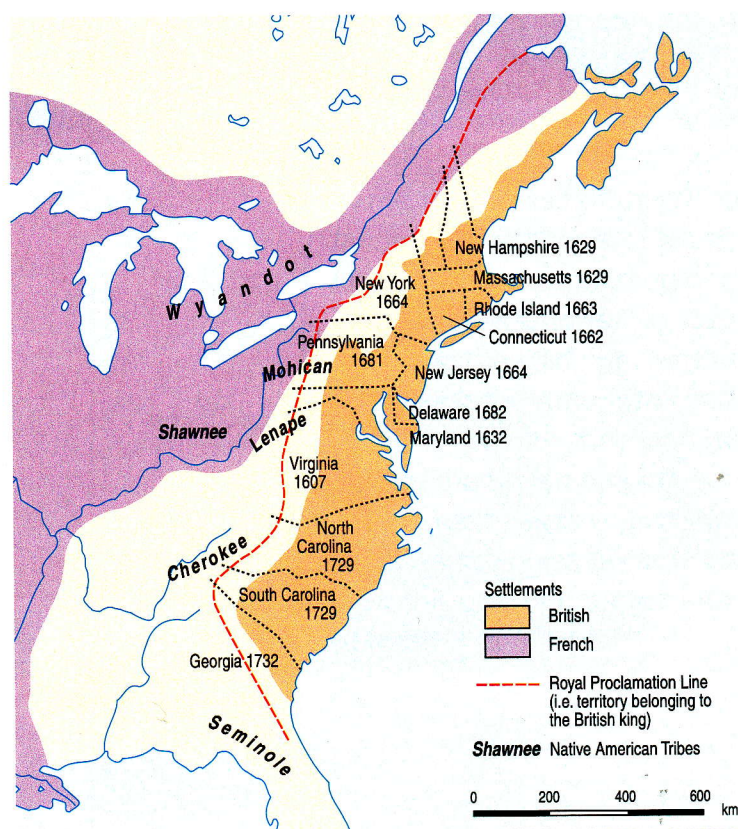


British colonies in North America



The thirteen colonies

Royal Proclamation Line: königliche Proklamationslinie | Native Americans: Amerikanische Ureinwohner | border: Grenze | to be controlled by s.b.: unter der Kontrolle von jmdn. sein | tribe: Stamm | to found a colony: eine Kolonie gründen

In 1620 the first Protestant settlers, called the Pilgrim Fathers, arrived at the Atlantic shores of America, the 'New World'. In the years to come, more and more settlers came, founding new towns and forming communities up and down the Atlantic coast.

Eventually thirteen colonies developed. However, they did not all develop in the same way: every colony was 'self-governed' which meant that each colony had its own **assembly** or parliament and in many towns decisions were made by gathering all of the citizens together.

- 1 Look at the map and list the names of the thirteen colonies. Use the internet to find out what kind of goods were traded between the colonies and Great Britain.
- 2 Turn your findings into a diagram on a poster.
- 3 Use the internet to find out more about the thirteen colonies: trade, traded goods, trading partners.

KEY TERMS

assembly
Versammlung

The French Indian War

1 Read the text below and copy it into your history folder. Then fill in the gaps 1-8. Use the words below. Each term is to be used only one time.

pay for | territory | peace treaty | France | take over | British colonists | had joined | land

- In the 1750s, **_1_** and Britain were fighting in Europe. The war was spreading to America.
- **_2_** wanted to take over French land in North America.

- The British wanted to **_3_** the fur trade in the French-held **_4_**.
- British **soldiers** fought against French soldiers and Native Americans who **_5_** the battle against the British because they were afraid that the British wanted to take over their **_6_**. The war ended in 1759.
- In the **_7_** of 1763 the British got most of the French land in North America.
- Also, as a result of the war, the British began taxing the colonists to **_8_** the war.

Online-Link

460084-0038

information on the thirteen colonies

What
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What were the reasons for a conflict between the colonists and Great Britain?

1 There were **town meetings** in many cities all over the colonies to discuss Britain's new laws. Some colonies **obeyed** the King, others did not.

Read the following statements and, on cards, collect arguments for and against obeying King George III. Use different colours.

I don't think that is fair!
Many of us helped the British to win the war. We don't need the British army here any more so we don't want to pay!

Now we even have to buy a British stamp for every kind of paper we use, for newspapers, books, and even playing cards! It is unfair that we have to pay taxes to our government when we have no representatives there! So we claim: No taxation without representation!

We have to buy almost everything we need from Britain although it is more expensive. And we have to sell our products to them, too! We are determined to change that!



Having won the French and Indian War, a fight between us and the French over Indian land next to our colonies, and having successfully chased the French out of North America, Great Britain needs money because financing the war was expensive. Our citizens in Great Britain already pay higher taxes. This is why the colonists should also help pay for the costs.

KEY TERMS

town meeting
Gemeindeversammlung

to obey
gehorschen

stamp
Stempel

representative
Abgeordneter

taxation
Besteuerung

representation
Vertretung (bei einer politischen Versammlung)

determined
entschlossen

to chase
verjagen

tax
Steuer

How did the conflict develop?



engraving: Gravur | redcoats: Rotröcke (britische Soldaten) | mob: Menschenmenge | to open fire: das Feuer eröffnen | to shoot s.b.: jmd. erschießen | to wound s.b.: jmd. verwunden | townspeople: Stadtbewohner

The Boston Massacre, engraving by Paul Revere, 1770.



1 Study the engraving above and analyse the picture. Use the vocabulary 'how to talk about pictures' in the inner cover.

2 Revere changed the sign on the building from "Customs Hall" to "Butcher's Hall". Speculate on the artist's reason for doing this and about the effect on the viewer.

3 Read the source. Discuss in small groups which of the two versions is more **reliable**. Give reasons for your opinion.

KEY TERMS

reliable
verlässlich

Boston Massacre

das Boston Massaker (der blutige Zusammenstoß zwischen Kolonisten und britischen Soldaten am 5.5.1770 in Boston)

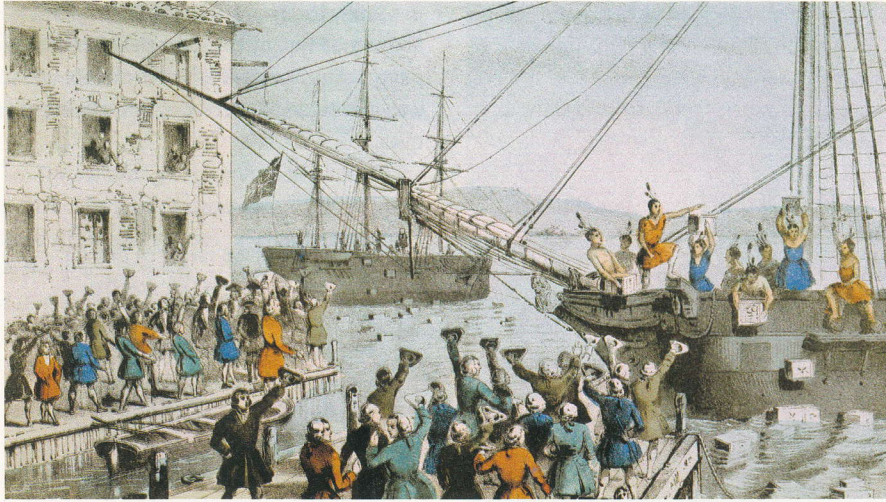
Captain Thomas Preston's account of the Boston Massacre

From the first day we arrived in Boston, the colonists tried to weaken our troops. Two of our soldiers were even attacked and beaten. Later on the same day, I was informed that the town inhabitants were coming together to attack us. I saw the masses of people and was afraid they would murder some of my officers. I never gave the order to shoot but the situation got out of control. Five colonists were shot and killed.

simplified and adapted from: Garry Wiersema for From Revolution to Reconstruction – an .HTML project. last update: 2003-3-6 time: 16:01 © 1994–2009, University of Groningen Humanities Computing.

account: Schilderung | to weaken: schwächen

The Boston Tea Party



Boston Tea Party (December 16th 1773) – Copy of lithograph by Sarony & Major, 1846.

1 To find out what happened, put the paragraphs A–I into the correct order and write them into your history folder. Start with paragraph C.

Paragraph A

They threw 342 boxes of tea into the water.

Paragraph B

When King George III heard the news, he closed Boston harbour.

Paragraph C

The people of Boston had a noisy town meeting about the new taxes on tea.

Paragraph D

About a hundred troublemakers, called 'Sons of Liberty', dressed up as Mohawk Indians.

Paragraph E

They marched to Boston harbour.

Paragraph F

They took small boats and boarded the British ships.

Paragraph G

In addition to that, the King decided to send British soldiers to Boston, and the presence of the redcoats frightened the colonists.

Paragraph H

Samuel Adams, one of the leaders of the 'Sons of Liberty', walked out of the meeting.

Paragraph I

In the end, Boston wanted the other colonies to know what had happened. So all the colonies decided to stay together and send their leaders to a meeting in Philadelphia in September 1774, the First Continental Congress.

2 The First Continental Congress made a list of what the colonists wanted: freedom, no more trade with Britain, and independence from the king. Then they sent the list to King George III. Imagine you are the king and have just read the letter. Write down your reactions and future plans for the colonies.

Was war inevitable?

King George III decided not to read the letter from the First Continental Congress. He wanted to show that he was able to control the trouble-making colonists and so he sent more soldiers.

1 In the following story about the first battle between British soldiers and the colonists at Lexington there are seven mistakes. Correct them with the help of the words below and copy the text into your history folder.

weapons | Concord and Lexington | 800 | fast | successfully escaped | in old farm clothes | George Washington

KEY TERMS

axe
Axt

commander-in-chief
oberster Befehlshaber

- The American rebels began to prepare for war. They were secretly hiding **axes** and tobacco on their farms outside New York.
- When British General Gage heard about that, he decided to attack. He sent about 8,000 men to Lexington to find the weapons and the rebel leaders.
- Paul Revere, now a soldier, rode a slow horse to warn the American rebels and their leaders that the British were coming.
- The rebel leaders – Sam Adams and John Hancock – died.
- When the redcoats arrived in Lexington, a group of American farmers, teachers and traders ready to fight, were waiting for them in new uniforms.
- Someone fired a shot, and the battle began. Later, the Americans chased the British army all the way back to London.
- The Americans realized that they needed a real army. Congress made King George the **commander-in-chief** of the American army.

2 Study the King's reaction. Taking into account all the information given on this page discuss in small groups whether war was inevitable. Think of possible alternatives.

The colonists have forgotten their allegiance to their mother country and started a rebellion. They don't respect our laws and these traitors have to be brought to justice. The colonists are still subjects of the British crown and their rebellion can no longer be tolerated. They must to be punished.



King George III, painting by Allan Ramsay, 1738.

simplified and adapted from: King George: Proclamation of Rebellion (August 23rd 1775) in: William MacDonald, Documentary Source Book of American History, New York, pp. 189–190; <http://www.britannia.com/history/docs/procreb.html>,

allegiance: Treue | traitor: Verräter | to bring s.b. to justice: jmd. vor den Richter bringen | subject: Untertan

The shot fired at Lexington on April 19th 1775 marked the beginning of the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783), also called the American War of Independence.

On the road to independence

On April 19th 1775, the war began. It ended with the **Peace Treaty** of Paris on September 3rd 1783, in which Britain **officially recognized** American independence.

1 The following statements show what different groups of people might have said. Read them to understand what happened in the years between 1775 and 1783. Make a timeline of the events.

'I am one of many German soldiers who are fighting on the side of the British. We have been **hired out** by our princes. With our help the colonists suffered many defeats in the first years.'

'My name is General Steuben and I was an officer in the **Prussian** army. In 1778 I began training the 13,000 colonists and transformed them into a more powerful army commanded by George Washington. In the course of the war our army got stronger and was able to win several battles in 1775 (Bunker Hill), in 1776/77 (Valley Forge), and in 1781 (Yorktown).'

'We, the colonists, are not alone, because we have **allies**, such as France. King Louis XVI wants **revenge** on the British for the French defeat twenty years ago. This is why France provides us with munition, weapons, food, and, of course, money. In June 1778, France declared war on Britain and the French king sent ships and soldiers.'



The painting shows Washington (left) and the French commander Marquis de Lafayette, painting by Louis Charles Auguste Couder, 1836.

'I am one of a group of colonists who wish to be loyal to Britain. We are called loyalists and some of us even fight for Britain. At the end of the war, many of us will have to flee to Canada or Great Britain.'

'I am one of the soldiers who fought at the battle of Yorktown in 1781, the last and **decisive** battle. In Virginia, we trapped our enemy: we forced the British to the end of a long peninsula and because there were no ships to rescue them, they **surrendered** on 19th October 1781.'

2 Study the painting above. Imagine you are George Washington and at the end of 19th October 1781 you look back on the battles of the past years and on the victory in Yorktown. Write his diary entry.

KEY TERMS

Peace Treaty

Friedensabkommen

to officially recognize s.th.

etw. offiziell anerkennen

Prussia

Preußen

allies

Verbündete

revenge

Rache

defeat

Niederlage

decisive

entscheidend

peninsula

Halbinsel

to surrender

sich ergeben

to hire out s.th.

etwas vermieten

George Washington: Hero of the revolution

George Washington was one of the most important leaders during the American Revolution. He was the military leader of the revolutionary army and even today he is a national hero.

1 Read the quotes of George Washington carefully and look for information referring to the three categories below. Copy and complete the grid.

2 Discuss your findings with a partner.

Washington as ...

... military leader

... husband

... plantation owner

...

...

...

...

...

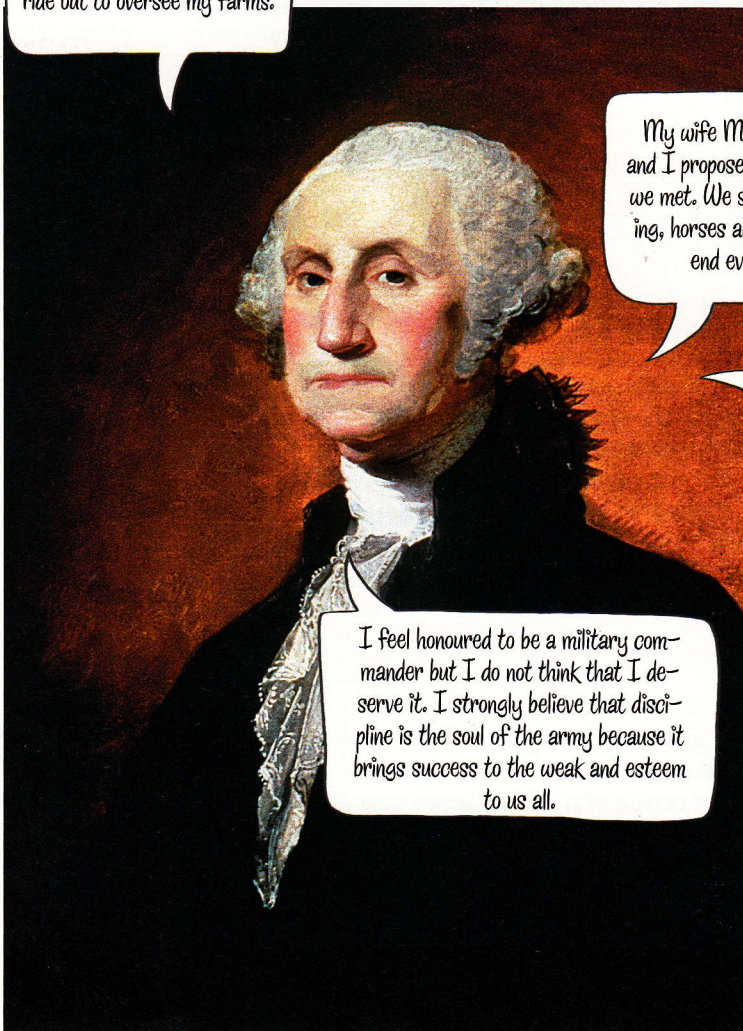
...

When I am at home, my daily routine is always the same: I get up early in the morning, have breakfast, and then I ride out to oversee my farms.

My wife Martha and I were introduced by friends and I proposed marriage to her only three weeks after we met. We share common interests, such as gardening, horses and dogs. My love and affection will never end even if we should ever be separated.

I inherited a big plantation from my family, called Mount Vernon, and my land is my passion. I enjoy the challenge of cultivating crops and learning what techniques and tools work best for growing things. I like to experiment and put effort to improving the productivity of my farm. So I study agricultural books and keep in contact to other farmers here and abroad. I want Mount Vernon to be profitable.

I feel honoured to be a military commander but I do not think that I deserve it. I strongly believe that discipline is the soul of the army because it brings success to the weak and esteem to us all.



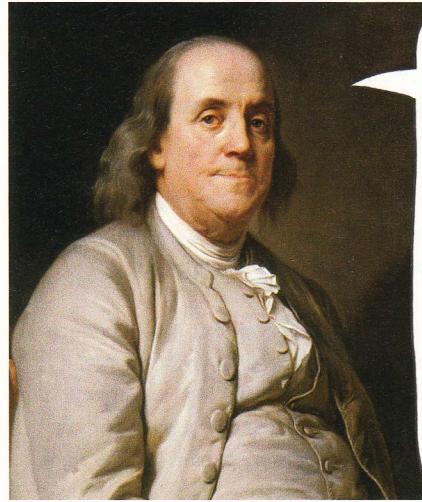
George Washington, painting by Gilbert Stuart, 1796.

to inherit: erben | to cultivate crops: Nutzpflanzen anbauen | abroad: überseeisch (hier: europäisch) | to deserve s.th.: etwas verdienen

The work of the founding fathers

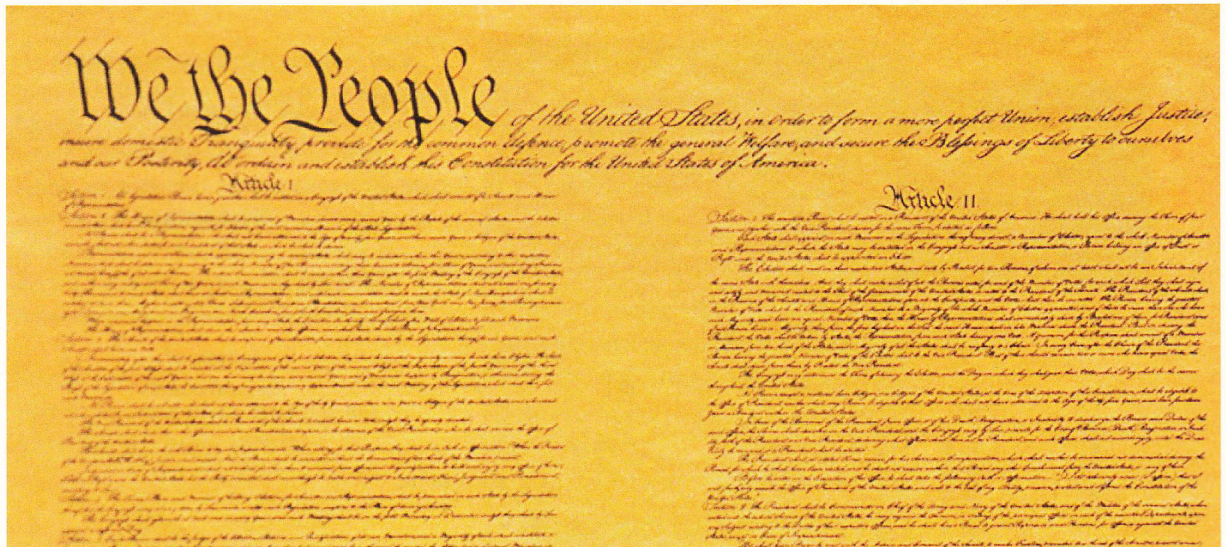
1 Read the following text and the speech bubble. Write down the problems the founding fathers had in creating a new country.

Although the people of the United States were happy to have won the war, they realized that there were many more difficulties in their future: They had to build up a new way of life, and create a new government and a constitution. Those who worked on the documents such as the US **Constitution** are today called the 'founding fathers'. Meet one of the leading personalities of the time, Benjamin Franklin, who was actively involved in the process of creating the American Constitution.



Portrait of Benjamin Franklin, painting by Joseph-Siffred Duplessis, 1785.

I am Benjamin Franklin. When George Washington and I and many others met in Philadelphia in May 1787 to write a constitution, I was already 81 years old and the oldest representative at the meeting. Although I am old, I am clear-headed. However, I had to be carried to each meeting in an armchair. When all thirteen states voted for the new constitution and then signed it, I cried. I knew the document was not perfect but it was very good.



The Constitution of the United States of America. It begins with the following words: 'We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish ...'

KEY TERMS

constitution
Verfassung

2 Complete the first sentence of the US Constitution. Finish writing this important document by adding more aspects (government, leader, citizens, freedoms).

3 Use the internet to do research on the following people and documents. Explain the importance of the individual documents in forming the United States of America. Present your results in class.

Declaration of Independence | Thomas Jefferson | constitution | George Washington | Federalist Papers | Alexander Hamilton | John Jay | Bill of rights | James Madison

4 Discuss in class what Franklin meant, when he said: 'It was not perfect but it was very good.'