

AMERICAN REVOLUTION STUDY GUIDE

I. What steps did England take to increase control over its colonies?

As England expanded control over the American colonies, many colonists became dissatisfied and rebellious.

England's reasons for control

- England desired to remain a world power.
- England imposed taxes, such as the Stamp Act, to raise necessary revenue to pay the cost of the French and Indian War.

England's reasons for taxation

- To help finance the French and Indian War
- To help with the maintaining of English troops in the colonies

II. Why did many colonists become dissatisfied with England's control over the colonies?

Sources of colonial dissatisfaction

- Colonies had no representation in Parliament.
- Some colonists resented power of colonial governors.
- England wanted strict control over colonial legislatures.
- Colonies opposed taxes.
- The Proclamation of 1763 hampered the western movement of settlers.

III. What ideas/philosophies about government were expressed in the Declaration of Independence?

New political ideas led to a desire for independence and democratic government in the American colonies.

The Declaration of Independence proclaimed independence from England. It stated that people have natural (inherent) rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Ideas of John Locke

- People have natural rights to life, liberty, and property.
- Government is created to protect the rights of people and has only the limited and specific powers the people consent to give it.

Key philosophies in the Declaration of Independence

- People have "certain unalienable rights" (rights that cannot be taken away)—life, liberty, pursuit of happiness.
- People establish government to protect those rights.
- Government derives power from the people.
- People have a right and a duty to change a government that violates their rights.

IV. Who were some of the key individuals in the Revolutionary War? What role did they play in the Revolutionary War?

Many individuals played important roles in shaping events of the American Revolution.

Key individuals

- **King George III:** British king during the Revolutionary era
- **Lord Cornwallis:** British general who surrendered at Yorktown
- **John Adams:** Championed the cause of independence
- **George Washington:** Commander of the Continental Army
- **Thomas Jefferson:** Major author of the Declaration of Independence
- **Patrick Henry:** Outspoken member of House of Burgesses; inspired colonial patriotism with "Give me liberty or give me death" speech
- **Benjamin Franklin:** Prominent member of Continental Congress; helped frame the Declaration of Independence
- **Thomas Paine:** Journalist, author of *Common Sense*

Other important individuals

- **Phillis Wheatley:** A former slave who wrote poems and plays supporting American independence
- **Paul Revere:** Patriot who made a daring ride to warn colonists of British arrival; cried "The British are coming!"

V. What were some of the key events that occurred during the Revolutionary War period?

Key Events

- **Boston Massacre:** Colonists in Boston were shot after taunting British soldiers.
- **Boston Tea Party:** Samuel Adams and Paul Revere led patriots in throwing tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.
- **First Continental Congress:** Delegates from all colonies met to discuss problems with England and to promote independence.
- **Battle of Lexington and Concord:** This was the site of the first armed conflict of the Revolutionary War.
- **Approval of the Declaration of Independence:** Colonies declared independence from England (July 4, 1776).
- **Battle of Saratoga:** This American victory was the turning point in the war.
- **Surrender at Yorktown:** This was the colonial victory over forces of Lord Cornwallis that marked the end of the Revolutionary War.
- **Signing of the Treaty of Paris:** England recognized American independence in this treaty.

VI. What advantages helped the American colonists win the Revolutionary War?

Defense of the colonists' own land, strong beliefs, and capable leadership contributed to the American victory in the Revolutionary War.

Colonial advantages

- Colonists' defense of their own land, principles, and beliefs
- Support from France and Spain
- Strong leadership