



The American Revolution

When King George III took the British throne in 1760, Britain's 13 American colonies were doing well. The colonies were making a lot of money trading with Europe, and the population was growing. Colonists were beginning to think of themselves less as British citizens and more as Americans. However, the colonists still had to obey British laws. After the French and Indian War, the British government had to pay for the war. The British government thought the colonies should help pay its war debts. After all, the colonies were part of the British Empire.



Parliament passed several laws that said the colonists must pay new taxes. The colonists did not think the new laws were fair. Nor did the colonists get to vote for Parliament members. They had no representatives in Parliament to speak for them. Therefore, the colonists had no say in Parliament's decision to tax them. If the colonies were not represented in Parliament, why should Parliament be able to tax them? Many colonists said "No taxation without representation!" and refused to pay taxes.

Britain sent soldiers to the colonies. Several incidents happened between British soldiers and the colonists in Massachusetts. A group of colonial leaders voted to raise an army and defend the colonies against Britain. This group was called the Second Continental Congress.

Patrick Henry, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and other American leaders talked about what the colonies should do. They liked the ideas of Enlightenment thinker John Locke. Locke had written that all people are born equal and have natural rights. He said that if a government does not protect its citizens' rights, the people can overthrow the government.

Colonial leaders asked King George III for the same political rights that the people in England had. The leaders sent a letter asking the king to help the colonists get these rights. The king ignored their polite letter. For this reason and others, the colonists thought King George was an unjust ruler. They decided that the colonies had the right to get rid of the British government. The colonists would form their own country.

On July 4, 1776, the American leaders adopted the Declaration of Independence. Written by Thomas Jefferson, this paper was based on John Locke's ideas. It included a list of complaints about how the king had treated the colonies badly. The Declaration of Independence said that the colonies were breaking all ties with their mother country. The colonies were officially at war with Britain.



The American Revolution

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. The 13 American colonies were part of the _____ Empire.
- A. Spanish
 - B. French
 - C. Dutch
 - D. British

2. Many colonists refused to _____.
- A. join the British army
 - B. pay taxes
 - C. vote
 - D. go to work

3. The _____ voted to raise an army and defend the colonies against Britain.
- A. Second Continental Congress
 - B. British Parliament
 - C. First Continental Congress
 - D. Committee of Correspondence

4. American leaders liked the ideas of Enlightenment thinker _____.
- A. King George III
 - B. Thomas Hobbes
 - C. John Locke
 - D. Ptolemy

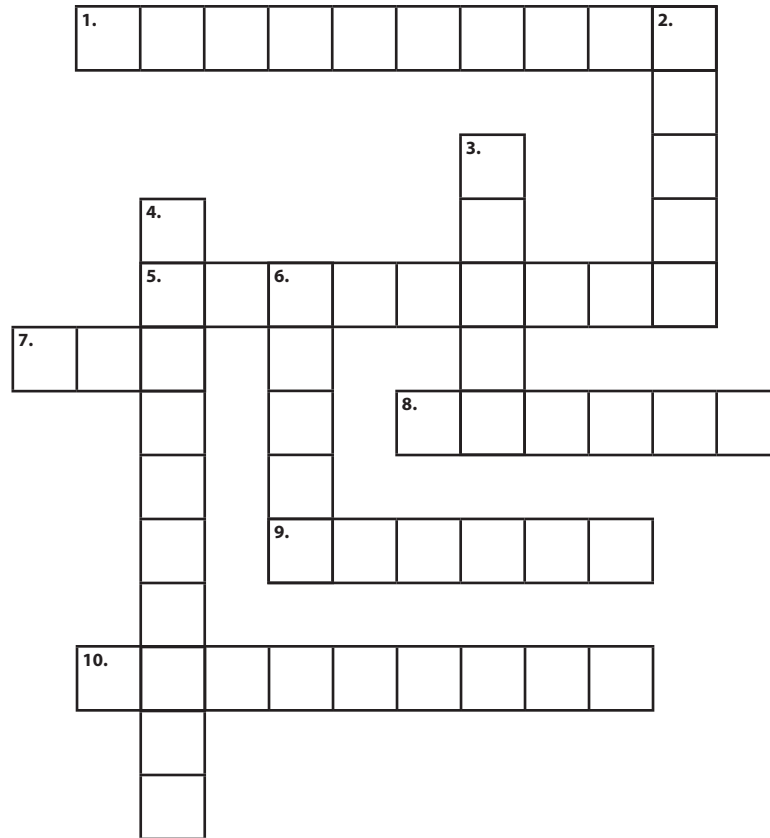
5. The _____ included a list of complaints about the king.
- A. letter to the king
 - B. Declaration of Independence
 - C. Articles of Confederation
 - D. Stamp Act



The American Revolution

Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

- Locke said that if a government does not protect its citizens' rights, the people can overthrow the _____.
- Colonists were beginning to think of themselves as _____ instead of British citizens.
- The colonies went to _____ with Great Britain.
- The colonists thought King _____ III was an unjust ruler.
- The colonists sent a/an _____ to King George III asking for the same political rights that the people in England had.
- _____ wrote the Declaration of Independence.

DOWN

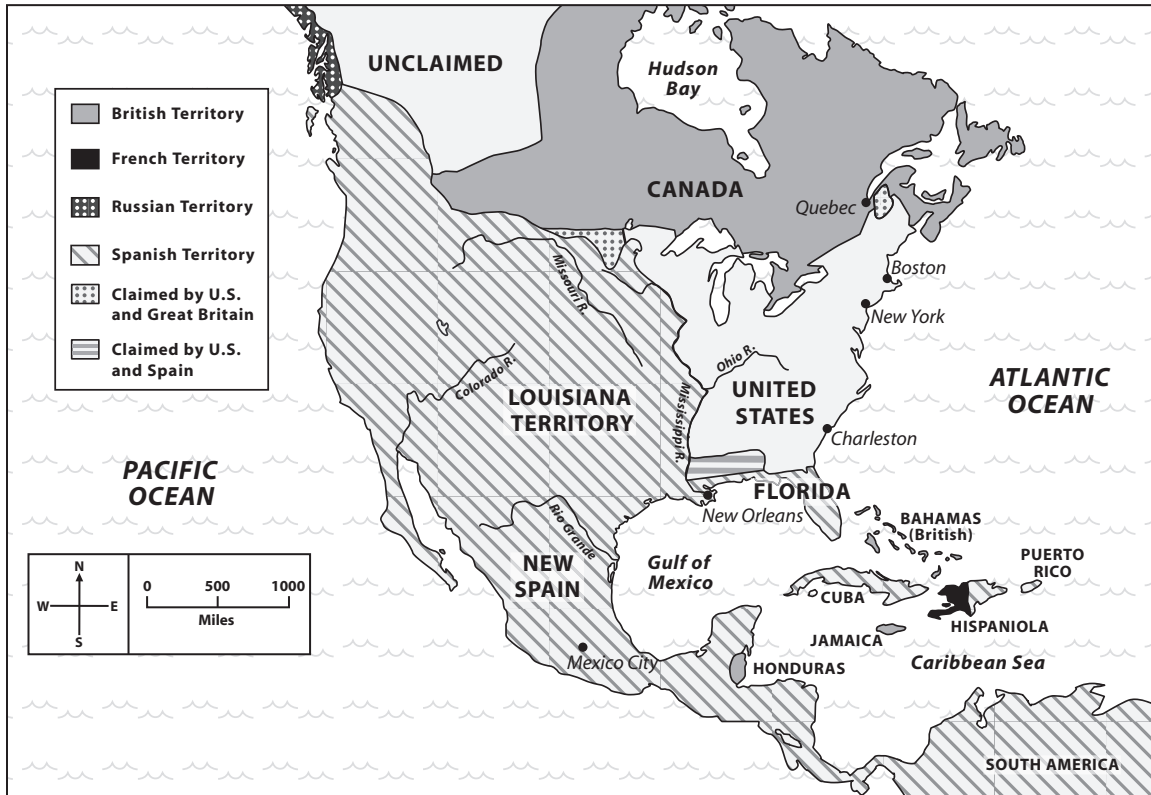
- Parliament passed laws that said the colonists must pay new _____.
- Adopted on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was based on _____'s ideas.
- The colonists had no representatives in _____.
- John Locke had written that all people are born _____.



The American Revolution

Map – North America in 1783

Use the map to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.



1. Which country had the largest amount of land in North America?

2. In which country's territory was your state located in 1783?

3. What area did Great Britain own after the American Revolution?



Quiz: The American Revolution

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write “true” or “false” in the blank.

- _____ 1. American leaders liked the ideas of John Locke.
- _____ 2. The colonists had no representatives in the Second Continental Congress.
- _____ 3. The colonists thought King George III was a good ruler.
- _____ 4. The colonists went to war with France.
- _____ 5. The Declaration of Independence included a list of complaints about the king.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. _____ wrote the Declaration of Independence.

A. Thomas Jefferson
B. King George III
C. John Locke
D. Thomas Paine

7. Locke said that citizens have a right to overthrow their government if _____.

A. the government raises taxes
B. the government does not protect its citizens' rights
C. the people are bored with the government
D. all of the above

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. When did the Americans adopt the Declaration of Independence?
