

# **Lesson #4**

# **The American Revolution**



## **THE BIG IDEA**

**ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAS HELPED SPUR THE AMERICAN COLONIES TO SHED BRITISH RULE AND CREATE A NEW NATION.**

## **WHY IT MATTERS NOW**

**THE REVOLUTION CREATED A REPUBLIC, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THAT BECAME A MODEL FOR MANY NATIONS OF THE WORLD.**

# Setting the Stage



- Philosophes such as Voltaire considered England's government the most progressive in Europe.
- Despite the views of the philosophes, however, a growing number of England's colonists in North America accused England of tyrannical rule.
- Emboldened by Enlightenment ideas, they would attempt to overthrow what was then the mightiest power on earth and create their own nation.

# Birth of the American Republic



# Map of British Empire

## EMPIRES (17c-19c)

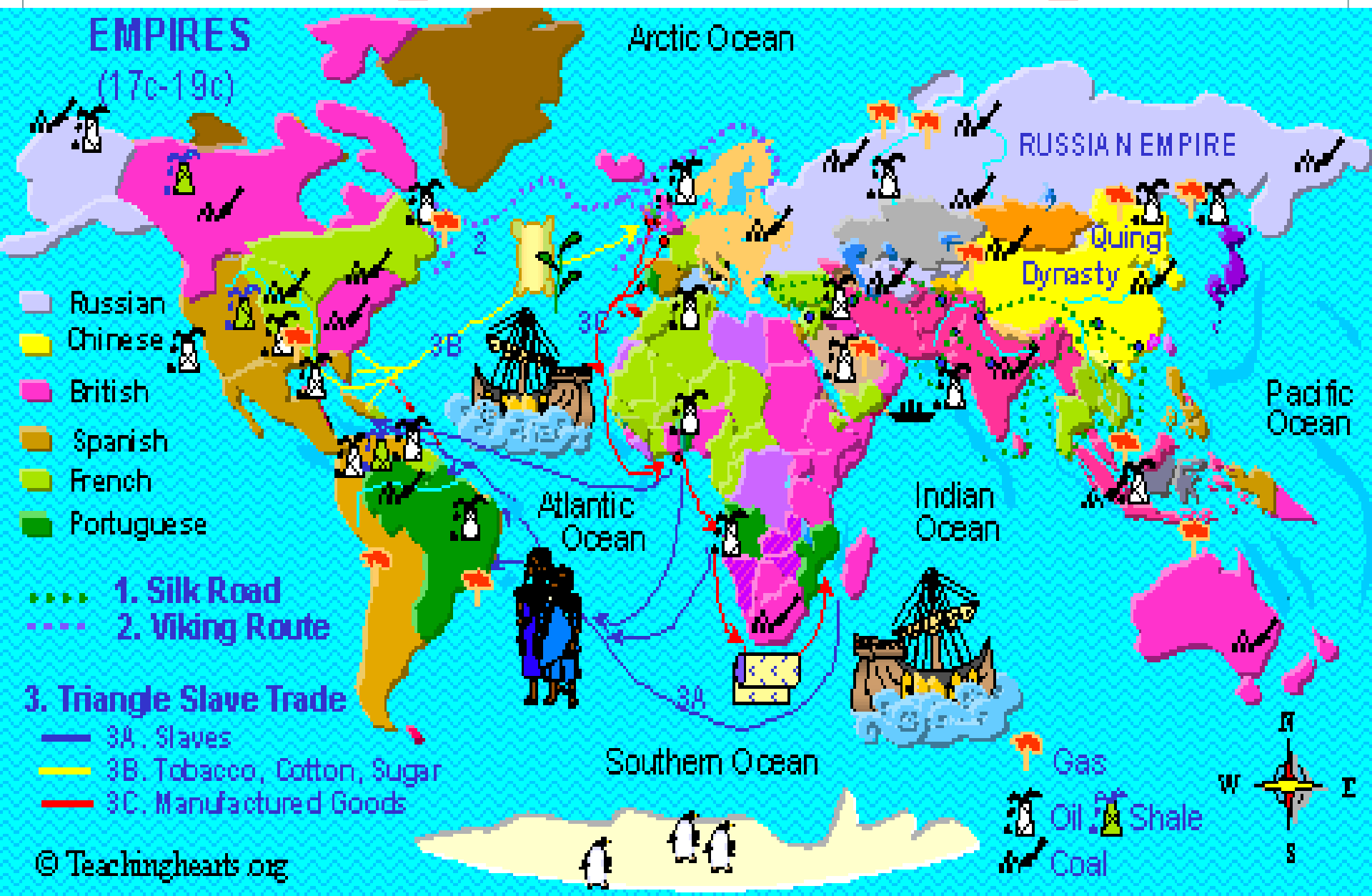
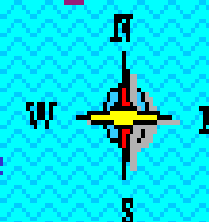
- Russian
- Chinese
- British
- Spanish
- French
- Portuguese

- 1. Silk Road
- 2. Viking Route

### 3. Triangle Slave Trade

- 3A. Slaves
- 3B. Tobacco, Cotton, Sugar
- 3C. Manufactured Goods

- Gas
- Oil
- Shale
- Coal

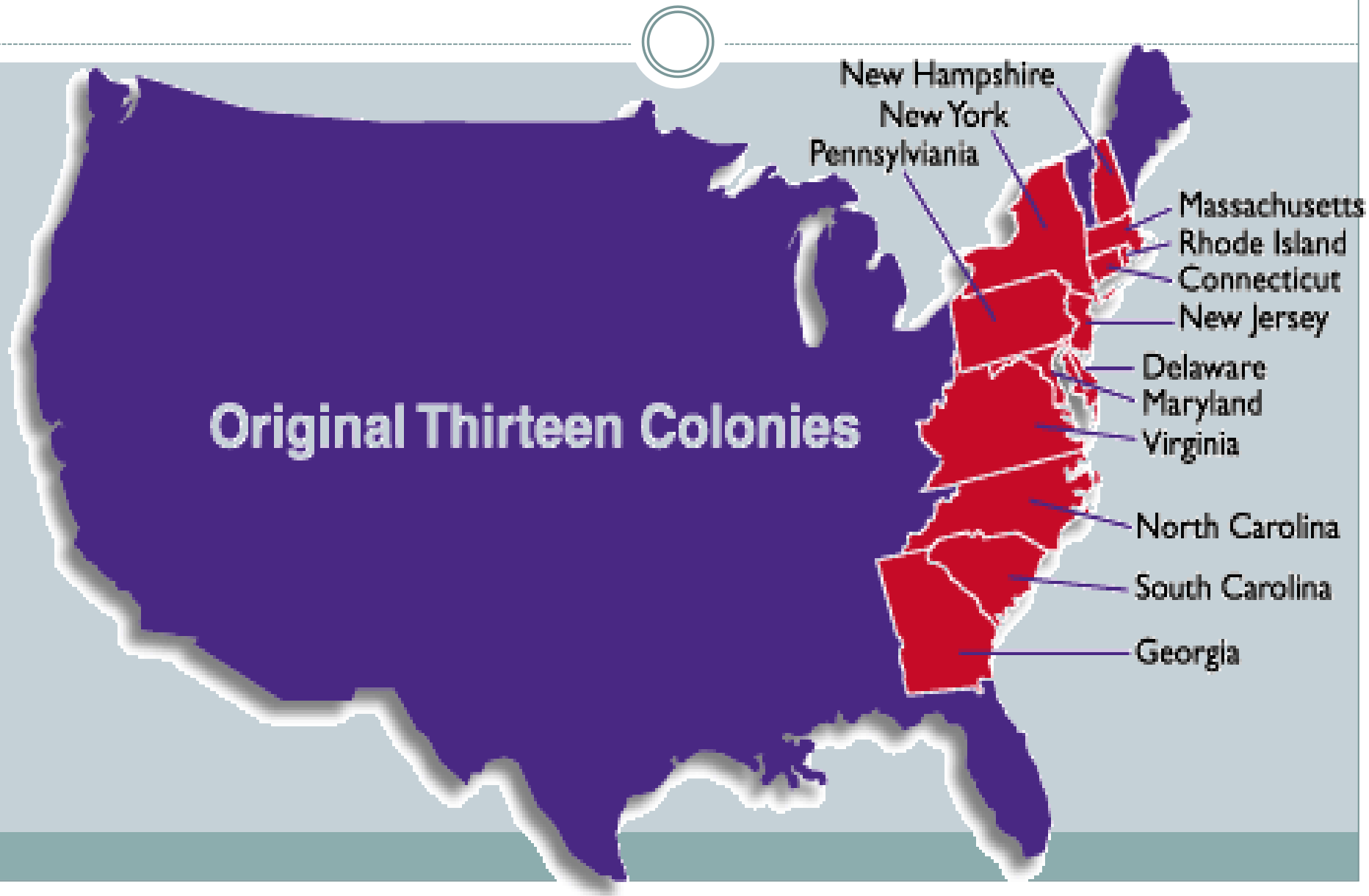


# King George III

- In 1760, **George III** began a 60 year reign.
- “George, be a king!”  
- mother of George III.
- He set out to reassert royal power.



# The 13 Colonies in the Mid-1700s



# The Colonies



- By 1750, a string of 13 colonies stretched along the eastern coast of North America.
- They were part of Britain's growing empire.
- Colonial cities such as Boston, New York, and Philadelphia were busy commercial centers that linked North America to the West Indies, Africa, and Europe.
- Britain exported more goods than it imported.
- Parliament passed the **Navigation Acts** to regulate colonial trade and manufacturing.
- In politics, free discussion was encouraged.
- Many colonists had an increasing sense of their own destiny separate from Britain.

# Original Flag of the 13 Colonies

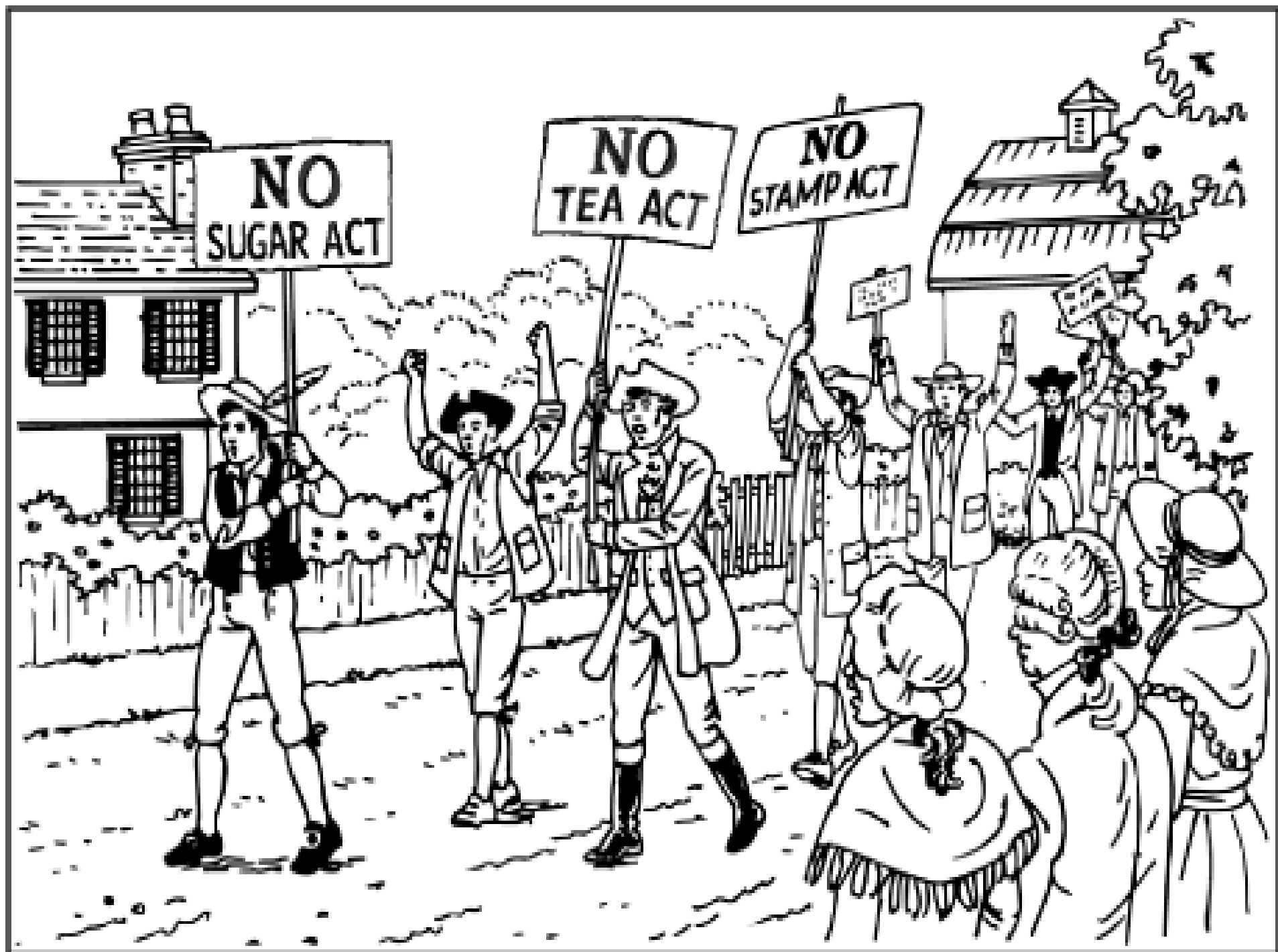




# *“No taxation without representation”*



- The **Seven Years’ War** and the **French and Indian War** in North America drained the British **treasury**.
- **King George III** thought the colonists should help pay for these wars.
- The **Sugar Act** in 1764 imposed import taxes on colonists.
- The **Stamp Act** in 1765 imposed taxes on items such as newspapers and pamphlets.
- The colonists protested, “no taxation, without representation!”
- They believed that because they had no representatives in Parliament, they should **NOT** be taxed.
- Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in 1766, but then passed a **Declaratory Act** that said it had complete authority over the colonists.



# The Boston Massacre

- March 1770
- In Boston, British soldiers opened fire on a crowd that was pelting them with stones and snowballs.
- Five protestors died, in what became known as the Boston Massacre.



The BLOODY MASSACRE perpetrated in King-Street BOSTON on March 5<sup>th</sup> 1770 by a party of the 29<sup>th</sup> REG<sup>t</sup>



Engraved Printed & Sold by PAUL REVERE BOSTON

Unhappy Boston! see thy Sons deplore,  
 Thy hallow'd Walks besmear'd with guiltless Gore,  
 While faithless P—n and his savage Bands,  
 With murderous Rancour stretch their bloody Hands;  
 Like fierce Barbarians grinning o'er their Prey,  
 Approve the Cruage, and enjoy the Day.

If scalding drops from Rage from Anguish Wring,  
 If speechless Sorrows lab'ring for a Tongue,  
 Or if a weeping World can ought appease  
 The plaintive Objections of Victims such as these:  
 The Patriot's copious Tears for each are shed,  
 A glorious Tribute which embalms the Dead.

But know EXE firmness to that awful Goal,  
 Where JUSTICE strips the Murderer of his Soul:  
 Should venal C—ts the scandal of the Land,  
 Snatch the relentless Villain from her Hand,  
 Keen Executions on this Plate infernal,  
 Shall reach a JUDGE who never can be brib'd.

The unhappy Sufferers were Mess<sup>rs</sup> SAM<sup>l</sup> GRAY SAM<sup>l</sup> MAVERICK, JAM<sup>s</sup> CALDWELL, CRISPUS ATTUCKS & PAT<sup>l</sup> CARE  
 Killed. Six wounded: two of them (CHRIST<sup>l</sup> MONK & JOHN CLARK) Mortally

# #7

# Assessment



- **Define Key Terms**

1. checks and balances
2. federal system
3. Bill of Rights

## **Answer**

4. Why were the colonists so upset about passage of the **Stamp Act**? Pg. 177
5. How did **John Locke's** notion of the social contract influence the American colonists? Pg. 178/ 180
6. Why might it be important to have a **Bill of Rights** that guarantees basic rights of citizens? Pg. 183

# The Boston Tea Party



- December 1773
- A handful of colonists hurled a cargo of recently arrived British tea into the **Boston harbor** to protest a tax on tea.
- The British Parliament passed harsh laws to punish the colony of **Massachusetts** for the destruction of the tea.
- Other colonies rallied to oppose the British response.
- Tensions increased and fighting spread.
- Representatives from each colony gathered in **Philadelphia** and met in a **Continental Congress** to decide what action to take.
- Lawyer **John Adams** and Virginia soldier **George Washington** met with other political and social leaders of all 13 colonies.



# Colonists Declare Independence



- April 1775, the tension between the colonists and the British exploded into war at **Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts.**
- **This war is known as the Revolutionary War or American Revolution.**
- **The Congress met soon after and set up a Continental Army with George Washington in command.**
- The colonists lost many battles, but were determined to fight to the end!
- **In 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted to declare independence from Britain.**



# The Declaration of Independence



- **Thomas Jefferson** was the principle author.
- The document reflected **John Locke's** ideas:
  - the government's obligation to protect the people's **natural rights** to "life, liberty, and property."
  - the right "to alter or abolish" unjust governments
  - a right to revolt.
- **Popular Sovereignty:** all government power comes from the people.
- **July 4, 1776:** American leaders adopted the Declaration, pledging "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor" to creating and protecting the new United States of America.



IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

# A DECLARATION

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

**W**HEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that 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—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.  
He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.  
He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.  
He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.  
He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.  
He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.  
He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.  
He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.  
He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.  
He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.  
He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.  
He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.  
He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us:  
For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:  
For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World:  
For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:  
For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury:  
For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences:  
For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies:  
For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:  
For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.  
He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.  
He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.  
He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.  
He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.  
He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and

# *Battle of Saratoga*

1777



# *Valley Forge*

1777-1778



# Yorktown, Virginia



- The French fleet **blockaded** the Chesapeake Bay, which enabled Washington to force the surrender of a British Army at **Yorktown, Virginia**.
- Two years later, American, British, and French diplomats signed the **Treaty of Paris**, ending the war.
  - in that treaty, Britain recognized the independence of the United States.

**Treaty of Paris** by Benjamin West. Pictured: John Jay, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Laurens, William Temple Franklin. Painting is unfinished because British diplomats refused to participate.



# A New Constitution



- The Articles of Confederation proved to weak to rule the new United States effectively.
- During the hot summer of 1787, leaders such as **George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin** met in secret to redraft the Articles of the new Constitution.
- The result was a document that established a government run by the people, for the people.

# Assignment Directions



**#8**

**As you read, note some causes and effects relating to the American Revolution and the establishment of the United States as a republic.**



<b>Causes</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Effects</b>
	<b>1. British Parliament passed the Stamp Act. Pg. 177</b>	
	<b>2. British close Boston's harbor and station troops in the city. Pg. 178</b>	
	<b>3. Second Continental Congress votes to form an army under George Washington. Pg. 178</b>	
	<b>4. France enters the war in 1778. Pg. 179</b>	
	<b>5. By approving the Articles of Confederation, states create a weak national government. Pg. 181</b>	