

Lesson 2

VOCABULARY

colony p. 61

tax p. 62

revolution p. 65

Patriot p. 65

constitution p. 66

READING SKILL

Sequence

Copy the chart. As you read fill it in with events that led up to the American Revolution.

First
Next
Last

STANDARDS FOCUS

SOCIAL STUDIES

Time, Continuity, and Change

GEOGRAPHY

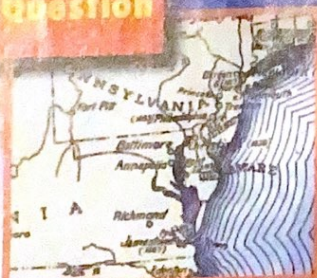
The Uses of Geography

A New Country

A mill in Plymouth, Massachusetts

Essential Question

How did the British colonies grow and become a new country?



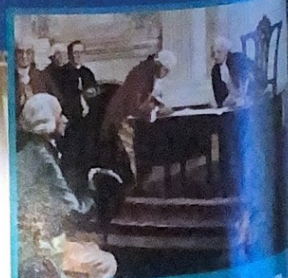
A People from Europe built new communities in North America.



B Boston became one of the biggest colonial cities.



C Colonists won their freedom from British rule.



D Leaders wrote a plan for the new government.

A

COMMUNITIES GROW

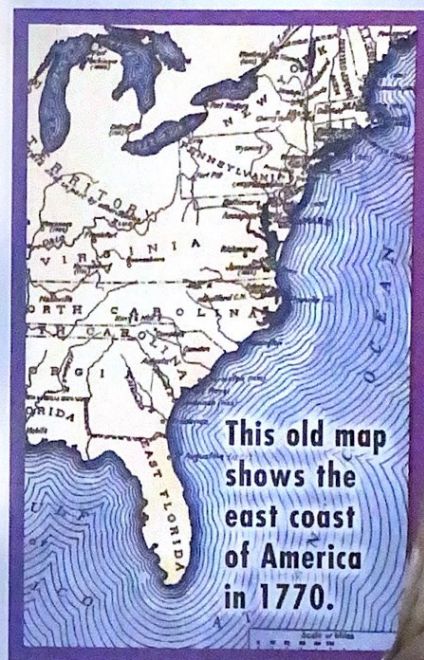
A sailor calls, "Land ahead!" You rush to the front of the ship and stare into the mist. Then you see it. America!

After people back in Europe learned about the success of Jamestown, more and more people sailed across the huge Atlantic Ocean. They wanted a chance to start a better life in America, too.

A Better Life

Jamestown wasn't big enough for everyone! Many of the newcomers settled in different areas along the Atlantic coast. By the 1750s there were 13 British **colonies** stretching along the east coast of North America. A colony is a place that is ruled by another country. Most colonists, or people who live in a colony, were farmers who raised crops to sell and make money.

Many British people traveled to America to live in the colonies. Some came for religious freedom. Others came hoping to start a business or to own their own land.



QUICK CHECK

Sequence What happened after people heard about the success of Jamestown?

- ▲ Farmers in the colonies grew crops such as corn, rice, and tobacco.

B

BOSTON, A COLONIAL CITY

Boston was one of the biggest colonial cities. What was life in Boston like in colonial times? People bought fish from the fishermen and vegetables from their neighbors. They could buy wooden chests, beds, and barrels made right in Boston. But items like silk and tea came from Great Britain.



▲ Colonists bought tea from Great Britain.

Paying Money to the British

Colonists had to pay **taxes** on things from Great Britain. A tax is money paid to a government. A new law called the Stamp Act said that colonists had to pay a tax on items such as sugar, newspapers, tea, paper, and glass. These were things colonists used every day.

People in Boston were unhappy about paying these taxes and started to complain. They were especially angry about the tax on tea. Why should they pay if they didn't have a say in how the tax money was used, they thought.



Unfair Rules

There were other rules the colonists thought were unfair. For example, the colonists were not allowed to meet in groups. They also said they did not get fair trials in courts with judges. Some rules said British soldiers could eat and sleep in colonists' homes whenever they wanted. The colonists knew it was time to make some important changes.

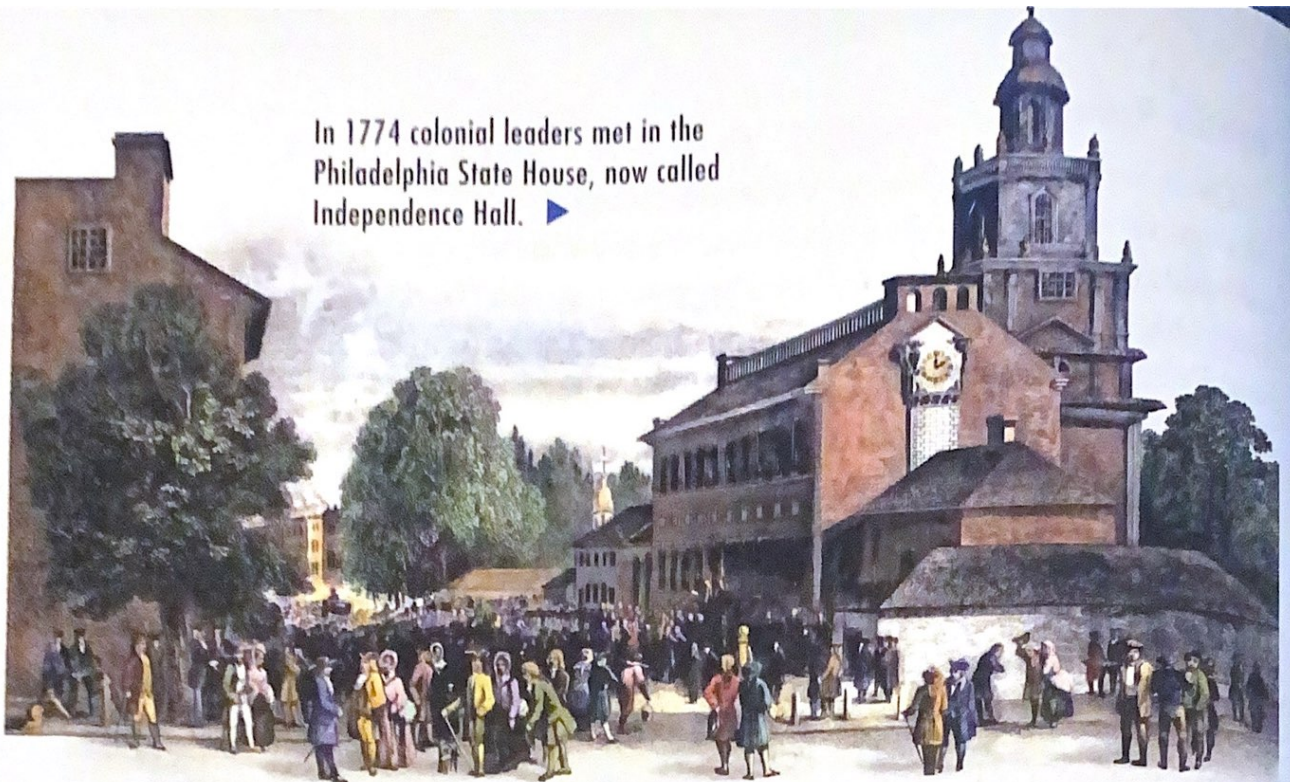
▼ Many things shipped to and from Great Britain passed through Boston's busy harbor.

QUICK CHECK

Main Idea and Details Why were people in Boston unhappy with the British?



In 1774 colonial leaders met in the Philadelphia State House, now called Independence Hall. ►



C TAKING ACTION

Many colonists wanted to let the British government know that they were unhappy with these rules. First they took peaceful actions. Some, like Samuel Adams, wrote newspaper articles. Others met to talk and to make decisions. Many people stopped buying British items such as tea.

These actions weren't enough. Colonists soon took other actions that were not peaceful. In 1773 a group of men, dressed as Native Americans so the British would not recognize them, secretly went onto British ships. As a protest they dumped 342 chests of British tea into Boston Harbor. This event became known as the Boston Tea Party.

▼ As punishment after the Boston Tea Party, Great Britain closed Boston Harbor. No ships could enter or leave.



Fighting for Freedom

The British government would not change its unfair rules. Nothing the colonists did worked. It was time to declare independence in writing. The job of writing such a declaration was given to a Virginia lawyer named Thomas Jefferson.

The Declaration of Independence told King George III of Great Britain that Americans would be free. The colonists' leaders approved the declaration on July 4, 1776. The British king was not happy—and the American **Revolution** began. A revolution is a fight that often leads to the end of one government and the beginning of another. British soldiers came to fight the **Patriots**—the people who fought for independence. After seven years of war, the Patriots finally won independence from Great Britain. The 13 colonies were now a new country—the United States of America.



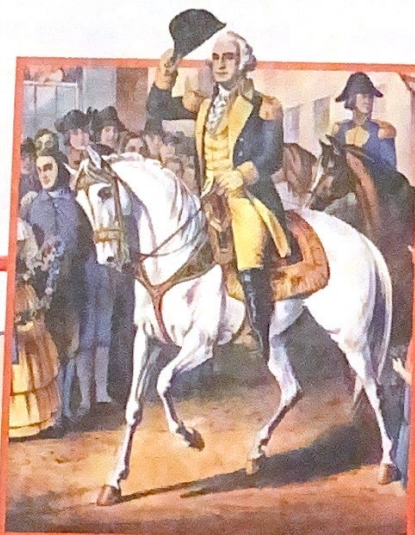
▲ African Americans were among those who fought during the American Revolution.

QUICK CHECK

Sequence What happened after colonial leaders approved the Declaration of Independence?

PEOPLE

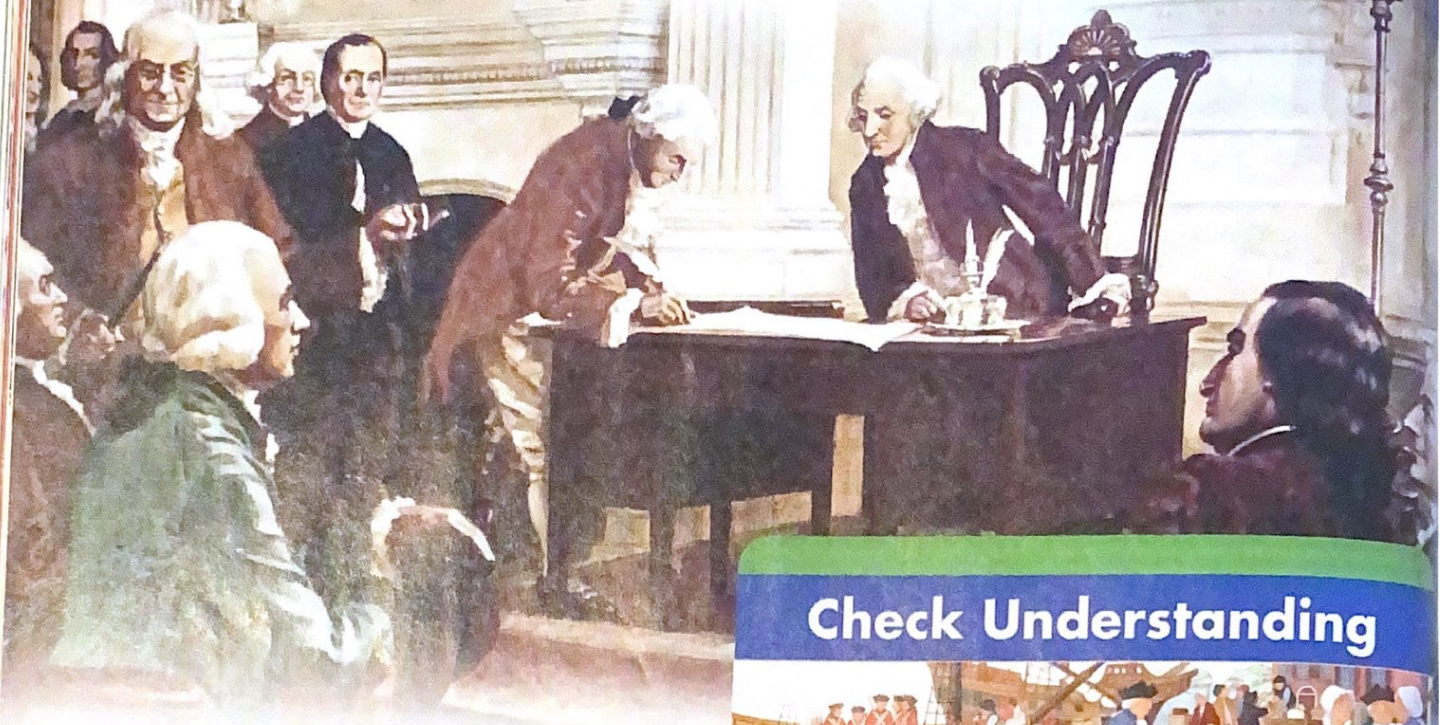
George Washington was a general who led Patriots during the American Revolution. In 1789 Washington was elected President of the United States of America. We honor President Washington by celebrating his birthday on President's Day, the third Monday in February.



George Washington

D

AFTER THE WAR



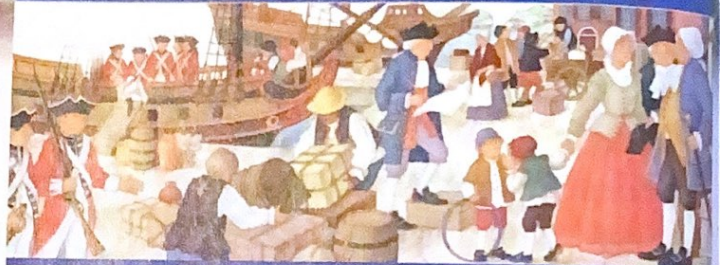
▲ Representatives signed the United States Constitution in 1788.

A new country needs a **constitution**, or a written plan of government. In 1787 representatives, or people who speak or act for others, met in Philadelphia to write a constitution. After talking and thinking about different ideas, they reached a compromise. In 1788 the United States Constitution was approved by the 13 states and was now the law.

QUICK CHECK

Sequence What did representatives need to do after the war was over?

Check Understanding



1. **VOCABULARY** Use the words below to write a paragraph about the Patriots' fight for freedom.

tax **revolution** **constitution**

2. **READING SKILL Sequence** Use your chart from page 60 to write a paragraph about the events that led to the American Revolution.

First
Next
Last

Essential Question

3. **Write About It** Make a list of some ways to have fun in your community. Write a letter about what it might have been like to live during the American Revolution.

Citizenship

Democracy in Action

Cooperation and Compromise

Like people long ago, people today cooperate and compromise. A fifth-grade class in Lutz, Florida, wanted a dog park at Nye Park. At a town meeting the students found out that Nye Park was too small. So the students compromised and asked for a leash-only dog area. Finally the town agreed to create a dog park elsewhere. Read the steps below to learn how to compromise.



How to Work Together

1. **Identify the problem.** Find out what each group or person thinks is the problem.
2. **Express points of view.** Share the reasons why people disagree. Find out what each person wants.
3. **Look for common goals or interests.** Talk about the ideas or goals that all groups share.
4. **Find ways that everyone can gain from compromise.** Look for a way to give each group or person at least part of what they want, so that everyone can agree.



Write About It Write a paragraph about a school activity that requires cooperation.

Chart and Graph Skills

Use Time Lines

VOCABULARY

time line

year

decade

century

You have read about events in America's history. It is not always easy to remember what happened first, next, and last. A **time line** shows the order of events. Learning to use time lines will help you learn about events in the past.

Learn It

Follow these steps and look at the time line below as you read.

- **Look at the dates.** Time lines are divided to show time periods, such as **years**, **decades**, or **centuries**. A year is any period of 12 months. A decade is 10 years, and a century is 100 years.

- **Look at the order of events.** Events are listed in time order from left to right. The earliest event on this time line is "Christopher Columbus lands in the Americas."
- **Use the dates to tell the number of years between events.** Subtract the date of the earlier event from the date of the later event.

First Communities



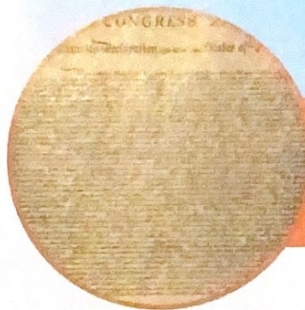
Fighting for Freedom



1783 - Patriots win the American Revolution



1776 - Declaration of Independence approved



1789 - George Washington becomes the first President of the United States



Try It

Use the time line above to answer the questions.

- How many years does this time line cover?
- What is the last event on the time line?
- What happened in 1776?
- How many years after the end of the Revolution did George Washington become President?

Apply It

- Make a time line of your own life.
- Divide your time line into years.
- Make the first event the year you were born.
- Include five important events on your time line. Also include an event in the future—your 13th birthday. In what year will you be 13?