Prelude to Revolution
1763-1775
A British policy which avoided strict enforcement of parliamentary laws which was believed to cause the colonies to flourish while keeping them obedient to the crown.
French & Indian War (1754-1763)

LAND Disputes
(Proclamation of 1763)

DEBT & Taxes

LEADS TO
Placed a tax on imported sugar in the hopes of raising revenue
(British lower the tax, but then try and collect)

Admiralty Courts
Jury trials were denied To smugglers
Stamp Act (1765)

Placed a tax on most printed items that were produced and sold throughout the American colonies.
Stamp Act (1765)

Stamp Act Congress
First gathering of elected representatives from the American Colonies in a united fashion to protest British taxation
(October 7 & 25, 1765, New York City)
Sons of Liberty
Secret society formed to protect the rights of the colonists with coordinated words & force

Committees of Correspondence
“Shadow governments” organized by colonial leaders to communicate about threats to their liberty & to coordinating action against Britain.

Samuel Adams
Declaratory Act (1766)

We declare that we have the power to tax you if we want to!

Whatever...
Townshend Act (1767)

Laws that placed a tax on specific goods such as glass, paper, paint, & lead imported into the colonies (indirect tax)

Charles Townshend
British Prime Minister
1766-1767

3¢ tax on tea
Seizure of the HMS Liberty (1768)
British agents seized merchant ship of John Hancock suspected of smuggling
Smuggling – moving goods illegally

Daughters of Liberty
Group of 92 women who looked to rebel against British taxes by making home goods instead of buying them from the British

SMUGGLING

BOYCOTTING

John Hancock
British Response

Over 2,000 “red-coats” (soldiers) under General Thomas Gage are stationed in Boston to enforce taxes & institute martial law (military rule).
Boston Massacre (March 5, 1770)

John Adams

Lawyer who defended British soldiers

Crispus Attucks

One of the first killed in the massacre
The Bloody Massacre perpetrated in King St. Boston Mass. Novr. 5th 1770 by a party of the 29th Regt.

Engraved Printed & Sold by Paul Revere Boston
British Response
Parliament repealed all of the Townshend Act duties except for the one on tea – to keep as a symbol of Parliament’s power over the colonies.

Lord North
British Prime Minister
1770-1782
December 16, 1773
Colonists, dressed like Indians, destroyed 340 chests of tea by throwing it into the Boston harbor
= 46 tons = 18,523,000 cups of tea = $2 to 4 million

WHY: Brits had to bail out East India Company, so they lowered price of tea in colonies (Tea Act) – bad for colonial merchants
NO
Taxation
Without Representation
Virtual Representation
All subjects of England were represented by all of Parliament, not just special geographic groups

Direct Representation
Elected representatives who can vote the will of the people who elected them & also defend their liberties
Intolerable (Coercive) Acts (1773)
Forced colonists to house British soldiers when ordered to

Quartering Act

Quebec Act
Extended the southern border of Quebec & called for religious toleration of Catholics

Mass. Gov. Act
Closed Boston harbor and revoked colony charter – under royal control

Intolerable Acts
First Continental Congress

When: Sep. 1774
Where: Philadelphia (Carpenters Hall)
Who: 56 delegates from 12 colonies (except Georgia)
Why: To discuss a united response to Britain; NOT declare independence
Outcome: Encourage boycotts of British goods, domestic manufacturing & decided to meet again (May 1775)

*BIG DEAL*: First official unified colonial government
British Military Buildup

Intolerable Acts

LEADS TO

Mass. Provincial Congress

Armed Colonials
“Give me liberty, or give me death!”
—Patrick Henry
March 23, 1775
British Orders Go into countryside get weapons & arrest rebel leaders (Sam Adams) (John Hancock)

Minute Men

Civilian soldiers who would be ready for service at any time

April 1775

Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith
The redcoats are coming!

Paul Revere

Samuel Prescott

William Dawes
April 19, 1775
Lexington
Route to Concord 1775

- Minutemen
- British retreat
- North Bridge
- Concord
- Concord River
- Prescott
- Lexington
- Lexington Green
- Revere captured. Dawes escapes. Prescott continues.
- Revere joined by Dawes and Prescott
- British troops
- Menotomy (Arlington)
- Medford
- Charlestown
- Old North Church
- Charles River
- Boston
- Brookline
- Roxbury

Legend:
- Purple: Route of Paul Revere (continued by Dr. Prescott)
- Green: Route of William Dawes
- Red: Route of British army
- Battle site:
- Town:
April 19, 1775
Concord
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.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson
Lexington & Concord

OUTCOME
90 Colonials
VS
250 British
A Plan of the Town of Boston and Its Environs, with the Lines, Batteries and Incampments of the British and American Armies
Second Continental Congress

When: May 1775

Outcomes:
(1) Created Continental Army (headed by George Washington)
(2) Issued “Continentals” colonial currency
(3) Drew up an appeal to justify why they took up arms “A Declaration on the Causes & Necessity of Taking Up Arms”
Bunker Hill (June 17, 1775)
BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL

OUTCOME

450 Colonials VS 1,000 British
**Olive Branch Petition**

*July 8, 1775*

Last ditch effort of American colonists to make peace with the British crown

– The king refused it!

**August 1775**

King formally proclaimed colonies in rebellion. Began raising armies
MILITARY BUILDUP
50,000 troops
Roughly 30,000 were Hessians – German contracted soldiers
August 1775 – December 1775

To break away or not to break away, that is the question?

Loyalty v.S. Liberty
I offer nothing more than simple facts, plain arguments, and common sense...
A Plan of the Town of Boston and its Environs, with the Lines, Batteries and Incampments of the British and American Armies.
British evacuate Boston
March 17, 1776
1776
MAP OF THE
THIRTEEN
COLONIES
Richard Henry Lee

First to propose total independence in the Continental Congress
Resolved That these colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved.
“That these United Colonies are, and of right out to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; that measures should be immediately taken for procuring the assistance of foreign powers, and a Confederation be formed to bind the colonies more closely together.”

Lee Resolution, June 7, 1776
Committee of Five

John Adams
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas Jefferson
Roger Sherman
Robert Livingston
Drafting the Declaration

JUNE 11, 1776

JUNE 28, 1776
Committee of Five presenting their work to Congress, June 28, 1776
REVISING the Declaration

JULY 3, 1776

JULY 4, 1776
In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America.

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Family of Nations, the Station of Independent States, Directions are given to this Effect,

Resolved, That these United States are, and shall be Free and Independent States; That all Political Bands heretofore formed, by any Authority Whatever, between this People and the pretended Legislator of Great Britain, are hereby entirely dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which independent States may do.

And for the Support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.