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DEATCALION

To Martha, Jordan, and Allison

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Everyday Life: Revolutionary War copynight © Good Year Books.

Introduction



n April 19, 1765, the first shots of the American Revolution were fired at Lexington, Massachusetts. On September 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was signed at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During the 12 years in between, what in time became the United States of America underwent a shaky beginning.

Sometimes the struggle of the American colonies for independence is referred to as the American Revolution. At other times, as in this book, it is called the Revolutionary War. Still other sources favor the War of Independence. By whatever name the revolution is called, it was not some spontaneous event that happened overnight. Quite the contrary. The colonists' revolt against Great Britain came after years of frustration and sincere attempts to work things out with the mother country.

In *Everyday Life: Revolutionary War*, the student learns that the vast majority of colonists never desired a break with Great Britain. Most simply wanted Parliament to repeal acts they considered unfair and harmful to the colonies. Even when matters reached the point of no return, only about a third actually favored war. The remainder either wholeheartedly supported Great Britain or tried to remain neutral.

Everyday Life: Revolutionary War is not a book about battles. Battles, of course, are covered, but the focus of this book is on people and how they reacted and coped with the war and the years immediately following it. The roles of women, children, free African-Americans, and patriotic civilians are given equal space with the soldiers who did the fighting. Stories of individual determination and courage, along with a variety of activities at the end of each chapter, should make the book interesting reading for all students.

Walter A. Hazen



Name ______ Date _____

Distinguish Between Fact and Opinion

an you tell the difference between a fact and an opinion? Sometimes it is not easy to do. In our daily conversations, we make statements we think are facts but which in reality are opinions. Facts are things that are true and can be proven; opinions are simply strong beliefs.

Here are statements related to the material you read in Chapter One. On the blank line to the left of each, write **F** if you think the statement is a fact. Write **O** if you think it is an opinion.

- 1. Had it not been for the Proclamation of 1763, the Indians would have driven the English colonists into the sea.
- _____2. King George III was one of Great Britain's most able rulers.
 - _____3. The colonists felt that taxation without representation was unfair.
 - ___4. Daniel Boone blazed a trail through the mountains that opened up the way to the West.
- _____5. Great Britain saw the American colonies as children whose duty it was to obey the mother country.
- _____6. All Englishmen in Great Britain viewed the colonists as upstarts who should be dealt with severely.
- _____7. Everyone in the colonies hated King George III.
- _____8. Parliament was justified in passing the Declaratory Act after the Stamp Act was appealed.
- 9. All colonists supported the boycott of English goods that followed the passage of the Townshend Acts.
- ____10. The colonists' boycott of English goods succeeded in getting the Townshend Acts repealed.
- ____II. By the I760s, the people who had settled along the Atlantic Seaboard had begun to think of themselves as Americans.



CHAPTER 3

The Continental Congresses

he enforcement of the Boston Port Act and other "Intolerable Acts" in 1774 stirred the colonists to action. With Virginia and Massachusetts leading the way, the First Continental Congress assembled at Philadelphia on September 5, 1774. It remained in session until October 26. Upon adjourning, it promised to meet again on May 10, 1775, if Parliament had not addressed the grievances presented to the king by the delegates. It was while the Second Continental Congress was in session that

CARPENTERS HALL

Carpenter's
Hall in
Philadelphia,
where the first
Continental
Congress met
in September—
October, 1774.

the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired.

But first things first. The 56 delegates who made up the First Continental Congress represented every colony except Georgia. Georgia at the time was under the thumb of a strong royal governor and was in no position to openly defy the Crown. The people of Georgia, however, did get word to the Congress that they would support any decision and measures adopted by the delegates.

Included among the 56 delegates at Philadelphia were some of the most influential men in America. Virginia was represented by the likes of George Washington, Patrick Henry, and Thomas Jefferson. From Massachusetts came John and Samuel Adams, while Pennsylvania was ably represented by Benjamin Franklin and John Dickinson. John Jay from New York and John

Randolph from South Carolina were other leading figures in attendance.

The delegates who assembled at Philadelphia were a mixture of moderates and radicals. In politics, a moderate is a person who tries to look at both sides of an issue and seeks a peaceful solution to the problem. A radical, on the other hand, favors extreme and sometimes violent means to attain an end. John Dickinson was a leading spokesman for the moderates, while South Carolina's Christopher Gadsden and Virginia's Patrick Henry argued the cause of the radicals. Patrick Henry summed up the view of the radical side when he shouted, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"



Name ______ Date __



Make False Statements True

All of these statements are false. Change the words in italics to make them true. Write the replacement words on the lines following the statements.

- I. The first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired while the British were on their way to seize a store of arms the Americans had hidden at Lexington.
- 2. On the way to confiscate a store of weapons accumulated by the militia, General Thomas Gage had orders to arrest *Paul Revere* and *William Dawes*.
- 3. Major John Pitcairn commanded the American militiamen who encountered the British at Lexington.
- 4. Fifteen or twenty Americans lost their lives at Lexington.
- 5. General William Howe commanded the 1,600 Americans who fought at Breed's Hill.
- 6. Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill overlooked the city of Concord.
- 7. The Americans defending Breed's Hill retreated after the third British charge because they were afraid.
- 8. William Prescott led the Green Mountain Boys who captured Fort Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775.
- 9. Fort Ticonderoga was a British stronghold in upstate Massachusetts. _____
- 10. Fort Ticonderoga was located on Lake Erie.
- 11. The British guns captured at Fort Ticonderoga were transported overland with great effort by Colonel *Jonas Parker*.
- 12. The guns from Fort Ticonderoga were instrumental in causing the British to withdraw from the city of *New York*.







that all men are created equal. . ." This statement has been debated since Jefferson penned it in that summer of 1776. What did he mean by equal?

During the 18th century, the terms *men* and *mankind* were used to include both men and women. Was Jefferson doing so when he used the term men? No one knows for sure. It seems obvious that he excluded free blacks and slaves, who at the time made up one-fifth of the population of America. Regardless of the meaning of Jefferson's statement, both women and African-Americans would have to struggle for many years to attain even some of the

rights granted to white males from the beginning.

Jefferson finished the Declaration of Independence on June 28, 1776. It was passed by Congress on July 4, 1776 and signed by two men: John Hancock, the president of the Congress, and Charles Thomson, its secretary. Later, when a copy of the Declaration was made on fine parchment, all the members of Congress affixed their signatures.



Signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the famous document, stands at the center of the table. From John Trumbull's famous painting.

Altogether, 56 men signed the famous document. Included among them were two future presidents, three vice presidents, 10 U.S. congressmen, 19 judges, 16 state governors, and an assortment of other officeholders.

The men who signed the Declaration of Independence knew they were putting their careers and even their lives on line. But they were willing to take that chance to establish a free America. The importance of the moment was not lost on any of them, particularly John Adams of Massachusetts. Adams wrote his wife stating that he believed the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence would thereafter be celebrated each year with "shows, games, sports, balls, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other."

How right John Adams was that historic day in 1776.

