

Name:



## Second Continental Congress Delegate Bio!

Huzzah! You have been assigned a delegate to the Second Continental Congress that is set to meet in Philadelphia in May 1775! Based on the **colony summary**, **colonial region summary**, the biography found on the handouts printed by Mr. Barry about the delegates & ChatGPT...Yes...ChatGPT you will write a paragraph answering the following Q's.

Here is how you will use ChatGPT: <https://chatgpt.com/> – You may ask ChatGPT the following Q's and you may use that information in your paragraph. If you do not understand something from ChatGPT, you need to ask Mr. Barry! It's part of the job description! Ask ME! You will **also** use the content from the pages below about the Second Continental Congress (pages 7-13 in this document!)\v]

### ChatGPT Q's:

1. Can you tell me how the average colonist felt about Great Britain in 1765 and explain it to an 8th grader?
2. Can you provide a brief biography of (Delegate name) of (Name of colony)?
3. Explain to a middle school student how (Delegate name) of (Name of colony) felt about writing and signing the Declaration of Independence.
4. Can you explain to an 8th grader how (Delegate name) of (Name of colony) was important in the Second Continental Congress?
5. Which region of the colonies was most against declaring independence from Great Britain in 1776?
6. How did the (Name of colony) feel about the Second Continental Congress' desire to write a Declaration of Independence?
7. Did the 13 colonies want to declare independence from Great Britain in 1775?

## The Second Continental Congress

## May 10, 1775 -- July 4, 1776



It's the Spring of 1775. The Battles of Lexington & Concord just happened. Now, it seems violence and war are inevitable...or is it? For some time, colonists from the 13 colonies had been corresponding with each other with regards to the British taxation and colonists' reactions throughout the continent. A **First Continental Congress** met in September 1775 with 12 colonies in attendance (GEORGIA!). These 12 colonies sent a handful of delegates to Philadelphia, PA, to discuss some of the actions by the Bostonians and the British Parliament. Men like John Adams, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, and George Washington attended the Congress, where they discussed boycotting British goods and with a plan to meet again in a few months.

After the Battles of Lexington & Concord, Massachusetts, in April 1775, it became evident that the Congress **needed** to meet again. The actions by the British soldiers and the Massachusetts militia were headed closer to war than to peaceful negotiations, and the other colonies saw that this could lead to an all out war with Great Britain. Letters were sent to delegates (from delegates) from the First Continental Congress where they agreed to meet again in Philadelphia.

These 56 delegates from all 13 colonies were chosen by their colonial governments and were sent to a *Second* Continental Congress, but the meeting was a secret to prevent British soldiers from arresting this illegal meeting. Meeting in Philadelphia for a second time felt necessary, but **no one** could have predicted in May 1775 that they would vote to declare themselves an independent nation just a year later in 1776..

It is now *our* job to re-enact this Second Continental Congressional meeting. **We** will discuss some of the same problems those delegates faced in Philadelphia. **We** will assume the position of decision making for our own individual colonies. **We** will read some of the letters the delegates *actually* received during these meetings. Finally, **we** will determine the fate of these 13 colonies...

(#) = Number of actual delegates sent to Cont. Congress --

**New Hampshire (3):** Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton,  
**Connecticut (4):** Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott  
**Rhode Island (2):** Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery  
**Massachusetts (5):** John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry,  
**New York (4):** Philip Livingston, Lewis Morris, William Floyd, Francis Lewis, James Duane  
**New Jersey (5) :** Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark,  
**Pennsylvania (10):** Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross, John Dickinson  
**Delaware (3):** Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean,  
**Maryland (4):** Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll  
**Virginia (7):** Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, George Wythe, Francis Lightfoot Lee  
**North Carolina (3):** William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn  
**South Carolina (4):** Edward Rutledge, Arthur Middleton, Thomas Heywood Jr., Thomas Lynch  
**Georgia (3):** Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton,



*Independence Hall, Philadelphia -- First & Second Continental Congress Meeting Room*



## Our Second Continental Congress Meeting!

When we meet in our Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia (the Library), please do your best to come prepared! We respectfully ask you to dress in your finest colonial clothing for our meeting. Powder your wigs with the latest scents and colours, and attend in your best breeches & dress shirts.

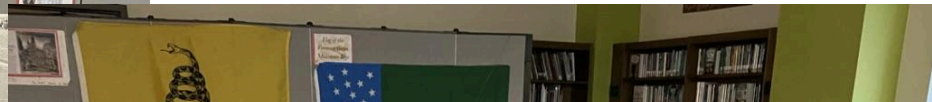


Please do not feel obligated to purchase anything for the Congress. However, if you do choose to purchase a wig, a quill pen, or a tricorne hat, you can best see fit that Ye Olde Amazon will have it :) Tricorn hats, white wigs, and "colonial" searches will bring you the best search results.

Feel free to make signs, effigies, or print pamphlets to give out to your sister colonies! Your job is to convince the colonies to move forward with *your* opinions and beliefs! We will meet for approximately 3 hours as a group. A Continental Breakfast will be served in the Cafeteria beforehand and your parents are welcome to join us until 9 am. The meeting will begin at 8:30 and end at 11:00 am. We will do our best to determine what is best for our 13 British colonies...









Place your pointer on the image above to view the number key.

- |                                  |                                    |                                     |                                     |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Robert Morris, Pennsylvania   | 8. Abraham Clark, New Jersey       | 15. Roger Sherman, Connecticut      | 22. Edward Rutledge, South Carolina |
| 2. Samuel Chase, Maryland        | 9. William Ellery, Rhode Island    | 16. John Adams, Massachusetts       | 23. Lyman Hall, Georgia             |
| 3. Charles Carroll, Maryland     | 10. John Witherspoon, New Jersey   | 17. Robert R. Livingston, New York  | 24. Josiah Bartlett, New Hampshire  |
| 4. Stephen Hopkins, Rhode Island | 11. John Hancock, Massachusetts    | 18. Benjamin Franklin, Pennsylvania | 25. Thomas Stone, Maryland          |
| 5. Samuel Adams, Massachusetts   | 12. Benjamin Harrison, Virginia    | 19. Richard Henry Lee, Virginia     | 26. Francis Hopkinson, New Jersey   |
| 6. Thomas McKean, Delaware       | 13. Samuel Huntington, Connecticut | 20. Thomas Nelson, Jr., Virginia    | 27. George Wythe, Virginia          |
| 7. John Dickinson, Pennsylvania  | 14. Thomas Jefferson, Virginia     | 21. Joseph Hewes, North Carolina    | 28. William Floyd, New York         |



## Patriot, Moderate, or Loyalist?

As the Second Continental Congress meeting approaches, most often people wonder...Were the delegates mostly Patriots? Loyalists? Moderates? Check out the map to the left....

**Patriots:** The hotbed of revolution started in New England, particularly Boston, MA. The first boycotts, violence, and public outcry came from the Massachusetts colony. More smuggling happened in New England than any other region -- particularly NH & MA. The Liberty Tree in Boston was also home to intense rebellion and outcry. And don't forget the tarring and feathering of tax collectors and effigies!





Of the 56 delegates that attended the Second Continental Congress, more than 90% of them considered the Patriot cause, but **not** all of the delegates wanted to act in the way the Bostonians did. Some of the most important leaders of the Patriot cause were John Adams, Sam Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Richard Henry Lee, Patrick Henry, George Washington, Oliver Wolcott, Robert Livingston, Stephen Hopkins, and Benjamin Franklin. These men became close friends over the course of the Second Cont. Congress meeting (1775-1776). Colonies such as Virginia and Pennsylvania were also more patriotic than Loyalist because of their beliefs in self-government.

### Revolution in the Colonies

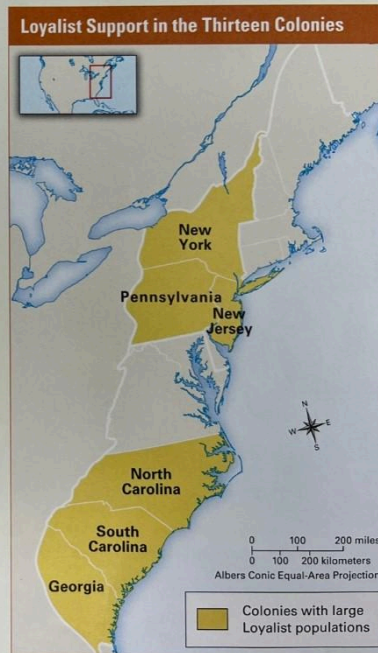
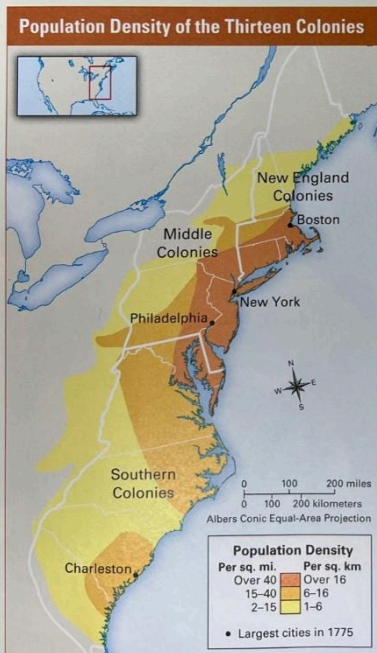
In this unit, you will learn why some colonists wanted to replace British rule with an independent government. You will also learn about the long, difficult struggle to gain that independence.

In the 1760s, Great Britain began passing new trade and tax laws for the colonies and enforcing old laws passed years before. Picture a southern rice farmer who is required by law to sell his crop only to England, even if he might get a higher price elsewhere. Or think of a northern merchant having to pay a new tax on paper—a tax imposed by a distant government in which he had no representation. How do you think they felt about such laws and taxes?

Colonists who supported Great Britain's policies and British rule were known as Loyalists. Those who resisted called themselves Patriots. When the colonies declared independence, Patriots were opposed by many Loyalists as well as British troops.

The map on the opposite page shows the physical geography of the 13 colonies. Knowing the land was one advantage Patriot forces had over British troops in the American Revolution.

The maps below show (left) where colonists lived in 1775 and (right) where Loyalist support was strong. These settlement patterns, along with the colonies' physical geography and regions of Loyalist strength, helped to shape the military strategies of the revolution.



Virginia was home to the House of Burgesses, which met in 1619 as the first elected representative government in the colonies. Many delegates who attended the Second Cont. Congress were elected officials from the House of Burgesses, so they were used to governing themselves & writing the laws of their colony. Most Virginians grew tired of British rule because they felt so accustomed to governing themselves.

← Look at this map to see some Loyalist support

**Loyalists:** Loyalists (or Tories as they were called) were mainly located in the Southern colonies, New York, and New Jersey. Because the Continental Congress meetings were about how to deal with the British laws and colonial rules, there were very few Tories present at the Second Cont. Congress. William Franklin (the son of Benjamin Franklin), Edward Rutledge, James Duane & John

Dickinson were the strongest Loyalists of them all for they realized and appreciated it was an honor to be called a British colonist (emphasis on the British part). Britain was the most powerful empire in the world at the time, and Loyalists realized they were a part of the empire who received goods & protection from Britain, and they felt Britain would always be a dominant nation in the world.

There were *some* Loyalists in New England, but they were mainly in port cities that relied heavily on British trade, and were those who just arrived from Britain to the colonies. New York, New Jersey, South Carolina, and North Carolina were colonies founded with royal governments, meaning they were ruled by British people appointed by King Charles II or King George II (depending when they were founded).

Loyalists understood that though revolution was coming and taxes were high, they were lucky to enjoy the trade and lifestyles of being British. Most, too, often saw that they lived in smaller populated areas and were reluctant to break from Britain because their livelihood depended on this trade with Britain and their colonies in the West Indies.

**Moderates:** It was a tough choice in the colonies. Who do you side with? Most people understood the British were in financial, political, and economic control over the colonies, but they did disagree with the absurd amount of taxes enforced by the Crown. The Quartering Act was certainly a deal breaker, for if troops were stationed in one's town, the citizens were angry. Delaware, New Jersey, North Carolina, and parts of Pennsylvania were the strongholds of the Moderates.

What people understood was that either way, trading and governing in the colonies would be very different if the British were absent or if the colonies were more regulated.

Men like Thomas McKean, Caesar Rodney, John Hart, Richard Stockton, William Hooper, Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton, and a handful of other delegates entered the Second Cont. Congress as moderates but would eventually turn toward the Patriot cause...







# Colonial History!

## Massachusetts

You are clearly one of the reasons we are here today! Massachusetts has *always* been a leader of the Patriotic movement to voice her opinion to Great Britain. The Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, and the formation of the Sons of Liberty *all* happened *in* Boston. Boston has hosted more Sons of Liberty meetings than the other colonies, and the churches all over the colony have secret meetings attempting to avoid paying British taxes! You are proud to lead the way and to guide discussion that proposes a fight for the rights of natural born Englishmen. Your closest allies are Virginia and New Hampshire.

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## Rhode Island

Though sometimes outspoken because of the small size of your colony, you are one of the largest supporters of Massachusetts! As a very religious colony, you are led by many men of faith & violence is not really something you are into when it comes to “rebellion.” You are a strong Patriot-lead colony with a firm belief that Great Britain has violated your rights as natural born Englishmen. Providence, Rhode Island is one of the oldest towns in the colonies, and it is a hub for trade with Great Britain. Rhode Islanders were active in protests and resistance efforts. The colony had a strong tradition of political activism, and the merchants and shipowners in Providence and Newport were vocal in their opposition to British economic policies. Rhode Island was home to a chapter of the Sons of Liberty, a group of patriots who organized against British taxation and other measures. This group played a significant role in mobilizing public opinion and orchestrating resistance activities, including boycotts of British goods and public demonstrations. You mainly rely on fishing, whaling, lumbering, shipbuilding, and ropemaking. Your closest allies are Massachusetts and Virginia.

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## New Hampshire

Though sometimes outspoken because of the small size of your colony and the lack of outspoken leaders, you are one of the largest supporters of Massachusetts! You are a strong Patriot-lead colony with a firm belief that Great Britain has violated your rights as natural born Englishmen. With a massive lumber, fishing, and shipbuilding industry you felt the pinch of the Intolerable Acts and the Townshend Acts. Merchants in your colony have struggled for years and you simply cannot take it anymore! New Hampshire's economy was based on agriculture, timber, and maritime activities. The colony's economy was affected by British trade restrictions and taxes, which contributed to the resistance. The timber and shipbuilding industries were important to the colony, and any restrictions on trade were seen as detrimental to local economic prosperity. Independence and rights for your colonists as Englishmen must be made clear! Your closest allies are Massachusetts and Rhode Island.



## Connecticut

Though sometimes outspoken because of the small size of your colony and the lack of outspoken leaders, you are one of the largest supporters of Massachusetts and New Hampshire! You are a strong Patriot-lead colony with a firm belief that Great Britain has violated your rights as natural born Englishmen. With a massive lumber, fishing, and shipbuilding industry you felt an enormous pinch of Britain's Intolerable Acts and the Townshend Acts. Merchants in your colony have struggled for years and you simply cannot take it anymore! Independence and rights for your colonists as Englishmen must be made clear! Your closest allies are Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

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## New Jersey

Though a very small colony in population, you are near one of the largest cities in the colonies, New York. New Jersey was a diverse colony, with a mix of English, Dutch, and Swedish settlers, among others. The population was spread out among rural farms and small towns. Religion played a significant role in community life, with various denominations present, including Quakers, Presbyterians, and Anglicans. You rely heavily on British goods and trade and though these taxes and laws have not been popular in the colony of New Jersey, you are far from ready to seek independence or declare yourselves anything other than a British citizen. Be sure to remember your British loyalty when engaging in discussion. Your closest allies are New York and Delaware. Stay away from those men of Massachusetts, they are patriotic tyrants!

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## New York

As one of the oldest colonies with a rich history, you are angry with the violence by Great Britain, but you are far from crying out "independence". You are likely the *most loyalist* colony of the 13! You rely heavily on British goods and trade and though these taxes and laws have not been popular in the colony of New York. You are the most outspoken colony when it comes to loyalty, because your colony financially thrives off of British goods and trade. Losing this friendship or relationship with Britain could ruin your economy. As members who knew the French & Indian War well, you also know how costly it is to be limited to keep your settlers east of the Appalachian mountains. Be sure to remember your British loyalty when engaging in discussion.

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## Delaware

Though a very small colony in population, you are near the two of the largest trade cities in the colonies, Philadelphia and New York. Delaware was a relatively small and compact colony compared to its neighbors, with a population that was a mix of English, Dutch, Swedish, and Welsh settlers. The Swedish and Dutch influences were still evident, particularly in place names and some cultural traditions. You rely heavily on British goods and trade and though these taxes and laws have not been popular in the colony of Delaware, your colony is split on the idea of seeking a break from Great Britain. Half of your colonists are patriots while the other half are very loyal Tories. Be sure to remember your British loyalty when engaging in discussion. Your closest allies are New York and Delaware. Stay away from those men of Massachusetts, they are patriotic tyrants!

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## Virginia

You are the oldest colony of the 13. You have a rich history of founders and have the most well established group of leaders among the 13 colonies here at the Congress. Your colonists are third, fourth, and fifth generation American-born colonists. You have been in English North America longer than any colony. You represent the largest colony too, with a population significantly larger than all other colonies. As members who knew the French & Indian War well, you also know how costly it is to be limited to keep your settlers east of the Appalachian mountains. The slave trade, growing tobacco, and engaging in politics are very important to your colony and you would do almost anything to keep slavery and to ensure that your colony's farming background will be protected. You are the *leaders* of this Congress, so be leaders! Your closest allies are Massachusetts and Pennsylvania and Maryland.

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## North Carolina

North Carolina did not get involved in the French & Indian War nor did you really feel any impact on the taxes by Great Britain. Because you are such a new colony, you rely heavily on your colonists' opinions back home and are rarely outspoken about your opinions. It is hard for you to think about independence or revolution because nothing that Great Britain does truly affects your colony. If anything, you benefit tremendously from the slave trade and cash crops trade between Great Britain and other colonies. Be hesitant when making decisions. You almost always follow the same ideas and principles as South Carolina so make sure you always consult with your sister colony when making decisions. In order to keep the slave trade and your colony's cash crop profits in order, you want to make sure that the slave trade is protected by any decisions made because tobacco and tar are important in your industry! Your closest allies are Georgia and South Carolina.

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## South Carolina

North Carolina did not get involved in the French & Indian War, nor did you really feel any impact on the taxes by Great Britain. Because you are such a new colony, you rely heavily on your colonists' opinions back home and are rarely outspoken about your opinions. It is hard for you to think about independence or revolution because nothing that Great Britain does truly affects your colony. If anything, you benefit tremendously from the slave trade and cash crops trade between Great Britain and other colonies. The concept of "freedom" or "independence" is somewhat bizarre because many South Carolinians owned slaves, but the colonists wanted "freedom?" Charlestown is a loyalist town that is one of the largest cities, and the crops from Charlestown make their way all along the other colonial coastal cities and islands in the Caribbean.

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## Maryland

As one of the older colonies who has close ties with Virginia, you are an important piece to the colonial puzzle. The 1760s saw increased political movements as Marylanders organized resistance efforts and engaged in discussions about colonial rights and governance. Frustrated with Great Britain's taxes, groups like the Sons of Liberty were active in the colony, contributing to the growing revolutionary movement. You generally follow along with Virginia because your political and economic views are so similar. Tobacco is what your colony thrives on so you will be very disappointed if there are any talks about slavery and its possible limitations in the colonies. Though you were hardly active at all in the French and Indian War, you do believe that whatever Virginia believes is right that you too agree with. When in doubt, follow your Virginian friends in their beliefs.

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## Georgia

The youngest of the 13 colonies founded in 1732 (just 40 yrs old) you are struggling to find your voice in all of this. Georgia, many times, hardly feels a part of the other 12 colonies. Virginia was founded in 1607, and yet, Georgia came around in 1732! Georgia did not get involved in the French & Indian War, nor did you really feel any impact on the taxes by Great Britain. Because you are such a new colony, you rely heavily on your colonists' opinions back home and are rarely outspoken about your opinions. The Stamp Act of 1765 and the Townshend Acts of 1767 were sources of tension, however not nearly as much as the other colonies. Georgia's response to the taxes by Britain was somewhat more moderate compared to other colonies, partly due to its economic and social structure which was more aligned with Britain than her sister colonies. It is hard for you to think about independence or revolution because nothing that Great Britain does truly affects your colony. If anything, you benefit tremendously from the slave trade and cash crops trade between Great Britain and other colonies. Be hesitant when making decisions. Your closest allies are North Carolina and South Carolina.

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# Pennsylvania

As one of the newer colonies, founded in 1682, you still have an “old soul” feeling, and you are considered one of the *most* important colonial voices at this Congress. This meeting is in your home and in your largest city, Philadelphia. Most of your citizens and members of the colony are Quakers who happened to be pacifists -- those who do not wish to fight or engage in war. Peace is almost every colonists’ wish in Pennsylvania. Be sure you are representing your colony well. As members who knew the French & Indian War well, you also know how costly it is to be limited to keep your settlers east of the Appalachian mountains. You are frustrated that the French & Indian War results in limitations, especially because you were heavily involved in it! As one of the more well off and financially wealthy colonies, you rely heavily on the rivers and trade so these taxes have weighed heavily on you over the years. Your closest allies are Delaware, New York and Maryland