

Topic/Objective:

The American Revolution (1763-1783)

Name:

Zakis

Class/Period:

Date:

Essential Question:

1. Why do the colonies break up with the British?
2. What does this new nation ("America") believe?

Organize your notes  
(headings, questions,  
big ideas, key words)

Notes:

- Throughout the 1600s and 1700s, two different forces are at work.....
  - #1: the colonies are becoming more like the British and growing closer to the "mother country"
    - Ex: Mercantilism connects the colonies and British through trade
    - Ex: Colonial governments are modeled after British ideas about government (individual rights, limiting the king's power)
    - Ex: Wealthy colonists try to copy the lifestyles of the rich and powerful in Britain
  - #2: The colonies are developing their own identity that is different from the British:
    - Ex: Salutary Neglect gives power to the colonial legislatures (like the House of Burgesses) to make their own laws
    - Ex: immigration makes colonial society more diverse than Britain
    - Ex: Multiple religions makes colonial society more diverse than Britain
    - Ex: More people own land in the colonies than in Britain and can therefore participate in politics
  - As we approach the 1760s, the question remains: are the colonists British or "Americans?"

The War that Changes Everything

- Throughout the 1600s and 1700s, the British fought a number of wars to defend their colonies against aggression by France, the Netherlands, and Spain
  - The "French & Indian War" or the "Seven Years War" will be the largest and most important in terms of its consequences
    - The 4<sup>th</sup> conflict fought by the British to protect the American colonies from European rivals (France)
    - Caused by border dispute in Ohio Valley
    - Most Indian tribes support French
  - Outcome: France loses their North American colonies!
    - North America belongs to the British!!!! The colonies are safe !!!!

## Post-War Problems

- Britain must pay off a massive debt from the war (\$100 billion!)
  - With their French allies gone, Native Americans attack colonists to stop western expansion
  - British must continue to spend money to defend colonies.....
- Britain begins to apply "discipline" to the colonies to address the problems created by the F&I war
  - Policy of Salutary Neglect is taken away and Parliament and the King use their authority to pass laws and taxes for the colonies
- Examples of British "discipline"
  - Proclamation of 1763
    - Britain forbid the colonists from purchasing land west of the Appalachians
    - Stationed British troops in the colonies to enforce it.
  - Stamp Act
    - First direct tax ever placed on the colonies by Parliament, taking away their power of the purse
    - suspected violators were tried in British courts w/o juries = violating English Bill of Rights
  - Declaratory Act
    - Parliament exerts it's right to make any law necessary for governing the colonies, ending the policy of salutary neglect.
  - Quartering Act
    - Parliament requires colonial governments to house British soldiers and to provide them with supplies
  - Townshend Acts
    - New taxes on a variety of items (paint, lead, glass, paper & tea) led to widespread boycotts of British goods
  - Tea Act
    - Parliament authorizes the East India Company to sell surplus tea to the colonies at a cheap rate
    - Colonists refuse to buy the tea & dump it in the harbor

## Colonial Response to British "Discipline"

### • Protests:

- Our liberties as British citizens are being violated!
  - Colonies fear limited monarchy is becoming absolute monarchy
- "No taxation without Representation:" Parliament is imposing taxes on the colonies without getting the approval of colonial legislatures
- Many protests turn Violent (ex: tar and feathering)!
- British send troops to the colonies to crack down on protests and maintain order
  - Consequence: increased tension leads to Violence!

### • Boston Tea Party (1773): Colonists destroy tea rather than pay a tax on it

- Britain responds HARSHLY with the Coercive Acts

violated  
English  
Bill of  
Rights

- Suspends Massachusetts legislature
- Suspends right to trial by jury
- Closes Boston harbor to trade
- Puts Boston under military rule

In the John Adams movie, how united are the colonies at the beginning (1774)?

- At the Continental Congress, ~~the colonies do NOT agree on how to respond to the British~~ violation of rights and the events of Lexington & Concord. ~~Some colonists want to fight~~ (Massachusetts, NH, RI, Connecticut) while ~~others want to send an Olive Branch~~ to the King - trying to ask for peace (PA, NY, NJ, Delaware, VA, GA, MA, SC)

What are the key events that begin to bring the colonists together?

- ~~Battle of Lexington & Concord~~ (April 1775)
- ~~Olive Branch Petition~~ (May 1775)
  - colonists ask King for forgiveness for Lexington & Concord
- ~~Battle of Bunker Hill~~ (June 1775)
  - bloody battle - 400 colonists + 1000 British were killed
  - led to colonial desire to build a Continental Army led by George Washington

### - ~~Proclamation of Rebellion~~ (October 1775)

King states that colonists in rebellion are traitors and royal officers must suppress rebellion & punish traitors. Traitors will be punished (death by hanging) - anyone who stops rebelling will be forgiven. This helps unite the colonists against King - officially declares colonists in a state of rebellion

### - ~~Decision to Declare Independence~~ (Jan-June 1776)

Supporters: it is time to act, King has refused all attempts to reconcile, already independent, France will supply aid.  
Opponents: England will defeat colonists, "fatal blow", should still try for reconciliation

At what point, in your opinion, is independence and war going to happen?

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## The Declaration of Independence

### Author:

- wealthy, elite, intellectual & slave holder
- Thomas Jefferson of Virginia

### Place & Time:

- colonists believe that their rights are threatened by the King & Parliament
- as British citizens

### Audience:

- All of humanity! (Especially any people living under a tyrannical govt)
- one people splitting from another.
- abusive

### Reason: (Part III: End of Document)

- To create a new American identity (what does America believe)
- To declare independence
- To explain the reasons for independence (grievances)

The DoI is NOT a law or a system of plan of govt

The DoI IS a set of ideas or beliefs about govt

## Enlightenment ideas found in the Declaration of Independence

### • John Locke's Ideas

- Natural Rights
  - the idea that ALL people are born with certain rights (life, liberty, property)
  - ALL people have rights therefore people are EQUAL
- Consent of the Governed
  - To protect natural rights, people CHOOSE to create a system of rules (a govt.)
  - Government gets its power from the people who created it
- Social Contract
  - If the govt. fails to protect our natural rights (like the British govt.), the people who created it have the right to overthrow it!

What does this new American nation believe?

Topic	British Society	Colonial Society (pre-1776)	American Society (post-1776)
System of Govt.	Limited Monarchy	Limited Monarchy	Republic: people choose their leaders. Rule of Law > Rule of Men
Role of Govt.	To benefit the minority (wealthy)	To benefit the minority (wealthy)	To protect natural rights of ALL people
Political Participation	Only land-owners (very wealthy)	Only land-owners (majority of population)	Only landowners (majority of the population)
Equality	Belief that people are not equal; last name matters (heredity)	Belief that people are not equal; last name matters (heredity)	(Equal Opportunity) "All Men are Created Equal" - meritocracy (talent matters)
Social Mobility	No mobility due to limited land ownership	Some: greater access to land but belief in heredity limits opportunities	Access to land & belief that "all men are created equal" = lots of social mobility
Diversity	One religion; one ethnicity	Many religions; many ethnicities	Many religions; many ethnicities

