

## **The American Revolution**

### **Slide 1:**

1. during the 1600 and 1700s, British colonies formed a large settlement along the eastern shore of north america.
2. during the reign of king George III American colonies were growing at a rapid pace
3. from 250,000 in 1700 to 2,150,000 in 1770.
4. on the economic side the colonies thrived on trade with Europe

### **Slide 2:**

1. American colonists had been living in america for 150 years by the mid 1700s and started to form their own identity.
2. Each of the 13 colonies had its own government and people were used to a great degree of independence
3. they thought of them self as virginians for pennsylvanians, but they were still british subjects and had to obey the laws

### **Slide 3:**

1. 1651 the British passed the Navigation Act. This and other trade laws prevented colonists from selling their most valuable products to any country but britain.
2. colonists also had to pay high taxes on imported French and Dutch goods
3. however, these policies benefited both parties. Britain bought american raw materials for low prices and sold manufactured goods to the colonists.
4. despite the trade restrictions, colonial merchants also thrived.

### **Slide 4:**

1. 1754 war erupted on the north American continent between the French and British.
2. Remember france had some colonies in parts of north america.
3. called the french and indian war because the french enlisted native americans to help
4. fighting ends in 1763, when britain won and took the rest of the french land
5. Britain was in debt because of the war and since the colonists benefit from the british empire, their taxes were raised.

### **Slide 5:**

1. They passed the stamp act.
2. it did not just tax stamps but
3. newspapers, deeds, wills and other materials

### **Slide 6:**

1. this was the first time colonists paid a tax directly to the british government.
2. colonial lawyers argued the tax violated the colonies natural rights and coined the famous phrase

3. "no taxation without representation"

**Slide 7:**

1. In Britain, citizens gave the consent to be taxed through elective representatives
2. colonies did not have that.
3. they argued because of this you could not tax them

**Slide 8:**

1. In 1773, colonists protested an important tax on tea by dumping loads of tea of British ships into the harbor. Dumped 46 tons of tea. 1,700,000. 342 chests on three ships.
2. this caused the British to close down the port of Boston, which angered colonists
3. created the first continental congress where all colonies but Georgia were represented.
4. Protested their treatment of Boston, but the king paid little attention to their complaints.

**Slide 9:**

1. Second continental congress is called to discuss the next move.
2. 1775 gunfire is exchanged in Lexington Massachusetts, in what is dubbed the "shot heard round the world"
3. second continental congress voted to raise an army and organize it for battle under a Virginian, George Washington
4. (play shot heard round the world)

**Slide 10:**

1. Second continental congress issued the declaration of independence
2. which was written by Thomas Jefferson
3. it is based on the ideas of John Locke and other enlightenment documents.
4. states all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"

**Slide 11:**

1. Locke said people had the right to rebel against an unjust ruler. Declaration of Independence included a list of George III's abuses.
2. document concludes with saying the colonies are free of Britain's rule.
3. (Nicolas Cage clip)

**Slide 12:**

Several reasons why colonists were successful

- Motivation for fighting was higher
  - Americans outlasted the British who were running out of money
  - Help from the French
  - Britain's military was spread too thin
1. book says French got involved in 1778, they were actually involved in 1776, a year after

the war starts

**Slide 13:**

1. 13 states ratified the constitution in 1781.
2. government it formed was known as the articles of confederation
3. this created a weak central government
4. it did not have an executive or judicial branch.

**Slide 14:**

1. created a single body of government known as congress
  2. each state, regardless of size, had one vote.
- could declare war
  - coin money
  - enter into treaties
1. It could not
- collect taxes
  - regulate trade
  - pass many laws (required 9 of 13 votes)

**Slide 15:**

This government had many issues

- it needed money to operate, but it could only request contributions from the states.
- several states issued their own money
- revolutionary veterans were complaining the government owed them back pay
- states were even putting tariffs on other states goods

**Slide 16:**

1. 55 delegates met in 1787 to discuss a revision of the articles of confederation
2. they distrusted a powerful central government controlled by one person or group (like Montesquieu), so they created three branches
3. legislative, judicial, executive
4. this created a system of checks and balances, where two other branches could check the other
5. president can veto congress, congress can override veto
6. created a federal system in which power is divided between national and state governments

**Slide 17:**

1. Ratification still required 9 of the 13 states and a sharp division occurred between federalists and antifederalists

2. supporters of the constitution were called federalists. they argued in the federalist papers, that the new government would provide a better balance between national and state powers
3. and the opposing side the anti federalist. they feared the constitution gave the central government too much power. they wanted a bill of rights to protect the rights of individual citizens

**Slide 18:**

1. federalists promised to add ten amendments known as the bill of rights.
2. they protected basic rights of freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion
3. rights that were advocated by Voltaire, Rousseau, and Locke

**Slide 19:**

1. Both the Constitution and the Bill of Rights marked a turning point in people's ideas about government
2. both put enlightenment ideas into practice
3. France's attempt to install these ideas leads to revolution

I think it would taste like watered down tea

"Tea is made of water"