

Name: _____

Date: _____

A Taxing King

Complete the table describing the taxes that were imposed by King George.

	When was the tax imposed on the colonists?	What was being taxed?	What was the colonists' reaction?	What was the King's response?
Sugar Act				
Stamp Act				
Townshend Acts				

Trouble with England

By the 1760s, England had 13 colonies in North America. Massachusetts was one of the colonies.

As you learned in the last chapter, England (now part of Great Britain) needed money to pay for wars it had fought. It needed to pay for soldiers sent to America to protect the colonists from the French and Indians. The British government thought the colonists should help pay for these things.

To raise money, England added taxes to goods sold in the colonies. A **tax** is money people must pay to the government. Taxes pay for services the government provides.

First, the British government taxed items such as sugar and molasses. These were things the colonists used every day. Then came the Stamp Act. It said that certain papers the colonists used had to have special stamps on them. The colonists had to pay for the stamps. Letters, newspapers, and even playing cards had to have the stamps. Next came taxes on paper, paint, and tea.

The colonists were used to paying taxes on goods brought in from other places. But these new taxes were different.



These playing cards had to have a special stamp. How much was the tax on these cards?

English or British?

In 1707, the countries of England and Scotland became one kingdom. The name of the kingdom was Great Britain. “British” was a name used for everyone living in the kingdom of Great Britain. That is why the English are also called the British.

Linking the Past to the Present

England was in debt. That means it owed money. All governments need money to provide services to people. For example, in order to have armies to protect people, governments need to spend money. Taxes pay for these things. When a government spends more money than it brings in, it creates a debt that must be paid.

Today, our national debt is more than \$16 trillion. What kinds of services does our government provide today?

“No Taxation Without Representation”

The colonists were used to having a say in the laws and taxes the colony passed. They believed that only their colonial assemblies had the right to tax them to raise money.

These new taxes came directly from the British government, called Parliament. The colonists did not get to send anyone to *represent* them, or speak for them, in Parliament. That meant they did not have a say in the laws and taxes it passed. That was the problem.

The colonists liked making their own rules. They were not sure if they *wanted* to send representatives all the way to Parliament. The lawmakers in Parliament might be too busy to listen to their concerns. In their colonial assemblies, they could focus on what they needed.

However, many colonists did not think Parliament had the right to make laws for them without letting them send representatives. They thought it was unfair. They cried, “No taxation without representation!”

Colonists argued with each other about the Stamp Act. Look at the clothes of the people in this scene. What do they tell you about who might have been angriest over the Stamp Act? Who were they angry at?



The Colonists Protest

The colonists were very unhappy about being taxed without representation. They felt like their rights were being stepped on. They began to **protest**, or take action to show how strongly they disagreed. They wrote letters saying the taxes were unfair. They refused to buy the special stamps. When people refuse to buy something in order to make a point, it is called a **boycott**.

All over the 13 colonies, people boycotted British goods. They stopped buying tea, sugar, cloth, and other items from British merchants. The boycotts made a difference! After a while, the British ended the Stamp Act. They stopped most of the other taxes, too.

To get things back in control, the British sent soldiers to Boston. The colonists did not like having the soldiers so close.

Without help from women, the boycotts would not have worked. Instead of buying British tea, women made their own "liberty teas." They cooked with maple syrup instead of sugar. They made their own cloth.

British soldiers marched through American cities. New laws said the colonists had to pay to feed the soldiers. They also had to let the soldiers stay in their barns, taverns, and inns. Many colonists were not happy about that. Why do you think some people supported the British during these struggles?





The Thirteen Colonies: Summary

Colony	Founded	Founders	Major Industry	Major Cities	Colony Named for	Became a State
Massachusetts	1630	John Winthrop and others	fishing, corn, livestock, lumbering, shipbuilding	Boston, Quincy, Plymouth, Salem, Lexington, Concord	Massachusetts tribe (word means "large hill place")	February 6, 1788
New Hampshire	1638	John Wheelwright and others	potatoes, fishing, textiles, shipbuilding	Concord	county of Hampshire in England	June 21, 1788
Connecticut	1636	Thomas Hooker and others	wheat, corn, fishing	Hartford, New Haven	from an Algonquin word, <i>quinnehtukqut</i> , "beside the long tidal river"	February 6, 1788
New York	1626	Peter Minuit and others	shipbuilding, iron works, cattle, grain, rice, indigo, wheat	New York City, Albany	Duke of York	July 26, 1788
New Jersey	1664	English colonists	ironworking, lumbering	Trenton, Princeton	Isle of Jersey in England	December 18, 1787
Pennsylvania	1682	William Penn and others	wheat, corn, cattle, dairy, textiles, papermaking, shipbuilding	Philadelphia, Lancaster, York	William Penn and <i>sylvania</i> , Latin for "forest"	December 12, 1787
Delaware	1638	Peter Minuit and others	Fishing, lumbering	Wilmington	named for the Delaware tribe and for an early governor of colonial Virginia,	December 7, 1787

					Lord de la Warr	
Maryland	1633	Lord Baltimore and others	shipbuilding, iron works, corn, wheat, rice, indigo	Baltimore, Annapolis	Queen Henrietta Maria of England	April 28, 1788
Virginia	1607	John Smith and others	Plantation agriculture (tobacco, wheat, corn)	Jamestown, Williamsburg, Richmond	England's "Virgin Queen," Elizabeth I	June 25, 1788
North Carolina	1653	Virginia colonists	Plantation agriculture (indigo, rice, tobacco)	Raleigh	from <i>Carolus</i> , the Latin word for "Charles," Charles I of England	November 21, 1789
South Carolina	1663	English colonists	Plantation agriculture (indigo, rice, tobacco, cotton, cattle)	Charleston	from <i>Carolus</i> , the Latin word for "Charles," Charles I of England	May 23, 1788
Georgia	1732	James Oglethorpe	indigo, rice, sugar	Savannah	England's King George II	January 2, 1788

Summary Provided by: <http://kathydoty.com/colonies/13coloniesinformation.htm>

The First Continental Congress

Leaders from all the colonies met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They talked about their problems with England. The meeting was called the First Continental Congress. (A congress is a group of representatives who meet to work out a problem.)

Four important things came out of the First Continental Congress:

- Each colony set up a militia (a local army to be used in emergencies).
- The colonies started another boycott of trade with the British.
- The leaders sent a letter to King George III. They said they were loyal to England, but they would take stronger action if they were not treated better.
- The colonies agreed to meet again if the king did not listen.

What Do You Think?

- By working together, the colonists could do more. How might working together make the job easier? Think of a time when you have used teamwork to get something done. How did it help?
- Would you have been a Patriot or a Loyalist? Why?
- What would you have done if your family did not agree with your choice?

Getting Ready

The people of Massachusetts decided to get ready for war—just in case. They began to gather bullets, gunpowder, and weapons. They kept them in the town of Concord.

Officers from the militia chose young men from their ranks to act as "minutemen." The minutemen

Patriots and Loyalists

Some of the colonists wanted to break away from Great Britain. They wanted to rule themselves as a free country. They were called **Patriots**.

No one wanted to think that all this might lead to war. But the Patriots began to say they would do whatever it took to be free.

Other colonists thought it was best to stay loyal to the king. They were called **Loyalists**.

Some of them just wanted the British to stop the taxes and go home. They may have liked the idea of being free, but they did not want to go to war with Great Britain.



Name: _____

Five W's Chart

Fill in each row with details that answer the question.

What happened?
Who was there?
Why did it happen?
When did it happen?
Where did it happen?



<http://teacher.scholastic.com>

Boston Massacre Images

The Boston Massacre

1770 Paul Revere, Jr. Framed: 40.6 x 36.5 x 3.2 cm (16 x 14 3/8 x 1 1/4 in.)
 Sheet: 25.1 x 21.6 cm (9 7/8 x 8 1/2 in.) Engraving, hand colored Classification:
 Prints Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Gift of Miss Margaret A. Revere, Miss Anna P. Revere, Mr. Paul Revere and Mr.
 John Revere Chapin Accession number: 62.506



The men tease the guard. You are too scared and cold to shout with them, but you hear them call the guard names and dare him to fire his gun.

The guard calls for help, and a group of British soldiers rush to the scene. They have muskets, swords, and bayonets! They look ready to use them.

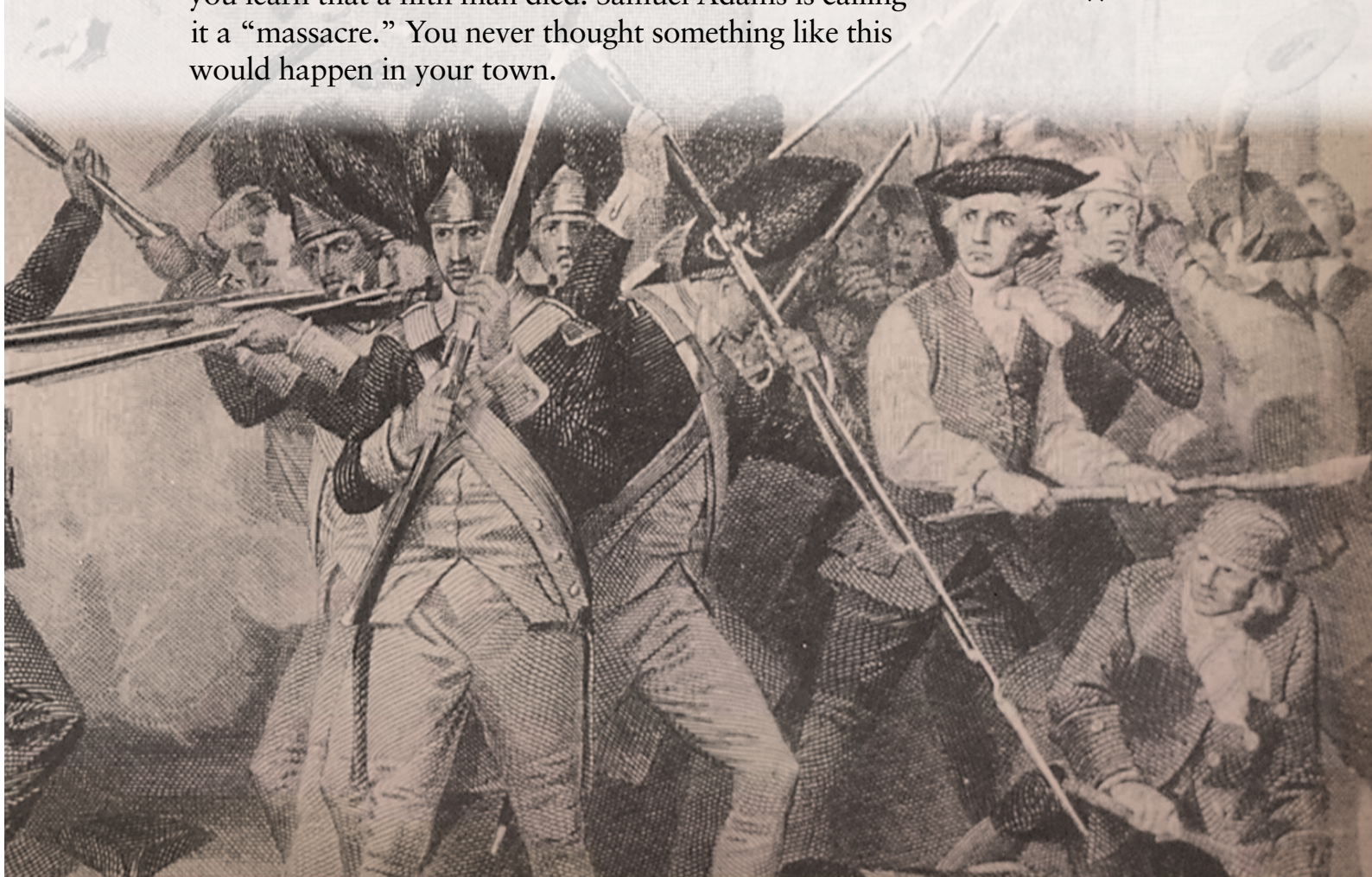
You run up the street and around the corner, then turn around to look back. The group of people is growing fast. Snowballs and chunks of ice fly towards the soldiers. The soldiers yell threats as they try to keep the crowds back. You see a club fly through the air and knock someone down. Then you hear a terrible sound. One of the British guns shoots into the crowd. You freeze for a moment, but when you hear more shots, you run for home.

From your warm bed, you hear your father telling your mother that four men now lay dead on the street. Crispus Attucks, a free black man, was the first to fall. Other men are wounded.

The next day, your neighbors are sad and angry. They can't believe the soldiers fired their guns. A few days later, you learn that a fifth man died. Samuel Adams is calling it a "massacre." You never thought something like this would happen in your town.



Crispus Attucks was the first man killed in the Boston Massacre. He was buried at Granary Burying Ground with the other victims. Attucks was a sailor who worked on the whaling ships based in Boston Harbor. His father was African American, and his mother was Native American. He was the first African American to die for the cause of freedom in America.





“Other young men like myself . . . joined in . . . The chests were . . . opened, the tea emptied over the side, and the chests thrown overboard . . . Although there were many people on the wharf, [there was] no talking. Nothing was [touched] but the teas . . . the deck was swept clean and everything put in its proper place. An officer on board was [asked] to come up from the cabin and see that no damage was done except to the tea.”

—ROBERT SESSIONS

The Tea Act

Next, the British passed the Tea Act. It was not a tax. (Tea had already been taxed.) The Tea Act let one British company rule the tea trade. This company was called the British East India Company. It made the price of its own tea cheaper so the colonists would buy the company's tea. That way, *the company* could make money instead of colonial merchants.

Can you guess how colonial merchants felt about this? They were angry. So were the rest of the colonists. They did not like being told where to buy their tea. As a result, the colonists boycotted the British tea.

The Boston Tea Party

In Boston, a group of men met at the Old South Church to talk about the Tea Act and the tax on tea that remained. They called themselves the Sons of Liberty. Samuel Adams said they should do something more than just talk.

The men marched to the harbor where the tea ships were docked. Some of them dressed up like Mohawk Indians. They split into groups and boarded the British tea ships. First they took the captain and crew below deck. Then they cracked open the heavy chests of

tea and dumped them into the water. They ruined thousands of dollars worth of tea that night. This became known as the Boston Tea Party.

The “Intolerable” Acts

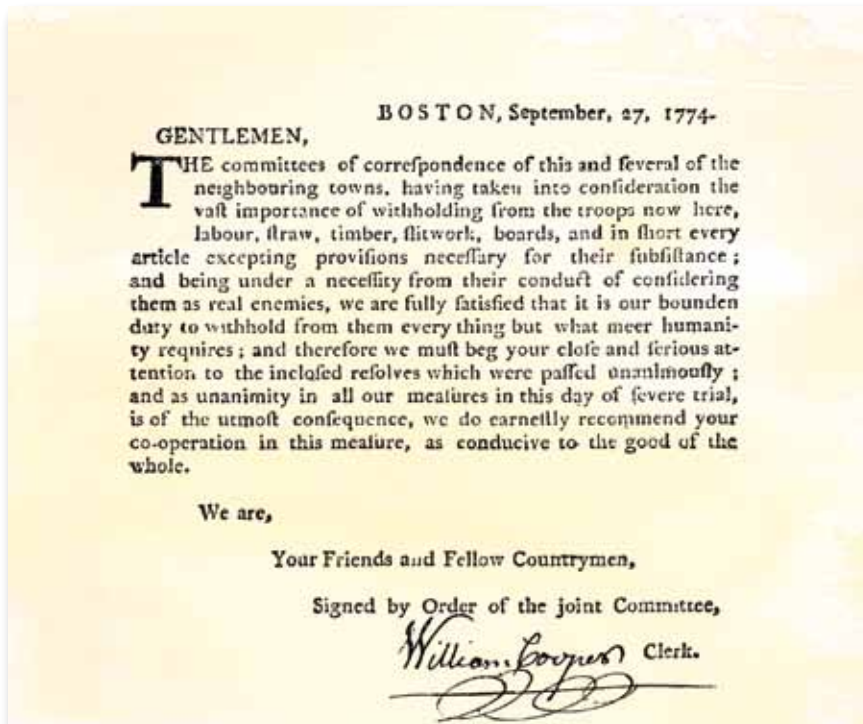
The Boston Tea Party made the British very mad. They wanted to punish the colonists. They closed the port of Boston until the colonists paid for the spoiled tea. No ships with goods to sell could move in or out of the harbor. Boston was a busy trading city. Closing the port really hurt the people’s way of making a living.

The British also broke up Boston’s government. They said the British troops could stay in buildings around the city. They thought these actions would make the colonies follow British laws. Instead, more colonists got upset. The colonists called these actions the Intolerable Acts.

Intolerable means they were too much to take.

Teamwork!

The 13 colonies decided to work together. They wrote letters back and forth. People in Massachusetts wrote to people in Virginia. People in North Carolina wrote to people in New York. They told each other what was happening in their colonies. They tried to work out a plan of action.



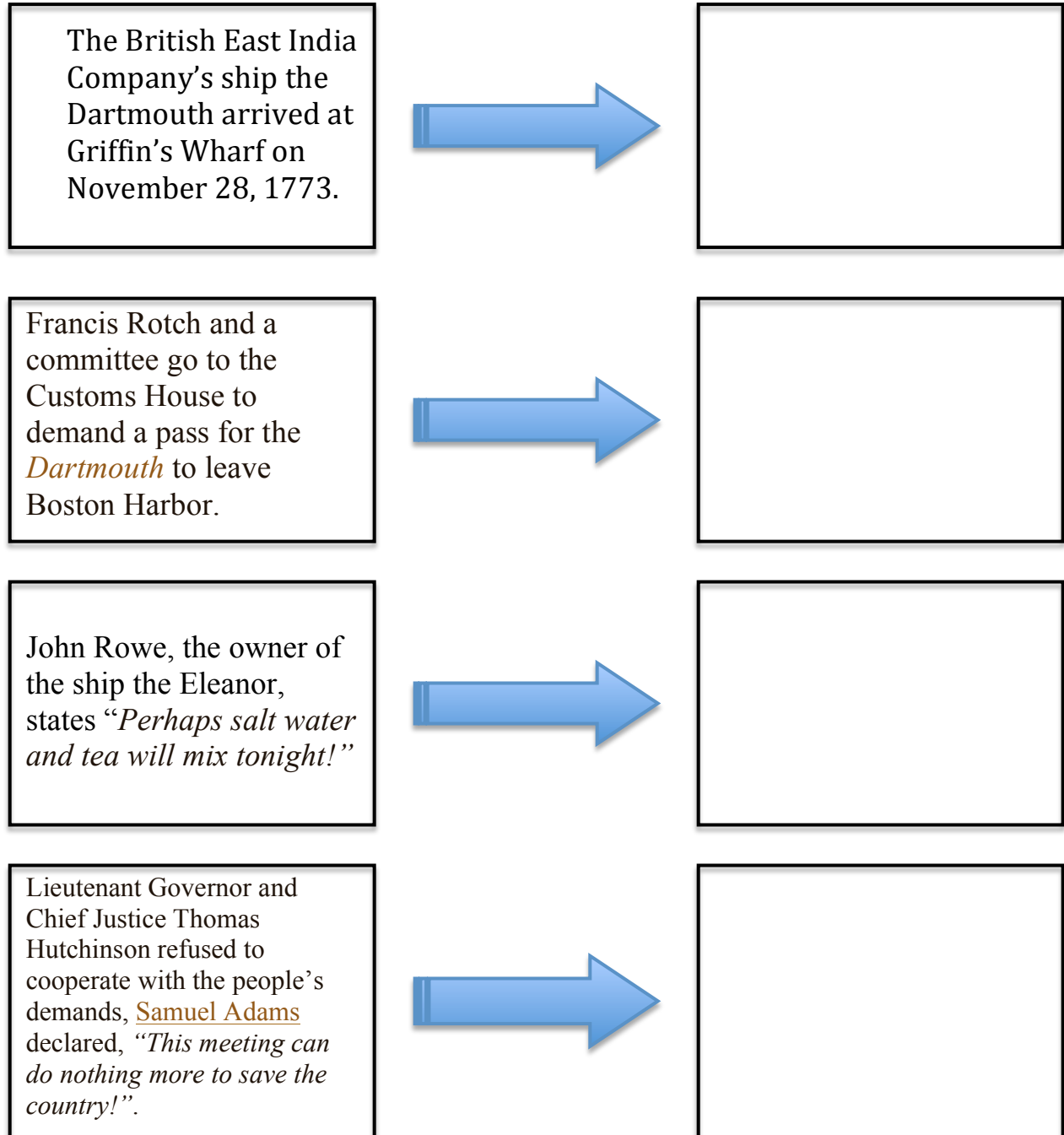
Protests Turn Violent

Not all of the protests were peaceful boycotts. Some colonists used threats to stop tax collectors from doing their jobs. Angry mobs hung and set fire to dummies that looked like British officials. They also destroyed British property. Some even tarred and feathered tax collectors. This painful act included pouring hot tar on them and covering the sticky tar with feathers.

Colonists wrote to each other for help and support. In this letter, colonists in Boston are asking other colonies not to help British troops. Who wrote this letter, and what did he write in closing? How do you think this closing helped his cause?

The Boston Tea Party

Please complete the cause and effect chart using the facts about the Boston Tea Party.



40 chests of British East India Company Tea, weighing over 92,000 pounds were smashed open by the Sons of Liberty and dumped into Boston Harbor the night of December 16, 1773



After the destruction of the tea, the participants swept the decks of the ships clean and anything that was moved was put back in its proper place.



For fear of punishment, many participants of the Boston Tea Party remained anonymous for many years after the event.



Facts provided by Boston Tea Party Ship.com

One [picture](#) is worth a thousand words. The patriots often used posters aimed at the colonial crowd as a propaganda weapon. This modern-days Boston Tea Party poster is really a nice example of the genre.

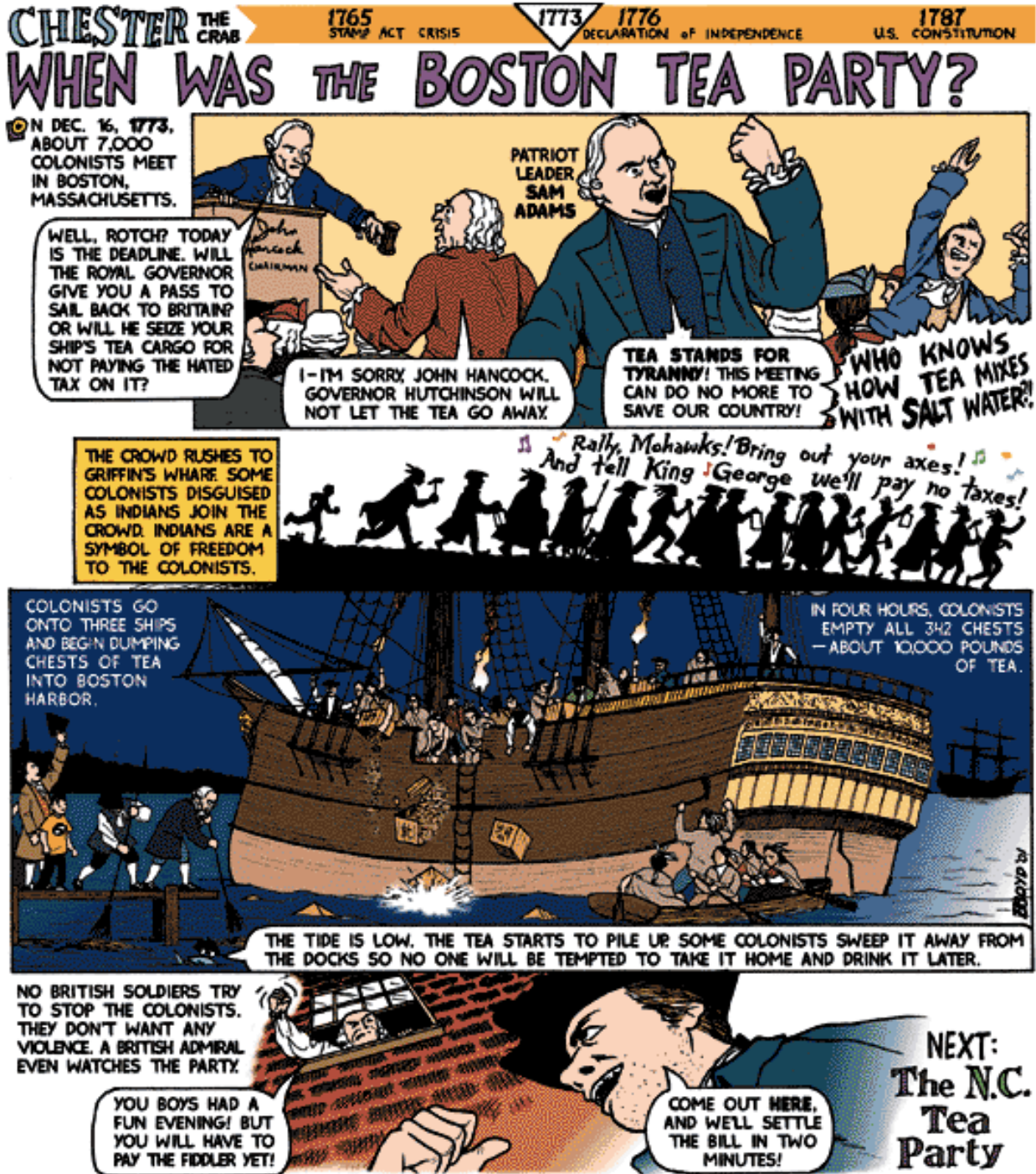


Image provided by <http://www.boston-tea-party.org/poster.html>

LESSON 2 THE FIGHTING BEGINS

Key Ideas

- The first battles of the American Revolution were fought in Massachusetts in the towns of Lexington and Concord.
- The 13 colonies declared independence from Great Britain in 1776.
- The Battle of Bunker Hill showed the British that the colonists could fight well.
- The colonists won the war even though the British had a powerful army.

Key Terms

declaration
inalienable
independence
rights
retreat
treason

Become a Better Reader

Recognize Compare
and Contrast

This statue of Paul Revere stands near the Old North Church in Boston.

Why do you think the artist made the horse with one leg raised?

What would you do if you were a Patriot and you found out the British wanted to steal your weapons and capture your friends? Maybe you would be brave enough to do what Paul Revere and others did.

“The Regulars Are Coming!”

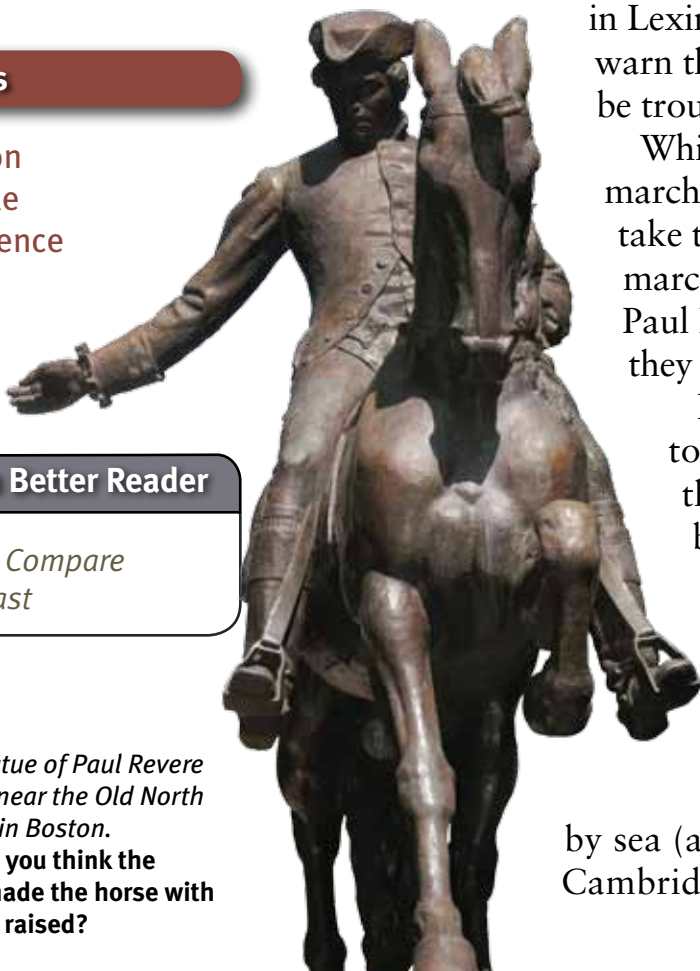
Paul Revere was working as an express rider for the Patriots. It was his job to carry news and messages to other places. This was an important job in the 1700s. There were no telephones, radios, or computers to spread important news.

One April night, Revere was told to ride to Lexington. He had to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that British troops were coming to arrest them.

The two Patriot leaders were hiding in Lexington. Paul Revere had to warn the people that there might be trouble.

Which way would the troops march? Would they go by land or take the shortcut by sea and then march the rest of the way? Could Paul Revere make it there before they did?

Revere had set up a signal to tell the Patriots which way the British would go. In the bell tower of the Old North Church, one lantern would shine if the British went by land (on a thin strip of land called Boston Neck). Two lanterns would shine if they went by sea (across the Charles River to Cambridge).



“Up, and to Arm!”

In the dark of the night, Paul Revere waited and watched. Soon he saw two lanterns glowing in the Old North Church.

Some friends rowed him across the river to Charlestown. There he borrowed a horse named “Brown Beauty” and rode off into the night.

Another rider, William Dawes, had left the other side of Boston with the same task. At each village and farm they passed, they shouted their message—the regulars (British soldiers) were coming!

Revere and Dawes met at Lexington in time to warn Adams and Hancock. Then the riders decided to go on and warn the people of Concord. They wanted to protect the supplies that the colonists were hiding there. A third rider went with them. His name was Dr. Samuel Prescott.

But wait! Some British guards stopped the three riders. First Prescott escaped! Then Dawes escaped! The British kept Paul Revere for a while, then let him go. He was there to see what happened the next morning in Lexington.

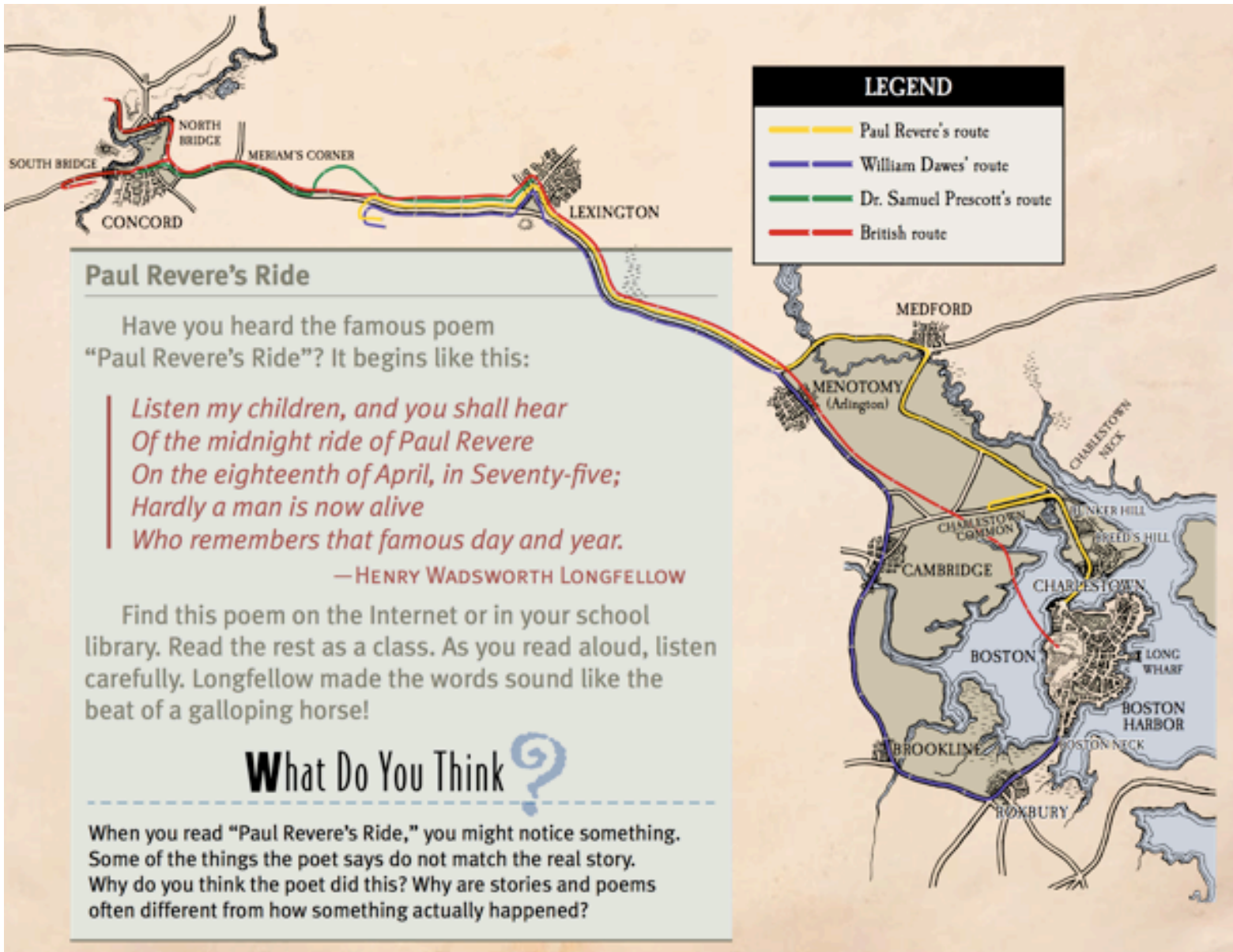


Who Was Coming?

According to popular tales, Paul Revere shouted “The British are coming!” to warn people along his route. However, the colonists still thought of themselves as British. They would have been confused to hear that “the British” were coming. Most historians agree that what Revere said was “The regulars are coming!” or “The Redcoats are coming!” A regular was a professional soldier. “Redcoat” was a nickname for a British soldier. Other riders may have said “The regulars are out!”

Robert Newman was the caretaker at the Old North Church. He agreed to help Paul Revere. He crept through the dark empty church to hang two lanterns in the steeple tower. This is one of those lanterns. The two lanterns were a signal that the British were moving by sea. Revere then rode to tell the people in Lexington and Concord to get ready. The Redcoats were coming!

Newman was a hero himself. According to the Old North Church, he had to escape out of a window that night when British soldiers came knocking at the church doors.



LEGEND	
	Paul Revere's route
	William Dawes' route
	Dr. Samuel Prescott's route
	British route

Paul Revere's Ride

Have you heard the famous poem "Paul Revere's Ride"? It begins like this:

*Listen my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.*

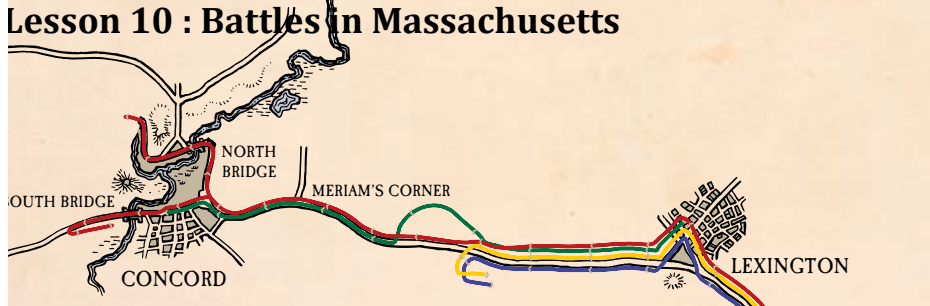
—HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Find this poem on the Internet or in your school library. Read the rest as a class. As you read aloud, listen carefully. Longfellow made the words sound like the beat of a galloping horse!

What Do You Think?

When you read "Paul Revere's Ride," you might notice something. Some of the things the poet says do not match the real story. Why do you think the poet did this? Why are stories and poems often different from how something actually happened?

Lesson 10 : Battles in Massachusetts



LEGEND	
	Paul Revere's route
	William Dawes' route
	Dr. Samuel Prescott's route
	British route

Paul Revere's Ride

Have you heard the famous poem "Paul Revere's Ride"? It begins like this:

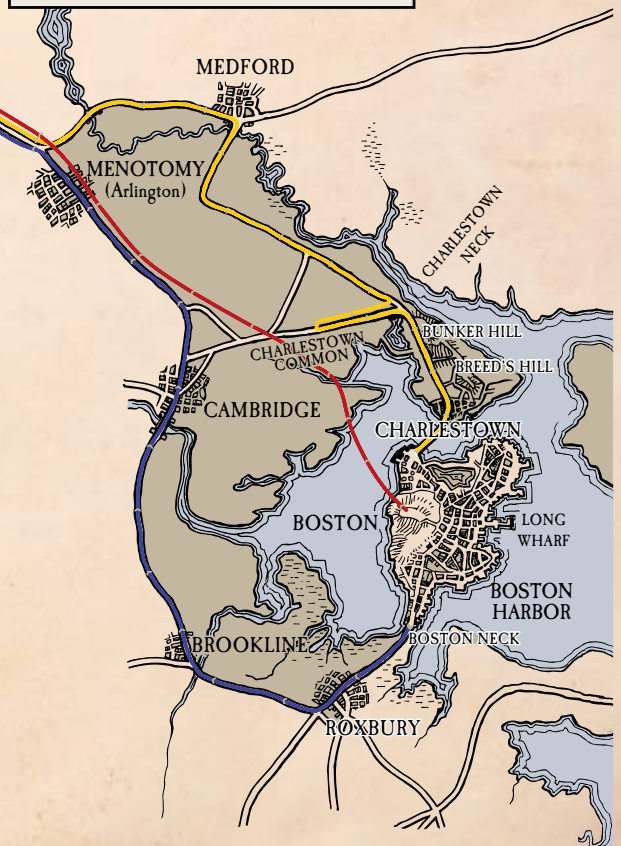
*Listen my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.*

— HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

Find this poem on the Internet or in your school library. Read the rest as a class. As you read aloud, listen carefully. Longfellow made the words sound like the beat of a galloping horse!

What Do You Think

When you read "Paul Revere's Ride," you might notice something. Some of the things the poet says do not match the real story. Why do you think the poet did this? Why are stories and poems often different from how something actually happened?



Lexington

The British soldiers marched to Lexington and Concord. Thanks to Paul Revere, the minutemen were waiting for them on the Lexington Green.

As the sun came up, the minutemen heard drums in the distance. Soon they heard the marching feet of the soldiers. Their leader said this:

*"Stand your ground. Don't fire unless fired upon.
But if they mean to have a war let it begin here!"*

The British leader told the minutemen to put down their guns and go home. The minutemen stood their ground. There was shouting on both sides. No one is quite sure what happened next, but a shot rang out. Soon more shots were fired.

When the smoke cleared, eight colonists lay dead. As the British left, the people slowly came out to the green.

Concord

The British soldiers moved on to Concord. They wanted to take gunpowder and weapons from the colonists. But more minutemen were waiting there.

When they came to the North Bridge, the British started firing. The colonists shot back. Many years later, a poet named Ralph Waldo Emerson called it “the shot heard round the world.”

Before long, the British commander ordered his men to *retreat*. They started back down the road toward Boston. The minutemen knew this area well. They were able to take shortcuts through the woods. The soldiers had to stay on the main road. Their bright red uniforms made them easy targets.

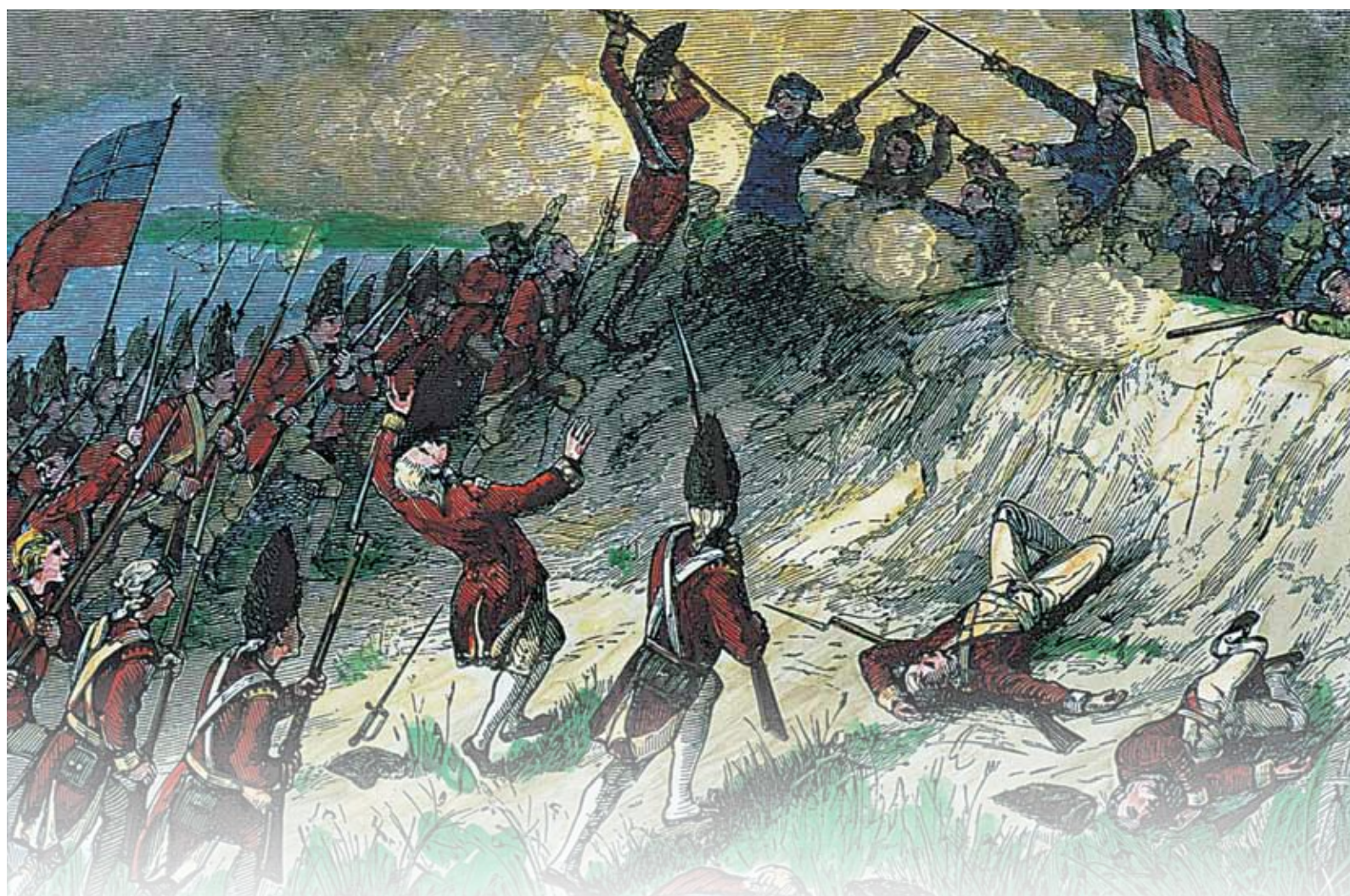
The colonists fired from behind trees, barns, and stone walls. The British soldiers were not used to this kind of fighting. They did not know which way to turn and shoot. They were worn out from their long march. Finally, they stopped firing.

Linking the Past to the Present

The Battles of Lexington and Concord took place on April 19, 1775. April 19th is now a state holiday—Patriot’s Day. How do you celebrate Patriot’s Day?

Alarm bells rang to call out the militia. They met the British soldiers at the North Bridge.
How do you think the women of Lexington and Concord helped the cause?





British soldiers charge up Breed's Hill. The militiamen were not trained soldiers. However, they held strong and fought hard for three charges up the hill.

The Battle of Bunker Hill

The British slowly made their way back to Boston. They planned to stay there and occupy (stay in) the city. British warships soon controlled in the harbor. The generals were making plans to take the Charlestown peninsula, which overlooked Boston. What could the colonists do?

The land on the Charlestown peninsula was hilly. If the colonial soldiers could get there first, they could try to stop the British. They could use the hills to help them, but they had to move quickly.

The militiamen were ordered to dig into Bunker Hill and make a wall and trench. Instead, they chose Breed's Hill. The British would have to climb the hill to attack.

When the British ships landed, rows and rows of soldiers climbed the hill. The colonists did not have much gunpowder, so they had to make it last. Stories say their leader told them, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes!"

When the British got to the top of the hill, the colonists started firing. All at once, the hill was full

of smoke. Bullets flew everywhere. The British kept coming, and they captured the hill. Though most of the fighting was on Breed's Hill, this battle is known as the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The British won the Battle of Bunker Hill. However, they had lost many men. The colonists had lost men too, but not as many. They had shown the British they could stand and fight very well. This was not going to be a short or easy war.



Other Battles in Massachusetts

There were raids and battles in other Massachusetts towns, such as Cambridge, Gloucester, New Bedford, and Martha's Vineyard. After about a year, the fighting moved to other colonies.

This map shows the battle ground of Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill. How do you think the geography shaped events?

The Second Continental Congress

What happened in Massachusetts changed everything. The leaders met again in Philadelphia. This meeting was called the Second Continental Congress.

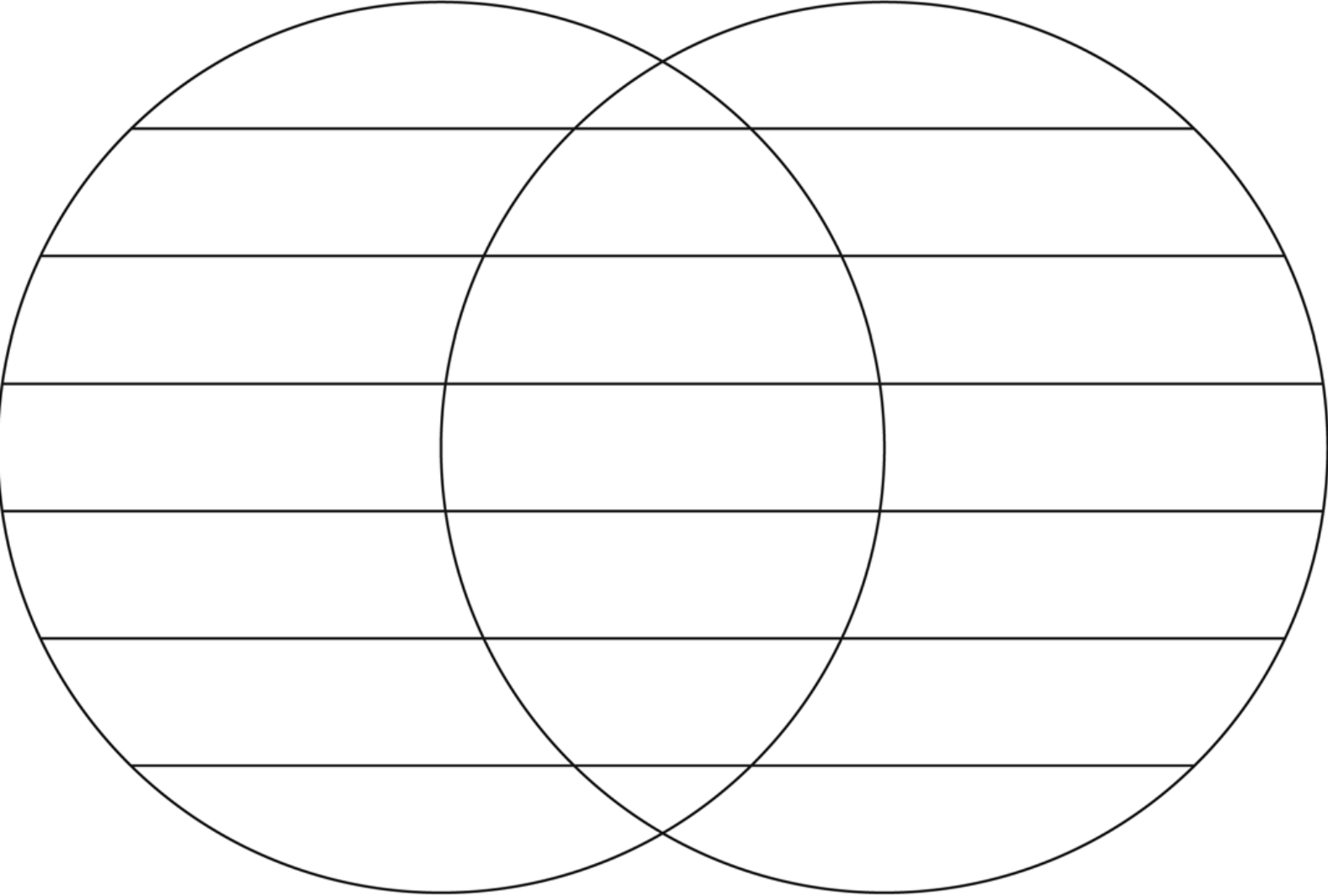
By this time, more colonists wanted to break away from Great Britain. They wanted independence.

Independence means freedom from the control of another person, group, or government. The leaders agreed to do these things:

- Break away from Great Britain and start their own country.
- Send a **declaration** to the king to tell their plans and explain their reasons for breaking away. (A declaration makes something known to everyone.) Thomas Jefferson (of Virginia) began work on this important document.
- Put George Washington in charge of the new Continental army.

British Soldiers

Colonists





Samuel Adams (1722-1803)



Samuel Adams was born in Boston. He went to the Boston Latin School. Then he studied at Harvard.

After Harvard, Adams tried several different jobs. He studied law for a while. Then he worked for a merchant. He tried becoming a brewer (a person who makes ale, or beer). Then he found out he was very good at politics.

Adams was working as the tax collector of Boston. But soon, his ideas and opinions about the taxes changed. He thought they were unfair. He was not shy about speaking up, and he was a good speaker. He believed what he said, and it showed.

People listened to Samuel Adams. They started to look to him as a leader. He worked day and night for the Patriots. Here are some of the things he did during the Revolution and after:

- Started the Sons of Liberty
- Led the Boston Tea Party and other protests
- Represented the people of Boston in the General Court
- Wrote articles and gave speeches that made people want liberty (freedom)
- Told the leaders of all the colonies that they should meet
- Was a member of the First and Second Continental Congresses
- Signed the Declaration of Independence
- Helped write a state constitution for Massachusetts
- Helped get Massachusetts to agree to the US Constitution
- Served as lieutenant (assistant) governor of Massachusetts
- Served as governor of Massachusetts for four years



Paul Revere (1734-1818)



Photograph © 2014, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

We know of Paul Revere from his famous midnight ride, but there was much more to his life. He was a skilled silversmith. He made silver bowls, pitchers, knives, forks, spoons, and tea sets to sell. He also made copper engravings. Engraving means drawing pictures or words on metal sheets using a sharp tool. He worked as a dentist, too.

Revere was working for Patriot leaders as an express rider. The Sons of Liberty trusted him to deliver messages near and far. When the Boston Tea Party happened, he spread the word. He galloped on horseback to New York and Philadelphia to tell the people there. Then, of course, he rode to warn people across the countryside that the British soldiers were coming.

Most of the famous people you have read about in this chapter did not fight in the war. They were important in other ways, but they were not soldiers. Paul Revere *did* fight in the war. He had also fought in the French and Indian War before, so he knew how terrible war could be.

After the war, Revere made bells and cannons to sell. He started the first copper mill in America. He also printed money for Massachusetts. When he died, he left his business to his sons. You can visit his grave at Granary Burying Ground in Boston.

John Hancock (1737-1793)



Look at the bottom of the Declaration of Independence. Whose name stands out? John Hancock's! He was the first to sign it.

John Hancock was a wealthy man. He could have chosen to sit back and ignore the problems of the people. He did not. Instead, he got to know Samuel Adams and some of the other Patriots. He believed the same things they believed about freedom. Hancock cheered the Boston Tea Party and helped the colonists move toward revolution.

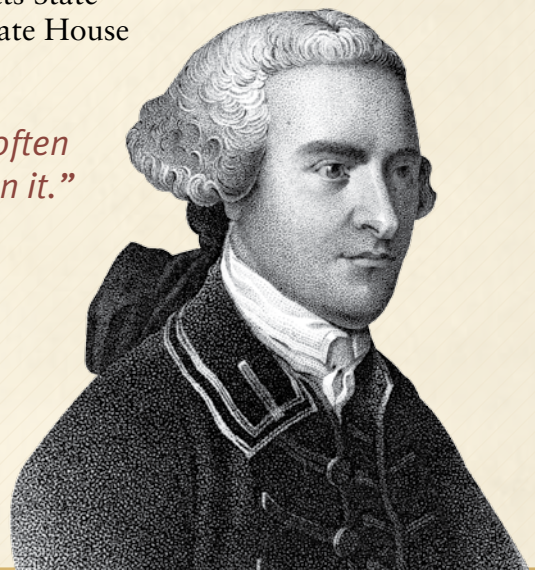
The British knew John Hancock was a strong leader. They knew he was buying guns for the Patriots. They wanted to arrest him for treason. They offered a reward to anyone who would catch him.

Hancock did not shrink in fear. He went on to lead the Continental Congresses. He was not afraid to sign the Declaration of Independence. No one knows if this is true or not, but legend has it that Hancock signed his name that large so the king could read it without putting on his glasses!

Later, when the people of Massachusetts chose their first governor, they chose John Hancock. The Massachusetts State House was built on land that belonged to him. The State House is where our state government meets today.

When people today sign something, they often say they are "putting their John Hancock on it."

A large, elegant cursive signature of John Hancock, written in black ink.





John Adams (1735-1826)



John Adams was important to Massachusetts before the first battle of the Revolution and long after the war ended. He was born in Braintree in what is now part of Quincy. He grew up on his family's farm. After studying at Harvard, he became a great lawyer.

Adams worked hard to make the colonies free. He argued against the Stamp Act. He got other men to sign a petition (a written request) saying why the act was unfair. The British knew that Adams was smart and could do great things. They offered him money to switch to their side. Adams said no. He wanted freedom more than money.

Other Patriots looked up to John Adams. They sent him to the General Court and to the Continental Congresses. Adams was one of the first leaders to say the colonies should be independent.

After the war was won, John Adams did not stop working. He went to Europe to represent his new country. He helped make the treaty that ended the war. Back at home, he wrote a state constitution for Massachusetts. He also became the first vice president of the United States. (George Washington was the first president.) Then, Adams was chosen as president.

“The revolution was in the minds of the people . . . before a drop of blood was shed at Lexington.”

—JOHN ADAMS



Abigail Smith Adams (1744-1818)



Abigail Smith was from Weymouth. She did not get to go to school, but she was very smart. She loved to read. When she grew up, she married John Adams, her “dearest friend.”

Abigail Adams was a Patriot. While John was busy with his work, she was busy at home. She had to keep the farm running. When her children were not in school, she taught them lessons herself. One of her sons, John Quincy Adams, grew up to be the sixth president of the United States.

In those days, women had few rights. They could not vote, and few owned land. Slaves had no rights at all. Abigail Adams stood up for both women and slaves. In a famous letter, she told her husband to “remember the ladies.” She said the men should think of women, too, in all their talk of freedom.

of smoke. Bullets flew everywhere. The British kept coming, and they captured the hill. Though most of the fighting was on Breed's Hill, this battle is known as the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The British won the Battle of Bunker Hill. However, they had lost many men. The colonists had lost men too, but not as many. They had shown the British they could stand and fight very well. This was not going to be a short or easy war.



This map shows the battle ground of Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill. How do you think the geography shaped events?

Other Battles in Massachusetts

There were raids and battles in other Massachusetts towns, such as Cambridge, Gloucester, New Bedford, and Martha's Vineyard. After about a year, the fighting moved to other colonies.

The Second Continental Congress

What happened in Massachusetts changed everything. The leaders met again in Philadelphia. This meeting was called the Second Continental Congress.

By this time, more colonists wanted to break away from Great Britain. They wanted independence.

Independence means freedom from the control of another person, group, or government. The leaders agreed to do these things:

- Break away from Great Britain and start their own country.
- Send a **declaration** to the king to tell their plans and explain their reasons for breaking away. (A declaration makes something known to everyone.) Thomas Jefferson (of Virginia) began work on this important document.
- Put George Washington in charge of the new Continental army.

The Declaration of Independence

Many people thought John Adams should write the Declaration. He was Samuel's cousin and another smart Patriot from Massachusetts. John Adams did not think he was the best person to write it. He thought a man from Virginia named Thomas Jefferson should write it, and others would help. Jefferson said he would try his best.

What Does It Say?

Thomas Jefferson worked hard to find the best words to use. He explained why the colonists wanted to be free states:

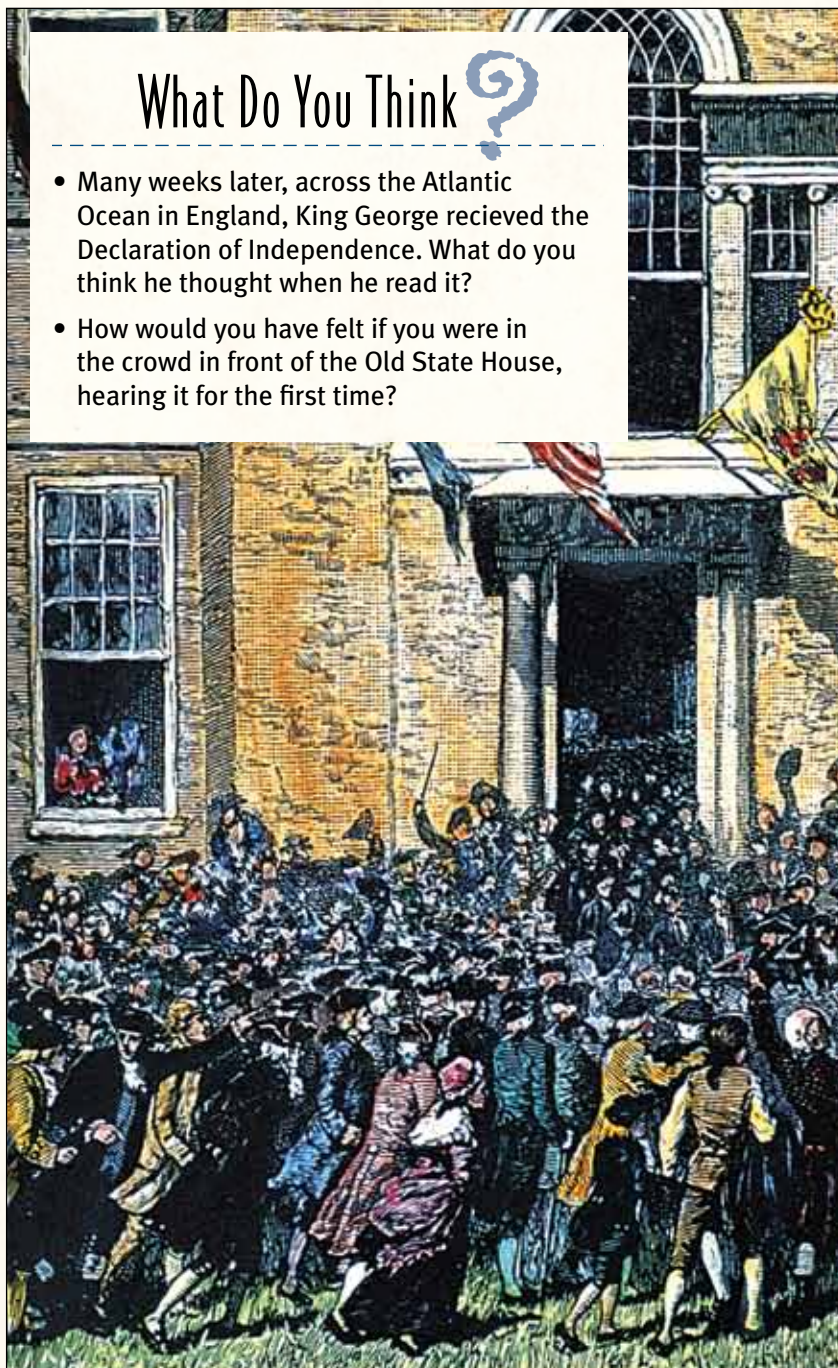
- They have rights that cannot be taken away. **Rights** are the basic liberties or privileges that every citizen has. The colonists believe "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain **inalienable** Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."
- A government should protect these rights.
- If the government does not protect the people, they can overthrow it and start a new government.
- Governments get their power from the people.
- The British Parliament and the king have hurt the colonists. (Jefferson listed the ways.)
- The colonists have a right to go to war because the British hurt them instead of protecting them.

Spreading the News

On July 4, 1776, the Congress approved the Declaration. John Hancock of Massachusetts was the first to sign it. (He was president of the Congress.) He wrote his name in very large letters. (Most of the other

What Do You Think?

- Many weeks later, across the Atlantic Ocean in England, King George received the Declaration of Independence. What do you think he thought when he read it?
- How would you have felt if you were in the crowd in front of the Old State House, hearing it for the first time?



leaders signed it later.) The Declaration was taken to a printer, and copies were made. The next morning, riders carried copies to all the colonies.

About two weeks later in Boston, the Declaration of Independence was read from the balcony of the Old State House. The people listened in the street below.

Signing the Declaration of Independence was a brave thing for

John Hancock and the others to do. In the eyes of the king, these men were committing treason. **Treason** is the crime of trying to hurt your own government, whether by selling its secrets or fighting against it. If the colonies lost the war, these men could all be put to death.

The states were on their way to being a new country. It was not going to be easy. They still had to fight a war.

