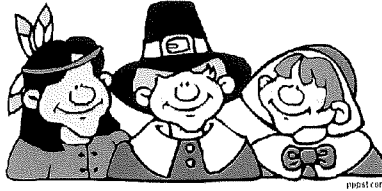


The Start of the American Revolution



In the 1760's the French had founded New France in what would later become Canada, and the British settlers had formed the 13 Colonies along the Atlantic Coast. The 13 Colonies had about 2.5 million people living in them by 1775. Each of these 13 Colonies was different and were divided into three groups based on their location:

- 1) **New England Colonies**
- 2) **The Middle Colonies**
- 3) **The Southern Colonies**

Each of the Thirteen Colonies had it's own form of Representative Government AND a local government to deal with day-to-day laws and crimes.

Even though the 13 Colonies had their own governments in the new land, they STILL had to pay taxes and follow the laws of the British in England. The 13 Colonies settlers were very upset by this and eventually began to protest. The people didn't think it was fair that they had to pay taxes to England when it was over the Atlantic Ocean and had no idea what was going on in every city in the colonies.

The people in Boston refused to pay tax on the tea being shipped in and instead of paying the taxes, dumped all the tea into the harbour when it got to Boston. It was called, "**The Boston Tea Party**". (a group of 40-50 people disguised as Natives, dumped 3 boatloads of tea into the harbour in protest.

The settlers in the colonies also **boycotted** (refused) to buy British goods, pay their taxes, or listen to their laws. The 13 Colonies came together and in 1775, protests broke into an armed conflict called the **AMERICAN REVOLUTION**. Britain (England) got upset and sent in their Royal Navy. The armed Settlers fought and won. They eventually would beat England, the most powerful nation in the world at this time, and claim it's Independence. The 13 Colonies were know called: the United States of America.

Events Leading Up to the American Revolution



This chart shows some of the events leading up to the American Revolution. They involve taxes imposed by the British and describe the colonists' protests against the taxes. You will see that some of these protests were peaceful and some were violent. The British actions are in red. The colonists' reactions are in purple.



1764 Sugar Act

- Taxes were put on imported goods such as sugar and molasses.
- Some colonists **boycotted** sugar.

1765 Stamp Act

- All legal documents and newspapers had to be stamped at a cost ranging from one cent to several dollars.
- Angry speeches were made in colonial assemblies.
- Merchants boycotted British goods.
- Tax collectors were terrorized.
- The house of Governor Hutchinson of Massachusetts was wrecked by a mob.
- In 1766 the Stamp Act was withdrawn.

1767 Townshend Acts

- Taxes were placed on glass, tea, silk, paper, paint, and lead.
- The sale of British goods fell by almost two-thirds.
- In 1770 taxes were dropped on everything but tea.

1773 Tea Act

- The East India Company was given the sole right to sell tea in North America.
- East India Company ships were refused admittance to the harbours of New York and Philadelphia.
- At the Boston Tea Party, about 40 or 50 people from Boston, disguised as Native people, dumped three boatloads of tea from British ships into the harbour.

1774 Intolerable Acts

- Boston was closed to all shipping until all the destroyed tea was paid for. Public meetings were forbidden, and 4000 British troops were stationed in the area (one soldier for every four Bostonians).
- The Quebec Act was considered to be an Intolerable Act. It gave Quebec, with its relatively tiny French-speaking population, control of the largest piece of land in British North America—the Ohio Territory. This seemed to be an attempt to prevent the colonists from expanding westward.
- The people of the Thirteen Colonies boycotted British goods.
- Many colonists secretly began to collect arms and ammunition.
- The colonists began to raise an army of their own with 122 000 men, of whom two-thirds were **Minutemen**.
- In September 1774, the first Continental Congress was held.

Boycott—refusal to trade with a country or company or to buy its products

Minutemen—armed men ready to fight at a moment's notice



Abigail Adams

"...remember the ladies,
and be more generous
and favourable to them
than your ancestors."



Thomas Jefferson

"We hold these
truths to be
self-evident,
that all men
are created
equal."



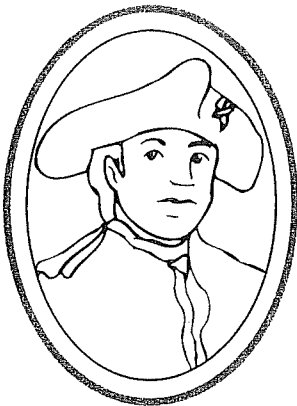
Nathan Hale

"I only regret that I
have but one life to
lose for my country."



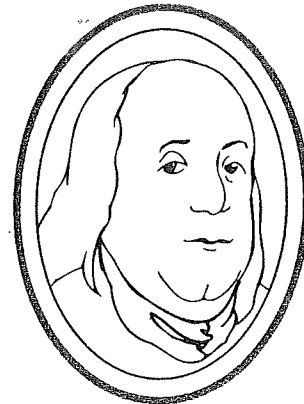
Thomas Paine

"These are the
times that
try men's
souls."



John Paul Jones

"I have not yet
begun to fight."



Benjamin Franklin

"We must all
hang together,
or assuredly
we shall all
hang
seperately."



Patrick Henry

"I know not what course
others may take, but as
for me, give me liberty
or give me death."



Paul Revere

"The British
are coming!"