



Footsteps to the Revolution Project



With your group, complete the following steps:

- 1) Place the events in chronological order (order from oldest to newest event). Write down the year/event on each FOOTSTEP on your packet
- 2) Start with the first event. Read the paragraph as a group. Annotate the paragraphs as you go, putting a FROWN wherever evidence is mentioned that would UPSET the colonists. When done, agree on a 15 word or less explanation of why/how the event was a “footstep” to the Revolution (so why did it anger the colonists?)
- 3) Rank the events in order, from the MOST important event (1) to the LEAST important even (8) in bringing America towards Independence. In the ranking boxes, explain WHY you ranked the top TWO and the bottom TWO (so explain why 1 and 2 are the most important events and why 7 and 8 are the bottom, or least important events)
- 4) Complete the final statement pages: Write your claim about what event was the MOST important in leading to American Independence. Add EVIDENCE, from the footprint and evidence from the Documents, to support it. Then use REASONING to explain HOW/WHY this evidence (both) shows that this was the most important event!


Name _____ Period _____

Footsteps to the Revolution

Directions: Through the following activity, you will be working with a group of students to determine which events, or "footsteps", were MOST important in pushing the British Colonies towards wanting Independence from British rule.

Part One: Chronology. With your group, place the Eight events in CHRONOLOGICAL order (order in which they occurred in history). Label the event inside the foot and place the year above it.

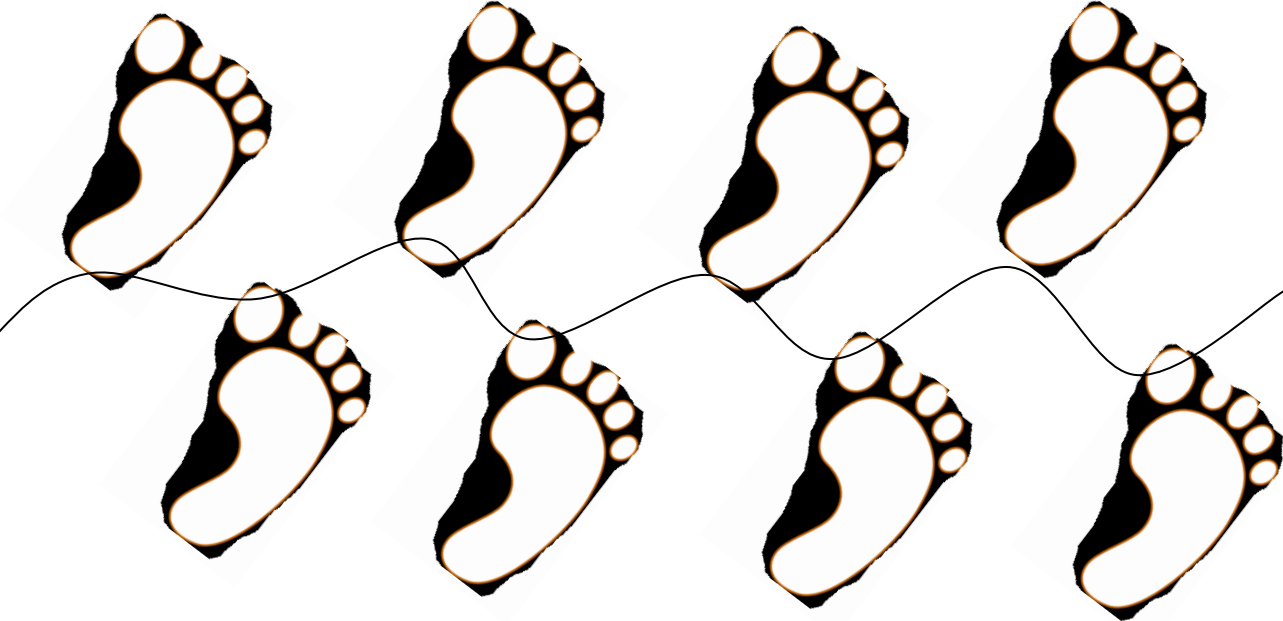
13 British Colonies




Original 13 British Colonies

- New Hampshire
- New York
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- Pennsylvania
- Connecticut
- New Jersey
- Delaware
- Maryland
- Virginia
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Georgia

1750



United States of America



July
177
6

Part Two: Connecting to Revolution and Ranking:

Directions: Read through each paragraph. In the space provided, complete the task from the column.

Event	Connection to Revolution. Read the paragraph and in 15 words or less explain how this event was a "footstep" to the American Revolution	Ranking, 1-8 of Events. 1 is the MOST important event in bringing American Independence, 8 is LEAST important. In the box, explain why you ranked the top two and bottom two

Event	Connection to Revolution. Read the paragraph and in 15 words or less explain how this event was a "footstep" to the American Revolution	Ranking, 1-8 of Events. 1 is the MOST important event in bringing American Independence, 8 is LEAST important. In the box, explain why you ranked the top two and bottom two

Summary Statement: DBQ

Claim, Evidence Reasoning Practice:

Claim: _____ was the single most important "footstep" in the road to the Revolutionary War.

Evidence (find the most important EVIDENCE, from the set of Documents, that shows WHY this was the most important event:
: _____

Reasoning (your explanation of HOW this evidence CLEARLY demonstrates this is the most important "footstep" in leading to the Revolutionary war). This can be more than 1 sentence!:

***Sentence Starters for introducing Evidence:

For example,
Another example from the documents,
According to the documents,
In documents A it states
As found on document B, Evidence for this can be seen on ...

Sentence starters for introducing reasoning:

This shows
This demonstrates
This evidence suggests
Considering the evidence, it can be concluded,
Based on the _____, it can be argued...
This proves
This highlights

Common Sense

Common Sense, a pamphlet written by Thomas Paine, helped to convince colonists that breaking from British rule was necessary. Nine Months after the battle of Lexington and Concord, many colonists were still debating whether or not to fight against Great Britain. Thomas Paine, a colonist who was born in England, wrote a 47 page pamphlet that outlined in clear and understandable language the many reasons Great Britain should not rule the colonies. This pamphlet sold over 500,000 copies, making in proportionally the highest selling book in American history. In this document, Paine argued: It was absurd for an island to rule a continent, that a “mother country” should never treat their children the way Britain was treating the colonies, and that it was crazy to be ruled by someone 3,000 miles away. This document helped change the way many colonists felt about England.

1776



Lexington and Concord

Lexington and Concord, “The Shot hear around the world,” were the opening battles of America’s fight for freedom. In 1774, the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. This meeting, which brought together representatives from 12 of the 13 colonies, was called to discuss British colonial treatment, which had come to a head with the recent closing of Boston Harbor. While the First Continental Congress did not declare war against Britain, they did pass a resolution telling each colony to prepare their militias for battle. This decision would help bring about the conflict of Lexington and Concord.

In April of 1775, the British governor of Massachusetts, Thomas Gage, received word colonists were stockpiling weapons in Concord. On the night of April 18th, 1775, Gage sent roughly 900 British soldiers, known as redcoats for their red uniforms, to seize the supplies. Colonial spies received word of the British plans, and a series of watchmen alerted the colonial militias, known as minutemen, of the movement of British troops. They felt strongly they had the right to protect themselves and Britain should not be able to take their weapons. Roughly 70 minutemen faced off against hundreds of redcoats outside Lexington, a town on the way to Concord. Neither side wanted to be the first to fire, nevertheless a shot rang out, and both engaged in battle. Within minutes the battle was over, and 8 minutemen lay dead.

The redcoats continued on to Concord, where they were disappointed to find most of the weapons had already been hidden. After destroying what remained, the British, weary after 15 hours of marching, began the 20 mile trek back to Boston. Along the way, the British faced ambush attacks from 1,000 minutemen, which resulted in 73 redcoats being killed. The Revolutionary War had officially begun—or had it?

1775

The Intolerable Acts

The Intolerable Acts, meant to create order in the colonies, instead led to even more resistance. The Intolerable Acts were a series of four laws that were officially known as the Coercive Acts. These acts were passed in response to the Boston Tea Party, an act of colonial resistance carried out by the Sons of Liberty in which over \$1,000,000 of British tea was dumped into Boston harbor.

The Intolerable Acts had several effects which greatly upset the colonists. First off, Boston Harbor was closed until the tea was paid for. This aspect laid off many workers, greatly reduced supplies colonists relied on, and hurt colonial merchants who traded with England. A second component of the Intolerable Acts was a new Quartering Act, which allowed soldiers to be housed at private citizen's houses at their expense. Another part of the law allowed the royal governor of Massachusetts to move trials to other colonies or even England if he thought an impartial (fair) jury could not be found. Although the Intolerable Acts were focused on Massachusetts, they demonstrated to other colonies what could happen to them as well.

1774



The Proclamation of 1763

The Proclamation of 1763 took away what the colonists thought they earned through battle. After the French and Indian war gave Britain control of the territory known as Ohio, colonists began to move west into this land. Indian leaders like Chief Pontiac opposed this movement, and began attacking British forts and colonists as they entered this region. King George III, the ruler of Britain, faced a tough decision. Already saddled with debt from the French and Indian War, he now faced the prospect of having to send even more troops to protect colonists and fend off native attacks. Instead of doing this, King George III issued the Proclamation of 1763, a document that banned colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. Colonists already in this area were told to get out, and outposts were placed along the Proclamation line to ensure colonists followed the Proclamation. This left many colonists to question why they had fought the French and Indian war in the first place.

1763

The Boston Massacre

March 5th, 1770 would forever change relations between Britain and the colonies. On this day, a conflict broke out in Boston between Bostonians and British troops. Between 1768-1770, Boston had become a city under occupation. as King George III sent 5,000 troops to control a town of 15,000 inhabitants. Boston, as the center of colonial trade, was a crucial piece of the British Empire as over 40% of British goods were sold to the colonies. Tensions had mounted in this city over the years as colonial traders looked for ways around British taxes, which led to the troops being sent into to collect the money.

On March 5th, 1770, this tension erupted into violence as a dispute between angry colonists and 9 British soldiers turned deadly. A crowd of colonists armed with sticks and snowballs provoked an attack by the British soldiers, which left 5 colonists dead. A colonial revolutionary named Paul Revere used this event to his advantage, creating a lithograph that showed British troops firing on innocent soldiers. Revere's name for the event would remain for history: the Bloody Massacre.

1770

The Stamp Act

The Stamp Act, Britain's first attempt to directly tax colonists, further united them against British rule. The Stamp Act, passed in 1765, required colonists to purchase an official stamp, or seal, on any paper document—including newspapers, legal documents, playing cards, and licenses. Unlike the Sugar Act, which only taxed imported sugar and molasses, the Stamp Act was a direct tax that all colonists had to pay; which affected rich and poor alike. Colonists were again upset that Parliament was passing laws without their consent, and this anger led to colonial protests. In Boston, Samuel Adams created a secret group called the Sons of Liberty. This organization used violence to intimidate tax collectors. Colonial courts shut down as people refused to buy the stamps for legal documents. King George III responded by sending more troops to enforce these laws, collect taxes, and maintain order--which only led to more trouble.

1765



The French and Indian War

The French and Indian War, a conflict for colonial control of the Americas, led to many future problems between the British and colonists. This struggle was over the area of land known as the Ohio territory and pitted French and many Native American tribes against the British and the colonists. For the first three years of the war, colonists, who were virtually left alone to fight, fared poorly. Once British regulars arrived, the conflict turned in favor of the British and the colonists. The British, however, refused to allow colonists to fight with their regular army, which led to much resentment between the two.

In 1763, the Treaty of Paris was signed, officially ending the French and Indian war. Through this treaty, France gave Canada and all of the land known as Ohio to the British. Although Britain gained a huge empire, the French and Indian war doubled their national debt and left them with the challenge of trying to rule this new territory—both issues that led to trouble.

1754-1763

The Sugar Act

Although Great Britain had won the French and Indian war, they still had to pay for it. The Sugar Act, the first law passed in the colonies to directly raise money for this cause, only angered them further. This law showed that not only were colonists banned from gaining the land they thought they earned through battle, they would also have to pay for it. The Sugar Act actually reduced the tax on imported Sugar, which Britain hoped would lead to less smuggling. To enforce this law, Prime Minister Grenville sent out more naval vessels to search colonial ships.

The Sugar Act upset colonists who felt they should only be taxed if they had a say in the law. No colonial representative was allowed in Parliament, the English law-making body, which led to the slogan “no taxation without representation.” The Sugar Act led to more communication between the colonies, as committees of correspondence were created to help discuss British laws and ways to challenge them.

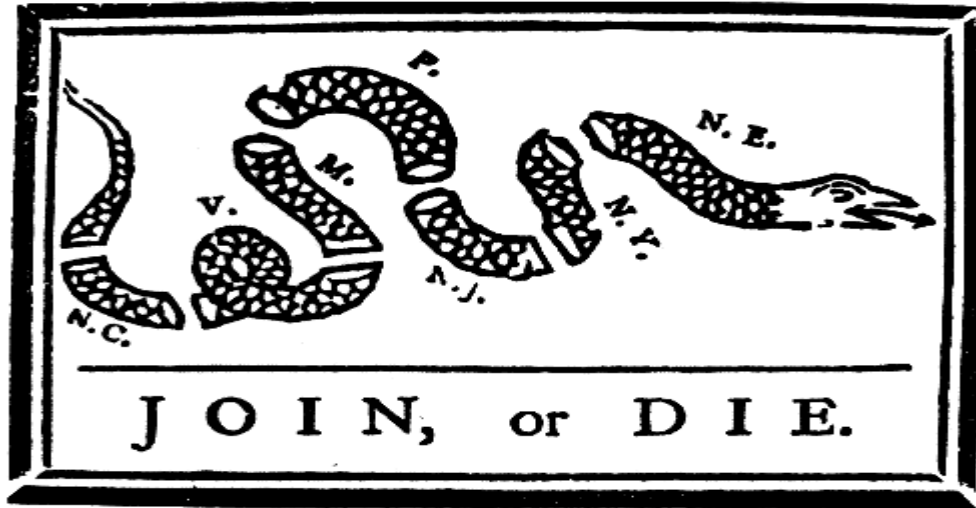
1764



To what extent had the colonists developed a sense of their identity and unity as Americans by the eve of the Revolution? Use the documents and your knowledge of the period 1750 to 1776 to answer the question.

Document A

Source: Pennsylvania Gazette, 1754



Document B

Source: Edmund Burke, "Notes for Speech in Parliament, 3 February 1766".

Govern America [?] as you govern an English town which happens not to be represented in Parliament [?]
Are Gentlemen really serious when they propose this? Is there a single Trait of Resemblance between those few Towns, and a great and growing people spread over a vast quarter of the globe, separated from us by a mighty Ocean?

. . . The eternal Barriers of Nature forbid that the colonies should be blended or coalesce into the Mass . . . of this Kingdom. We have nothing therefore for it, but to let them carry across the ocean into the woods and deserts of America the images of the British constitution.

Document C

Source: Richard Henry Lee to Arthur Lee, 24 February, 1774.

The wicked violence of [the] Ministry is so clearly expressed, as to leave no doubt of their fatal determination to ruin both Countries unless a powerful and timely check is interposed by the Body of People. A very small corrupted Junto in New York excepted, all N. America is now most firmly united and as firmly resolved to defend their liberties *ad infinitum* against every power on Earth that may attempt to take them away. The most effectual measures are everywhere taking to secure a sacred observance of the Association — Manufactures go rapidly on and the means of repelling force by force are universally adopting.

Document D

Source: Mather Byles, Cotton Mather's grandson, to Nathaniel Emmons, Arthur Wentworth Hamilton Eaton, *The Famous Mather Byles: The Noted Boston Tory Preacher, Poet and Wit, 1707-1788*.

They call me a brainless Tory; but tell me, my young friend, which is better, to be ruled by one tyrant three thousand miles away, or by three thousand tyrants not a mile away. I tell you, my boy, there was just as much humbug in politics seventy years ago as there is today.

Document E

Source: Declaration for the Causes of Taking up Arms, Continental Congress, 6 July 1775.

A Declaration by the Representative of the United Colonies of North America, now met in Congress at Philadelphia, setting forth the causes and necessity of their taking up arms.

. . . the arms we have been compelled by our enemies to assume, we will, in defiance of every hazard, with unabating firmness and perseverance, employ for the preservation of our liberties; being with one mind resolved to die freemen, rather than live [like] slaves.

Lest this declaration should disquiet the minds of our friends and fellow-subjects in any part of the Empire, we assure them that we mean not to dissolve that union which has so long and so happily subsisted between us, and which we sincerely wish to see restored. . . We have not raised armies with ambitious designs of separating from Great Britain, and establishing independent states.

Document F

Source: *The Origin and Progress of the American Revolution to the year 1776*, a history by Peter Oliver of Massachusetts, 1781

We [saw] a Set of Men . . . under the Auspices of the english Government; & protected by it . . . for a long Series of Years . . . rising, by easy Gradations, to such a State of Prosperity & Happiness as was almost enviable, but we [saw] them also run mad with too much Happiness, & burst into an open Rebellion against that Parent, who protected them against the Ravages of their Enemies. . . And why [was] the sudden Transition made, from Obedience to Rebellion, but to gratifye the Pride, Ambition & Resentment, of a few abandoned Demagogues, who were lost to all Sense of Shame & of Humanity? The generality of the People were not of this Stamp; but they were [weak], & unversed in the Arts of Deception.

Document G

Source: Contributors of Donations for the Relief of Boston, 1774 and 1775, *Collections*,
Massachusetts Historical Society

Connecticut

Windham	a small flock of sheep
Groton	40 bushels of grain
Farmington	300-400 bushels of Indian corn and rye
Glastonbury	"subscription for the relief of the poor"
Wethersfield	248 1/2 bushels of rye, 390 bushels of Indian corn
Hartford	1,400 bushels of grain
Middletown	600 bushels of grain
Middle Hampton	600 bushels of grain

Massachusetts

Wrentham	31 bushels of grain
Pepperall	40 bushels of grain
Charlemont	2 barrels of flour
Roxbury	258 sheep

New Jersey

Provincial Assembly	"Cash or articles of provision or other necessaries we can furnish"
Committees of Correspondence, several counties of New Jersey	"moneys from subscriptions or other benefactions"

