

### Topic 3.4 Assignment - Move Toward Independence

### \*\*\*ANSWER KEY\*\*\*

**Directions:** Use the reading to answer the comprehension questions below. Topic 3 Lesson 4 in your textbook can also serve as a reference to help you answer the questions.

**Reading:** By June 1775, there were about 6,000 British troops camped in Boston. Colonial militia were atop Breed's Hill, which overlooked the city and the harbor. Nearby were more Americans on Bunker Hill. British General William Howe decided to attack straight up the hill. His first and second attacks failed, and many of his men were killed. His third attack succeeded, but about 1,000 British soldiers had been killed or wounded. The American losses totaled about 400. Although the British won this battle, the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Americans proved their bravery and ability to fight professional British soldiers. When Washington arrived, he found about 16,000 British troops in Boston. While he worked to forge a fighting force out of men loyal to their own colonies, the cannons seized by Ethan Allen arrived. Washington set them up overlooking Boston, and the British commander realized he could not hold the city. In March 1776, the British forces and about 1,000 Loyalists sailed out of Boston for Canada. At the beginning of 1776, few colonists were inclined to support a struggle for independence. The publication of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*, however, marked the beginning of a shift in people's thinking. In this pamphlet, Paine stated that colonists owed no loyalty to any king or to Britain. It said that Britain had helped the colonists only for its own profit. *Common Sense* sold more than 500,000 copies in just six months. *Common Sense* changed many people's minds about independence, including members of the Continental Congress. In June 1776, Richard Henry Lee presented to Congress a resolution from his home state of Virginia on the right of the colonies to be free. After much debate, the Congress assigned a committee to write a formal statement listing reasons the colonies should separate from Britain. The committee chose Thomas Jefferson to draft the document. Congress met in July 1776 to approve the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776, the approval was announced. From that time forward, the Patriots were fighting to become an independent nation. The Declaration of Independence has three parts. The Preamble, or introduction, explains why the document was written. It stresses the idea of natural rights, those every person has from birth. Following the Preamble is a list of grievances against King George III of England. He was accused of failing to protect the colonists' rights. Beyond that, the king was accused of actually violating their rights. The conclusion of the Declaration of Independence introduced the colonies as the United States of America, free of all ties to Britain. An ending pledge demonstrated the seriousness of the colonists' Declaration of Independence. Independence had been declared, but it still had to be won. Washington's Continental Army was not much of a match for the British forces commanded by General Howe, and the Americans retreated from Long Island through New York, into New Jersey and then Pennsylvania. Despite the help of early heroes like Nathan Hale and Haym Solomon, the war was not going well. On the night of December 25, 1776, Washington led his ragtag army across the frozen Delaware River to Trenton, where a force of German soldiers, or Hessians, was camped. The Americans took most of the Hessians prisoner. They were able to escape British forces who tried to retake Trenton. British leaders hoped to cut New England off from the rest of the colonies and sever vital supply lines. But of the three forces meant to carry out the plan, only the one led by General Burgoyne arrived in Albany. Despite retaking Fort Ticonderoga, Burgoyne was surrounded by American troops at Saratoga. He surrendered his entire force. The American victory was a major turning point because it convinced France to help the new nation.

**Fill in the Blank Questions:** Fill in the blank with the correct words from the word bank.

**Word Bank:** Declaration | Common Sense | Delaware | United States | Hill | 6,000

1. By June 1775, there were about **6,000** British troops camped in Boston.
2. British General William Howe decided to attack straight up the **hill**.
3. The publication of Paine's **Common Sense** marked the beginning of a shift in people's thinking.
4. The Declaration of Independence introduced the colonies as the **United States** of America.
5. On the night of 12/25/76, Washington led his army across the frozen **Delaware** River to Trenton.

#### Short Answer Questions

6. **Who led the American forces across the frozen Delaware River?**

General **George Washington** led the American forces across the frozen Delaware River on the night of December 25-26, 1776.

7. **Which battle convinced France to help the new nation?**

The American victory at the **Battle of Saratoga** in October 1777 was the turning point that convinced France to support the American cause.

8. **Who was chosen to draft the Declaration of Independence?**

**Thomas Jefferson** was chosen to draft the Declaration of Independence, with input from John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston.

**9. What was the location of the British troops camped in Boston by June 1775?**

By June 1775, British troops were camped in Boston, specifically on the **Boston and surrounding areas**. The city was heavily fortified and the troops were entrenched in various locations throughout Boston.

**10. Why did British General William Howe decide to attack up the hill at Bunker Hill?**

General William Howe decided to attack up the hill at Bunker Hill because the American forces had fortified the high ground at Breed's Hill (which was often confused with Bunker Hill). **Taking the high ground was important for controlling Boston and its harbor.**

**11. How many British soldiers were killed or wounded during the third attack on Bunker Hill?**

During the third and final attack on Bunker Hill, British forces suffered approximately **1,000** casualties, including both killed and wounded.

**12. How many copies did Thomas Paine's Common Sense sell in just six months?**

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* sold about **500,000** copies in just six months, making it one of the best-selling works of its time.

**13. Why was the American victory at Saratoga considered a major turning point in the war?**

The victory at Saratoga was considered a major turning point because **it bolstered American morale and led to France formally entering the war as an ally** of the United States, providing crucial military support.

**14. What event on December 25, 1776, is described as a turning point in the American Revolution?**

The event described as a turning point on December 25, 1776, is **General George Washington's daring crossing of the Delaware River and subsequent surprise attack on the Hessian forces** in Trenton.

**15. Why was the Battle of Bunker Hill significant for the American forces?**

The Battle of Bunker Hill was significant because **it demonstrated that the American forces could stand up to the British Army** despite their lack of formal training and experience. It boosted American morale and proved that they could engage in a prolonged struggle against a major world power.

**16. How did Thomas Paine's Common Sense influence the colonists?**

*Common Sense* had a profound impact by making a strong case for independence from Britain and republicanism. Paine's clear, persuasive arguments **helped shift public opinion in favor of independence** and mobilized colonial support for the revolutionary cause.

**17. Describe the three parts of the Declaration of Independence and their purposes.**

The Declaration of Independence is divided into three main parts:

**1-Preamble:** Outlines the philosophical foundation of the document, explaining the necessity for the colonies to declare independence and the principles of natural rights and government by consent.

**2-List of Grievances:** Details the specific complaints and injustices suffered by the colonies under British rule, listing the actions of King George III that the colonists found objectionable.

**3-Resolution of Independence:** Officially declares the colonies' independence from Britain and asserts that the colonies are free and independent states, entitled to all the powers and rights of a sovereign nation.