

## 3: THE REVOLUTION

### ESSENTIAL TERMS



#### LOCATIONS

**New France:** The French colonies in America extending from the St. Lawrence River area in modern Quebec province of Canada, to the Great Lakes Region, and down the Mississippi River to Louisiana.

**Fort Duquesne:** French fort built at the junction of the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers where they meet to form the Ohio River.



#### KEY CONCEPTS

**Mercantilism:** An economic system in which colonies were only allowed to trade with the mother country.

**Salutary Neglect:** A British policy of not enforcing laws in the American colonies before 1763.

**No Taxation Without Representation:** Idea that the government should not levy taxes unless the people who must pay those taxes have the opportunity to elect members of that government.



#### TREATIES & LAWS

**Treaty of Paris of 1763:** Treaty that ended the Seven Years War. France gave all of its mainland North American territory to Britain including Canada and all the lands between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River.

**Proclamation of 1763:** Royal order which forbade American colonists from moving over the Appalachian Mountains. It was passed in order to avoid conflict with Native Americans but was widely ignored

**Treaty of Paris of 1783:** Agreement between Britain and the United States that ended the Revolutionary War. Britain recognized American independence and gave the United States all the territory west to the Mississippi River.



#### DOCUMENTS

**Petition to the King:** Letter to the King and Parliament passed by the First Continental Congress in 1774 asking for repeal of the Intolerable Acts.

**Common Sense:** Pamphlet authored by Thomas Paine in 1776 that convinced many Americans to support independence.

**Olive Branch Petition:** Final attempt by the Second Continental Congress in 1775 to find a peaceful resolution to problems between the colonies and the British government. It was ignored by both Parliament and the King.

**Declaration of Independence:** Statement passed by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776 officially stating that the United States was independent from Britain.



#### EVENTS

**Albany Congress:** A gathering of colonial leaders in 1754 to plan coordinated defense against Native American and French attack during the Seven Years War. Some delegates, especially Benjamin Franklin, argued for a unified government for all 13 colonies, but this plan was rejected.

**Enlightenment:** Time period in Europe and America in the 1700s characterized by an increased interest in science, new ideas about government and power, and a focus on order inspired by Classical Greece and Rome

**Bacon's Rebellion:** Revolt in 1676 of poor Virginians against the colonial leadership led by Nathaniel Bacon. They felt that the royal governor was not providing protection from Native American attack and generally mistrusted the elites of the colony.

**Boston Massacre:** Riot in 1770 between Boston citizens and British troops. It was exploited by Patriots to enflame anti-British sentiment.

**Boston Tea Party:** Protest by Boston Patriots led by Samuel Adams in which a cargo of tea was destroyed. It resulted in the closing of Boston Harbor.

**Shot Heard 'Round the World:** Nickname for the opening battles of the American Revolution, so called because they inspired other Revolutionaries around the world.

**First Continental Congress:** Meeting of leaders from the colonies in 1774. Prompted by the Stamp Act, they passed the Declaration of Resolves and initiated a boycott of British goods. They also sent the Petition to the King.

**Second Continental Congress:** Meeting of colonial leaders in 1775 and 1776. They declared independence.

**July 4, 1776:** America's Independence Day.

**Battle of Saratoga:** Turning point battle of the Revolutionary War in 1777. After the Americans showed that they were able to defeat the British on the battlefield, the French agreed to support the American cause.

**Yorktown:** Final battle of the Revolutionary War. George Washington was able to prevent a land escape and the French fleet prevented British army from evacuating. Cornwallis was forced to surrender.



#### PEOPLE AND GROUPS

**George Washington:** Virginia planter, surveyor, officer in the Seven Years War, leader of the Continental Army in the Revolution, President of the Constitutional Congress and First President of the United States.

**Redcoats:** Nickname for British soldiers.

**John Locke:** Enlightenment philosopher. His belief that humans are born with certain rights (he wrote "Life, Liberty and Property") inspired Thomas Jefferson and other American revolutionaries.

**John Peter Zenger:** New York printer who was put on trial for libel. He successfully argued that telling the truth was not libel. His case was an important step toward freedom of the press in America.

**Committees of Correspondence:** Groups of Patriots throughout the colonies who passed pro-independence messages.

**Samuel Adams:** Patriot from Boston who organized the Boston Tea Party. He was known for his skillful political organizing and ability to provoke a response through direct action.

**Paul Revere:** Boston Patriot and silversmith. His engraving of the Boston Massacre helped promote the cause for independence. He also helped warn minutemen in surrounding towns of the approaching British troops on the morning of the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

**Minutemen:** American militiamen, mostly farmers and craftsmen, who would be ready to fight in a minute. They were the Americans who fought at the Battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill.

**John Adams:** Patriot from Boston. He was the primary promoter of independence at the Continental Congress and became the second president.

**John Hancock:** Boston Patriot. He was the chairman of the Continental Congress and his signature is the first, and largest at the bottom of the Declaration of Independence.

**Thomas Paine:** Author of Common Sense, a pamphlet that convinced many Americans to support independence.

**Thomas Jefferson:** Author of the Declaration of Independence and later third president.

**Loyalists:** Americans who opposed independence. They were also called Tories.

**Patriots:** Americans who supported independence.

**Marquis de Lafayette:** French officer who came to support the Continental Army. He became a good friend of George Washington.