

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION- UNTOLD STORIES

HISTORY YOU DIDN'T LEARN IN SCHOOL

2027 Kansas FCE Education Program Year

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Leader's guide and Member's handout

INTRODUCTION

2026 Was a year to celebrate the writing of the American Constitution. For 250 Years it has been what has insured our freedom as American citizens. Just about everyone knows it original copy is on Washington D.C.

War doesn't start that come into play The goal of this happenings led to about that time in America we know



was written by Thomas Jefferson. The display at the National Archives in

'Over night" There are many factors that eventually lead to conflict...WAR. lesson is to remind you of what the revolution and facts and stories history that would carve out the today.

OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

- * Participants will learn events that led to the Revolution
- * Participants will gain a renewed appreciation of the sacrifices of our forefathers
- * Information in the lesson will be shared with others in a variety of ways such as giving lessons to various community groups; sharing some of the information to library groups of various ages; visiting a school classroom and sharing the information
- * Sharing information with family and friends...esp. grandchildren. News articles and poster displays.

EARLY EVENTS

French and Indian War -1756-1763 (Also known as The Seven Year War).

This war gave people around the world the courage to seek freedom and human rights.

Trouble erupted with Britain in the mid-1760s. The seven year war was very expensive for Great Britain and they needed money so they levied taxes on the colonists. First anti-British riots were in New York and Boston Nov. 1, 1765. Taxes among others were: **Sugar Act 1764** on sugar, molasses, coffee, and wine, **The Stamp Act 1765** required a paid stamp on legal documents, newspapers, playing cards and pamphlets. **Tea Act of 1773** let **British East India Co.** sell directly to the colonists but kept tax the same. This was followed by the **Boston Tea Party Dec.16, 1773**. Colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians.

First Continental Congress Sept. 5th, 1774..to October. Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia - 55 delegates rep. 12 colonies (not Georgia) By the end of 1774 all colonies except Georgia and New York had either set up new governments or had taken over existing ones. Colonial militia weren't waiting.

April 18, 1775- Paul Revere and William Dawes night ride through Massachusetts, warned of the landing of 600 British troops, several heading to Lexington and Concord. That encounter was the "shot heard around the world" when 77 militiamen faced the Red Coats at Lexington that began the Revolution. John Hancock and Samuel Adams were able to escape.

Second Continental Congress - Philadelphia May 10, 1775 created the Continental Army and elected George Washington as Commander in Chief.

July 1775 Olive Branch Petition extended to Britain to cease hostilities. No results.

May 15, 1776, in Williamsburg, Va., Richard Henry Lee introduced the resolution to dissolve all political connections between the Crown and The United Colonies.

On June 11th five men, Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, Sherman and Livingston were to draft the declaration with Jefferson, an excellent writer appointed to write the initial draft which took two weeks. There were minor changes and two big changes before it was approved. Some wanted a Bill of Rights included which was eventually done.



July 1, the vote for Independence was not unanimous. Only 9 of the colonies voted yes. A second vote was a tie and riding 80 miles, Caesar Rodney of Delaware broke the tie on July 2nd. 12 colonies approved and New York abstained. The only signer to vote no was George Read of Delaware. Lots of debate July 3rd. On July 4th all colonies except New York voted to adopt the Declaration.



FACTS ABOUT OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

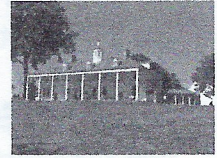
1. The 56 signers didn't sign as a group on July 4th. The official event occurred August 2nd when probably 50 men took part., 5 signed separately and one the next year. After decisive battles at Trenton and Princeton, on January 18, 1777 the printing of the Declaration was authorized and distributed. Thomas McKean, Delaware, had not yet signed.

2. Signers ranged in age from 26- Edward Rutledge, to Benjamin Franklin, Age 70. Most in their 30s and 40s. Edward Rutledge S. Carolina Youngest to sign at age 26. Jefferson was 33 and John Hancock 39 years old 38 of the 56 lived into their sixties and 14 into their 80s and nineties, Two were bachelors. All but five fathered children ranging from 18 for Carter Braxton and 10 who sired least 10. The average was six.

3. George Washington had very little formal education. When age 11 his father Gus Washington died. Mary Ball Washington was a very controlling mother.

He was not sent to England for schooling like his older and younger brothers. He learned from his half brother Lawrence, who had inherited Mt. Vernon, and by apprenticeship such as learning surveying.

However he soon emerged as a good leader, leading militia regiments thus his appointment as Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army.



4. John Adams and son John Quincy both became president. Son of Benjamin Harrison won the same office as 9th president as did his great-grandson by the same name, 23rd president.

5. Abigail Adams is the only female to be both the wife and mother of a president.

6. Charles Carroll, a Irish Catholic was the richest man in America and Samuel Adams the poorest as friends supplied money and clothes for him to attend congress. They both signed the Constitution. Most of the signers were Protestant and a few Deists.

7. Most were well educated. Eight attended Harvard or Princeton.

8. For their dedication to the cause of independence the signers of the Constitution risked loss of their fortunes, and faced death or imprisonment as they were considered traitors. None died directly at British hands except the wife of Francis Lewis who died from harsh treatment received while she was in prison.

9. The homes of one-third of the signers were either damaged or destroyed. Families of a few fled and scattered when the British pillaged or took their property. William Floyds estate and property were ravaged by British troops and drove his family into a 7- year exile in Connecticut. All emerged poorer for their years of service causing neglect of business affairs.

10. Six were taken captive and put in prison.

About one-third of the signers served as militia officers.

11. Twelve day journey from Philadelphia to Cambridge, Mass. Washington takes command of the Continental Army.

12. Washington did not sign the Declaration of Independence.

First Presidential election was held Dec. 15, 1788 to January 10, 1789 Only 10 of the 13 states participated. North Carolina and Rhode Island hadn't ratified the constitution and New York couldn't get electors in time.

13. Support for the constitution was not unanimous. George Mason, VA, refused to sign the finished document over the absence of a Bill Of Rights.

14. Bill of Rights consisting of 10 amendments was adopted December 15, 1791.

15. From May 25 until **September 17, 1787** debated and the convention then voted to **endorse the final form of the constitution.**

16. Washington took the oath of office April 30, 1789 on the balcony of Federal Hall, New York City, temporary capital.

17. Before the American Revolution, no people had ever explicitly voted on their own written constitution.

18. Battle of Yorktown October 19, 1781 but signing of Treaty of Paris 1783 officially ended the war for Independence.

19. Dr. Benjamin Rush- PA. 30 yrs old as signer, served on staff of Pennsylvania Hospital, founded in 1751 and still today is oldest hospital in the U.S.

20. Thomas McKean, Delaware last to sign the Declaration. Only signer to be the chief executive of and concurrent officeholder in 2 states, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

21. Two brothers signed the Declaration - Henry Lightfoot Lee and Richard Henry Lee of Virginia.

22. Liberty Bell cracked when it arrived from London in 1752 and rung for first time test, and cracked. Melted down and recast twice. Crack we see today happened in 1846.

23. Betsy Ross Flag commissioned by George Washington became official June 14, 1777.



**Fighting against Britain actually Began Nov. 1, 1765 and
officially ended with the
Signing with the Treaty of Paris September 3, 1783.**

Territory in 1776 where Kansas is currently

In 1776 Eight Indian Nations lived in parts of what is now Kansas. Arapaho, Cheyenne, Comanche, Kanza, Kiowa, Osage, Pawnee, and Wichita. Some primarily hunted bison, did some trading and foraging while others lived in semi-permanent villages and engaged in agriculture and seasonal bison hunts.

On paper, Spain owned Kansas in 1776 per the Treaty of Fontainebleau, which had concluded the Seven Year War, with Spain acquiring the region from France.

In 1776, Indigenous people would have said it belonged to the creator. Euro-Americans brought land ownership to Kansas.

Resources:

AMERICAN REVOLUTION- EYEWITNESS BOOKS In Association With
the Smithsonian Institution

AMERICA'S HIDDEN HISTORY by Kenneth C. Davis

LIBERTY! How the Revolutionary War Began - by Lucille Penner Recht and Illustrated
by David Wenzel

THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE - Robert G. Ferris and
Richard E. Morris National Park Service

Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit

PHOTOS from the personal library of JALO