

THE HISTORY OF AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE

Watch the video and do the tasks 1-3.

1. Match the dates with corresponding historical events.

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|---------------------------|---|
| 1607 | Boston Tea party |
| 1756 - 1763 | Seven Years' War |
| 1765 | Declaration of Independence |
| 1773 | the first English settlement in America |
| 4 th July 1776 | British troops surrendered |
| 1781 | The Treaty of Paris |
| 1783 | Stamp Act |



2. Who is that? Complete with the names of the people involved in the American Revolution.

American military general _____

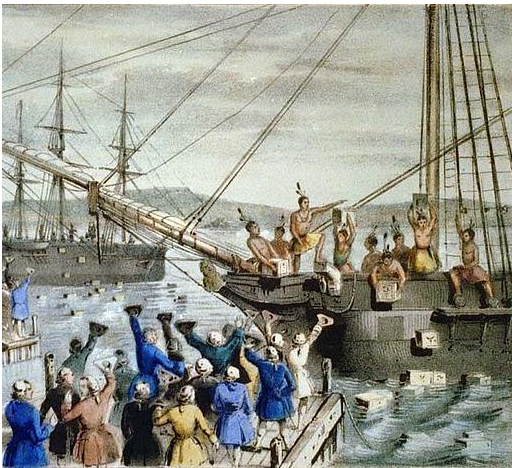
British general during the battle of Yorktown _____

British king _____



3. Answer the questions.

a. Who fought in Seven Years' War and why did it start?



b. What was the main cause of the American Revolution? What were American people dissatisfied with?

c. Look at the picture on the left. What do you know about the incident?

d. Where did American representatives sign the Declaration of Independence? What did that mean?

e. Who helped the Americans to beat the British?

4. Look at the first American flag from 1777. How many stars and stripes are there and what do they symbolize?



Student Activity Sheet:
Investigating the Declaration of Independence

Part I - PREAMBLE

In the course of history, it becomes right for one people to be on their own – to become a country equal with others. This is a natural law of God. So that the world will have a good opinion of us, we must explain why we are separating.

According to this paragraph, what is the goal of the writers?

Part II - NEW THEORY OF GOVERNMENT

It is obvious to us that the following is true: God created all people equally. God has given all people rights that cannot be taken away. These include the right to live, to be free, and to be happy.

Governments are created by people and receive their powers from the people. When a government abuses the rights of the people, the people have the right to change or overthrow the government and create something new that will protect them and treat them civilly and fairly.

Changing governments that have been around for a long time should not just occur without good reasons. It is the nature of people to deal with an unjust government than to change it. However, when a government constantly abuses power to the point of one person with absolute power, it is up to the people, and even their right to get rid of the government in order to protect future generations.

What rights are the writers claiming that they have?

According to this paragraph, what is the purpose of the government?

Part III - COMPLAINTS

We have tolerated the abuse of power from the ruler long enough and now it is time to change (leave) the control of the ruler and establish a new government. Before we do this, we need to explain to the world why.

He won't let us pass laws we need for everybody's good.

He won't let new settlers come to America, and he won't let the settlers take over new land from the Native Americans.

He won't let us choose our own judges, and instead he chooses them all himself, so they're all on his side.

He sends lots of new government officials that we don't want, and he makes us pay for them.

He sends lots of English soldiers here when there isn't even a war, and makes us let them live in our own houses.

He won't let us buy and sell things from wherever we want. We can only buy things from England.

He makes us pay all kinds of taxes without asking us about it.

When we ask him to stop, he just keeps on doing more bad things. We have tried to talk to the other people who live in England. We asked them to stop these crimes against us, but they have acted as though they were deaf. So we have to separate from England, and they will be our enemies during the war, though we hope they'll be our friends when there is peace.

Who is "He" that the colonists refer to in the complaints?

Part IV - DECLARATION OF FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND WAR

So we think that God will see that we are doing the right thing when we declare that the United States are now completely independent of the King of England. We have no more political connection to England at all. And as independent states, we say that each state has the right to make war, to make peace, to make alliances with other countries, trade with other countries, and do everything else that countries do. And we promise that we will fight for our independence with the help of God – we promise by our lives, our property, and our sacred honor.

What rights and powers do they state that they now have?

What might have happened if the Americans had lost the war against Britain?

