in Virginia politics. In 1776, he helped write Virginia's first state constitution and it's declaration of rights.

While serving in the Virginia legislature, he met someone who shared many of his ideas about religious freedom. "Jefferson, let me tell you what I think," Madison said to his new friend. "Religious bondage limits and weakens the mind, and makes it unfit for every worthwhile effort and every expanded outlook."

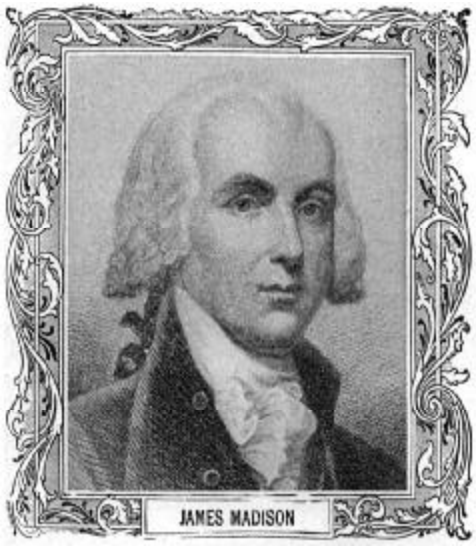
"I think you're right," said Jefferson. "So we had better do our best to convince people that government shouldn't try to control religion."

In 1785, Madison wrote a paper on religious freedom. He tried to carefully explain why he disapproved of a state religion. His argument made such good sense that may Virginians took his side. But other leaders like Patrick Henry disagreed.

Madison kept speaking up for religious freedom. He also became a supporter of a stronger federal government and helped create the U.S. Constitution when he was just thirty-six years old. Two years later, he used his influence in securing a Bill of Rights. He made sure freedom of religion was included in this important new document.

In 1809, James Madison became President. Under his leadership, the United States came through a second war with England, developed a stronger federal government, and began its development as a world power. His guiding principle throughout his life is stated in these words: "Religion, or the duty we owe to our Creator . . . can only be directed by thought and belief, not by force or violence . . . It is the shared duty of everyone to practice Christian mercy and love towards each other.

** Although James Madison defended the rights of all religious groups, he continued to attend the Anglican (eventually called Episcopal in America) Church. During his years as president, St. John's Episcopal Church was built in Washington, D.C. and is located one block north of the White House. This church soon became known as the "Church of the Presidents." Madison picked pew Number 28 (now number 54) and the next five presidents sat there. That pew is now set-aside for any President who attends services.



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John Adams

Counselor of the Republic
1735 – 1826

"Why are you defending those murdering Redcoats? Samuel Adams angrily said to his cousin John. "They killed five innocent Americans and they should pay for it!"

"I don't see why you're so determined to see them hang," John said. "They would never have shot into the crowd if that mob hadn't refused to stop throwing rocks and garbage at them. Besides, their commander ordered them to take aim and fire. A soldier has to obey orders."

Unlike his hotheaded cousin Sam, John Adams was logical and cautious. He hated British oppression, but it made him unhappy when people called the soldiers' self-defense the "Boston Massacre."

"You know, Sam, facts are stubborn things," John said. "Regardless of our wishes, we cannot change the facts or the evidence. The law commands what is good and punishes what is evil in all, whether rich or poor, high or low. We dare not bend it to suit our opinions or the demands of the people."

Later, John told his wife Abigail about the argument. "I'm afraid my decision to defend these British soldiers will make me a very unpopular man."

"Well, dear, I'm proud of you," Abigail said. "You stood up for what you believe in. I think people will see that and think more highly of you for it."

Sure enough, the people of Boston realized that John Adams was a man of courage and honesty. In 1771, they chose him to serve as one of their lawmakers.

By 1774, John was convinced that the American colonies needed to break away from English rule. But most of the other representatives to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia weren't ready to consider such a dangerous idea. So John kept quiet and waited for the right time to speak up.

The next year, following the battles of Lexington and Concord, the American Congress met again. John Adams told the other delegates, "It's time we gave up on all these halfway efforts at standing up for our rights," he told the other representatives. "The British intend to force us to bow to their demands. We need more than a few hundred minutemen in each colony in order to resist them. We need a Continental Army!"

A gasp of surprise could be heard across the room, but John continued. "If all our troops are organized under one commander – a man like George Washington – we may have a chance of defending our liberty."

After days of talking, the other delegates agreed. Throughout the next few months, John Adams worked extremely hard to make the war with England a success. Many members of Congress still thought America was just standing up for its rights. They expected to continue as part of England. But in September, King George turned down their peace offer.

The coming of 1776 brought increasing support for John Adams' belief in American independence. On June 7, Richard Henry Lee from Virginia stood in Congress and said, "I suggest that we declare these United Colonies free and independent states."

"And I agree!" said John Adams. The members of Congress chose John to help write a Declaration of Independence. He picked Thomas Jefferson to do most of the writing, but when it came time to convince the other delegates to sign the Declaration, John Adams took over.

With his eyes blazing, he said, "Before God, I believe the time for independence has come. My whole heart is in this measure. All that I have, and all that I am, and all that I hope in this life, I am how ready to give for my country. Live or die, I am for the Declaration!

The next day, Congress voted to accept the Declaration of Independence. John Adams could hardly wait to write and tell his wife. "This will be the most outstanding date in the history of America," he told her. "It ought to be remembered every year with solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty, parades, bells, and fireworks!"

As pleased as he was over the decision, John sometimes felt afraid for America. Always most comfortable writing down his ideas and feelings on paper, he picked up a pen and poured out his heart. "We may plan for liberty, but it is faith in God and morality alone which can make freedom stand securely. The only foundation for a free constitution is pure virtue."

He prayed that the tears, suffering, and death brought to Americans by the War for Independence would turn people's hearts to God.

Many of Adams' thoughts about government were printed and read by leaders in the thirteen colonies. They provided wise direction for the states as they wrote their constitutions. John's own state of Massachusetts asked him to write its constitution. He did the job well, adding a bill of rights that legally protected individual freedoms. Several states used this document as a model, and later it contributed to the creation of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

For the rest of his life, John Adams faithfully served his country – as a foreign diplomat, vice president under George Washington, and our second president. When he died on the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, he was looking forward to Heaven and a reunion with his wife, Abigail.

** John and Abigail Adams were the first to live in our nation's White House. On the fireplace mantel in the dining room, you will see Adams' prayer engraved. He wrote, "I ask Heaven to place the best of blessings on this house and all that shall ever live in it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof."

Courtesy of: In God We Trust
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William Penn

And the Holy Experiment
1644 – 1718

William Penn felt happiest with a quill in his hand. It never took him long to fill a blank sheet of paper with his ideas and beliefs. His pen flew across the page as he wrote to a friend about his new dream.

"I would like to conduct a holy experiment in America," Penn wrote. "If I had a colony of my own, I would make it a place of true Christian and civil liberty. No one would be put in prison for his or her beliefs."

A colony of his own seemed like an impossible dream, but Penn continued to think about the possibility. Although his Quaker faith called for a simple way of life, it didn't keep him from using his skill in business and politics. He watched for an opportunity to make his dream come true.

England's King Charles owed the Penn family a large sum of money. So William suggested that the King pay his debt by giving William land in America.

King Charles gladly said yes. "You may have the land between New York and Maryland," he told Penn.

"I would like to call the place Sylvania," Penn said, "because it is a lovely wooded land."

"Then it shall be Pennsylvania – Penn's woods – in honor of your brave father Admiral Penn," said King Charles.

William was a humble man, and he worried that people would think he had named the colony after himself. But the King refused to change it.

Overjoyed with his new opportunity, Penn began telling everyone he knew about Pennsylvania. "I looked to the Lord for it, and I owe it to His hand and power," he wrote to a friend. "I believe He will bless and make it the seed of a nation. I will be careful to set up a good government there."

Penn advertised his new colony throughout Europe. He promised settlers religious freedom, cheap land, and a voice in their own government.

Then Penn wrote a constitution for his colony. In *The Frame of Government*, he said, "government seems to me a part of religion itself, a thing sacred in its institution and end. Although it does not remove the cause of evil, it can crush

the effects of evil. In a small way, it shows the power of God."

To further guard the religious freedom of Pennsylvania, Penn created a Charter of Liberties. "No people can be truly happy if they cannot follow their consciences," he wrote. "So I guarantee that no one living in this province . . . will be persecuted in any way for their beliefs."

William Penn was a Christian in has actions as well as his words. He insisted on buying the land from the Native Americans. He wrote them a letter promising to treat them with respect and fairness. He insisted that all the Pennsylvania settlers follow his example. When he came to America, Penn quickly made friends with the Indians and negotiated a peace treaty – one he never broke.

Many groups of people found a true friend in William Penn. Quakers, Catholics, Mennonites, Lutherans – they were all welcome in Pennsylvania.

Unfortunately, not everyone in Penn's province shared his integrity and goodwill toward others. Many of them fought. Some government leaders were dishonest and greedy. In the wilderness, people often settled their arguments with guns. In addition, settlers borrowed money from Penn and never repaid him. And there were boundary disputes with neighboring colonies.

This was a great disappointment to William Penn. He thought his holy experiment had failed. But it hadn't. Penn's commitment to peace and religious freedom paved the way for a United States of America.

In Pennsylvania, you can find many signs of its founders' Christian faith. For example, Pennsylvania is called "The Quaker State" because of the religious beliefs of its founder. The city of Philadelphia is named for an ancient city in the Bible. William Penn chose this name because it means "brotherly love."

Courtesy of: In God We Trust
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Benjamin Franklin

Call for Prayer
1706 – 1790

Save me, O God, because I have come to you for refuge. Psalm 16:1

Benjamin Franklin groaned as he dressed for another day of debate in the Constitutional Convention. "My mind is ready," he said to his servant, "but this eighty-year-old body it lives in gives me considerable pain."

While he continued his preparations, Franklin repeated his usual morning prayer. "Oh, Bountiful Father! Give me greater wisdom in knowing what is best for me. Strengthen my determination to do what that wisdom demands."

After dressing and eating breakfast, Franklin went by carriage to Independence Hall, meeting place of the Constitutional Convention. Many people waved to him, and he called friendly greetings in return. Philadelphia respected and loved Ben Franklin for his generous, kindhearted ways, his keen sense of humor, and his great intelligence. Most Americans thought their new nation was fortunate to have such a wise man helping to create its government. But few of them understood what hard work it was for Franklin and the other members of Congress.

As the hours passed on June 28, 1787, the meeting room grew hot from the weather outside and from the angry debate inside. The delegates couldn't agree on how to design a government that would fairly represent individual states. The representatives from small states worried that larger states would have more power. Those from large states argued that they had a right to greater voice in government, since they had more people.

Bitter and unkind words flew back and forth across the room. Some men became so mad they stormed out of the assembly. Rather than binding the thirteen colonies together, it seemed the Convention was about to tear the new nations apart.

Then Benjamin Franklin, leader of Pennsylvania and host of the Convention, stood to speak. "The small progress we have made after four or five weeks of intense work, and our different opinion on almost every question, is a sad proof of the shortcomings of human understanding.

"We have seen our lack of political wisdom, since we have been running around in search of it. We have looked to ancient history for models of government and been reminded of how those governments dissolved. And we have considered the modern states of Europe, but none of their constitutions are right for our nation.

"Since we are in the dark, how has it happened that we have not once thought of humbly asking the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding?"

The men in the room had grown quiet and sad as Franklin spoke. When he talked about the lack of prayer,

some of them looked down in shame. But young Alexander Hamilton jokingly said, "I don't see the need to call in foreign aid."

Franklin ignored the comment and continued speaking. "At the beginning of our war with Great Britain, when we were most aware of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for God's protection. Our prayers were answered. It is God who made it possible for us to meet together now in peace and plan for the future. Have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Do we think we no longer need His help?

"I have lived a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth – God rules in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?

"We have been assured in the Bible, 'Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it.' So, I ask that from now on prayers asking God's help and blessing on our meetings be held every morning before we begin our business."

Then Dr. Franklin sat down. James Madison, president of the Convention, immediately agreed with his request for prayer. Roger Sherman also spoke up for the idea.

"Gentlemen, if we do take this action, the public will think things are going badly and we are getting desperate," said young Alexander Hamilton.

A North Carolina delegate added, "We don't have the money to pay a minister to lead us in prayer every day."

Next, Edmund Randolph of Virginia spoke. "Perhaps instead we could invite a minister to preach to us on the Fourth of July."

Everyone seemed to agree. So, on the anniversary of America's Declaration of Independence, the convention delegates gathered in a local church.

After preaching, Reverend William Rogers prayed for the success of the Constitutional Convention. "We ask You, heavenly Father, to bless these delegates day by day with Your inspiring presence. Be their wisdom and strength. Help them heal all divisions so that the United States of America may form one example of a free and excellent government.

Soon after Dr. Franklin's reminder of the need for God's help, the unfriendly attitude of the men changed. They began to work together for the good of the country, and they created a strong government that is still working for us today.

** In 1954 the Congress decided to create a Prayer Room in our nation's capitol. You will find it on the west side of the Rotunda. It contains an altar and an open Bible. Its stained glass window pictures George Washington in prayer along with the words of Psalm 16:1.

Each day of business in Congress begins with prayers led by the Senate Chaplain and the House Chaplain. These prayers are also printed in the Congressional Record, a written account of each day's business.

Courtesy of: In God We Trust
Chariot Victor Publishing, 1997

Colonial Wit and Wisdom

Name _____ Date _____

Benjamin Franklin wrote and published *Poor Richard's Almanack* for 25 years. In his almanac, Franklin offered bits and pieces of advice. Translate his advice into modern English.

Little Strokes, Fell great Oaks.

_____

Great Talkers, little Doers.

_____

Eat to live, and not live to eat.

_____

He that lies down with Dogs, shall rise up with fleas.

_____

No man e'er was glorious, who was not laborious.

_____

In success be moderate.

_____

All things are cheap to the saving, dear to the wasteful.

_____

Do good to thy Friend to keep him, to thy enemy to gain him.

_____

Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

_____

Fish and visitors stink in three days.

Don't throw stones at your neighbours, if your own windows are glass.

Promises may get thee friends, but nonperformance will turn them into enemies.

If you would keep your secret from an enemy, tell it not to a friend.

Up, sluggard, and waste not life; in the grave will be sleeping enough.

Quarrels never could last long, if on one side only lay the wrong.

Tart words make no friends: a spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar.

Make haste slowly.

A true friend is the best possession.

Genius without education is like silver in the mine.

Winter at Valley Forge

Name _____

Date _____

In December 1777 General George Washington set up camp at Valley Forge near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His 10,000 soldiers were tired. They didn't have food, water, clothing, and proper shelter. Thousands died from sickness and exposure to the cold. Thousands more, losing hope, deserted.

Imagine you are a soldier in Washington's camp. Create a journal entry for a day in his life.

My Dear Wife . . .

Name _____ Date _____

The Puritans were English people who were not happy with the Church of England. Many Puritans went to the New World to set up their own church. John Winthrop led the nearly 1,000 Puritans who founded Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630. After he arrived, he wrote a letter to his wife telling her what she must bring when she set out on her journey to their new home.

Imagine you are John Winthrop. Write your letter here. Be sure to describe your living conditions and availability of provisions so she can get a clear picture of what is in store for her.

I Didn't Know That!

Most Americans think they know all about the Revolutionary War just because they are Americans. In fact, the real story (not the one in most textbooks) is crammed with little-known facts.

Here are 11 interesting factoids.

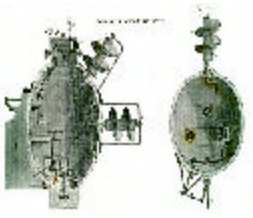
The Americans of 1776 had the highest standard of living and lowest taxes in the Western World. Farmers, lawyers and business owners in the Colonies were thriving, with some plantation owners and merchants making the equivalent of $500,000 a year. Times were good for many others too. (The vast majority of business owners and professionals were white males.) The British wanted a slice of the cash flow and tried to tax the Colonists. They resisted violently, convinced that their prosperity and their liberty were at stake. Virginia's Patrick Henry summed up their situation with his cry: "Give me liberty or give me death!"

There were two Boston tea parties. Everyone knows how 50 or 60 "Sons of Liberty," disguised as Mohawks, protested the 3 cents per pound British tax on tea by dumping chests of the popular drink into Boston Harbor on Dec. 16, 1773. Fewer know that the improper Bostonians repeated the performance on March 7, 1774. The two tea parties cost the British around $3 million in modern money.

Capt. John Parker of the Lexington Militia did not say: "If they want a war, let it begin here." Alerted by Paul Revere, Parker and 78 militiamen mustered on the Lexington, Mass., town green on April 19, 1775. They wanted to send a warning to the 700 British soldiers marching on Concord to seize the weapons and gunpowder there. But Parker had no desire to start a war. The words were put into his mouth 100 years later. He positioned his men as far away from the British line of march as possible. As the British approached, Parker ordered his men to disperse. The British opened fire on them without provocation, starting the Revolution.

Benjamin Franklin wrote the first declaration of independence. In 1775, Franklin, disgusted with the arrogance of the British and appalled by the bloodshed at Lexington and Concord, wrote a declaration of independence. Thomas Jefferson was enthusiastic. But, he noted, many other delegates to the Continental Congress were "revolted at it." It would take another year of bitter conflict to persuade the Congress to vote for the Declaration of Independence written by Jefferson - with some astute editorial suggestions by Franklin.

Nathan Hale was hanged not only for spying but also for trying to burn New York. On Sept. 20, 1776, American soldiers, some of them members of Hale's regiment, filtered into British-held New York and stashed resin-soaked logs in numerous buildings. A spark turned the incendiary devices into roaring infernos. (The Americans were trying to deprive the British army of winter quarters.) Hale was caught the following day, after the fire destroyed more than a fourth of the city. He admitted he was a spy and hanged without a trial because the British considered him one of the incendiaries.



History's first submarine attack took place in New York Harbor in 1776. The Connecticut inventor David Bushnell called his submarine the Turtle because it resembled two large tortoise shells of equal size joined together. The water-tight hull was made of 6-inch-thick oak timbers coated with tar. On Sept. 6, 1776, the Turtle targeted the HMS Eagle, flagship of the British fleet. The submarine was supposed to secure a cask of gunpowder to the hull of the Eagle and sneak away before it exploded. Unfortunately, the Turtle got entangled with the Eagle's rudder bar, lost ballast and surfaced before the gunpowder could be planted.

Benedict Arnold was the best general in the Continental Army. "Without Benedict Arnold in the first three years of the war," says the historian George Neumann, "we would probably have lost the Revolution." In 1775, the future traitor came within a whisker of conquering Canada. In 1776, he built a fleet and fought a bigger British fleet to a standstill on Lake Champlain. At Saratoga in 1777, his brilliant battlefield leadership forced the British army to surrender. The victory persuaded the French to join the war on the American side. Ironically, Arnold switched sides in 1780 partly because he disapproved of the French alliance.

By 1779, as many as one in seven Americans in Washington's army was black. At first, Washington was hesitant about enlisting blacks. But when he heard they had fought well at Bunker Hill, he changed his mind. The all-black First Rhode Island Regiment - composed of 33 freedmen and 92 slaves who were promised freedom if they served until the end of the war - distinguished themselves in the Battle of Newport. Later, they were all but wiped out in a British attack.

There were women in the Continental Army, even a few who saw combat. Probably the best known is Mary Ludwig Hays, nicknamed "Molly Pitcher." She replaced her wounded husband at his cannon during the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. Another wife of an artilleryman, Margaret Corbin, was badly wounded serving in her husband's gun crew at the Battle of Harlem heights in 1776. Thousands of other women served in Washington's army as cooks or nurses.

George Washington was the best spymaster in American history. He ran dozens of espionage rings in British-held New York and Philadelphia, and the man who supposedly could not tell a lie was a genius at misinformation. He constantly befuddled the British by leaking, through double agents, inflated reports on the strength of his army.

At Yorktown, the victory that won the war, Frenchmen outnumbered Americans almost three to one. Washington had 11,000 men engaged in the battle, while the French had at least 29,000 soldiers and sailors. The 37 French ships-of-the-line played a crucial role in trapping the 8700-strong British army and winning the engagement.

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http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/index.html

http://www.salemweb.com/

http://www.ushistory.org/tour/index.html

What's Your Trade?

Name _____ Date _____

Experience life in eighteenth-century Colonial Williamsburg. If you lived then, what would you do for a living? Discover colonial trades or occupations on the web page. Choose one - and make a sign to hang outside your shop.

Log on to **http://www.history.org**
Click **History**
Click **The History Explorer**
Click **Experience Colonial Life**
On the contents page, click **Trades**
Investigate at least six of the trades. Explore unfamiliar ones! Fill in the lines below with information to describe six of the trades. Write your answer in sentence form.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

** To finish your project, choose a trade that you would have liked to practice if you lived in the colonial days. Make a sign for that trade. Try to make the shape of your sign show what the tradesperson who works at that trade does. Make your sign out of heavy paper, decorate and color it. Hang your sign on your desk.

Glimpses of Ben

Name _____ Date _____

Benjamin Franklin was a scientist, statesman, inventor, writer, philosopher - and more! Investigate his life on the web. Follow the directions for this activity and you will discover what a versatile man he was.

Log on to **http://sln.fi.edu/franklin/rotten.html**
Click on each of the highlighted words: **scientist, inventor, statesman, printer, philosopher, musician,** and **economist.**
Explore what Benjamin Franklin accomplished in each of these roles.
Click **(1706-1790)** and **family tree** to find out more. If your computer can play movies and sound, be sure to click the movie and sound icons.

Beside each word below, write a sentence telling something Franklin did in that role.

Scientist	
Inventor	
Statesman	
Printer	
Philosopher	
Musician	
Economist	

**Choose one of the roles Franklin played. With a partner, create a pantomime that shows something he did in that role. Use props - but not words. See if your class can guess the role you are acting out.

William Penn's "Walking Purchase" Treaty

The agreement that William Penn and Chief Lapowinsa of the Delaware Indians signed in 1682 is known as the "Walking Purchase" treaty. During the meeting, which is thought to have been held a little north of what is now downtown Philadelphia, the Indians agreed to sell Penn some land in eastern Pennsylvania between the Lehigh River and the Delaware River. The Native Americans did not rely on units such as miles or meters to measure distance. So, by the terms of the agreement, the colonists were allowed to take as much land as they could walk in three days.

Find where the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers meet in Pennsylvania. By terms of the "Walking Purchase" treaty, the colonists were entitled to as much land north of this point, right along the Delaware River - as a person could walk in three days.

Divide into groups of three or four students. You will need a large map of Pennsylvania for your whole class to work with. Do the following.

Estimate about how many miles' worth of land you believe Penn and his people should have taken. Use one of the methods here or one of your own to help estimate.

- For five minutes, walk back and forth - from one end of the classroom to the other. Measure that distance and then figure out how many five minutes there are in 72 hours (three days.) Proceed from there to calculate the miles.

- Figure out the distance in a "footstep." Decide about how many footsteps a person can take in a certain amount of time - such as a minute - and then work from there.

When you agree on a distance, figure out how far north along the Delaware River that would be. Mark your spot on the large map. Be sure to use a color different from other groups.

When all the groups have finished, discuss how you came up with your estimate (method) and the distance you arrived at.

Reality - Even though Penn was entitled to settle three days' worth of land, he decided to settle only one and a half days' worth of land first. He calculated that amount to be about 40 miles. Relations between the colonists and the Indians were fine for almost 70 years. When Penn died, the governorship of the colony passed first to his wife, and then to his two sons. In 1737, Thomas Penn decided it was time to claim the remaining day-and-a-half's worth of land. He offered a reward to the person who could travel farthest in that time period. The winner, Edward Marshall, traveled 66 1/2 miles in 36 hours.

Figure out the total number of miles of land Penn and his ancestors ended up taking from the Indians. Plot this total distance on the large map.

The Original Thirteen

Name _____ Date _____

Be a detective! See how much information you can find to complete the chart for the original thirteen colonies. Use encyclopedias, internet, social studies textbook - and other sources to find your facts.

COLONY NAME	YEAR FOUNDED	FOUNDED BY	BECAME ROYAL COLONY

The Original Thirteen

Name Key Date

Be a detective! See how much information you can find to complete the chart for the original thirteen colonies. Use encyclopedias, internet, social studies textbook - and other sources to find your facts.

COLONY NAME	YEAR FOUNDED	FOUNDED BY	BECAME ROYAL COLONY
Virginia	1607	London Company	1624
Massachusetts	1620	Puritans	1691
Maryland	1634	Lord Baltimore	N/A
Connecticut	c. 1635	Thomas Hooker	N/A
Rhode Island	1636	Roger Williams	N/A
Delaware	1638	Peter Minuit and New Sweden Company	N/A
New Hampshire	1638	John Wheelwright	1679
North Carolina	1653	Virginians	1729
South Carolina	1663	Eight Nobles with a Royal Charter from Charles II	1729
New Jersey	1664	Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret	1702
New York	1664	Duke of York	1685
Pennsylvania	1682	William Penn	N/A
Georgia	1732	James Edward Oglethorpe	1752

Penn's Woods

In 1681, A Quaker named William Penn received a land grant from King Charles I to establish a colony in North America where Quakers could practice their religion freely. This play tells about the founding of this colony, which became the modern-day state of Pennsylvania. Besides religious freedom, what other ideals were important to Penn and his followers?

Cast of Characters

William Penn, Quaker and founder of Pennsylvania
Charles, the king of England
Samantha, a colonist
Margaret, a colonist
Samuel, a colonist
Ben, a colonist
Sarah, a colonist

Props Necessary

1. The rolled-up document which King Charles II gives to William Penn, and which is later used as a banner reading "Welcome"
2. A second rolled-up piece of paper needed for the Charter of Liberty
3. Quill and paper
4. Other items – as available

Setting: *The set is divided into three sections: the banks of a river in England; the ship Welcome; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The time is the late 1680s. King Charles and William Penn stand in the circle made by the colonists squatting down. Charles is writing on a document with a quill pen.*

King: (*looking up at Penn)* What shall we call this land? We can't simply say, here, William Penn, take this 45,000 square miles in a rectangle shape, somewhere in a rectangle shape, somewhere in America. Here, William Penn, govern this land about the size of England. Here, William Penn, for the debt I owe your father, instead of money take this piece of land. It needs a name, this broad rectangle land.

Penn: New Wales would be a good name for the new land, since it is mountainous like Wales in England.

King: No. No. Something else.

Penn: How about Sylvania, which means woods? I am told that the forests are magnificent in this new land across the sea.

King: I like that, but let's call it "Penn's woods." That is, "Pennsylvania."

Penn: You cannot name a land after me!

King: After your father then. The Admiral in whose debt I shall forever be.

Penn: As you wish: Pennsylvania.

King: Now according to this document you must send to me two beaver skins to be delivered at our home, Windsor Castle, on the first day of January every year, and of course, one-fifth of all the gold and silver you may find.

Penn: Happily.

(*They both sign the document, and Penn takes it under his arm.*)

Penn: My colony will be a place where Quakers like me can live in peace, but people of all religions will be welcome.

(He unrolls the document and reads in a loud voice.)

Penn: Wanted: brave adventurers who wish to form a free colony for all people! Must be willing to travel 3,000 miles across the ocean. Must be willing to work hard and treat everyone as an equal! 5,000 acres for sale!

(One of the colonists, Margaret, stands up.)

Margaret: Count me in! I would like to live in a land where I can practice my religion freely, where I don't need to hide when I pray because I am a Quaker.

(Two other colonists, Samuel and Samantha, stand up.)

Samantha: We'll go! We've been wanting to start a family in a country where everyone is equal, no matter what their family background is.

Samuel: Where do we sign?

Penn: Right here.

(Two other colonists, Ben and Sarah, stand up.)

Ben: We'd like to go but we can't afford a high price.

Sarah: We don't have a lot of money.

Penn: Rent up to 200 acres at a penny an acre!

Ben and Sarah: Can we borrow that quill?

(They sign up.)

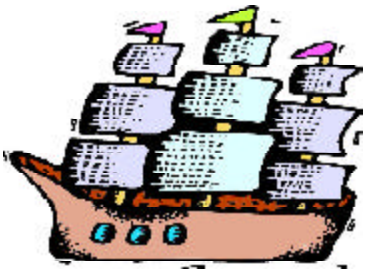
(Everyone gives coins to Penn as they move from this area to the ship area, lining up to board the boat.)

Penn: Be prepared for hardships!

Margaret and Samantha: *(together)* We have hardships here. We can't speak out without fear of being jailed for our beliefs.

Penn: Our boat, the Welcome is ready!

(He unrolls the Welcome *banner and hangs it aboard the ship. Everyone stands on board swaying slightly through this scene to show that they are at sea.)*



Ben: Cows and chickens are safely in their cages!

Sarah: The furniture is roped in tight!

Samuel: The *Welcome* is a strong ship.

Margaret: William Penn's three horses are safe!

Samantha: The *Welcome* is 108 feet long with three strong sails – a very seaworthy vessel.

Ben: A hundred colonists are safely aboard!

Penn: And I have the most precious cargo of all: THE CHARTER OF LIBERTY.

(Penn reads from a new parchment.)

Penn: What I have in my hand is a plan for good government. Our plans call for power to be placed in the hands of the people. To protect people from misuses of power, there are laws that must be followed for the good of all. I have written, "Liberty without obedience is confusion, and obedience without liberty is slavery."

(All repeat this line.)

Penn: "Let men be good, and the government cannot be bad …"

Samantha: There will be free elections in this new land. We will have a council and assembly that are chosen by the colonists.

Margaret: Our new set of forty laws includes freedom of worship, which is very important to so many of us Quakers who are aboard.

Ben: It also includes the right to a trial by jury.

Samuel: Nobody can be put to death in this new land except for murder or plotting to overthrow the government.

Margaret: With laws aboard we set sail happily.

Ben: *(talks to the audience)* Unfortunately, midway across the Atlantic Ocean, tragedy struck. A passenger came down with smallpox. In one week, 31 passengers died. Penn, who had already had the disease, went about the ship helping the sick.

Sarah: *(talks to the audience)* Seven weeks after we set sail we arrived in the new land, on October 24, 1682.

Margaret: We are in Pennsylvania!

Penn: Let us go up the river to the city I named Philadelphia, which means "Brotherly Love" in Greek.

Samuel: What shall we find in Philadelphia?

Penn: I have sent planners ahead of us and told them to begin building a city where houses have "ground on each side for gardens and orchards and fields."

Margaret: I have always wanted to live in a city which has parks and greenery.

Sarah: I would think that the greenery would help protect us from chimney fires and wind.

Penn: Yes, it is both beautiful to the eye and safer for the people who live there. Shall we leave the ship?

Ben: Lower the gangplank if you please!

(All depart from the ship area. They are now in Philadelphia.)

Penn: On of the first items of business for our new city will be to visit the Native Americans. Other colonists have not always treated them well. As a Quaker, I regard all people as equals and aim to live together with them in peace.

Samuel: May I go with you when you visit?

Penn: Yes, but you must leave all weapons at home.

Samuel: I carry only a hunting gun, William.

Penn: Still, there must be no weapons, whatsoever. It is a matter of respect.

Samuel: All right. I agree.

Samantha: Can you teach us how to speak to the Native Americans?

Penn: First you should know that our Pennsylvania is home to three peoples: the Lenni Lenape, the Susquehannock and the Shawnee. It will take time to learn their language but today I shall teach you one important word, *netap*.

All: *Netap.*

Ben: What does *netap* mean*?*

Penn: It is a word that will be important to all of us: "friend."

All: *Netap*.

Margaret: I have learned two new words on my first day in this new world of America. *Netap* or "friend," and *adelphos*, meaning "brother" in Greek.

Penn: I think we are off to a good start in Pennsylvania.

Samantha: Don't forget another important word, the word under which we sailed to this new land: WELCOME.

Penn: Yes, let us welcome all of those who wish to come to Pennsylvania and live in peace and harmony.

All: Welcome

THE END

William Penn, and other Quaker colonists in Pennsylvania, believed in treating Native Americans with respect. Penn paid the Native Americas for their land, and relations with them remained peaceful for many years.

Brother Benjamin

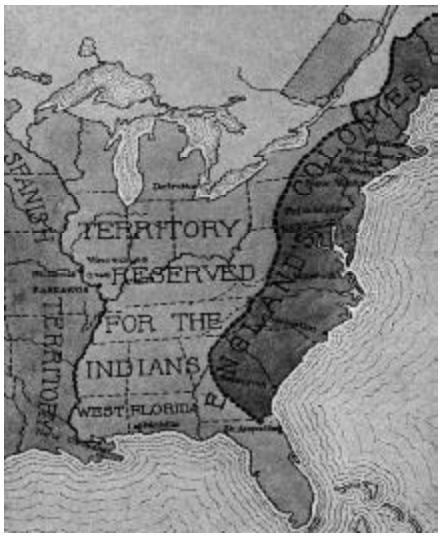
American children played a game in the eighteenth century called Brother Jonathan. The object was to toss penny pieces onto a board, aiming for the high point areas. This version, Brother Benjamin, calls for a board in the shape of the colonies, and American copper pennies. The game is for one or more players.

What you will need:
five pennies per player
poster board
pencil
permanent marker

Making the game board:
Enlarge an outline map of the thirteen colonies onto the poster board.
Print the names of the colonies
Give each one a point value as follows: New Hampshire, 10; Massachusetts, 10; Connecticut, 10; Rhode Island, 20; New York, 3; Pennsylvania, 3; New Jersey, 15; Delaware, 20; Maryland, 10; Virginia, 5; North Carolina, 3; South Carolina, 5; Georgia, 5.

How to play:
Place the board on the floor. Before you start, decide a total that will win the game.
Standing at a set distance from the board, each player tosses a penny on the board.
Highest point decides starting order.

The first player tosses his or her five pennies on the board, and adds up the total points.
A penny that lands on a line does not count but is not retossed.
Players take turns tossing their pennies until one person reaches the game total.
Remaining players finish the last round.
The player with the highest total is declared the winner.



Twisted Colonies - A Game

Here is a game that will stretch the body and the knowledge.

What you need:

- 3-4 players
- Flat, outside surface
- Chalk
- Pen/pencil
- Scissors
- Cardboard

How to make the game:

- Write one direction listed below on each card.
  - Place your right hand on New Hampshire.
  - Place your right hand on Rhode Island.
  - Place your left hand on Connecticut.
  - Place your left foot on New York.
  - Place your right hand on Pennsylvania.
  - Place your right foot on New Jersey.
  - Place your left hand on Delaware.
  - Place your left foot on Maryland.
  - Place your right hand on Virginia.
  - Place your right foot on North Carolina.
  - Place your left hand on South Carolina.
  - Place your left foot on Georgia.

- Draw the thirteen colonies on an outside surface - inside a 5-foot square - using a piece of chalk - and a map of the colonies as a guide. (You might practice drawing the colonies on paper, first.) Your drawing doesn't have to be perfect, but it is important to make sure to keep the sizes in proportion to each other.

How to play:

- Choose one person to shuffle and select the cards.
- The other player(s) stands outside the colonies and waits to hear the instructions.
- As each card is read the player attempts to touch the colony with a body part.
- Players can touch a colony only with their hands or feet - as instructed on the cards.
- When all cards have been read once, reshuffle the deck and start again.
- The first person to fall switches places with the person reading the cards.
- The game continues until one player is left standing.
- That player is the winner.

Benjamin's Acrostic

Name _____ Date _____

An acrostic is a poem or several lines of verse containing a pattern of letters - usually the first letter in each line - that spell one or more words.

Benjamin Franklin's uncle wrote an acrostic about how Ben should behave. Each verse in the acrostic began with one of the letters in his nephew's name. Notice that he used an "i" instead of the "j" in Benjamin. Can you guess why? Was he a poor speller? Maybe he couldn't think of a good word that began with "j."

Look at Ben's acrostic below. Then try writing an acrostic using your name.

B-e to thy parents an obedient son,
E-ach day let duty constantly be done.
N-ever give way to sloth or lust or pride,
I-f free you'd be from thousand ills beside;
A-bove all ills, be sure avoid the shelf;
M-an's danger lies in Satan, sin, and self.
I-n virtue, learning, wisdom progress make,
N-e'er shrink at suffering for thy Saviour's sake.
F-raud and all falsehood in thy dealings flee,
R-eligious always in thy station be,
A-dore the maker of thy inward part.
N-ow's the accepted time; give God thy heart.
K-eep a good conscience, 'tis a constant friend;
L-ike judge and witness this thy act attend.
I-n heart, with bended knee, alone, adore
N-one but the Three-in-One forevermore.

Women of Courage

Name _____ Date _____

What did Phillis Wheatley and Mercy Otis Warren have in common? Research to find out what each woman did to help our American cause. Write a summary paragraph in the space indicated below. When you finish, imagine you are living in Boston during the Revolutionary War period. Write a paragraph describing how you could contribute to the American cause.

Phillis Wheatley _____

Mercy Otis Warren _____

Me _____

A Patriotic Celebration

Create a patriotic celebration in your classroom with these two recipes.

Old Glory Ice Cream

What you need:

- 9 x 13 cake pan
- 1 half-gallon vanilla ice cream
- 3 cups fresh strawberry halves
- 1/2 cup white frosting
- blue food coloring
- small package of yogurt-dipped raisins or white candy

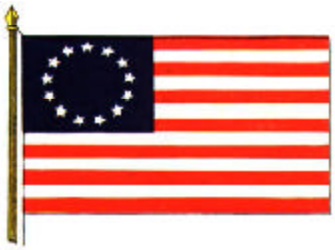
1. Mix several drops of food coloring into the frosting to make it a deep blue color. If the frosting gets too thick as you're working, thin it with a little milk or water.

2. Soften the ice cream and spread it in a 9-inch by 13-inch pan. (Place pan in the freezer until the ice cream is good and hard.)

3. In the upper left corner of the ice cream pan, brush the blue frosting into a rectangle as the background for the stars. Make a circle of thirteen white candy "stars" in the center of the blue section.

4. Make strawberry stripes by placing the berries side-by-side, cut side down, in rows along the length of the pan. Begin and end with red stripes. (The size of the strawberries will determine how many red stripes you will have - probably four to six.) Return Old Glory to the freezer until ready to eat.

Make enough pans of "Old Glory" to feed the class!



Philadelphia Pepper Pot - The Soup that Won the War

The official cook of the Continental army came from Philadelphia. He was a German named Christopher Ludwick. Ludwick was a soldier whose main job was to feed the men. He never had enough of the right ingredients, but he would experiment with anything.

Ludwick created a new supper for the hungry troops at Valley Forge. He had very little food but he knew the soldiers must have something warm and filling. According to legend, Ludwick combined tripe (stomach lining) and other animal insides, peppers, and spices to make a soup. To disguise the taste of the meat, which was probably not fresh, he added hot red pepper and black peppercorns.

Ludwick named his soup "Philadelphia Pepper Pot." He served it one freezing night when the soldiers were near starvation. Hot and spicy, the Pepper Pot soup filled them up and lifted their spirits. Some people still claim it was this soup that really won the war!

Ingredients - the Vegetarian Way!

1 lb vegeberger
2 large sliced onions
2 celery sticks, chopped
4 potatoes, chopped
4 carrots, sliced
1/2 gallon water
herbs: 2 tsp. each dried parsley and marjoram,
1/2 tsp. dried thyme
1/8 tsp. crushed red pepper
1/2 tsp. allspice
3 whole cloves
salt
lots of coarse black pepper

1. Brown vegeburger and onions in large kettle.
2. Add 1/2 gallon water, carrots, potatoes, and all seasonings.
3. Bring soup to boil.
4. Reduce heat to medium low and cook 20 minutes - until carrots and potatoes are tender.
5. Serve hot.

Early Celebrities

Name _____ Date _____

There were many heroes in the early days of our country. See how much information you already know about each individual. Then research to find two more interesting items. Compile your information into a short biography blurb. Make a celebrity card for each person listed below. Put the biography blurb on one side and draw their picture on the other side.

- William Bradford
- Miles Standish
- Ann Hutchinson
- William Penn
- Peter Minuit
- Lord Baltimore
- Pocahontas
- Earl of Shaftesbury
- James Oglethorpe
- John Rolfe

Abigail Adams (1744-1818) was the First Lady to President John Adams. She wrote many letters about the role of women in the "new country."

Mrs. Adams believed strongly in the equality of African Americans. She made sure the slaves under her care were educated - much to the dismay of many neighbors!

Mrs. Adams was known for her caring, Christian support of her husband during his life.

Indian Investigation

Name _____ Date _____

You are the host for the Pilgrim Today Show. Suppose you have a chance to talk with Squanto, Samoset, and Massasoit. Imagine they agree to be on your talk show. Create a list of ten questions you would like to ask them on the show.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

** Bonus - Stage your own talk show. Compile your class's questions. Choose one student to be the talk show host. Choose three others to play the parts of Squanto, Samoset, and Massasoit. Invite another classroom to be your audience.

Concord Hymn

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

Name _____ Date _____

The battles of Lexington and Concord marked the beginning of the Revolutionary War. The writer and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote the poem "Concord Hymn" for the unveiling of a monument to the patriots of Concord. It was first sung as a hymn at the1837 ceremony and was later distributed as a printed leaflet.

Directions: Read the *Concord Hymn*. Define the vocabulary words. In writing on another piece of paper, explain this poem to a child younger than you.

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set today a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.

rude _____

votive _____

redeem _____

sires _____

Homeward Bound

Name _____ Date _____

In the 1620s, individuals and families from England made and carried out travel plans to a place that they thought they would call home. A place where they could be free to worship as they choose. A place where they could be individual thinkers.

As Christians, we are making and carrying out plans to travel to our Heavenly home. Create a travel brochure to advertise a new homeland - Heaven. Use the questions below to help gather facts and information. Make your brochure as colorful and attractive as you can.

What will you need to do to get ready for the trip?

Who will be there?

What kinds of attractions will there be to explore and see?

How long can you stay?

How do you get there?

Are there special requirements for behavior?

Are there any restrictions?

What activities are offered?

When will the “trip” take place?

** Add any other information you can think of to spread the good news about this awesome place to live.

Searching for Patriots

Name Key Date _____

Directions: Find the names of these patriots in the wordsearch below. Words go vertically, horizontally, and diagonally.

Adams
Franklin
Henry
Jefferson
Massasoit
Oglethorpe
Penn
Raleigh
Revere
Rolfe
Smith
Squanto
Washington
Williams
Winthrop

W	A	S	H	I	N	T	O	N	A	L	I	S	O	N	M	I	C	H	A
E	A	L	H	E	R	Y	F	E	L	I	X	T	H	E	M	C	A	Y	D
K	A	S	I	T	I	A	R	C	H	R	I	S	T	O	A	P	H	L	A
M	A	S	H	S	A	C	L	H	U	S	E	T	T	S	S	F	L	O	M
R	I	D	E	I	A	T	E	E	X	A	S	M	I	P	S	S	S	I	S
S	S	I	N	P	N	P	I	U	I	T	A	H	O	P	A	E	N	N	S
Y	L	V	R	A	N	G	I	A	N	G	E	R	W	M	S	E	X	I	C
R	O	O	Y	K	L	A	T	H	O	M	H	A	N	E	O	B	R	A	S
O	K	A	A	L	A	S	K	O	A	T	C	A	N	A	I	D	A	K	E
L	N	T	U	C	K	Y	T	E	N	N	E	S	S	E	T	E	F	L	O
F	R	I	D	A	C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	J	I	A	L	A	B	A
E	M	A	M	O	N	T	W	A	N	A	M	A	E	I	N	E	V	E	R
M	O	S	Q	U	A	N	T	O	N	T	N	E	F	W	H	A	M	P	S
S	H	I	R	E	F	R	A	N	K	L	Y	N	F	P	U	N	N	Q	M
Q	U	I	N	N	O	H	I	O	I	L	L	P	E	N	N	I	N	O	I
I	S	F	R	A	N	K	L	I	N	W	I	L	R	L	I	A	M	S	T
R	I	V	E	R	E	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	S	H	O	R	S	E	H
T	E	X	A	S	J	O	O	G	L	E	T	H	O	R	P	E	E	A	T
R	E	V	E	R	E	S	E	O	L	D	U	P	N	M	U	L	E	O	P
V	E	R	T	E	G	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S	M	A	R	T	H	A

Searching for Patriots

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Find the names of these patriots in the wordsearch below. Words go vertically, horizontally, and diagonally.

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Revere
Rolfe
Smith
Squanto
Washington
Williams
Winthrop

W	A	S	H	I	N	T	O	N	A	L	I	S	O	N	M	I	C	H	A
E	A	L	H	E	R	Y	F	E	L	I	X	T	H	E	M	C	A	Y	D
K	A	S	I	T	I	A	R	C	H	R	I	S	T	O	A	P	H	L	A
M	A	S	H	S	A	C	L	H	U	S	E	T	T	S	S	F	L	O	M
R	I	D	E	I	A	T	E	E	X	A	S	M	I	P	S	S	S	I	S
S	S	I	N	P	N	P	I	U	I	T	A	H	O	P	A	E	N	N	S
Y	L	V	R	A	N	G	I	A	N	G	E	R	W	M	S	E	X	I	C
R	O	O	Y	K	L	A	T	H	O	M	H	A	N	E	O	B	R	A	S
O	K	A	A	L	A	S	K	O	A	T	C	A	N	A	I	D	A	K	E
L	N	T	U	C	K	Y	T	E	N	N	E	S	S	E	T	E	F	L	O
F	R	I	D	A	C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	J	I	A	L	A	B	A
E	M	A	M	O	N	T	W	A	N	A	M	A	E	I	N	E	V	E	R
M	O	S	Q	U	A	N	T	O	N	T	N	E	F	W	H	A	M	P	S
S	H	I	R	E	F	R	A	N	K	L	Y	N	F	P	U	N	N	Q	M
Q	U	I	N	N	O	H	I	O	I	L	L	P	E	N	N	I	N	O	I
I	S	F	R	A	N	K	L	I	N	W	I	L	R	L	I	A	M	S	T
R	I	V	E	R	E	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	S	H	O	R	S	E	H
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R	E	V	E	R	E	S	E	O	L	D	U	P	N	M	U	L	E	O	P
V	E	R	T	E	G	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S	M	A	R	T	H	A

The American Vicar of Bray

(from Rivington's *Royal Gazette*, June 30, 1779)
A parody of the shifting loyalties of some colonists. A take-off of the British song, "The Vicar of Bray"
http://users.erols.com/candidus/vicar.htm

When Royal George rul'd o'er this land,
And loyalty no harm meant,
For church and king I made a stand,
And so I got preferment.
I still opposed all party tricks,
For reasons I thought clear ones,
And swore it was their politics,
To make us Presbyterians.

Chorus
And this is law I will maintain,
Until my dying day, sir,
Let whatsoever king will reign,
I'll be the Vicar of Bray, sir.

When Stamp Act pas'd the Parliament,
To bring some grist to mill, sir,
To back it was my firm intent,
But soon there came repeal, sir.
I quickly join'd the common cry,
That we should all be slaves, sir,
The House of Commons was a sty,
The King and Lords were knaves, sir.

Now all went smooth as smooth could be,
I strutted and look'd big, sir;
And when they laid a tax on tea,
I was believed a Whig, sir.
I laugh'd at all the vain pretence
Of taxing at this distance,
And swore before I'd pay my pence,
I'd make a firm resistance.

A Congress now was quickly call'd,
That we might act together;
I thought that Britain would apall'd
Be glad to make fair weather,
And soon repeal th' obnoxious bill,
As she had done before, sir,

That we may gather wealth at will,
And so be tax'd no more, sir.

But Britain was not quickly scar'd,
She told another story;
When independence was declar'd,
I figur'd as a Tory;
Declar'd it was rebellion base,
To take up arms — I curs'd it—
For faith it seemed a settled case,
That we should soon be worsted.

When penal laws were pass'd by vote,
I thought the test a grievance,
Yet sooner than I'd loose a goat,
I swore the State allegiance.
The then disguise could hardly pass,
For I was much suspected;
I felt myself much like the ass
In lion's skin detected.

The French alliance now came forth,
The papists flocked in shoals, sir,
Frizeur Marquises, Valets of birth,
And priests to save our souls, sir.
Our "good ally," with tow'ring wing,
Embrac'd the flattering hope, sir,
That we should own him for our king,
And then invite the Pope, sir.

When Howe, with drums and great parade,
March'd through this famous town, sir,
I cried, "May Fame his temples shade
"With laurels for a crown, sir."
With zeal I swore to make ammends
To good old constitution,
And drank confusion to the friends
Of our late revolution.

But poor Burgoyne's denounced my fate,
The Whigs began to glory,
I now bewail'd my wretched state,
That I was e'er a Tory,
By night the British left the shore,
Nor car'd for friends a fig, sir,
I turn'd the cat in pan once more,
And so became a Whig, sir.

I call'd the army butch'ring dogs,
A bloody tyrant King, sir,
The Commons, Lords, a set of rogues,
That all deserved to swing, sir.
Since fate has made us great and free,
And Providence can't falter,
So long till death my king shall be,
Unless the times should alter.

A SONG (1779)

These verses were published in Rivington's "Royal Gazette" (New York) in March of 1779 as "A Song, written by a refugee on reading the King's speech and sung at the Refugee Club in the city of New York to the tune "Heart(s) of Oak".

http://users.erols.com/candidus/music.htm#song

Here's a bumper, brave boys, to the health of our king,
Long may he live, and long may we sing,
In praise of a monarch who boldly defends
The laws of the realm, and the cause of his friends.
Then cheer up, my lads, we have nothing to fear,
While we remain steady,
And always keep ready,
To add to the trophies of this happy year.

The Congress did boast of their mighty ally,
But George does both France and the Congress defy;
And when Britons unite, there's no force can withstand
Their fleets and their armies, by sea and on land.

Thus supported, our cause we will ever maintain,
And all treaties with rebels will ever disdain;
Till reduc'd by our arms, they are forc'd to confess,
While ruled by Great Britain they ne'er knew distress.

Then let us, my boys, Britain's right e'er defend,
Who regards not her rights, we esteem not our friend;
Then, brave boys, we both France and the Congress defy,
And we'll fight for Great Britain and George till we die.
Then cheer up, my lads, we have nothing to fear,
While we remain steady,
And always keep ready,
To add to the trophies of this happy year.

THE CONGRESS (1776)

tune: Nancy Dawson

http://users.erols.com/candidus/music.htm#congress

Ye Tories all rejoice and sing
Success to George our gracious King,
The faithful subjects tribute bring
And execrate the Congress.
These hardy knaves and stupid fools,
Some apish and pragmatic mules,
Some servile acquiescing tools,
These, these compose the Congress.

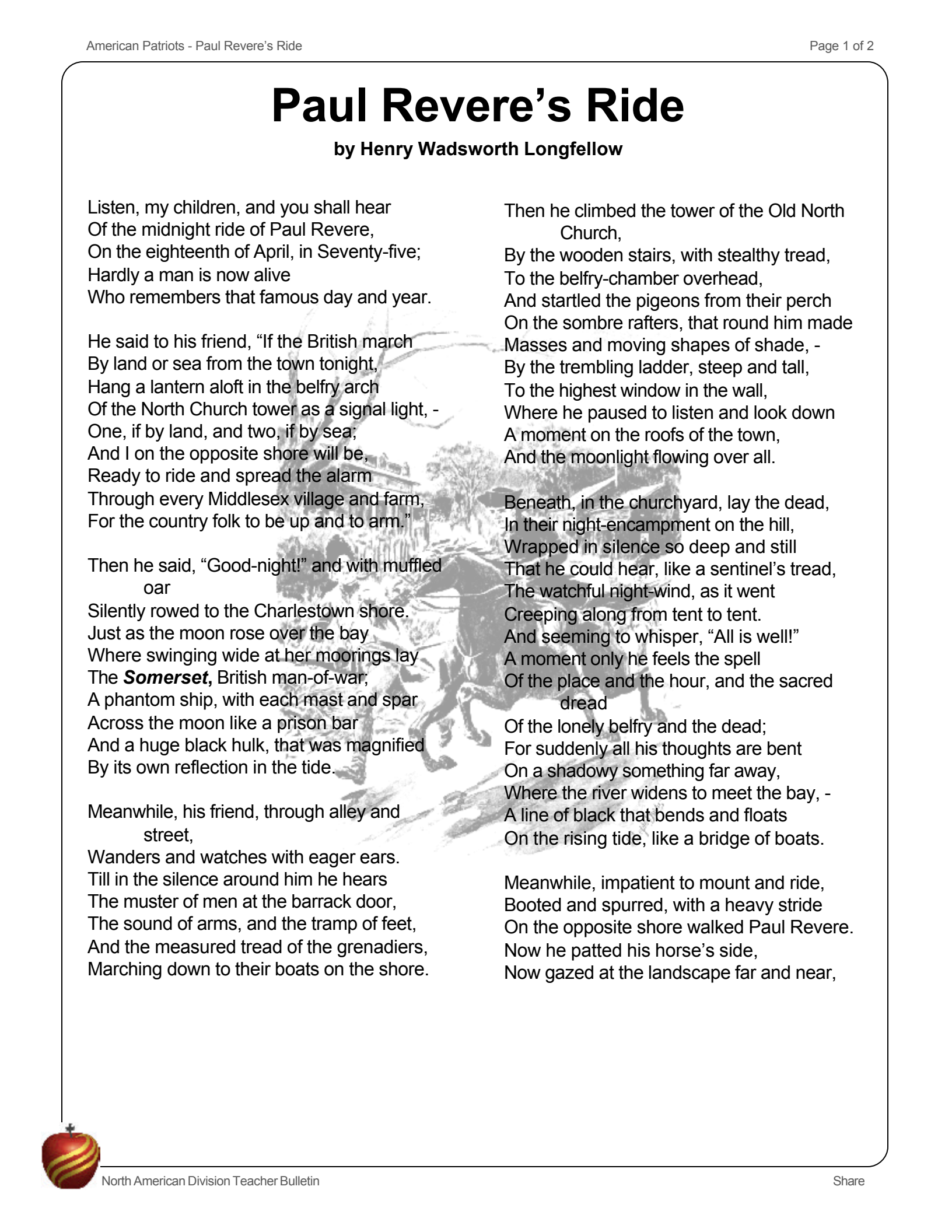
Then Jove resolved to send a curse,
And all the woes of life rehearse
Not plague, not famine, but much worse
He cursed us with a Congress.
Then peace forsook this hopeless shore
Then cannons blazed with horrid roar
We hear of blood, death, wounds and gore,
The offspring of the Congress.

With poverty and dire distress
With standing armies us oppress,
Whole troops to Pluto swiftly press;
As victims of the Congress.
Time-serving priests to zealots preach,
Who King and Parliament impeach;
Seditious lessons to us teach
At the command of Congress.

Prepare, prepare, my friends prepare
For scenes of blood, the field of war;
To royal standard we'll repair,
And curse the haughty Congress.
Huzza! Huzza! and thrice Huzza!
Return peace, harmony and law!
Restore such times as once we saw
And bid adieu to Congress.

Paul Revere's Ride

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.

He said to his friend, "If the British march
By land or sea from the town tonight,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch
Of the North Church tower as a signal light, -
One, if by land, and two, if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country folk to be up and to arm."

Then he said, "Good-night!" and with muffled oar
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore.
Just as the moon rose over the bay
Where swinging wide at her moorings lay
The ***Somerset*,** British man-of-war;
A phantom ship, with each mast and spar
Across the moon like a prison bar
And a huge black hulk, that was magnified
By its own reflection in the tide.

Meanwhile, his friend, through alley and street,
Wanders and watches with eager ears.
Till in the silence around him he hears
The muster of men at the barrack door,
The sound of arms, and the tramp of feet,
And the measured tread of the grenadiers,
Marching down to their boats on the shore.

Then he climbed the tower of the Old North Church,
By the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,
To the belfry-chamber overhead,
And startled the pigeons from their perch
On the sombre rafters, that round him made
Masses and moving shapes of shade, -
By the trembling ladder, steep and tall,
To the highest window in the wall,
Where he paused to listen and look down
A moment on the roofs of the town,
And the moonlight flowing over all.

Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the dead,
In their night-encampment on the hill,
Wrapped in silence so deep and still
That he could hear, like a sentinel's tread,
The watchful night-wind, as it went
Creeping along from tent to tent.
And seeming to whisper, "All is well!"
A moment only he feels the spell
Of the place and the hour, and the sacred dread
Of the lonely belfry and the dead;
For suddenly all his thoughts are bent
On a shadowy something far away,
Where the river widens to meet the bay, -
A line of black that bends and floats
On the rising tide, like a bridge of boats.

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride,
Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride
On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.
Now he patted his horse's side,
Now gazed at the landscape far and near,

Then, impetuous, stamped the earth,
And turned and tightened his saddle-girth;
But mostly he watched with eager search
The belfry-tower of the Old North Church,
As it rose above the graves on the hill,
Lonely and spectral and somber and still.
And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns,
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight
A second lamp in the belfry burns!

A hurry of hoofs in a village street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,
And beneath, from the pebbles, in passing a spark
Struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet:
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light,
The fate of a nation was riding that night;
And the spark struck out by that steed in his flight,
Kindled the land into flame with its heat.

He has left the village and mounted the steep
And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep,
Is the **Mystic**, meeting the ocean tides;
And under the alders that skirt its edge,
Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge,
Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.

It was twelve by the village clock,
When he crossed the bridge into Medford town.
He heard the crowing of the cock,
And the barking of the farmer's dog,
And felt the damp of the river fog
That rises after the sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock,
When he galloped into Lexington.
He saw the gilded weathercock
Swim in the moonlight as he passed,
And the meeting-house windows, blank and bare,
Gaze at him with a spectral glare,
As if they already stood aghast
At the bloody work they would look upon.

It was two by the village clock,
When he came to the bridge in Concord town.
He heard the bleating of the flock,
And the twitter of birds among the trees,
And felt the breath of the morning breeze
Blowing over the meadows brown.
And one was safe and asleep in his bed
Who at the bridge would be first to fall,
Who that day would be lying dead,
Pierced by a British musket-ball.

You know the rest. In the books you have read,
How the British regulars fired and fled, —
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,
From behind each fence and farm-yard wall,
Chasing the red-coats down the lane,
Then crossing the fields to emerge again
Under the trees at the turn of the road,
And only pausing to fire and load.

So through the night rode Paul Revere;
And so through the night went his cry of alarm
To every Middlesex village and farm, -
A cry of defiance and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
And a word that shall echo forevermore!
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,
Through all our history, to the last,
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,
The people will waken and listen to heare
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

Project Opportunities

The following pages are intended for use in a project based setting. Projects are divided into groups centering around the following topics:

Farms - Life in Colonial time on a New England farm
Culture/Entertainment - Education and entertainment in the 1700s
Plantations and Towns - Life in Colonial time on plantation or in a town in the middle colonies
A Child's Life - Life growing up as a child during the 1600-1700s
Economics - Business and economy

There are six projects for each topic. All projects are centered around the American Patriot's time period.

Suggested Uses:

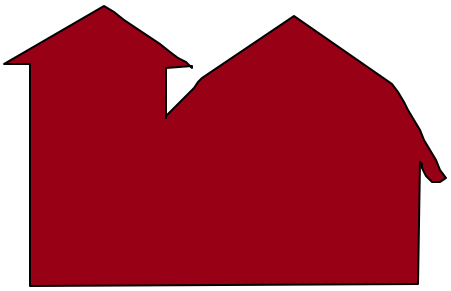
Copy the project cards on tagboard.
Cut out cards and use in a learning center.
Projects can be assigned individually - or as group projects.

Answer Keys:

All projects are open ended. This is an ideal avenue to evaluate students based on personal potential and growth.

Resources:

Students should be encouraged to use as many resources as possible - internet, encyclopedia, library, social studies textbook, etc.

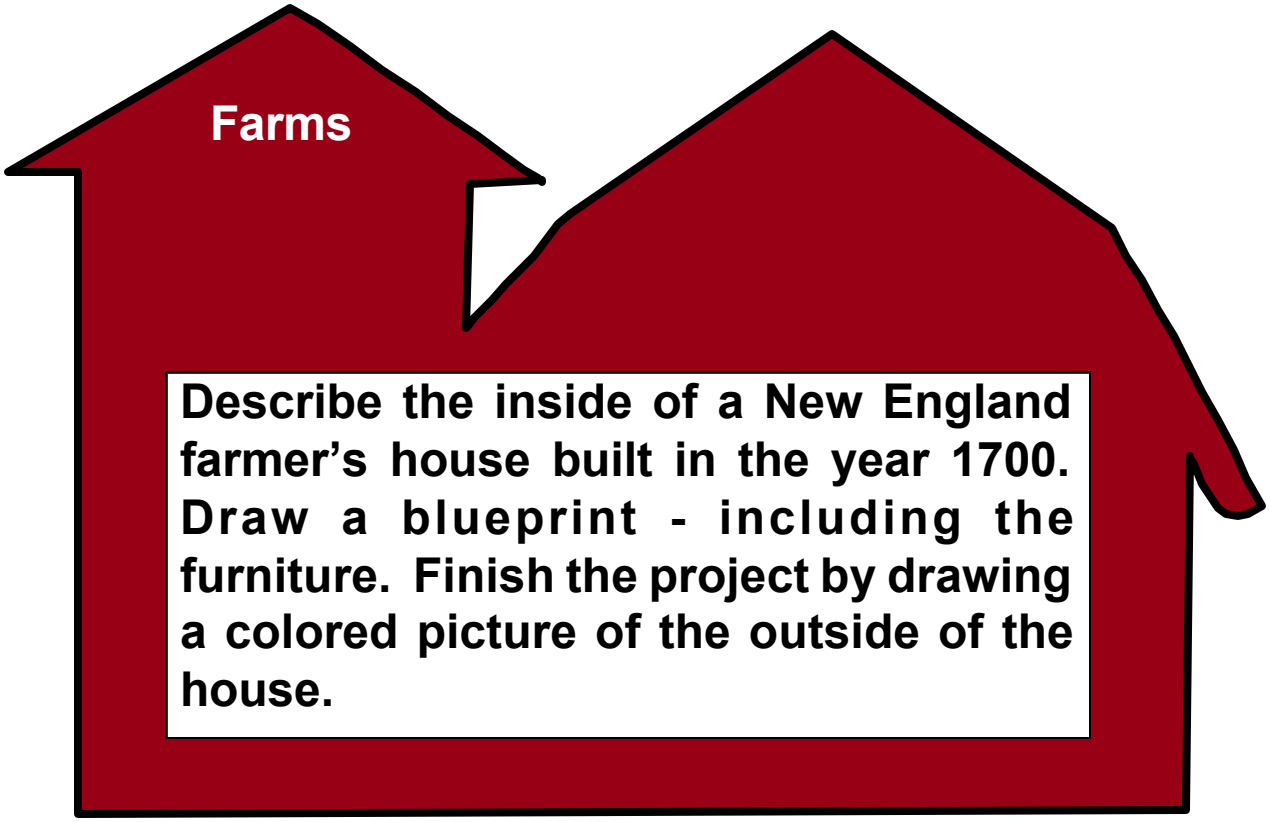


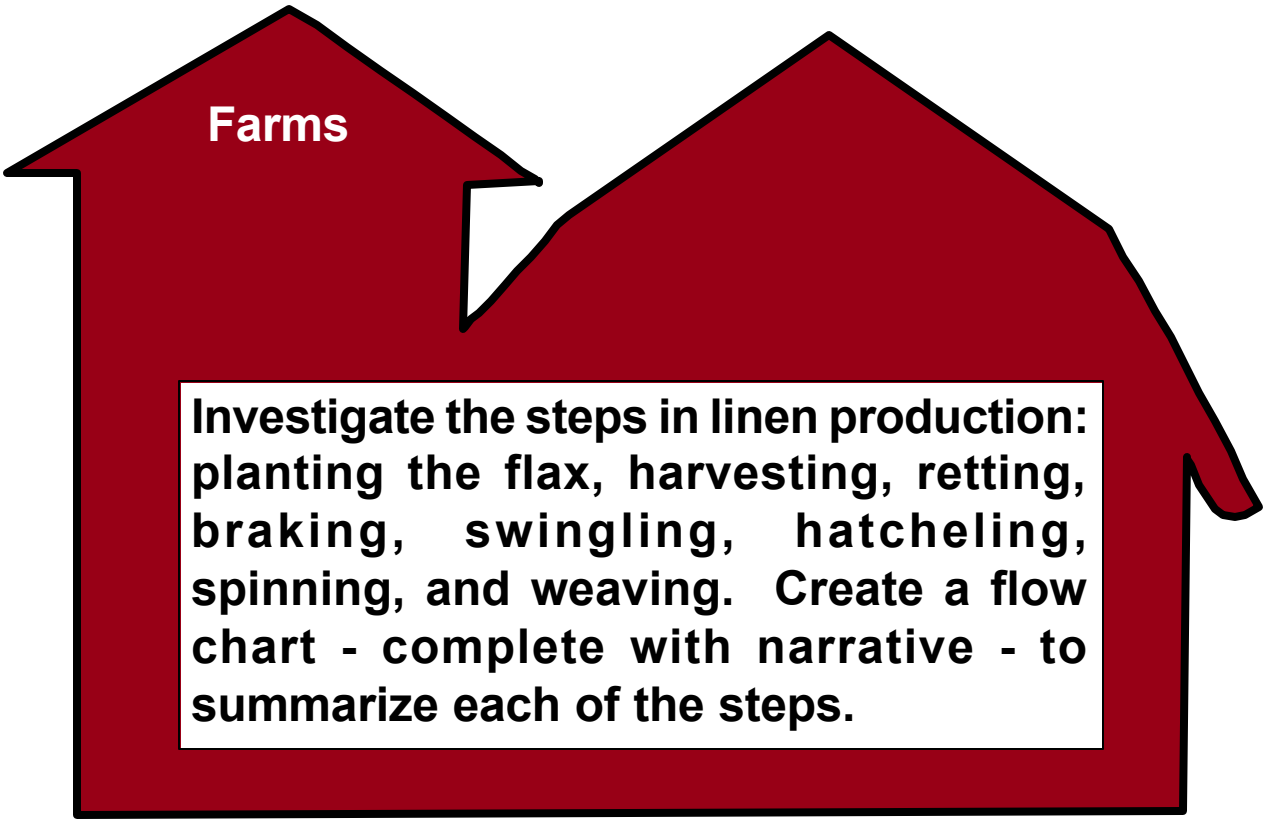
Farms

Colonial farmers used many tools. Reseach and study each of the following: scythe, flail, pitchfork, ax, adze, and billhook. Draw a picture of each tool. Explain in detail how each was used. Create a scrapbook with the pictures and explanations.

Farms

Show how a water wheel runs in a grist mill. Make an annotated drawing.


Farms
Describe the inside of a New England farmer's house built in the year 1700. Draw a blueprint - including the furniture. Finish the project by drawing a colored picture of the outside of the house.

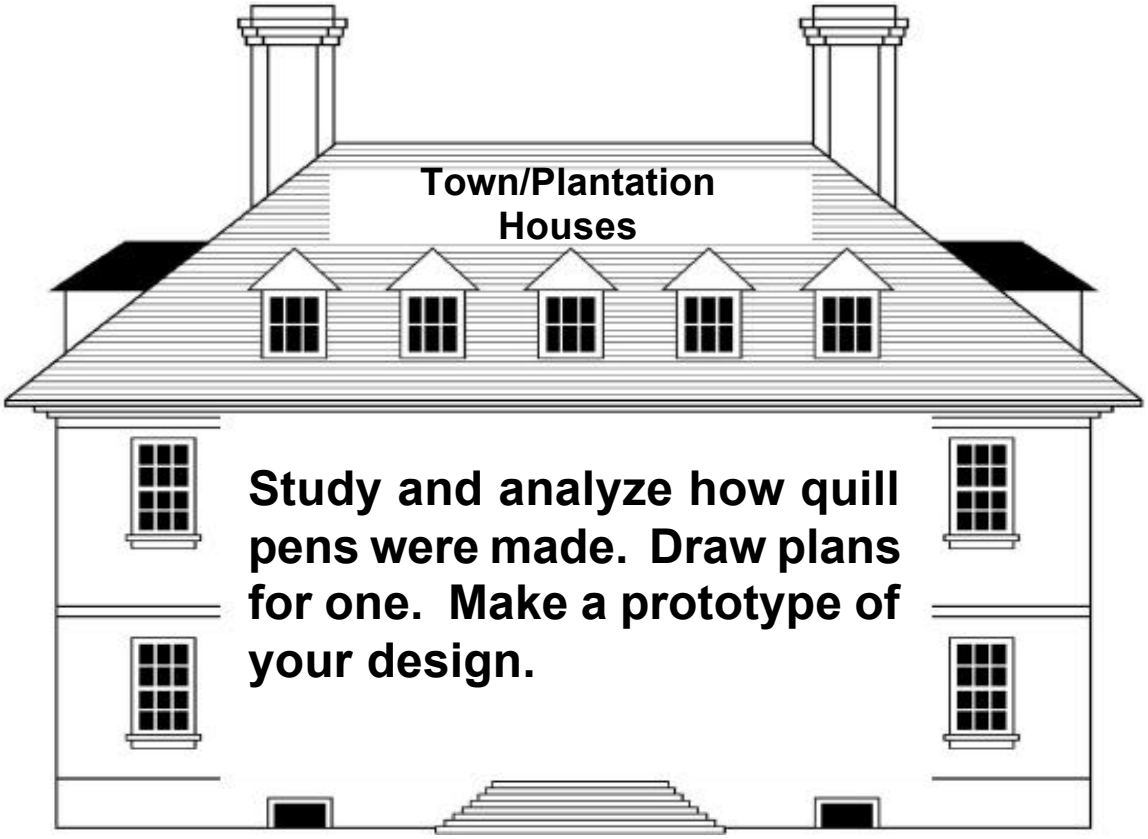

Farms
Investigate the steps in linen production: planting the flax, harvesting, retting, braking, swingling, hatcheling, spinning, and weaving. Create a flow chart - complete with narrative - to summarize each of the steps.

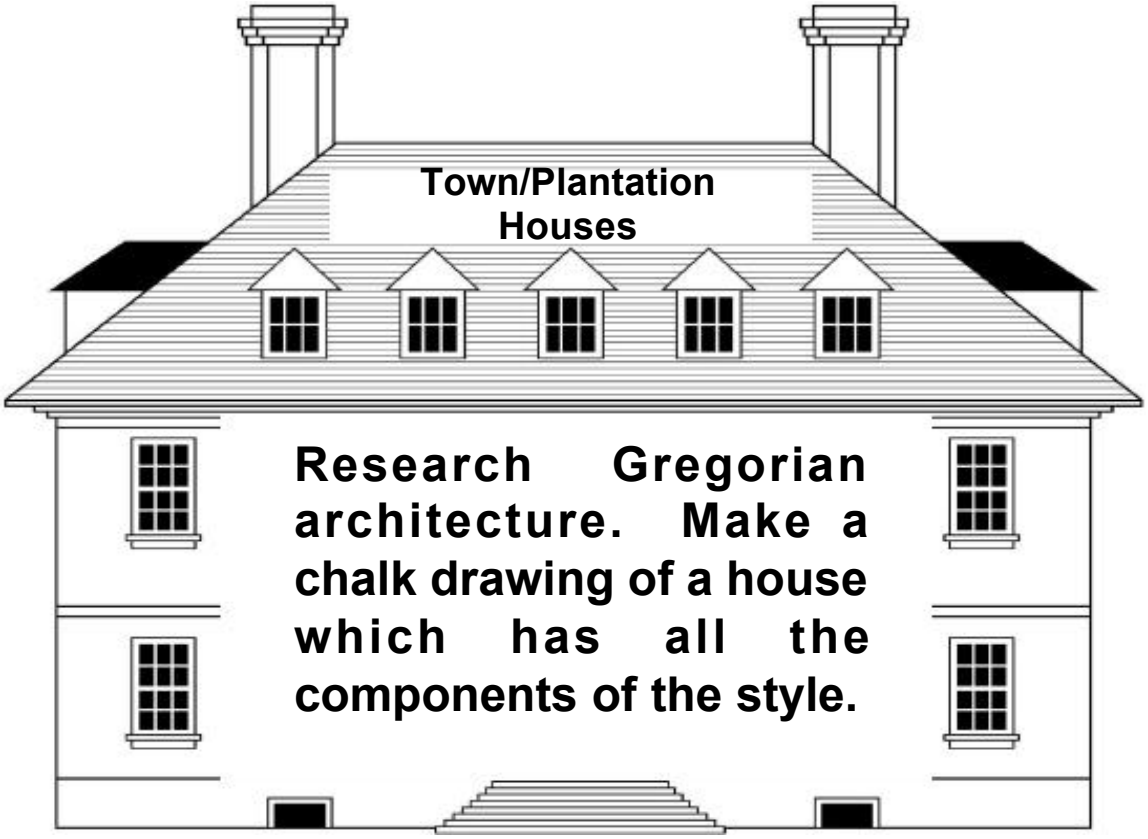
Farms

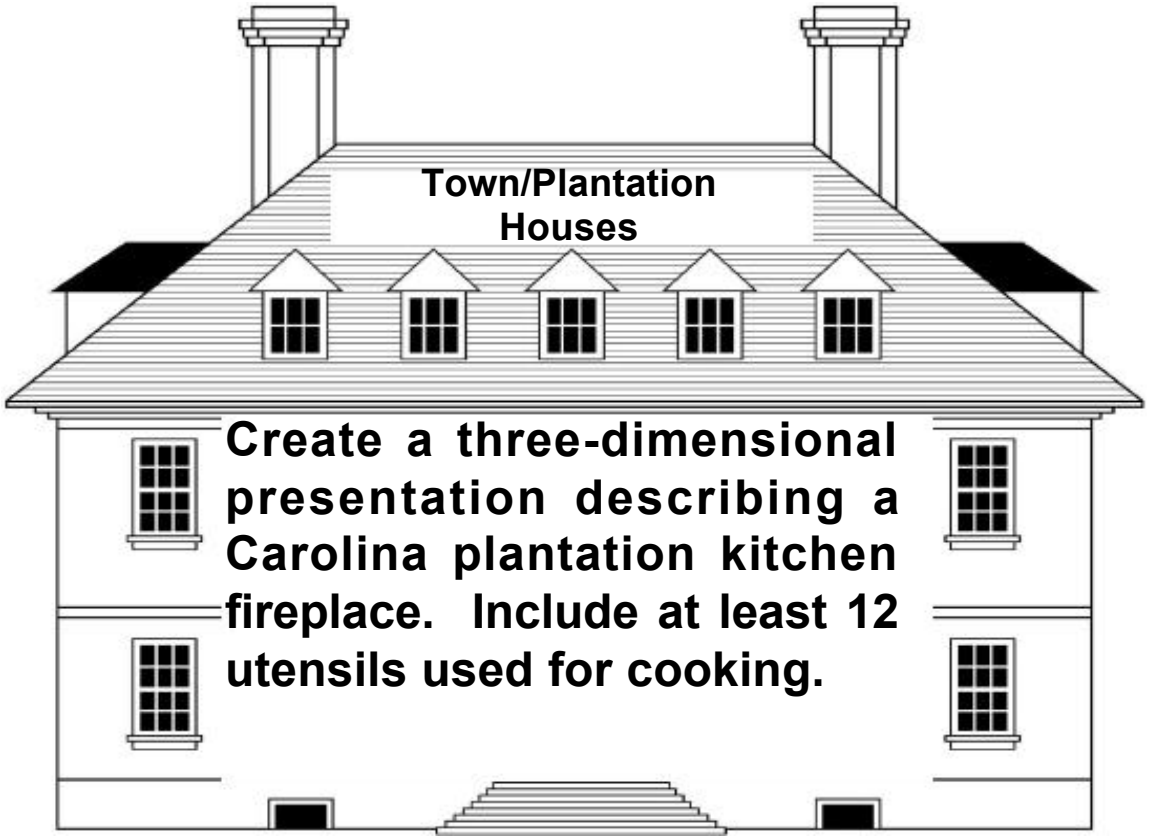
Pretend you are a boy or girl living on a farm in Massachusetts in 1750. Give the world a snapshot of your daily life for one week. Write a poem about yourself.

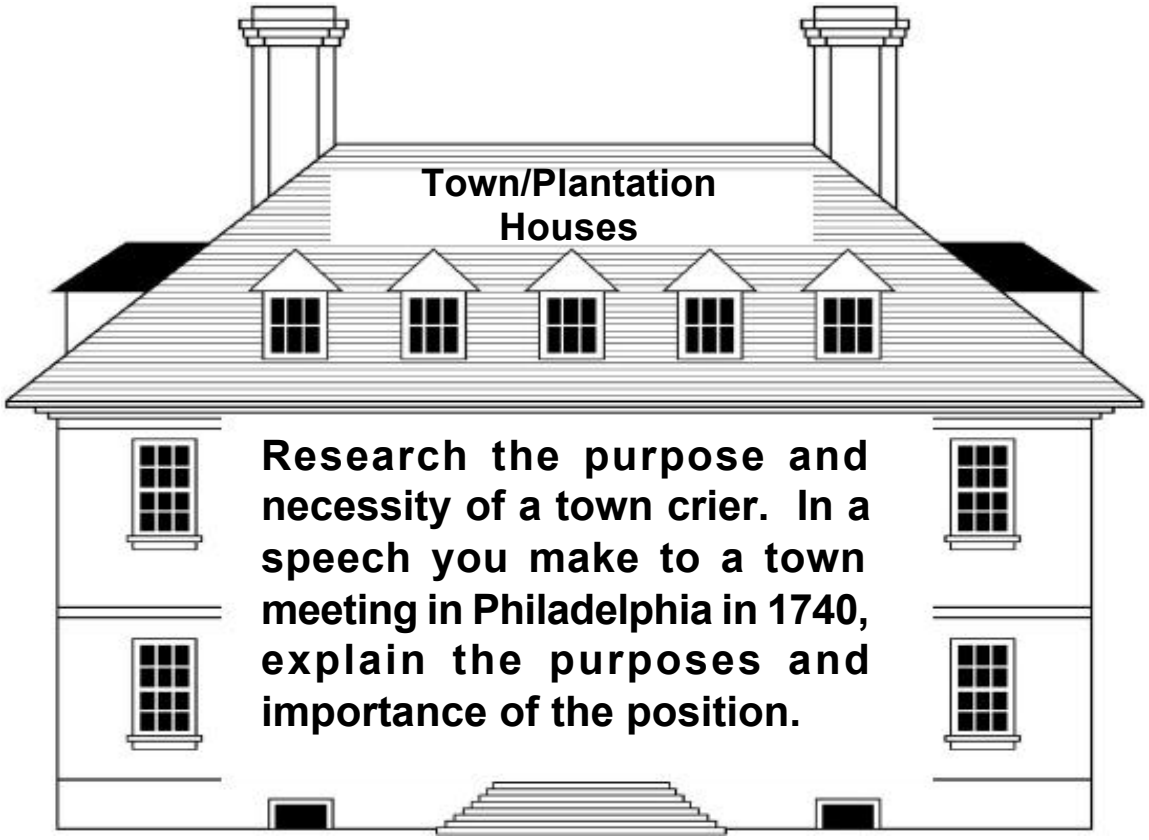
Farms

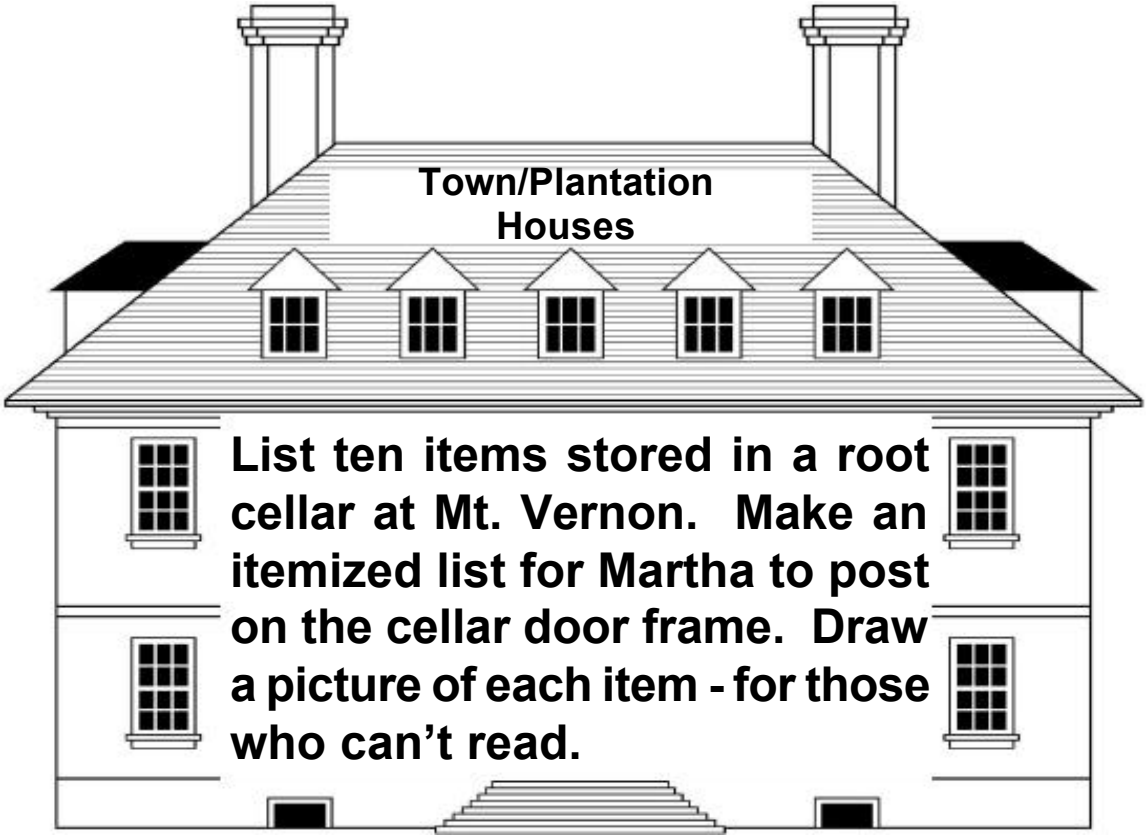
Imagine what it must have been like for a slave on a rice plantation in Georgia in 1750. As one of those slaves, create an anecdote about one of your experiences. Tell your story to a newly arrived slave on your plantation.

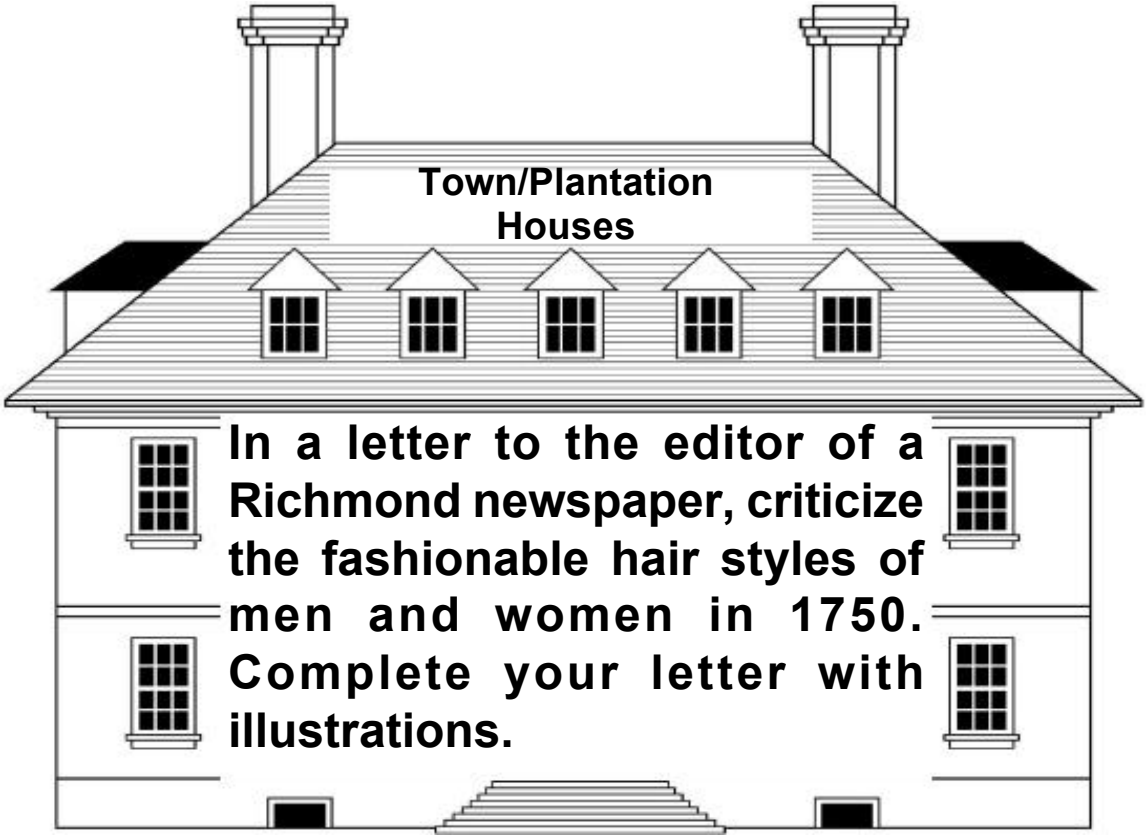

Town/Plantation
Houses
Study and analyze how quill pens were made. Draw plans for one. Make a prototype of your design.

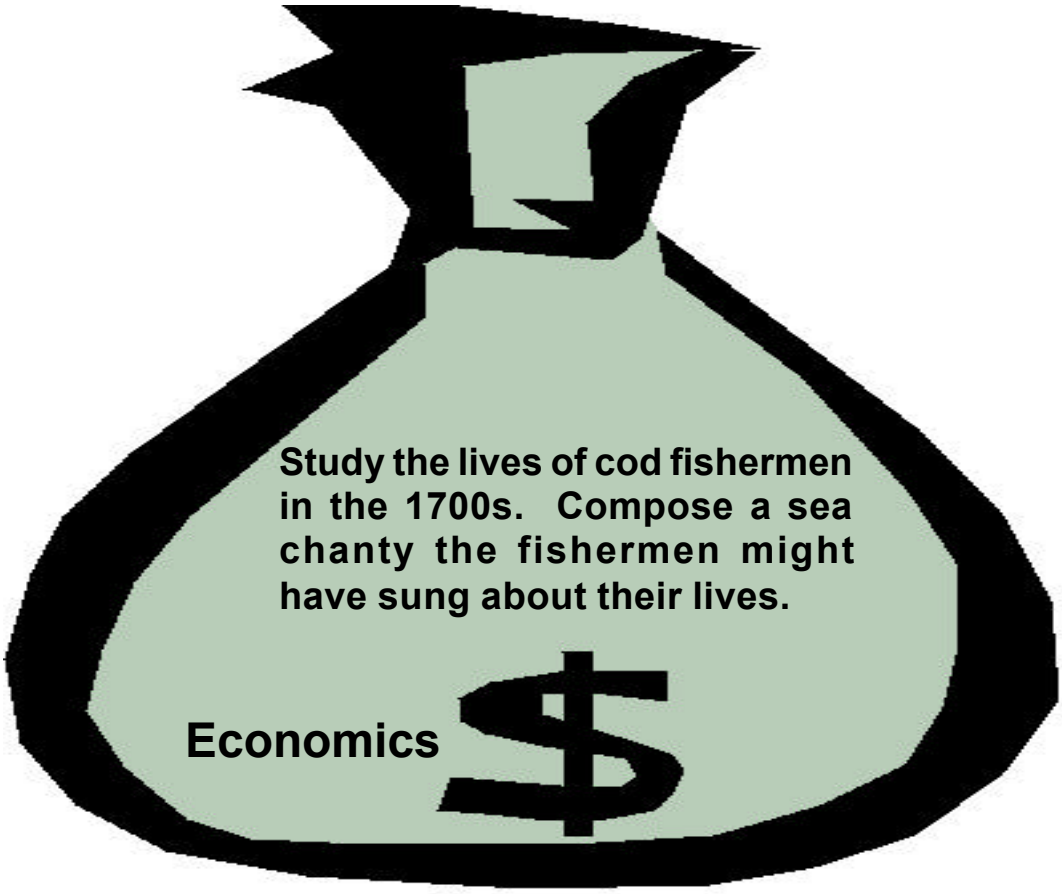

Town/Plantation
Houses
Research Gregorian architecture. Make a chalk drawing of a house which has all the components of the style.


Town/Plantation
Houses
Create a three-dimensional presentation describing a Carolina plantation kitchen fireplace. Include at least 12 utensils used for cooking.


Town/Plantation
Houses
Research the purpose and necessity of a town crier. In a speech you make to a town meeting in Philadelphia in 1740, explain the purposes and importance of the position.


Town/Plantation
Houses
List ten items stored in a root cellar at Mt. Vernon. Make an itemized list for Martha to post on the cellar door frame. Draw a picture of each item - for those who can't read.

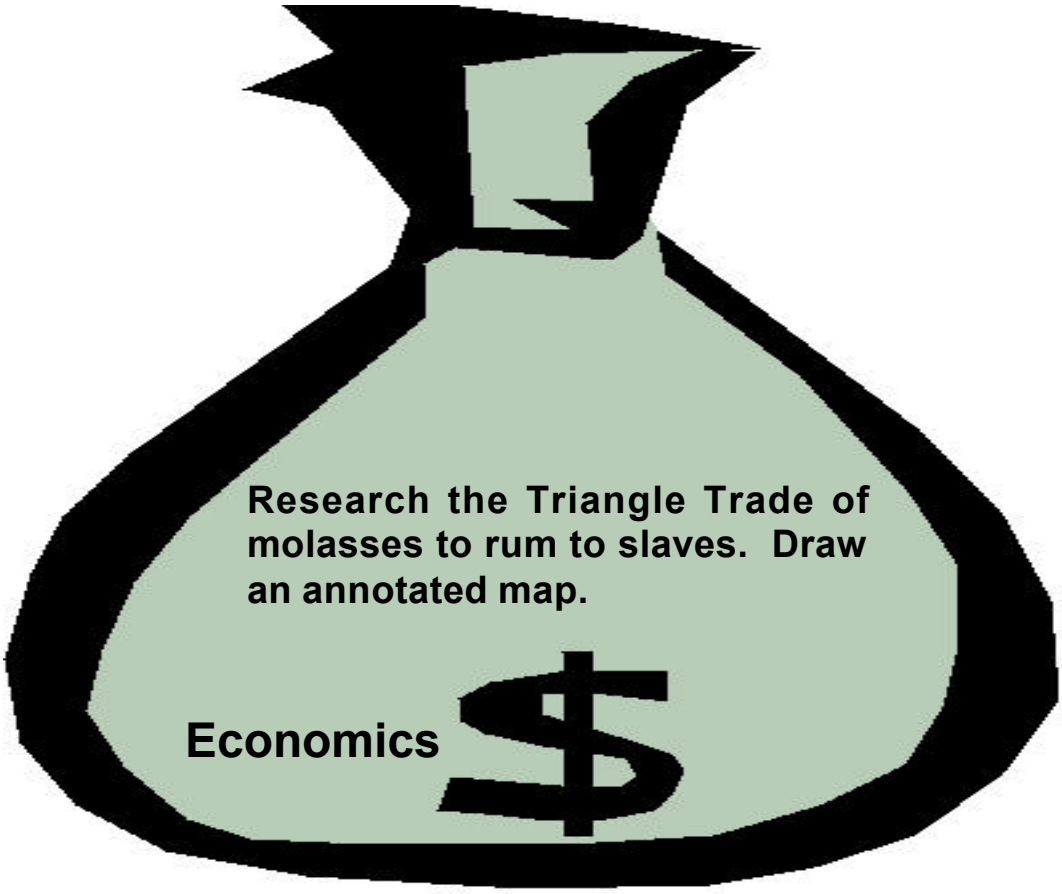

Town/Plantation
Houses
In a letter to the editor of a Richmond newspaper, criticize the fashionable hair styles of men and women in 1750. Complete your letter with illustrations.

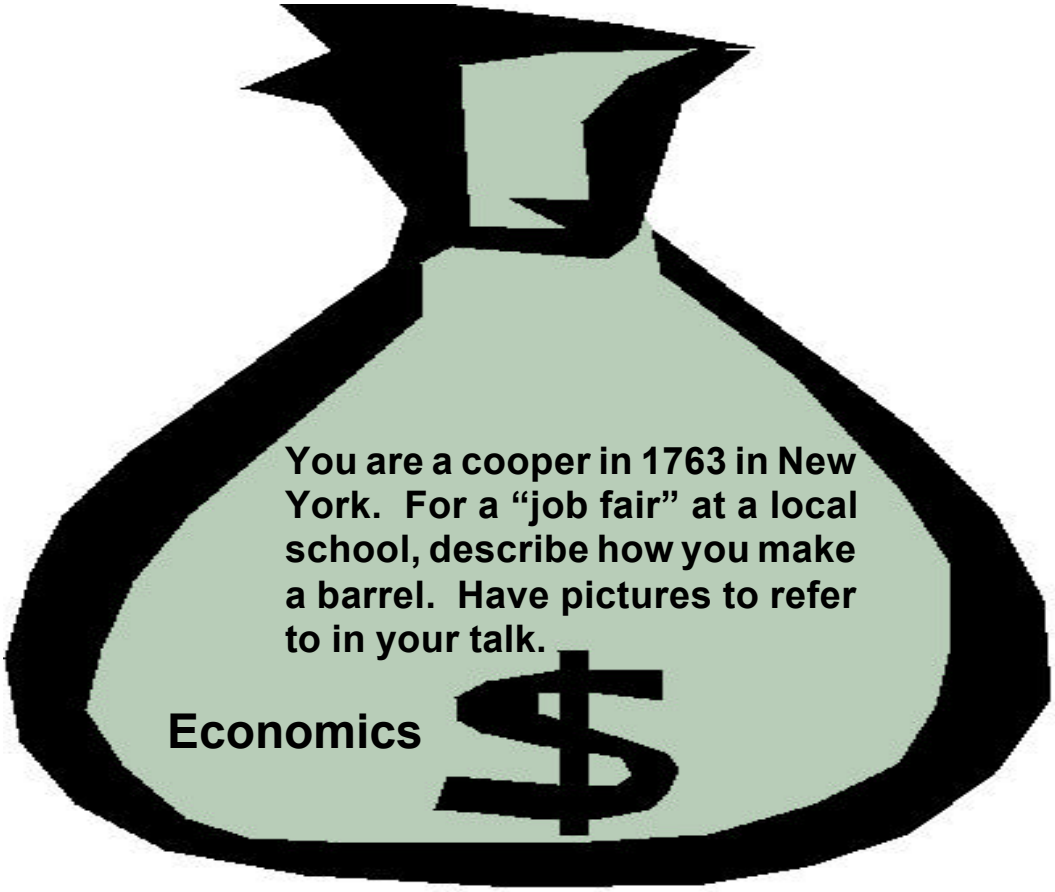

Study the lives of cod fishermen in the 1700s. Compose a sea chanty the fishermen might have sung about their lives.
Economics

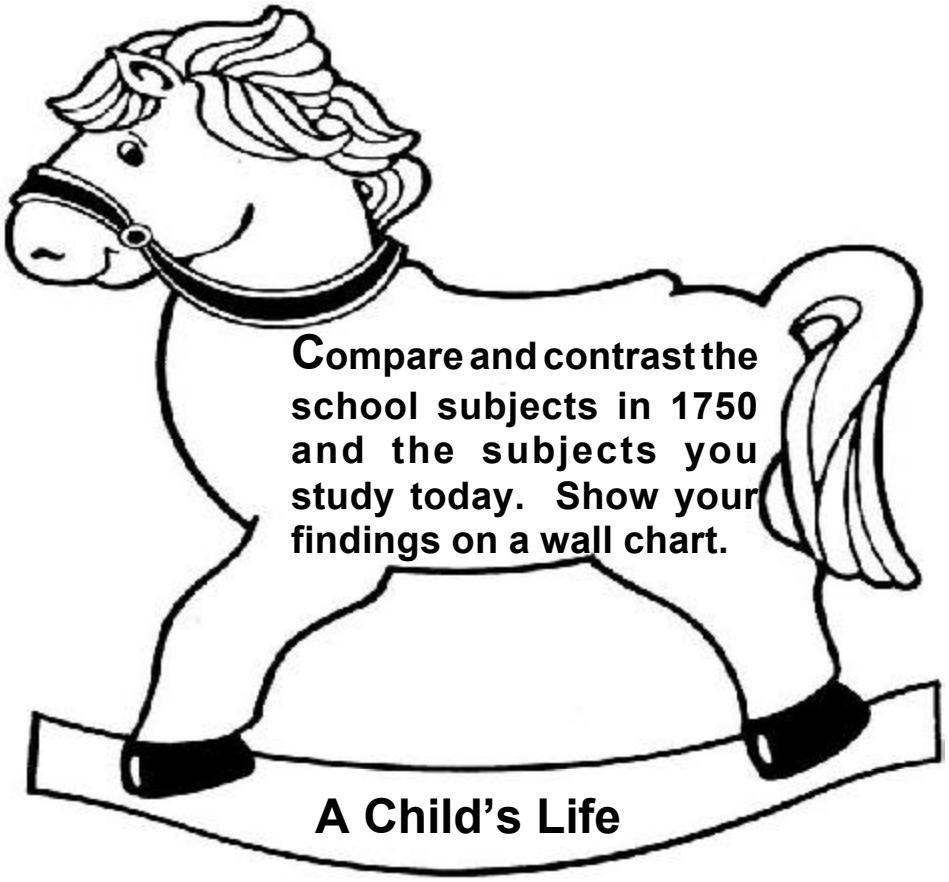

Research the steps in making paper in 1750 from the raw materials to finished paper. Put together an illustrated pamphlet for new apprentices
Economics


Make a colored drawing showing a Conestoga wagon in 1760. Put the wagon in a setting appropriate for this time period.
Economics

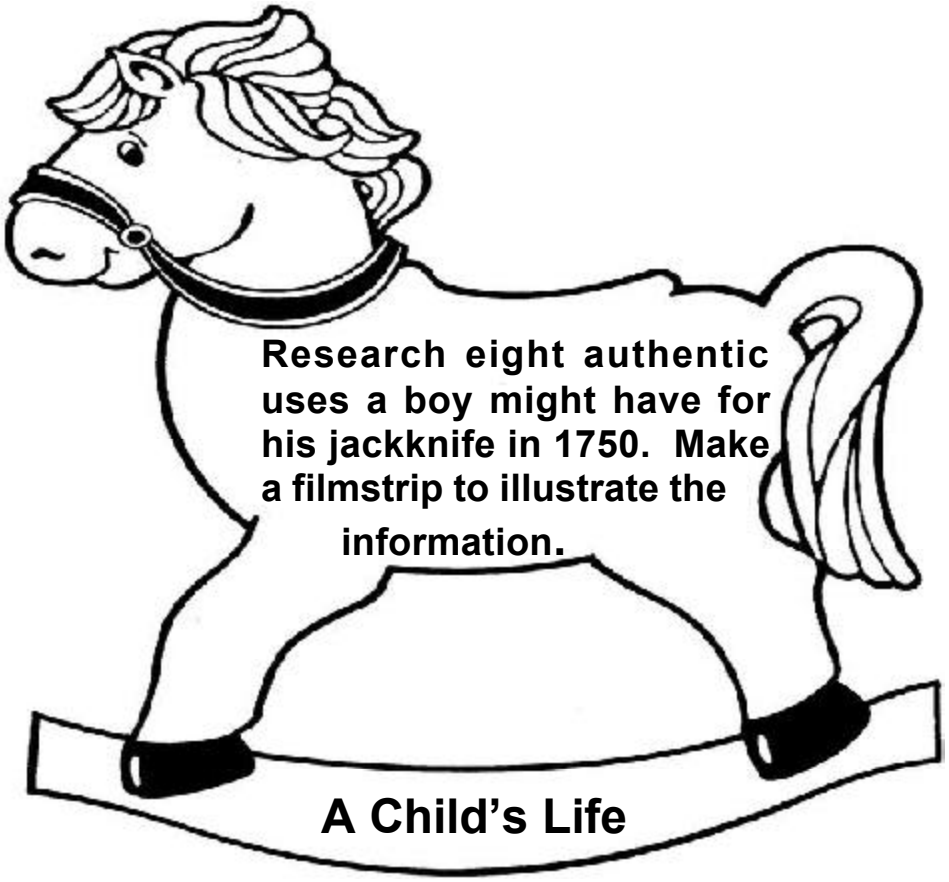

Paint a mural illustrating the exported and imported goods on a Boston dock in 1750.
Economics

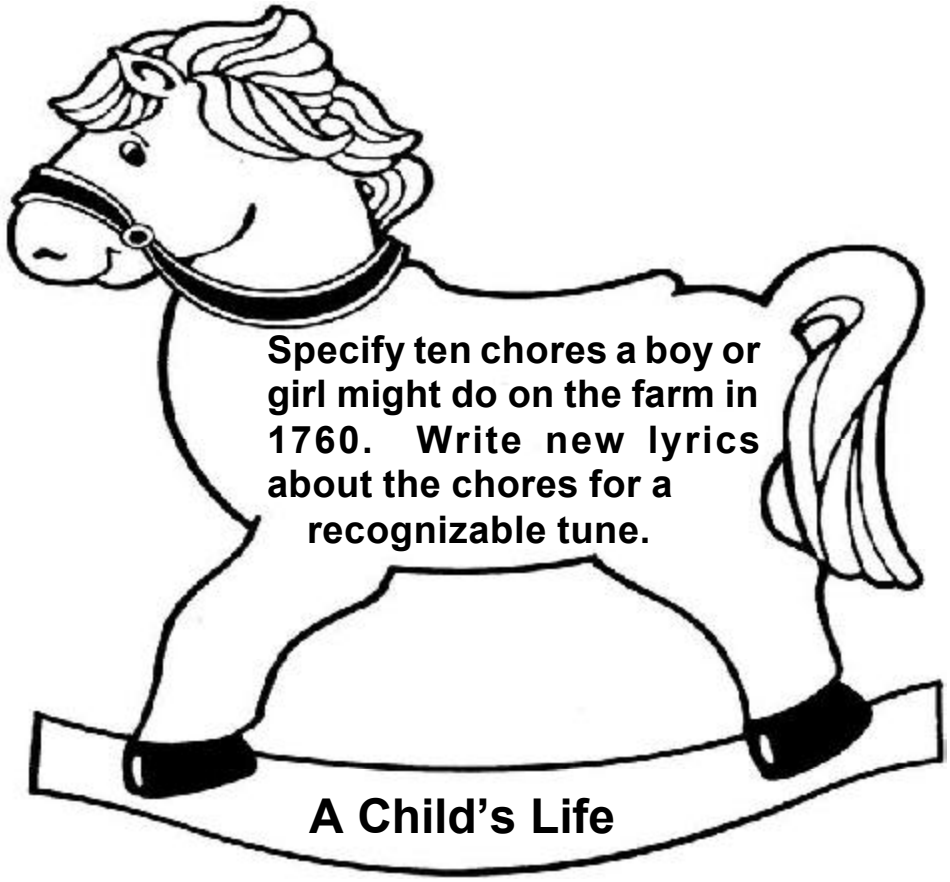

Research the Triangle Trade of molasses to rum to slaves. Draw an annotated map.
Economics

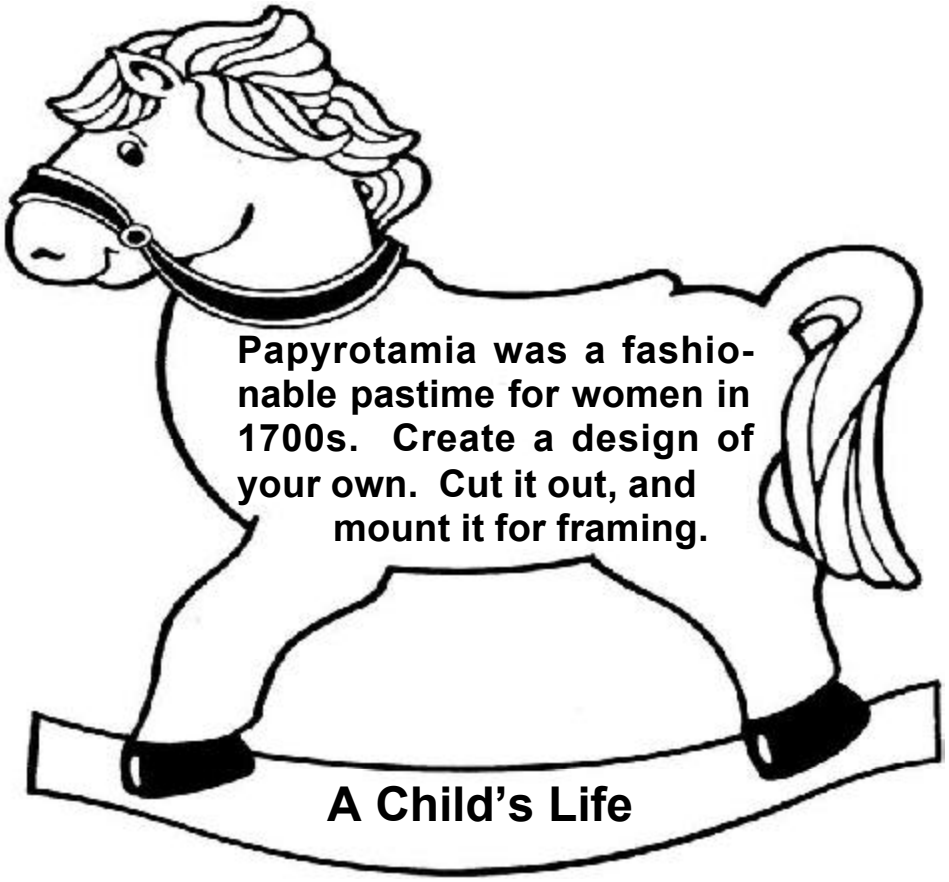

You are a cooper in 1763 in New York. For a "job fair" at a local school, describe how you make a barrel. Have pictures to refer to in your talk.
Economics

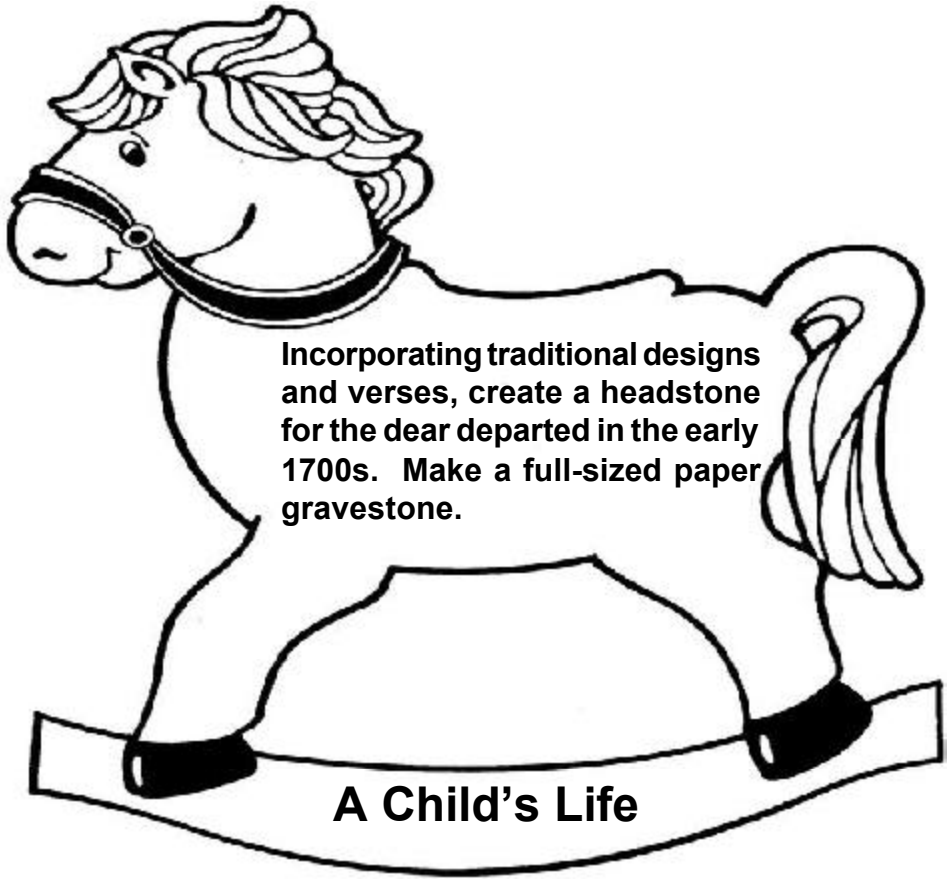

Compare and contrast the school subjects in 1750 and the subjects you study today. Show your findings on a wall chart.
A Child's Life


Compare the clothing for a boy from a wealthy family in New England, Pennsylvania and in Virginia in the 1770s Illustrate your findings.
A Child's Life


Research eight authentic uses a boy might have for his jackknife in 1750. Make a filmstrip to illustrate the information.
A Child's Life


Specify ten chores a boy or girl might do on the farm in 1760. Write new lyrics about the chores for a recognizable tune.
A Child's Life


Papyrotamia was a fashionable pastime for women in 1700s. Create a design of your own. Cut it out, and mount it for framing.
A Child's Life


Incorporating traditional designs and verses, create a headstone for the dear departed in the early 1700s. Make a full-sized paper gravestone.
A Child's Life

Culture/Entertainment

Compare the sound of a harpsicord to a piano. Write a letter to the music critic of your local paper to share your findings.

Culture/Entertainment

Research punishments used in 1750 to maintain discipline in schools. Defend or object to the punishments in a talk to the local school board. Give several reasons for your beliefs.

Culture/Entertainment

In Colonial America, many children did not survive infancy or childhood because of disease and infection. Compile a fact file on 5 childhood diseases in 1760.

Culture/Entertainment

Using modern materials, construct a simulated model of a hornbook.

Culture/Entertainment

Compile a booklet of 8 games. Summarize the rules. Include fox and geese, hoops, marbles, and blind man's bluff.

Culture/Entertainment

Put together a scrapbook with pictures and descriptions of the following punishments: bilboes, ducking stool, stocks, pillory, brank, cat-'o-nine tails, and riding the wooden horse.