

#### 4. The Revolutionary War (1775-1783)

Two years later, in 1775, the situation was close to a war. The colonists had their own soldiers now, called “Minutemen” because they could be ready to fight within a minute. Their weapons were stored in central places, for example in Concord, Massachusetts. The British wanted to disarm the “rebels” and imprison their leaders, Samuel Adams and John Hancock.



When the British arrived in Lexington (= A on the map), which was on the way to Concord, (= B on the map), they met the first “rebels” but Captain Parker told his soldiers “*Don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here*”. Parker told the colonists “*Lay down your arms, you damned rebels!*”

Suddenly, a shot was fired – A shot that changed the world and started the American Revolution. Until today, nobody knows who fired the first shot in Lexington.

#### ***1. Finish these sentences about the text:***

..... had good fighters and secret weapons, which the ..... didn't like.

Sam Adams and John Hancock were ..... The ..... were called “rebels”. In Lexington, ..... didn't want to start a fight and told the ..... to lay down the arms. A shot was fired by ..... which started .....

#### ***2. American and British soldiers:***

	
<p><b>20,000 poorly trained men</b></p>	<p><b>72,000 soldiers</b></p>

**➔ Where could the colonists ask for troops and help?**

.....

General George Washington commanded the American army. It seemed impossible to defeat the British but Washington took advantage of the mistakes of the British generals. In 1778 Major General Baron von Steuben, an officer in the Prussian Army, trained the American soldiers and turned them into a powerful army. The British lost the War of Independence. In the Treaty of Paris, 1783, they finally recognized the thirteen colonies as the United States of America. Already in 1776, the former British colonies had announced their independence in the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson. Until today, Americans celebrate the birthday of their nation every year with a big national holiday.

*to defeat: schlagen; to recognize: anerkennen; treaty: Vertrag*

### 3. Thomas Jefferson



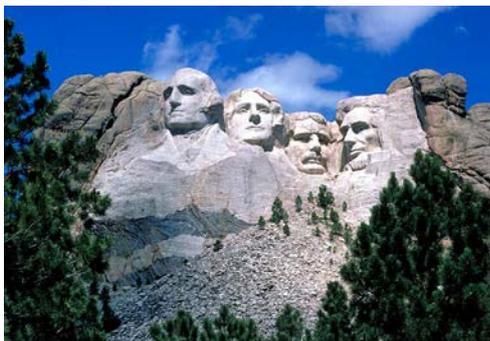
Thomas Jefferson, a lawyer and wealthy plantation owner, was born in Virginia in 1743. The Declaration of Independence was mostly written by him. In 1801, he became the third President of the United States of America. He died in 1826.

→ 3.1 Underline what Jefferson is famous for today!

#### 3.2 From the Declaration of Independence:

„ We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed (=ausgetattet) by their Creator with certain unalienable (=unabänderliche) Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.“

- Which rights do people have now?
- Why is this new/innovative? Think of Europe!
- Who had also demanded these rights for people?
- What did this mean for Europe?



#### 3.3. Do you know what/where this monument is?

- Go online and google “Mount Rushmore”
- Find out who the people are!
- Where is the monument?

4. Take a blank sheet of paper and draw a timeline of the American Revolution! Include these dates: 1620, 1651, 1663, 1756, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1770, 1773, 1774, 1776, 1783, 1801