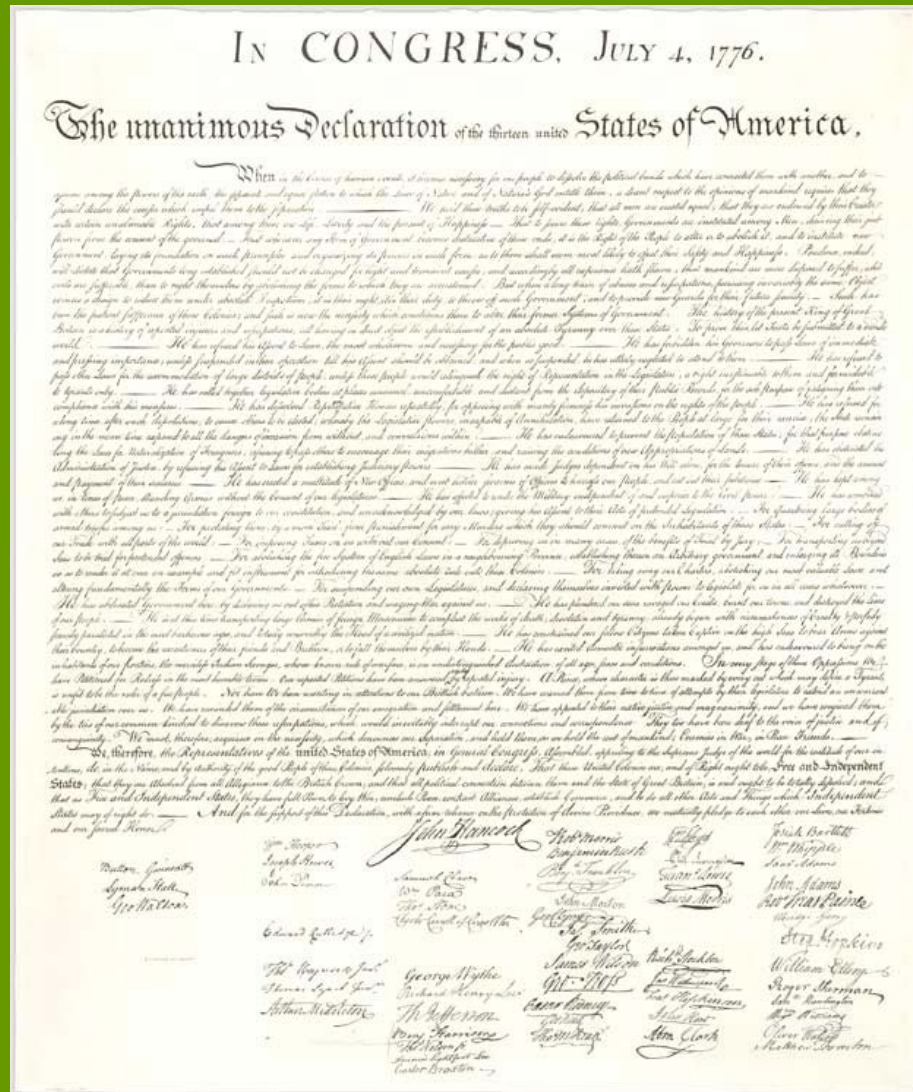


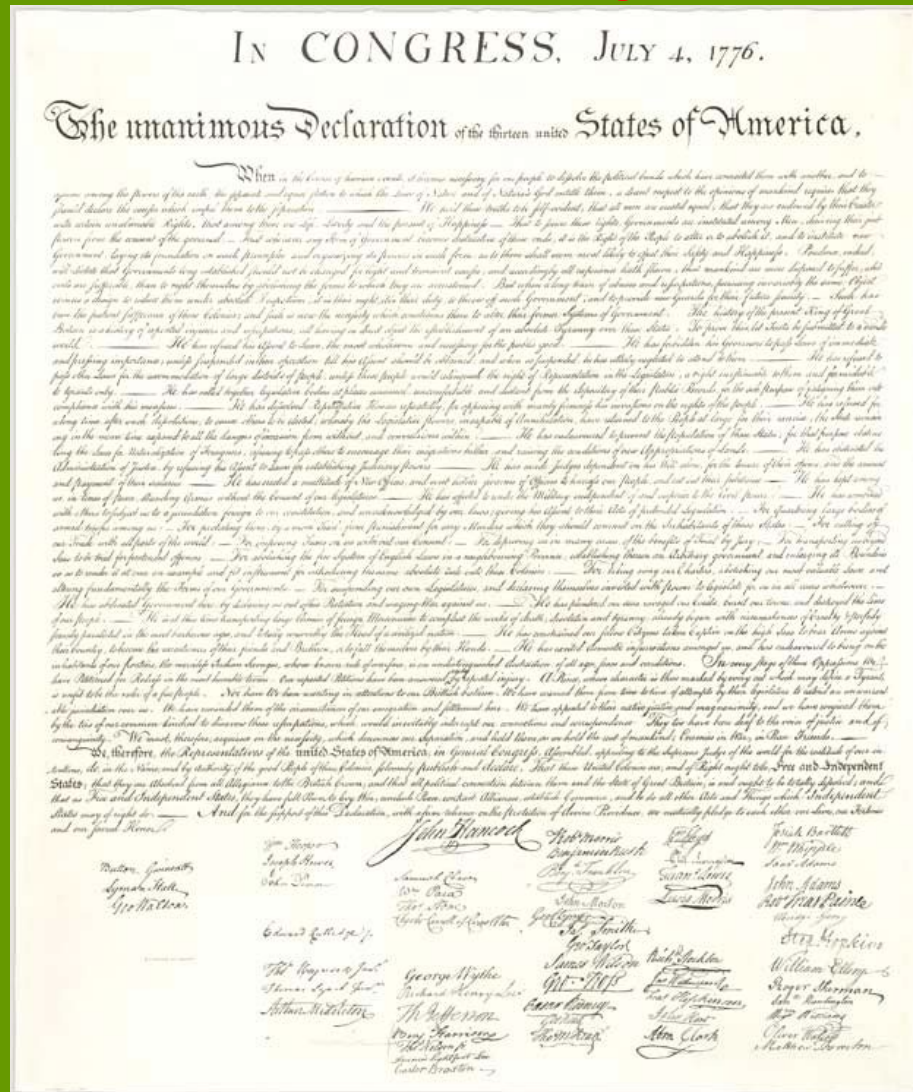
LEQ: From whom did we want to be independent, and on what date did we declare our independence?



This reproduction of the Declaration of Independence was created by William Stone in 1823. This image is courtesy of archive.gov.

LEQ: From whom did we want to be independent, and on what date did we declare our independence?

Great Britain, July 4, 1776



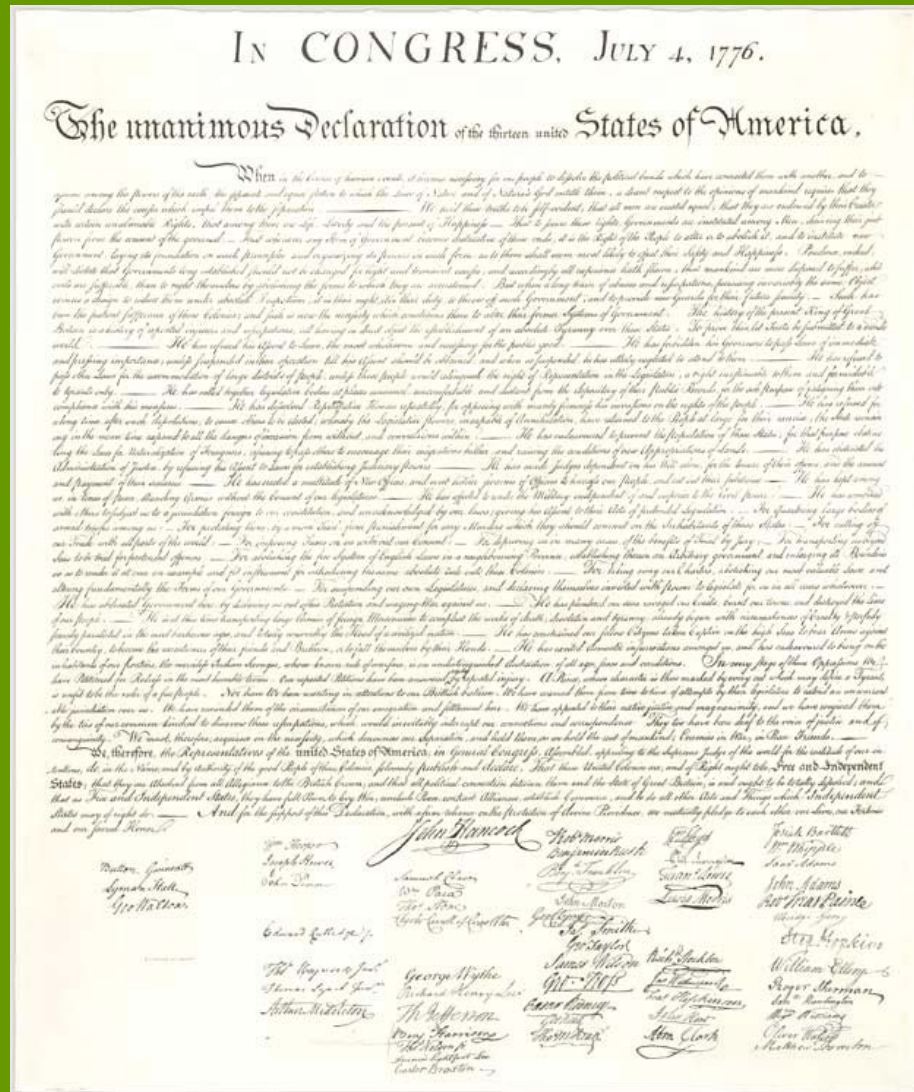
This reproduction of the Declaration of Independence was created by William Stone in 1823. This image is courtesy of archive.gov.

Declaring Independence



The Declaration of Independence was signed by the Second Continental Congress on August 2, 1776. It had been approved on July 4, 1776. The signing took place in the Pennsylvania State House, in Philadelphia, a building which is now known as Independence Hall. This image is courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.

LEQ: From whom did we want to be independent, and on what date did we declare our independence?



This reproduction of the Declaration of Independence was created by William Stone in 1823. This image is courtesy of archive.gov.

LEQ: From whom did we want to be independent, and on what date did we declare our independence?
Great Britain, July 4, 1776

[illegible]

This reproduction of the Declaration of Independence was created by William Stone in 1823. This image is courtesy of archive.gov.

The First Continental Congress met in 1774 to protest the Intolerable Acts and other British policies that the colonists disliked.



The First Continental Congress met in Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from September 5-October 26, 1774. This painting was created by Allyn Cox circa 1973-1974. This painting is in the Great Experiment Hall of the United States Capitol. This image is courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.

The delegates had hoped that King George III would favorably respond to their protests.



King George III (1738-1820) became King in 1760. This image shows his primary home, St. James Palace, in 1761. This image is titled "A View of St. James's Palace, Pall-Mall, etc..." This image was created by Thomas Bowles (1712-1767). This image is courtesy of gac.culture.gov.uk.

The delegates agreed, however, that if he did not respond as they wished, a second congress would meet during the spring of 1775.



This painting by either Robert Edward Savage or Robert Edge Pine, titled *Congress Voting Independence*, shows the Second Continental Congress voting on the Declaration of Independence. This painting was created circa 1791. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

This second congress, known as the Second Continental Congress, would act as a central government and put together an army for the colonies' defense.



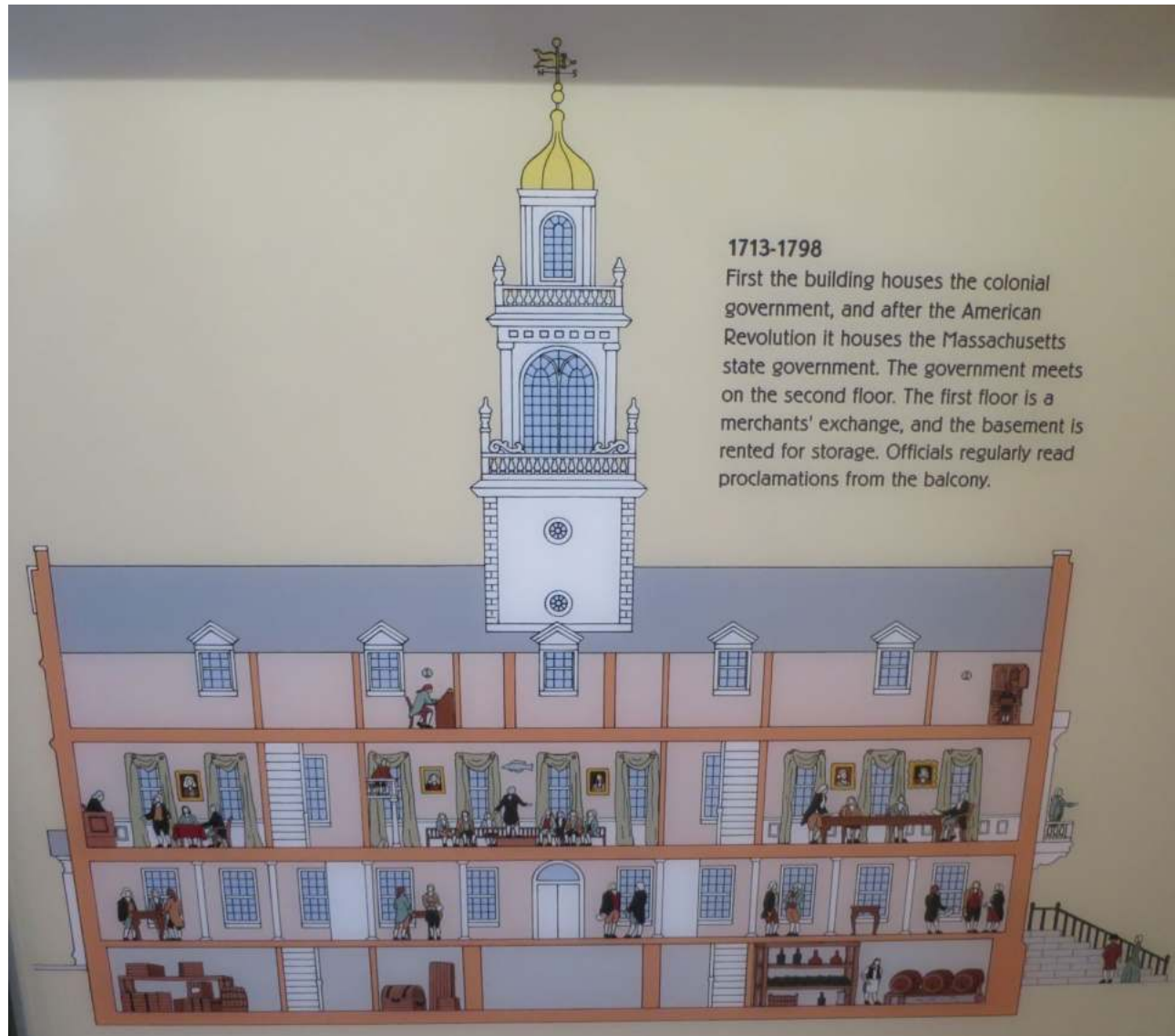
This is the south side of the Pennsylvania State House, now known as Independence Hall. The Second Continental Congress met in a room where the three windows on the bottom floor are on the right side of the entrance section. This image was taken by Robert Housch on July 30, 2009.

As the colonists had feared, King George III ignored their protests.



The Second Continental Congress gathered according to plan in Philadelphia in May 1775. The Congress met in this building, the Pennsylvania State House, later known as Independence Hall. This is the north side of Independence Hall. This image was taken by Robert Housch on July 30, 2009.

Most of the members of Congress wanted to rule themselves through their own legislatures while at the same time remaining a part of Great Britain.



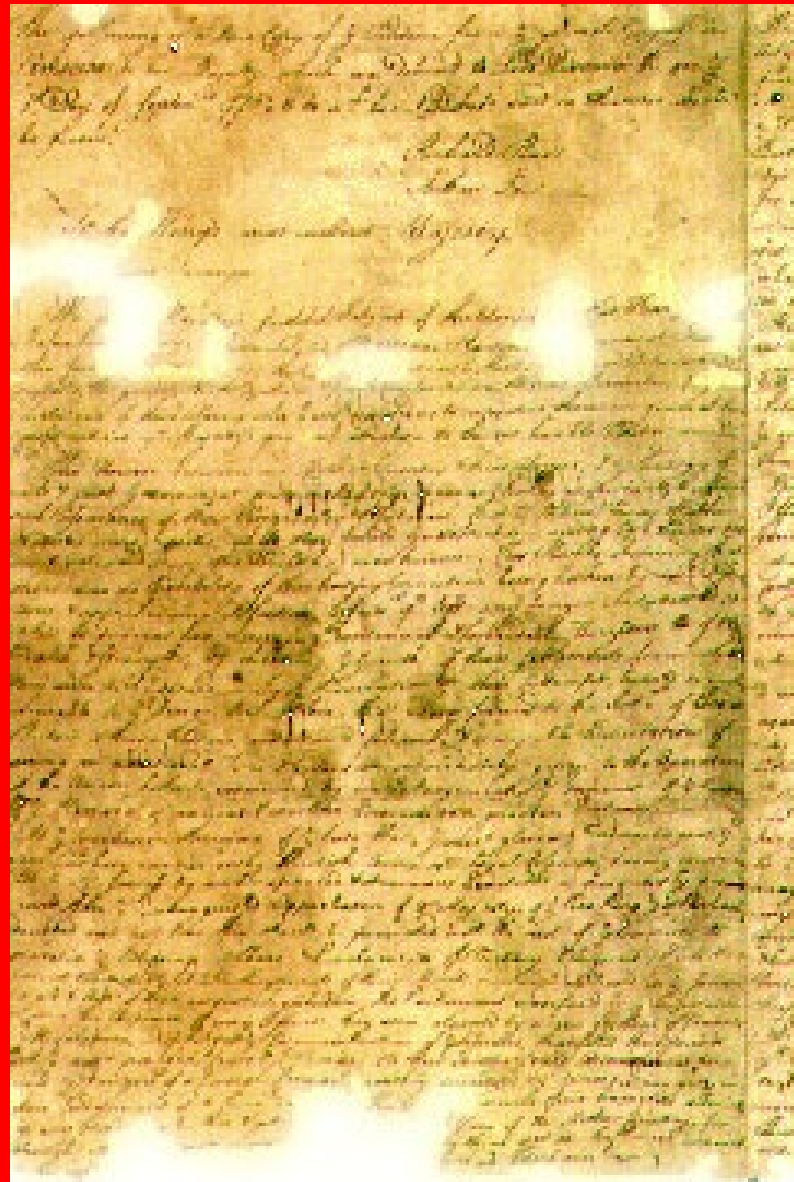
This image shows a interior view the Massachusetts State House, now known as the “Old State House” in Boston, Massachusetts. This image is found in the Old State House Museum. This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 12, 2016.

With very little optimism left, the delegates drafted another letter to the king in one last attempt for peace.



This image shows a reproduction of the Philip Syng ink stand on the President's desk at Independence Hall. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

This letter, called the Olive Branch Petition, assured the king that most of the American colonists were still loyal to Great Britain and to him.



The Olive Branch petition was written on July 5, 1775, after the Battles of Lexington, Concord, and of Bunker Hill. This is an image of the Olive Branch Petition. This image is courtesy of ushistory.org.

As they waited for a reply, the Congress went about the business of governing.



They understood now that their only option might be war with Great Britain. With this in mind, they organized an army. This is the Assembly Room at Independence Hall. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

Forming an army was something new for the colonies because before this, the colonists had relied on local militias that defended their own small regions.



This image shows colonial militia firing at the British on April 19, 1775 as the British retreated back to Boston. This image is courtesy of thesoldiersload.wordpress.com.

The new army that the Congress created, called the Continental Army, would represent and defend all the colonies.



This image shows the foot soldiers or infantrymen of the Continental Army in the years immediately following the American Revolution. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The delegates named George Washington, himself a member of the Congress, as the new commander of the army.



John Adams nominated the Virginian George Washington to command the army. This image is courtesy of heritage-history.com.

When Washington heard the delegates preparing to discuss his nomination as Commander in Chief, he stood up and left the room so that the Congress could talk freely about him.



This image shows George Washington, in his uniform as a colonel of the Virginia militia, standing up after receiving the nomination. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

After he was appointed, Washington left Philadelphia to take charge of the colonial forces around Boston.



George Washington, while commander of the Continental Army, frequently stopped and talked with citizens to personally explain his vision for American freedom during the revolution. This image was created by Bill Rosenberg. This image is courtesy of the United States Army .

Before Washington reached Boston, militia from all parts of New England began to surround the British in Boston.



They wanted to keep a close watch on British activities there. This is a diorama of the American defensive works before the Battle of Bunker Hill/Bunker Hill. The diorama is located at the Bunker Hill Visitors Center of Boston Historical Park. This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

British General Thomas Gage ordered his troops to set up cannon on the heights outside of Boston.



The high ground was near Charlestown, across the Charles River from Boston. Gage's goal was to drive the rebel forces from the Boston area. This image is courtesy of smithsonian.com.

After learning of the British plan, American Colonel William Prescott led 3500 soldiers to fortify the high ground at and near Charlestown.



William Preston readies his men behind the earthworks that they had built on Bunker Hill and nearby Breed's Hill. This image is courtesy of angelfire.com.

Prescott's American troops marched to Breed's Hill and nearby Bunker Hill ...



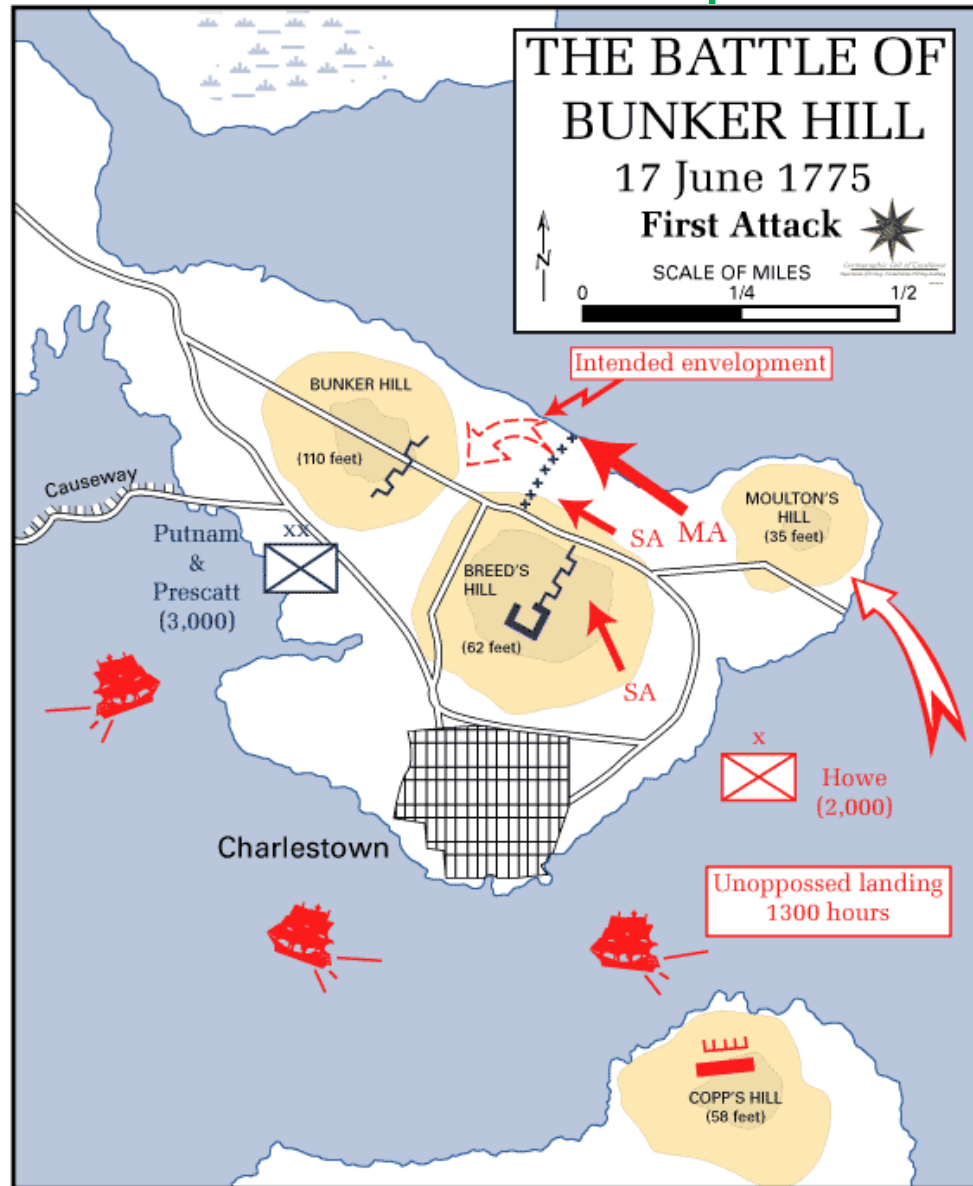
This image shows Colonel William Prescott giving instructions to his men so that they would not miss the British with the little ammunition that they had. This image is courtesy of historyjunkie.com.

... and began constructing earthworks.



This image shows the American militia constructing earthworks on Breed's Hill. This image is courtesy of <https://www.britishbattles.com/war-of-the-revolution-1775-to-1783/battle-of-bunker-hill/>

The British would take ships across the Charles River towards the American positions.



The Americans had very little ammunition. They knew that every shot must be accurate. They could not waste a single shot.



This image shows Boston in the right background. The British have left the ships that brought them over the Charles River. This image is on display at the Bunker Hill Visitors Center of Boston National Historical Park. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

Because they were low on ammunition, American commanders gave the orders, “Don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes.”



This image shows an American officer reminding his men not to fire too soon. This is a National Guard Heritage Painting by Ken Riley, and is courtesy of the National Guard Bureau.

On June 17, 1775, about 2000 British soldiers, dressed in full uniform and carrying heavy packs, struggled up Breed's Hill.



This painting by Howard Pyle titled *The Battle of Bunker Hill* was created in 1897. This image is on display at the Bunker Hill Visitors Center at Boston National Historical Park. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

The British fell by the hundreds in the first attack, and had to retreat to the bottom of the hill.



The Americans targeted the British officers in order to create confusion in the British ranks. This painting of the Battle of Bunker Hill was created in 1909 by E. Percy Moran (1862-1935). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The British made a second attack and again lost hundreds of men.



This image is from a recent reproduction of a Cyclorama of the Battle of Bunker Hill which is on display at the Bunker Hill Visitors Center at Boston National Historical Park. The original painting was created by Leonard Kowalsky circa 1888. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

Many of the Americans ran out of ammunition during the third British attack, and the British took the American position and won the battle.



This image is courtesy of <https://www.britishbattles.com/war-of-the-revolution-1775-to-1783/battle-of-bunker-hill/>

The British had bayonets, and most of the Rebels did not have bayonets.



This image is from an original drawing made for the Cyclorama of the Battle of Bunker Hill which is on display at the Bunker Hill Visitors Center at Boston National Historical Park. The original painting was created by Leonard Kowalsky circa 1888. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

Although most of the fighting took place on Breed's Hill, this battle later became known as the Battle of Bunker Hill.



It was called the Battle of Bunker Hill partly because that was the original British objective, and partly because many participants didn't know the actual names of the terrain features involved in the battle. This image is courtesy of britishbattles.com.

The Americans suffered approximately 450 casualties of the 3500 men that participated in the battle.



Many of the American troops were on the actual Bunker Hill and did not participate in the Battle at Breed's Hill. This image is titled the "Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775." It was painted by Alonzo Chappel (1828-1887) circa 1858. This image is on display at the Bunker Hill Visitors Center at Boston National Historical Park. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

One of the Americans who lost his life was Dr. Joseph Warren, who was a prominent member of the “Sons of Liberty.”



Warren was a Major General in the Massachusetts militia, but joined the battle as a private soldier. He was shot in the head during the final British assault, and became the first national martyr on the Patriot side. This image is titled "The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill, 17 June, 1775." The painting was created by John Trumbull (1756-1843) in 1786. This image is courtesy of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Although the Americans lost, the Battle of Bunker Hill was a moral victory for them because their untrained militia had stood up to the British army.



This image is from a recent reproduction of a Cyclorama of the Battle of Bunker Hill which is on display at the Bunker Hill Visitors Center at Boston National Historical Park. The original painting was created by Leonard Kowalsky circa 1888. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

The British had approximately 1000 casualties of the 3000 men that participated in the battle.



This image shows the red uniforms of the British casualties on the slopes of Breed's Hill. This detail is from the painting by Howard Pyle titled *The Battle of Bunker Hill* was created in 1897. This image is on display at the Bunker Hill Visitors Center at Boston National Historical Park. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

British Major General Henry Clinton said that the Battle of Bunker Hill was “a dear bought victory, another such would have ruined us.”



This image is from a wayside exhibit titled “You are now my enemy and I am yours...” on Breed’s Hill at Boston National Historical Park. The image is titled “The Redoubt, Battle of Bunker Hill 1775.” This image was painted by Don Troiani. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

The British had a new respect for the Patriots. During future battles they would frequently move cautiously against the Americans, and Rebel troops were able to escape, even after being defeated.



This image shows American artillery escaping from the area of New York City after being defeated by the British. It is titled "U.S. Army— Artillery Retreat from Long Island— 1776." This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

American Brigadier General Nathanael Green said of the Battle of Bunker Hill, “I wish we could sell them another hill at the same price.”



This image one a good idea of the steepness of Breed's Hill. The Americans had soldiers firing at the British from the town of Charlestown. British ships fired on Charlestown and set it on fire. This image is on display at the Bunker Hill Visitors Center at Boston National Historical Park. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

George Washington arrived near Boston approximately two weeks after the Battle of Bunker Hill.



Washington arrived in Cambridge, Massachusetts on July 2, 1775 and the next day officially took over the Continental Army with his headquarters at Harvard College. This image is courtesy of xtimeline.com.

Washington's newly formed Continental Army lacked discipline and training.



This image is from a recent reproduction of a Cyclorama of the Battle of Bunker Hill which is on display at the Bunker Hill Visitors Center at Boston National Historical Park. The original painting was created by Leonard Kowalsky circa 1888. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

Washington had trouble finding recruits for the army.




Most soldiers wanted to stay with local militias to protect their own homes, families, and land. This photograph shows the Whittemore House near Lexington, Massachusetts. The house was standing during the Battle of Lexington. This image was taken by Robert Housch on August 10, 2016. .

Those who did join the Continental Army had to enlist for several years.

TO ALL BRAVE, HEALTHY, ABLE BODIED, AND WELL
DISPOSED YOUNG MEN,
IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD, WHO HAVE ANY INCLINATION TO JOIN THE TROOPS,
NOW RAISING UNDER
GENERAL WASHINGTON,
FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE
LIBERTIES AND INDEPENDENCE
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Against the hostile designs of foreign enemies,

TAKE NOTICE,



THAT
Middler
Battalion, of the 11th regiment of infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Ogden, for the purpose of receiving the enrollment of
such youth of SPIRIT, as may be willing to enter into this HONOURABLE service.

The ENCOURAGEMENT at this time, to enlist, is truly liberal and generous, namely, a bounty of TWELVE dollars, an annual and fully sufficient supply of good and handsome clothing, a daily allowance of a large and ample ration of provisions, together with SIXTY dollars a year in GOLD and SILVER money on account of pay, the whole of which the soldier may lay up for himself and friends, as all articles proper for his subsistence and comfort are provided by law, without any expence to him.

Those who may favour this recruiting party with their attendance as above, will have an opportunity of hearing and seeing in a more particular manner, the great advantages which these brave men will have, who shall embrace this opportunity of spending a few happy years in viewing the different parts of this beautiful continent, in the honourable and truly respectable character of a soldier, after which, he may, if he pleases return home to his friends, with his pockets FULL of money and his head COVERED with laurels.

GOD SAVE THE UNITED STATES.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Spotswood in
county, attendance will be given by
company in . Major Shuler

The pay was not always regular, and there were often shortages of food and clothing. This is a 1776 recruiting poster for the United States Army. This image is courtesy of pinterest.com.

At its largest, the Continental Army included about 15,000 to 20,000 soldiers.



The United States Army, at that time known as the Continental Army, was formed on June 14, 1775. It is one year older than the United States of America. This image is courtesy of padresteve.com.

While the American forces were poorly equipped compared to the British, they did have some significant advantages over their opponents.



This image shows an officer in uniform instructing a battleline of American soldiers how to prepare to fight the British on the battlefield. This image is courtesy of daig.pentagon.mil.

The American colonists were well acquainted with the countryside.



They knew how to survive in the Wilderness. This painting shows George Rogers Clark leading 175 men from Virginia to Fort Vincennes, Indiana. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Patriots/Rebels strongly believed in their cause of freedom.



The Liberty Bell was the official Bell of the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall), and was ordered in 1751. "Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the inhabitants thereof," is a Bible verse from Leviticus 25:10 which is inscribed on the bell. That first bell, ordered from London, cracked soon after it arrived in Philadelphia. A new bell was cast by John Pass and John Stow in 1753, using the metal from the original English bell. The bell began to crack in 1846. It was repaired and rang for a George Washington birthday celebration, but the bell cracked again and has not been rung since that time. This image was taken by Robert Housch on July 30, 2009.

Great Britain had an army of nearly 50,000 soldiers and the most powerful navy in the world.



Its soldiers were well trained and led by officers with battle experience. This image is courtesy of britishbattles.com.

To add to the strength of its army, especially after the disaster at Bunker Hill, the British hired German soldiers to fight for them.



Approximately 30,000 German soldiers served in the American Revolution. This image is courtesy of ushistory.org.

These German soldiers who were hired to fight the Americans were called “Hessians.”



Almost half of these hired soldiers came from the Hesse region of Germany. American colonists called them mercenaries. This image is courtesy of ushistory.org.

The British did suffer some disadvantages during the American Revolution.



During the American Revolution the British troops were far from home and in unfamiliar territory. This image is courtesy of totallyhistory.com.

The British had to travel 3000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean to reach the colonies.



This painting shows *HMS* (His Majesty's Ship) *Somerset*. It shelled Charlestown, Massachusetts, and ran aground off Provincetown, Massachusetts in 1778. This image is courtesy of historylecture.org.

The swamps, thick forested hills, and rapidly flowing rivers would be additional obstacles that some British troops found a challenge.



This image shows Francis Marion, known as the Swamp Fox, preparing to order his men to ambush the British in a South Carolina swamp. This image is courtesy of swampfoxcountry.com.

One of the most famous American militia units was Vermont's "Green Mountain Boys."



Ethan Allen, a Vermont blacksmith, formed the group in the 1760s to keep New York from taking territory from New Hampshire. When the war began, they joined the American army. This image is courtesy of warfarehistorian.blogspot.com.

Less than a month after the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys joined forces with Benedict Arnold and his soldiers from Boston.



The Green Mountain Boys had 100 men, and Benedict Arnold's unit had 400 soldiers. This image shows Ethan Allen and some of his Green Mountain Boys planning a campaign. This image is courtesy of sonofthesouth.net.

Together Allen's and Arnold's men planned to attack Fort Ticonderoga, a British outpost on New York's Lake Champlain.



Arnold and Allen wanted to take the enemy by surprise. Their strategy called for them to work quietly, without being seen or heard. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

While the British soldiers slept, Allen and his group crawled through a broken wall and entered the British fort.



This image shows Ethan Allen waking up the commander of Fort Ticonderoga. This image is courtesy of the New York Public Library.

Ethan Allen, with his sword drawn, captured Fort Ticonderoga without anybody being killed on either side.



Ethan Allen claimed that he knocked on the door and shouted “Come out you old Rat!” to the fort’s commander Captain William Delaplace. However, the surrender demand was made to Lieutenant Jocelyn Feltham and not to Delaplace. This image was created by John Steeple Davis (1844-1917) in 1875. This image is courtesy of the New York Public Library and of Wikimedia Commons.

The victory at Fort Ticonderoga gave the rebels a valuable supply of ammunition and 50 cannons.



This image shows mounted cannon at Fort Ticonderoga. The cannon were not green at the time of the American Revolution, they were bronze. They turned green over the years. This image is courtesy of givensgaggle.com.

The next winter, they tied the cannon, which weighed 2 to 6 tons each, to sleds and dragged them by oxen about 200 miles to Boston.



This image shows Henry Knox, a former Boston bookseller, who had witnessed the Boston Massacre, leading the the artillery captured at Fort Ticonderoga to the Continental Army's camp near Boston. George Washington would later put Knox in charge of the artillery of the Continental Army. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

These cannon were quietly set up on Dorchester Heights south of Boston, and were pointed towards the British within the city.



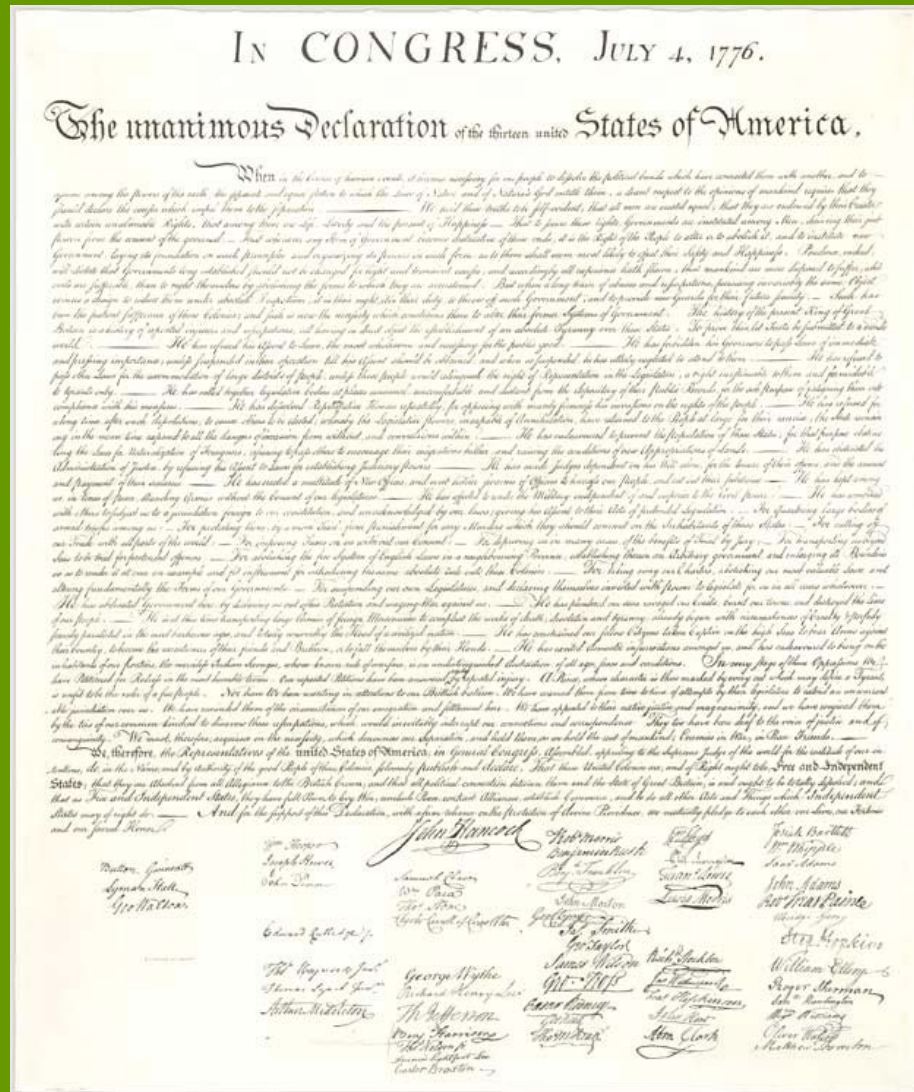
This map shows the Boston area in 1775. Dorchester Heights is on the bottom right of this image. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Before they could be fired upon by the American cannon on Dorchester Heights, the British abandoned Boston.



The British evacuated Boston on March 17, 1776. 11,000 British troops and 1000 Loyalists departed the city and sailed for Halifax, Nova Scotia. This was the first time in eight years that Boston was not occupied by British soldiers. This image is titled "British on Wharf, Evacuating Boston." This image is on display at the Bunker Hill Visitors center at Boston National Historical Park. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 11, 2016.

LEQ: From whom did we want to be independent, and on what date did we declare our independence?



This reproduction of the Declaration of Independence was created by William Stone in 1823. This image is courtesy of archive.gov.

LEQ: From whom did we want to be independent, and on what date did we declare our independence?
Great Britain, July 4, 1776

[illegible]

This reproduction of the Declaration of Independence was created by William Stone in 1823. This image is courtesy of archive.gov.

As the colonists had feared, King George III refused to honor the Olive Branch Petition.



This is the Assembly Room in Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed. This image was taken by Robert Housch on July 30, 2009.

The king saw the colonists as troublemakers and sent more troops to America to stop their rebellion.



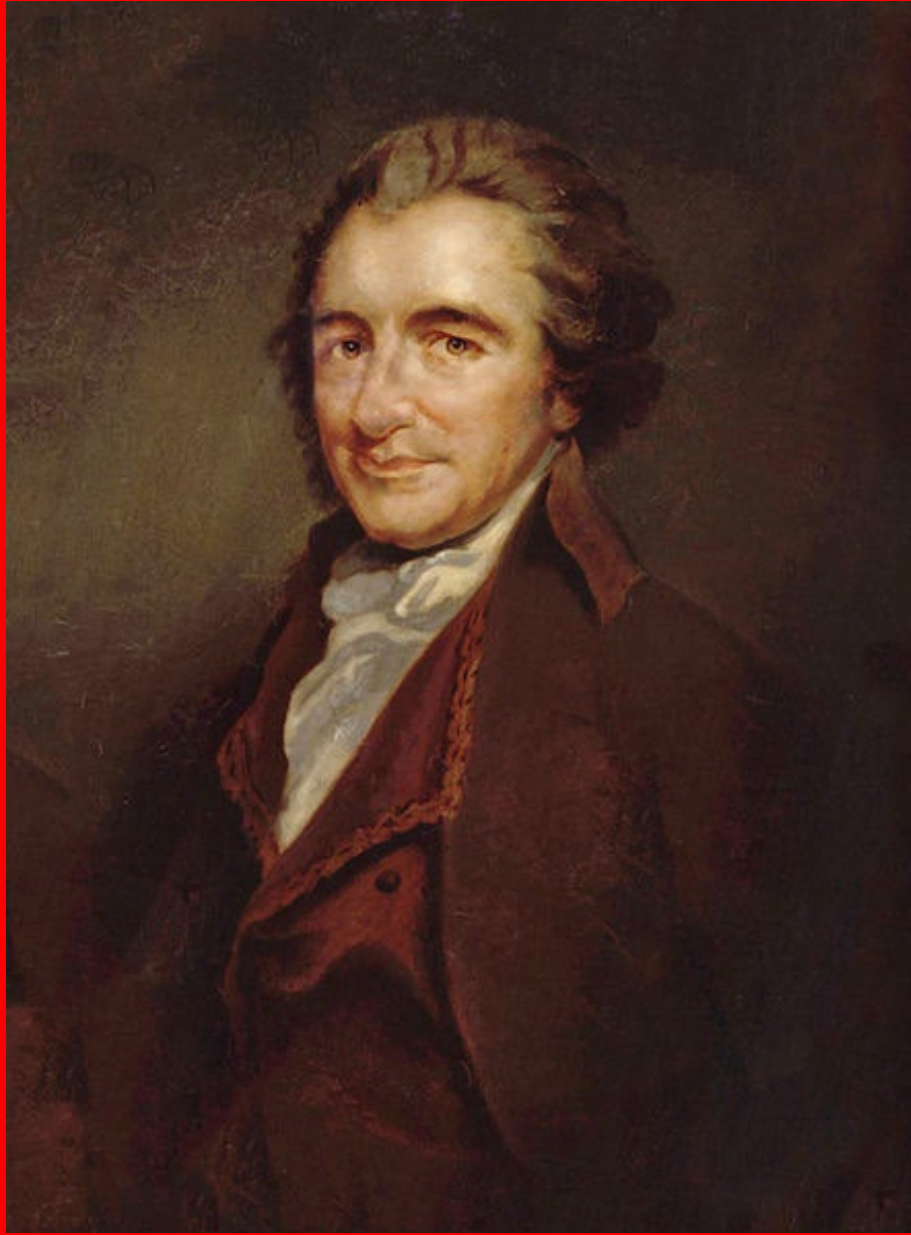
This painting of King George III (1738-1820) was created by Johann Zoffany (1733-1810) in 1771. This image is courtesy of the Royal Collection and of Wikimedia commons.

The king's actions, along with the continued fighting in the colonies, led more and more Americans to favor breaking ties with Great Britain.



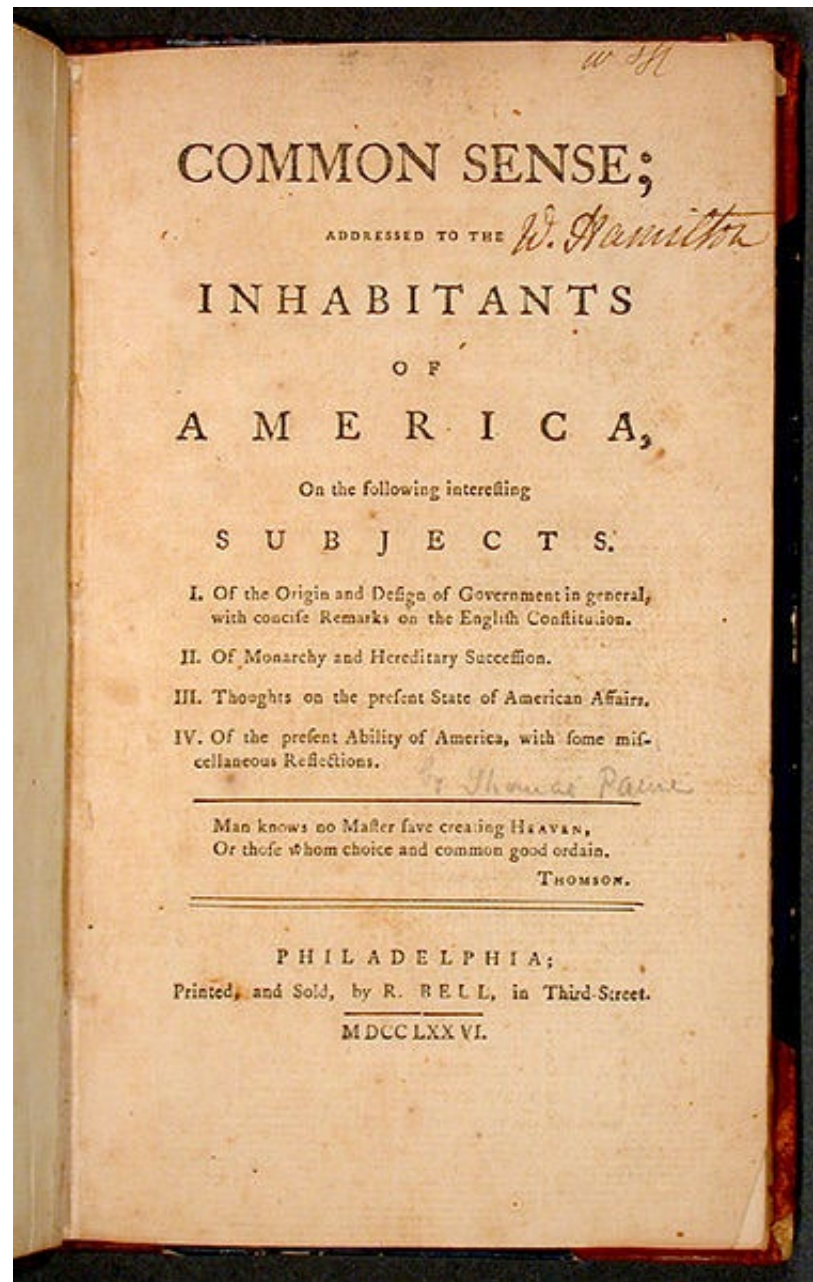
This image is part of the “We the People” exhibit at the Old State House Museum in Boston, Massachusetts. The photograph of this image was taken by Robert Housch on August 12, 2016.

Encouraging the move toward freedom was a writer and journalist, Thomas Paine.



Thomas Paine was born in England, and came to America in 1774. This painting of Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was created by Auguste Milliere in 1876. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Paine had been in America only a few years when he wrote the pamphlet *Common Sense*.



Common Sense was published in January 1776. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Common Sense declared that the American colonies received no benefits from their mother country, which was intent on exploiting them.



This image is part of a plaque commemorating the Boston Tea Party near the site of Griffin's Wharf, where the event occurred on December 16, 1773. The plaque is on a building at 470 Atlantic Avenue which is located on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Seaport Boulevard in Boston, Massachusetts.

Thomas Paine questioned some of the ideas that were basic to British society, such as the concept of a king and queen.



Paine referred to King George III as "the Royal Brute of Great Britain." This painting shows King George III, Queen Charlotte, and their six eldest children. This painting was created in 1770 by Johan Zoffany (1733-1810). This image is courtesy of royalcollection.org.uk.

Paine called on the colonists to use common sense and become independent of Great Britain: “The period of debate is closed. Arms, as a last resort, must decide the contest... Everything that is right or reasonable pleads for separation.”



This shows the Commander in Chief's Guards, an elite unit trained by Baron Friedrich von Steuben to set an example in the Continental Army of how soldiers should carry out their duties. They guarded Lieutenant General George Washington's Headquarters. This image by Robert Housch was taken on November 28, 2011 of a National Park Service wayside exhibit at Valley Forge National Historic Park.

Almost half a million copies of *Common Sense* flooded the colonies.



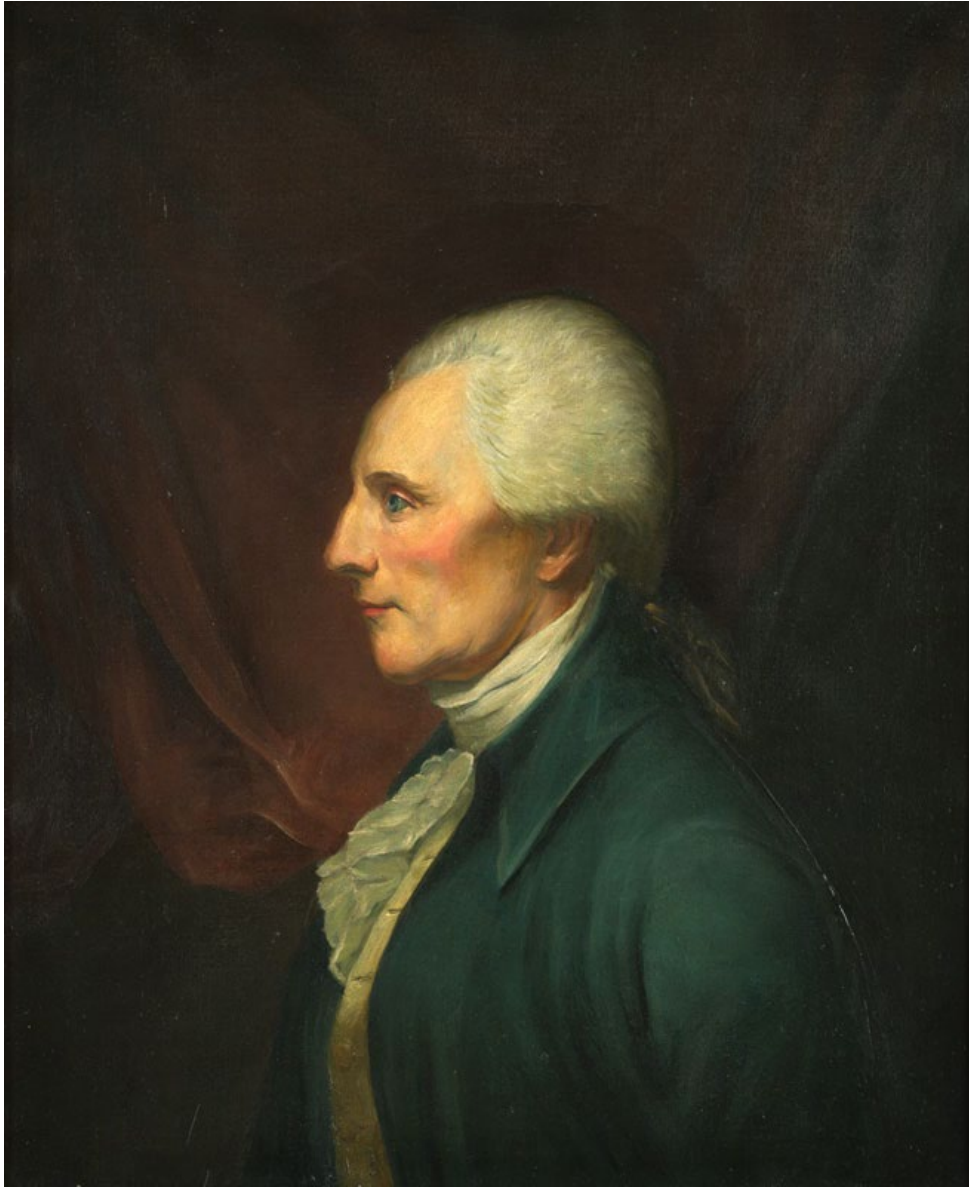
As Paine intended, his words stirred the colonists to action. His pamphlet was printed on printing presses such as this one on display at the Franklin Print Shop at Independence National Historic Park in Philadelphia. This was taken by Robert Housch on July 30, 2009.

Common Sense showed the colonists that the time had come to formally declare independence.



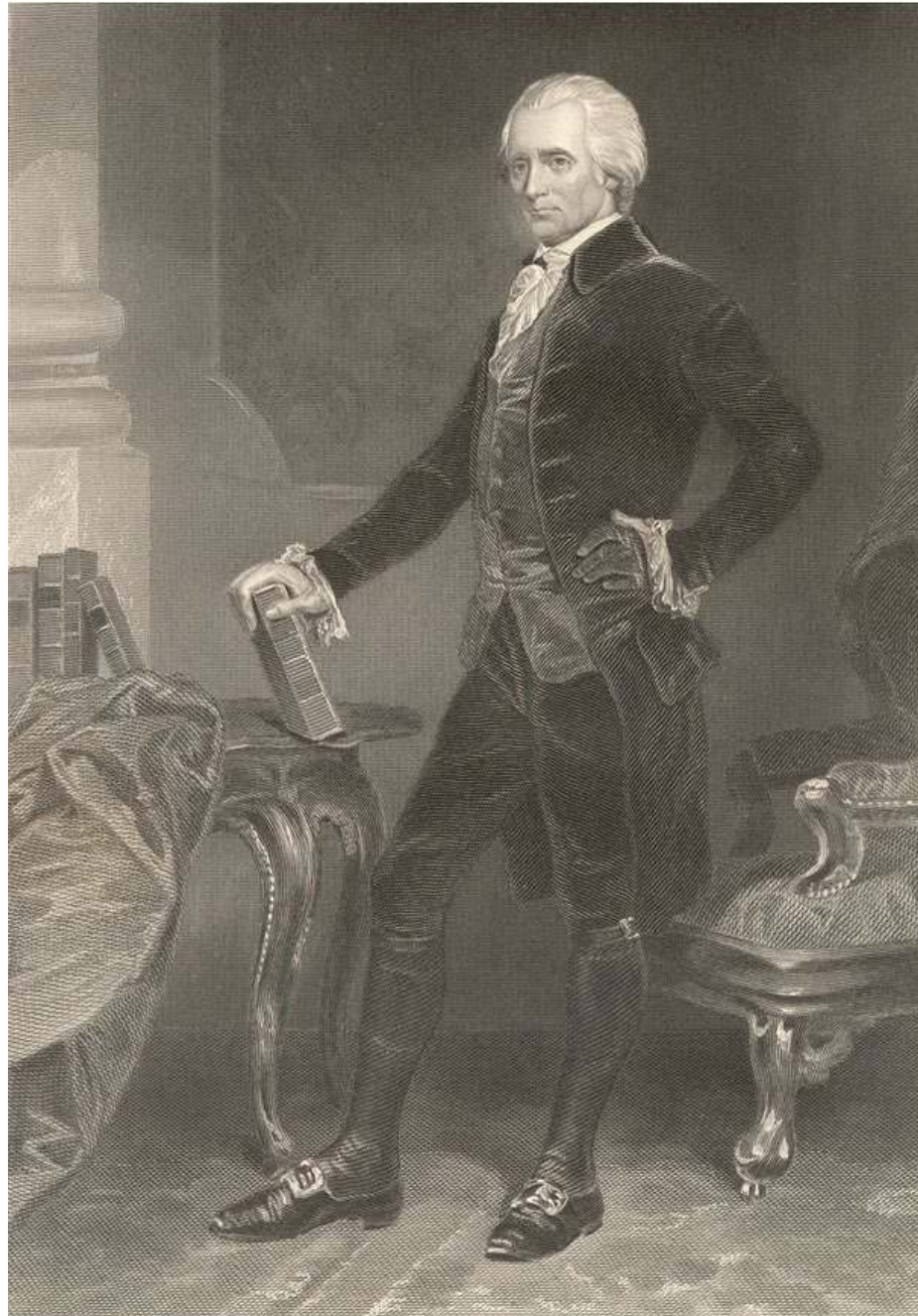
In Paine's words, "The sun never shined on a cause more just." This is a depiction of the Sons of Liberty pulling down the statue of King George III in New York City after the Declaration of Independence was read to them on July 9, 1776. This painting by Johannes Oertel (1823-1909) was created circa 1859. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The desire for independence grew, and the Congressional delegates, perhaps sensing the mood of the people, knew the time was right.



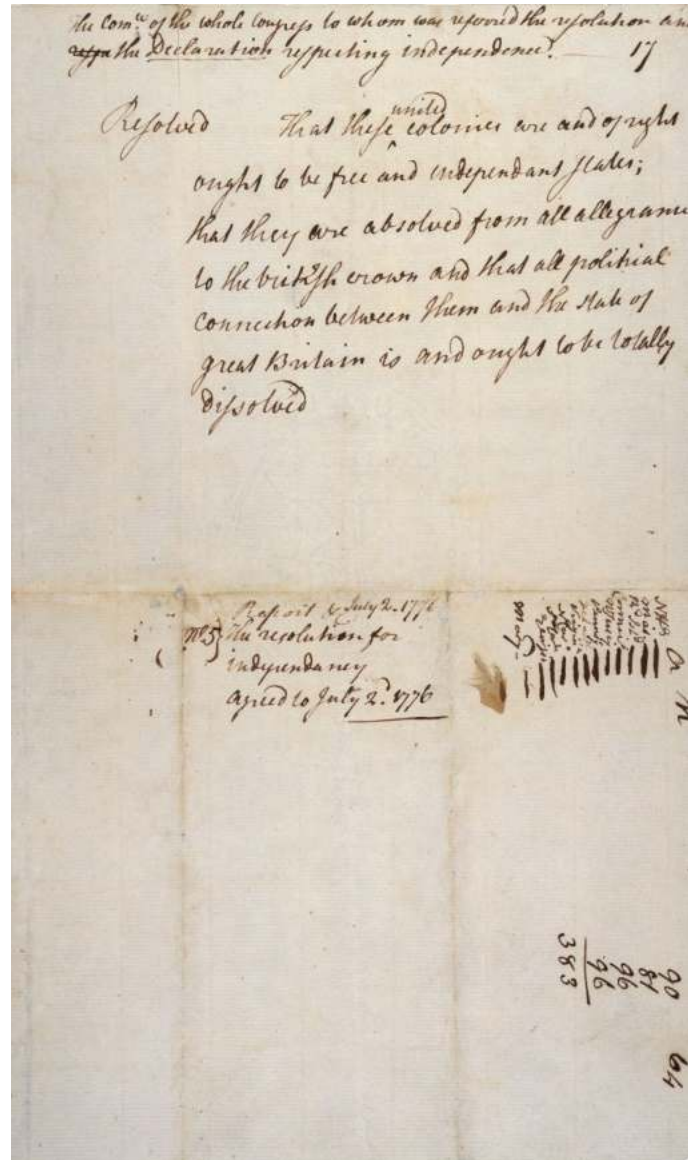
On June 7, 1776, Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee (1733-1794) introduced a resolution to declare independence from Great Britain. This image is courtesy of virginiamemory.com.

Lee stated that “These United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.”



This is an image of Richard Henry Lee (1733-1794). This image is courtesy of stratfordhall.org.

The congressional delegates had to consider Lee's words carefully, because if his resolution passed, there would be no turning back.



This image shows the Lee Resolution for Independency. The marks at the bottom right show the votes of each colony on the resolution. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

If the Congress agreed to Lee's resolution, each one would be a traitor in Great Britain's eyes.



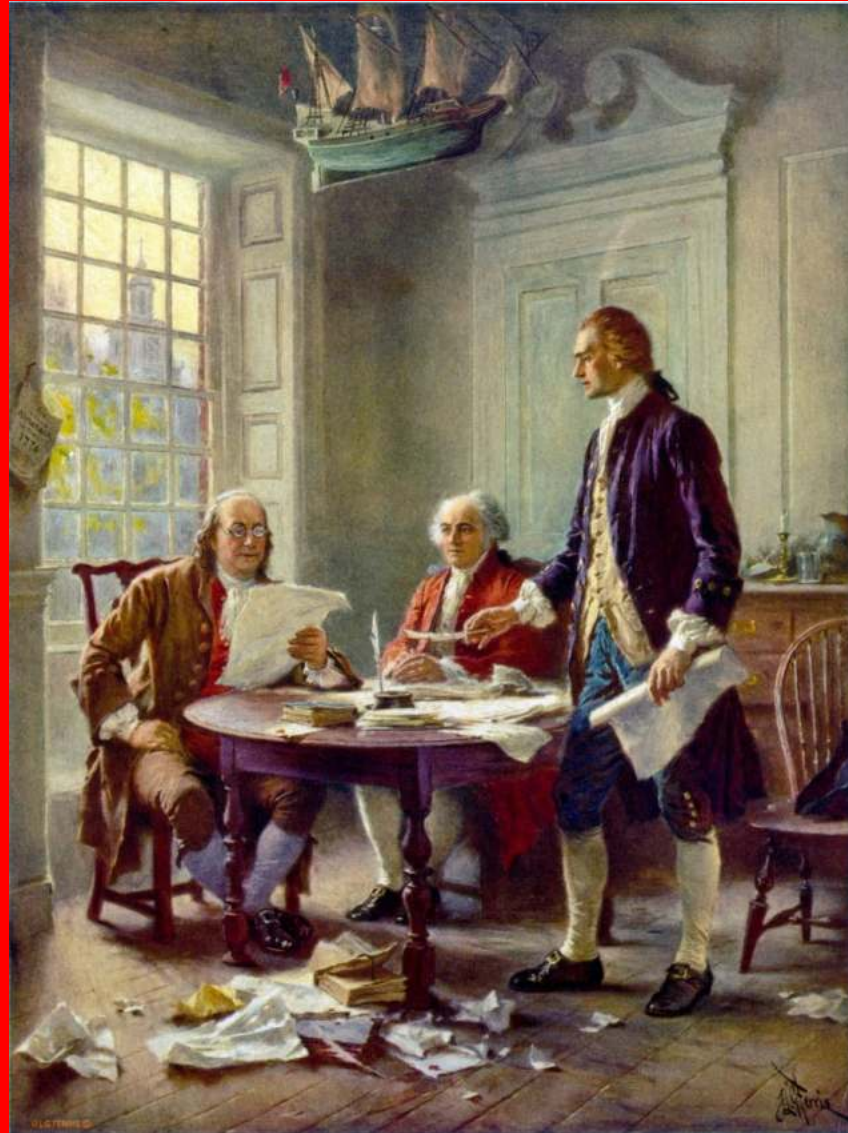
The penalty for treason was death. This image is courtesy of klicknation.com.

They formed a five man committee to prepare a formal Declaration of Independence.



The members of the committee were Thomas Jefferson (Virginia), Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania), John Adams (Massachusetts), Robert Livingston (New York), and Roger Sherman (Connecticut). This image is courtesy of americaslibrary.gov.

After some debate the delegates chose Thomas Jefferson to write the declaration.



Jefferson was shy and a poor public speaker, but he was known as an able writer. Jefferson gave his first draft to Benjamin Franklin. After a few changes, they submitted it to the full Congress. This image titled "Writing the Declaration of Independence, 1776" was created by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863-1930) in 1900. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress and of Wikimedia Commons.

On July 2, 1776, more than a year after the first battle of the American Revolution, the Second Continental Congress adopted Lee's resolution.



This painting by either Robert Edward Savage or Robert Edge Pine, titled *Congress Voting Independence*, shows the Second Continental Congress voting on the Declaration of Independence. This painting was created circa 1791. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Two days later, on July 4, 1776, the delegates officially approved Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence.



The Declaration of Independence was signed by the Second Continental Congress on August 2, 1776. It had been approved on July 4, 1776. The signing took place in the Pennsylvania State House, in Philadelphia, a building which is now known as Independence Hall. This image is courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.

You won't have to remember too many dates in this class, but the one date you will remember is **July 4, 1776**.



At first the Declaration was written with ink and a quill pen. Later it was printed on a printing press. This image is courtesy of blog.chron.com.

On July 4, 1776 the United States declared its independence from Great Britain.



The Declaration of Independence was signed by the Second Continental Congress on August 2, 1776. It had been approved on July 4, 1776. The signing took place in the Pennsylvania State House, in Philadelphia, a building which is now known as Independence Hall. This image is courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.

John Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress, signed the document first and with the largest signature.



As Hancock signed the declaration, he purposely wrote in large bold letters, saying King George "... can read my name without spectacles, and may now double his reward of 500 pounds for my head." The document was not signed until August 2, 1776. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

As the news reached them, people gathered to listen to readings of the Declaration.



Word of the new declaration spread slowly through the colonies. After they heard the reading of the declaration, crowds cheered, rang bells, and fired guns in celebration (although gunpowder was in short supply). This image shows the first reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia (now Independence Hall) on July 8, 1776. This image is courtesy of allposters.com.

In the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson wrote about a new representative form of government to be put in place and carried out by the nation's people.



The declaration included four parts. Jefferson was influenced by the philosophy of Great Britain's John Locke. This image is courtesy of todayifoundout.com.

The first part of the Declaration is called the preamble.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

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 Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experiences hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such a one the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

A preamble is an introduction that explains why the Continental Congress drew up the Declaration. The members thought that when a colony breaks its ties with the mother country, its reasons should be explained. This image is courtesy of ineduc.com.

The second part, the Declaration of Rights, lists the rights of the citizens.



This painting is titled The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, July 4, 1776. It was created by Charles Armand-Dumaresq (1826-1895) circa 1873. This image is courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

Jefferson wrote: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”



The Declaration goes on to explain that in a republic, people form a government to protect their rights. Jefferson wrote that a government should be based “on the consent of the governed.” Like Locke, Jefferson believed that if a government takes away the rights of the people, it is the people’s responsibility to overthrow that government.” This image by Howard Pyle in 1896 shows Thomas Jefferson writing the Declaration of Independence. This image is courtesy of the Delaware Art Museum.

The third part of the Declaration of Independence lists the colonists' complaints against the British government.



This is a detail from the *The Bostonians Paying the Excise Man, or "Tarring and Feathering."* This British illustration shows the tarring and feathering of Boston Commissioner of Customs John Malcolm four weeks after the Boston Tea Party in 1773. The men also poured hot tea down Malcolm's throat.. This image is courtesy of theamrev-ako.blogspot.com.

The final section declares that the colonies are “free and independent states” with the full power to make war, to form alliances, and to trade with other countries.



The colonists promised to fight to defend their freedom. For the first time, they would fight as citizens of a new nation, although technically each state was its own country. This image is courtesy of library.thinkquest.org.

Americans throughout the colonies now faced a choice.



Would they support the move toward independence or continued rule by Great Britain? The nation was divided. This painting titled Pulling Down the Statue of George III at Bowling Green in Lower Manhattan was created by William Walcutt in 1857. This image is courtesy of the National Archives.

Loyalists supported ties with Great Britain.



Loyalists were loyal to the King and to the British government. This image was taken by Robert Housch on April 21, 2011 at a National Park Service wayside exhibit at Fort Frederica National Monument.

On the other side were Patriots, who favored separation from Great Britain.



Patriots were labeled by the British as "disturbers of the government." This image is courtesy of libcom.org.

Other Loyalists, called Tories, supported the actions of the King.



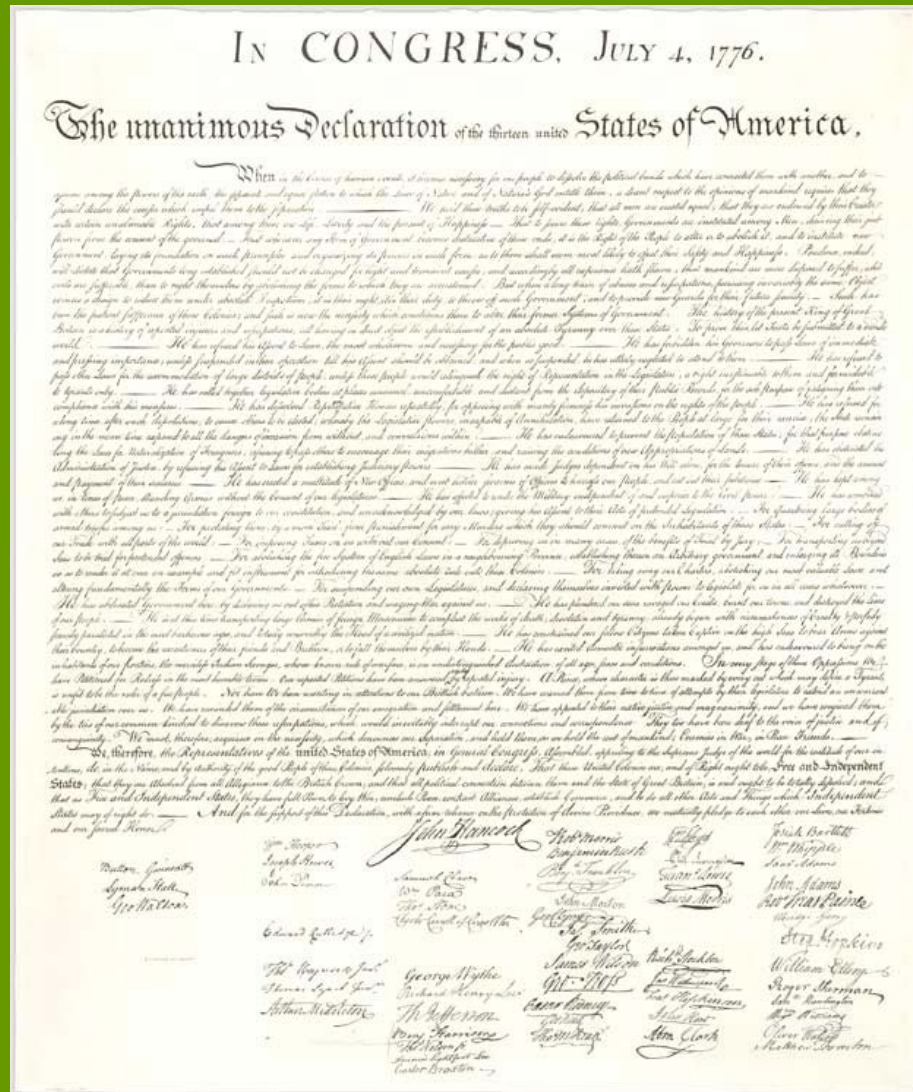
During the American Revolution, Great Britain had two primary political parties. The Whigs were considered more liberal, and the Tories more conservative. The Tories were fiercely loyal to the crown. This painting is titled Reception of the American Loyalists by Great Britain in the Year 1783. It was painted by Benjamin West (1738-1820). This image is courtesy of toriesfightingfortheKing.com.

A large number of men and women took neither side, content to wait and see what would happen.



This image shows a cooper or barrel maker producing a keg in the manner that American colonists would have produced it in the 1700s. This image is courtesy of studyzone.org.

LEQ: From whom did we want to be independent, and on what date did we declare our independence?



This reproduction of the Declaration of Independence was created by William Stone in 1823. This image is courtesy of archive.gov.

LEQ: From whom did we want to be independent, and on what date did we declare our independence?
Great Britain, July 4, 1776

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This reproduction of the Declaration of Independence was created by William Stone in 1823. This image is courtesy of archive.gov.