The American Colonies Declare Independence

• Take notes from the slides.
• Copy the notes in red.
• Write the notes in blue in your own words.
• The words in black are for your information.
Learning Targets

• Describe the causes and effects of major colonial and revolutionary events leading to the Declaration of Independence.

• Explain how colonists were angered by taxes imposed by the English Parliament.

• Use the Declaration of Independence and other primary sources to explain why colonists wanted to separate from Great Britain and why they believed they had the right to do so.
The French and Indian War

- 1754 to 1763 war fought over the land in America between the English and French.
- It was called the Seven Years War in Europe.
- Called the French and Indian War because the Native Americans helped the French in the war against the British. The Native Americans had nothing to lose. The British were taking their land, the French were not.
- The British won, but at a great economic cost.
Join, or Die Political Cartoon by Benjamin Franklin
A political cartoon calling for American colonies to band together for protection against Indians and the French. First published in the Pennsylvania Gazette on May 9, 1754.
Proclamation of 1763

• Forbid colonists to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains.
• Created to protect colonists from the Native Americans.
• Many colonists reacted with anger toward the Proclamation. They did not like being told what to do or where they could live.
The American Revolution was like a parent/child relationship.

• How so?
Taxes

• French and Indian War cost a lot of money.
• Parliament (the British government) decided to tax the colonies to help pay for it.
  • The first tax was the Sugar Act of 1764. It placed a tax on molasses and sugar imported by the colonies.
  • Stamp Act of 1765 placed a tax on all printed material, such as newspapers and playing cards.
  • This tax upset the colonists even more.
No Taxation without Representation

- The colonists claimed “no taxation without representation” because they were being taxed but had no vote in Parliament and had no say in how the colonies were being governed.
- The colonists started a boycott, or a refusal to buy certain goods, from the British.
American political cartoon showing a man aiming a gun at a man representing colonial America; He tells a British member of Parliament, "I give you that man's money for my use", to which the American responds by saying, "I will not be robbed". Boston is burning in the background.
Sam Adams and the Sons of Liberty

- Samuel Adams led the protests in Boston against the taxes.
- He began a secret society called the Sons of Liberty.
Tar and Feather

- The Sons of Liberty used violence to scare off the tax collectors.
- The Stamp Act was repealed because of all the protests.
The Boston Massacre

- Colonial men were shouting insults at the British soldiers.
- They started throwing things, probably snow balls and rocks.
- Someone yelled “fire” and the Red Coats (what the British soldiers were called) shot.
- Five colonists were killed. These were the first Americans killed in the War for Independence.
- Sam Adams started calling the incident the Boston Massacre. He used the incident to get more people angry at the British.
A Tax on Tea

• Parliament began taxing tea. Tea was the most important beverage in the colonies.

• The colonists decided to boycott all British tea.
The Boston Tea Party

- Colonists dressed up like Mohawk Indians and boarded three British ships full of tea.
- The colonists dumped all the tea into the harbor, about 90,000 pounds.
- King George III was furious and the estimated cost was
The Intolerable Acts

- Laws passed to punish the colonists for the Boston Tea Party.
- The port of Boston was closed until the tea was paid for.
- The Quartering Act was put into place which forced colonists to quarter, or house and supply British soldiers.
More Tea Parties

• Boston was not the only city to have a “tea party.”

• They took place in Charleston, New York, Annapolis, and others.

The burning of the Peggy Stewart in Annapolis.
Political cartoon showing the reaction to the Boston Tea Party
Edenton Tea Party

- The Edenton Tea Party was one of the earliest organized women’s political actions in United States history. The women joined in the boycott of British tea.
First Continental Congress

- A group of important men met to discuss the crisis in the colonies.
- Who all was present at the first continental congress?
- Militias were set up. (citizen soldiers)
The “Shot Heard Round the World”

• British soldiers in Boston were sent to capture the militias weapons.
• Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Israel Bissell warned the colonists that, “The Red Coats are coming.”
• British troops marched to Concord to capture colonial leaders and the ammunition and weapons that were stored there.
• The first two battles of the American Revolution were fought at Lexington and Concord, when the American militia met up with British forces.
The Second Continental Congress

- The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to discuss the next move of the colonists.
- Appointed George Washington as commander of the colonial army.
- War with Great Britain was imminent.
Common Sense

- *Common Sense*, written by *Thomas Paine* was a pamphlet that encouraged colonists to declare independence from Great Britain.

- *Common Sense* was very influential because it was read by many people.
The Declaration of Independence

- The United States first needed to declare independence from Great Britain.
- Thomas Jefferson, at the young age of 33, wrote the Declaration of Independence.
- The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776.
- That is why we celebrate Independence Day on July 4th.
- This is the day that the United States of America declared their independence from King George and Great Britain.
Benjamin Franklin

- Benjamin Franklin, one of the most famous men in the world, was sent to France to ask for military aid as well as a loan.

- And the war was on!
Key Figures

• More info on First and Second Congress
• Rich and powerful men of means.
• Gentlemen.
• Lawyers

• Common Sense
• Declaration of Independence
• Declaration of Human Rights