

GED Social
Studies
Day 3



COMUNIDADES LATINAS
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO





American Revolutionary War and the Declaration of Independence

Essential Questions

Why do people fight in wars?

What factors contribute to war?

What causes disagreements?

When should one question authority?

Why is independence important?

What is the impact of war on society?

Causes of the American Revolutionary War

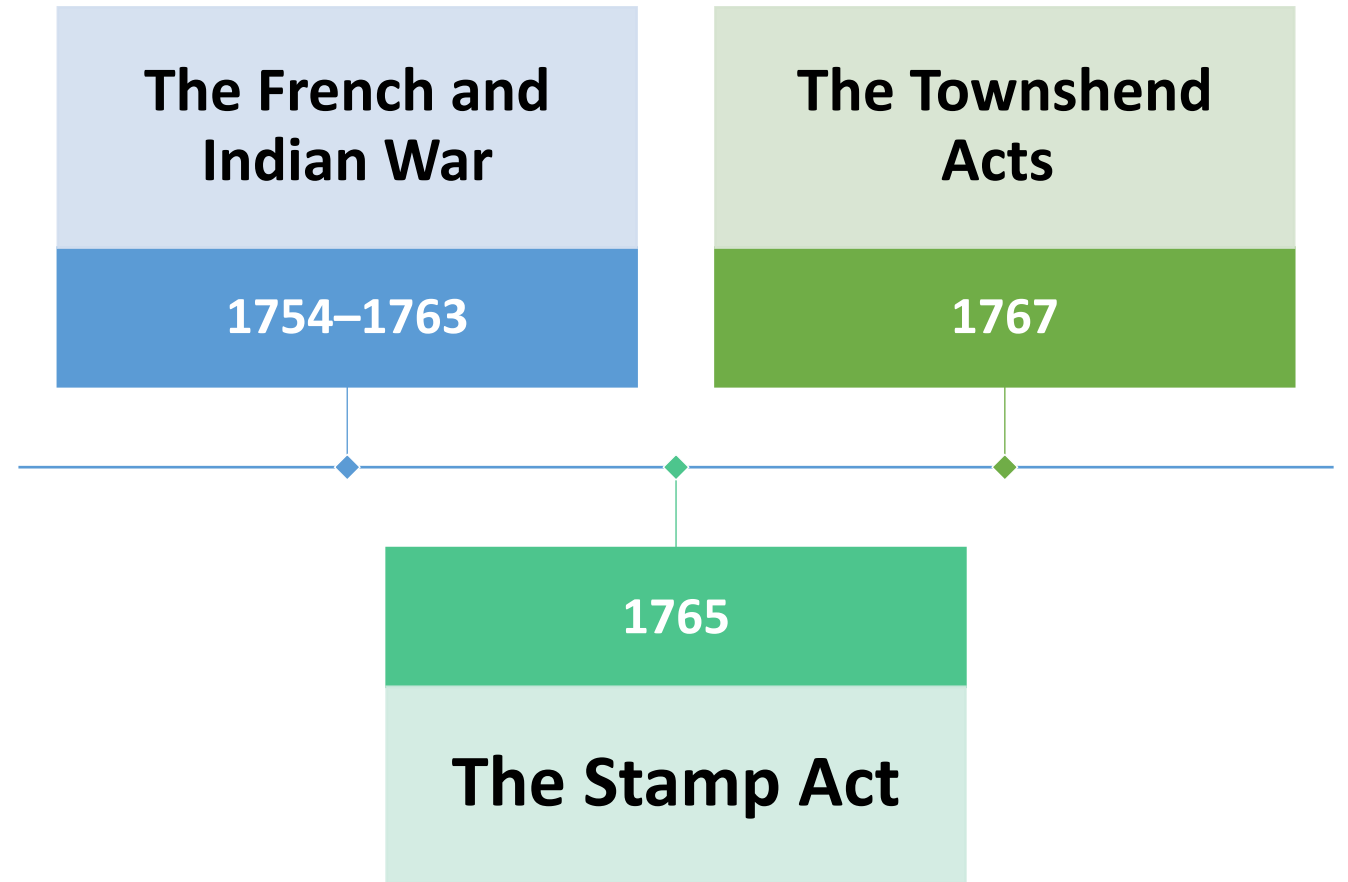
- The **American Revolutionary War** was a war fought from 1775 to 1783 between Great Britain and the 13 American Colonies (who would later become the United States). Before the Revolutionary War, the Colonies had been a part of Great Britain for around 150 years.



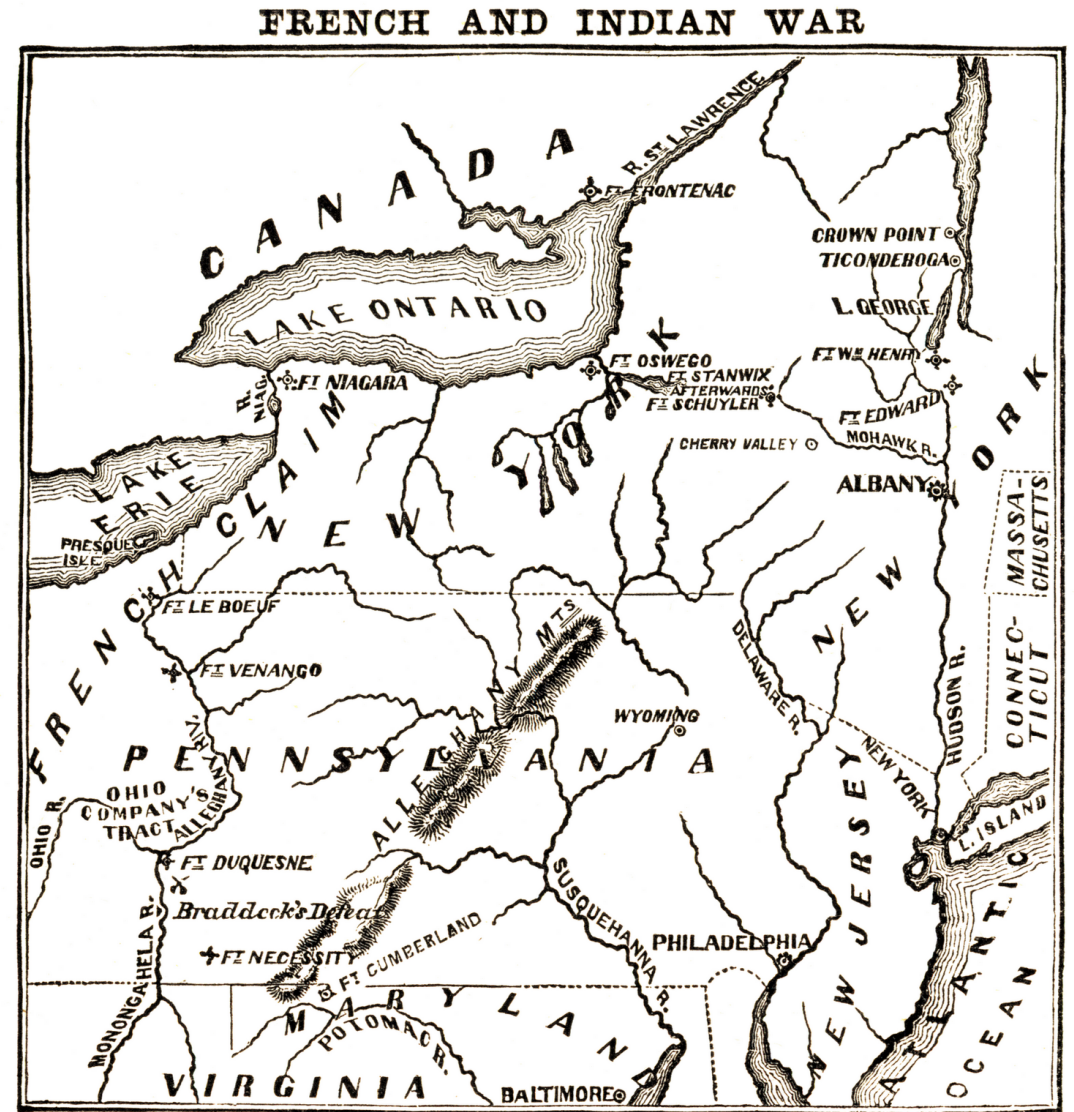
“No Taxation Without Representation”



Key Events:



Although the 13 Colonies had originally been founded by British citizens, the relationship began to become strained following the **French and Indian War** (France vs. Britain and the Colonies). Britain and the Colonies worked together to win, but the war left the British Empire in need of money, and so they began to *impose taxes* on the colonists. This made many people unhappy and inspired protests.



MAP OF THE SCENE OF OPERATIONS.



The Stamp Act required that the colonists use paper from London with a special stamp on it. However, buying this paper was very expensive. The *act* (law) made people very angry, because they could not oppose it in the government. They created the phrase “*No taxation without representation!*” to argue that it was wrong for Britain to tax the Colonies, who had no representatives in government.

Anno quinto

Georgii III. Regis.

C A P. XII.

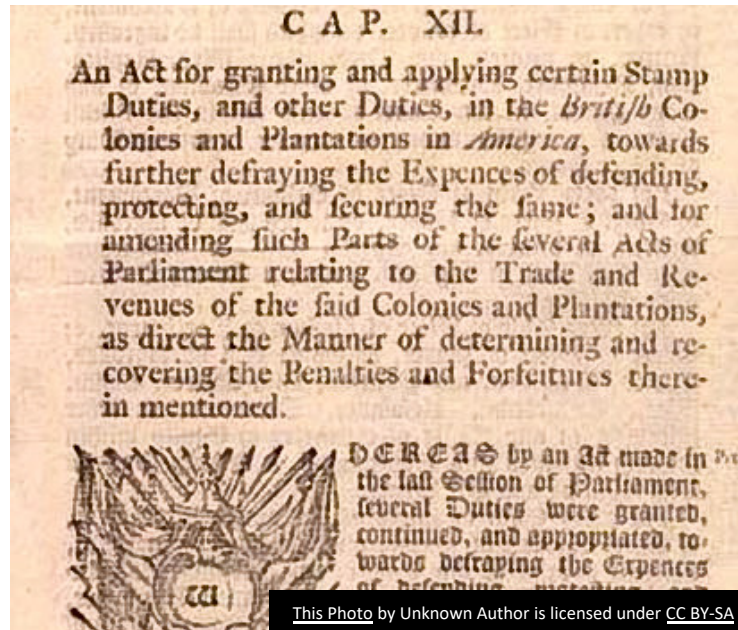
An Act for granting and applying certain Stamp Duties, and other Duties, in the *British Colonies and Plantations in America*, towards further defraying the Expences of defending, protecting, and securing the same; and for amending such Parts of the several Acts of Parliament relating to the Trade and Revenues of the said Colonies and Plantations, as direct the Manner of determining and recovering the Penalties and Forfeitures there- in mentioned.



WHEREAS by an Act made in the last Session of Parliament, several Duties were granted, continued, and appropriated, towards defraying the Expences of defending, protecting, and securing, the British Colonies and Plantations in America: And whereas it is just and necessary, that Provision be made for raising a further Revenue within Your Majesty's Dominions in America, towards defraying the said Expences: We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled, have



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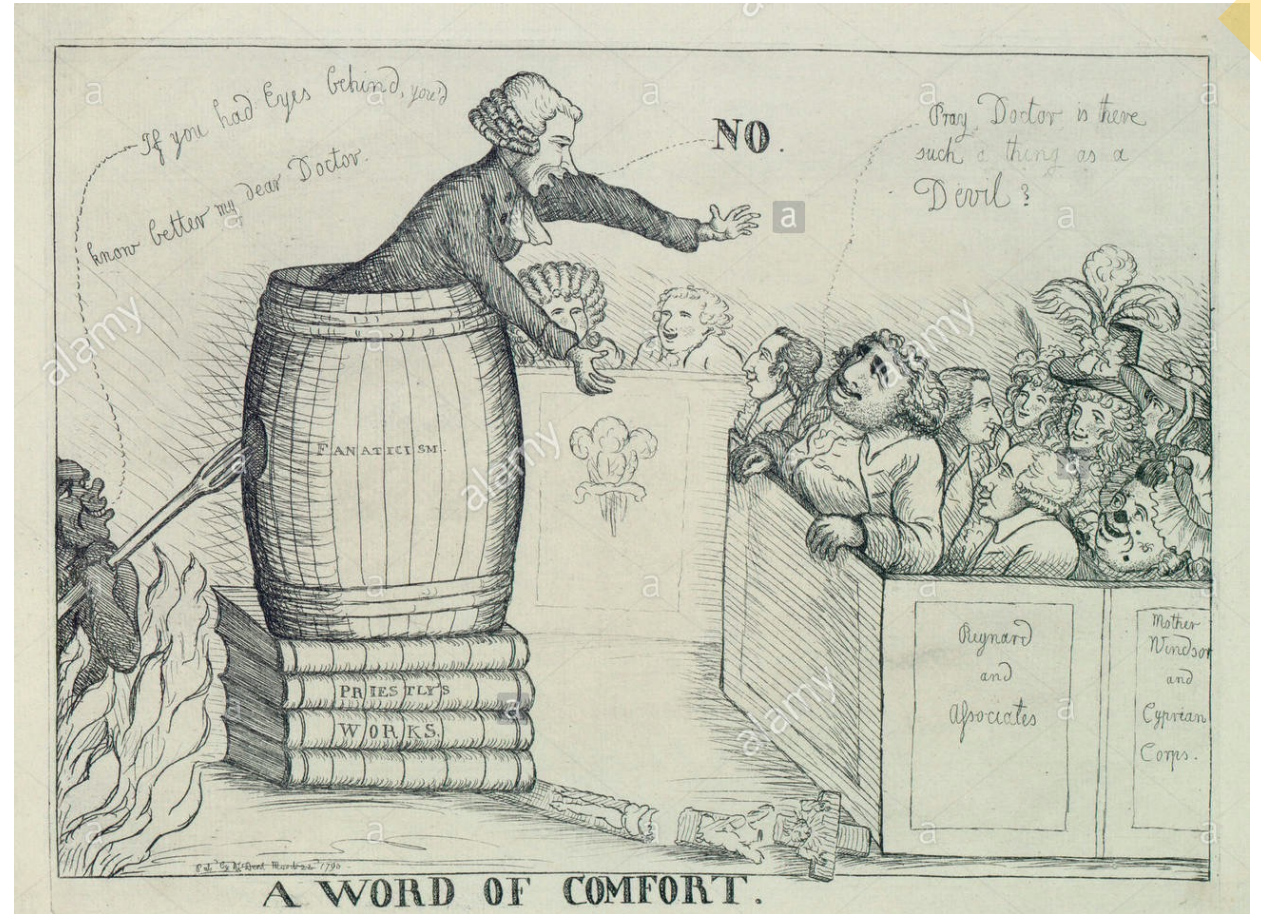
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The Stamp Act

- The **Townshend Acts** imposed new taxes on the colonists a few years later. These new acts imposed taxes on glass, lead, paint and tea. Again, the colonists protested. Furthermore, the city of Boston decided to stop importing any British goods. The British responded by sending more soldiers.



Unrest in Boston



Key Events: The Boston Massacre (March 5, 1770)
The Boston Tea Party (December 16, 1773)



Boston, Massachusetts, was one of the most politically active cities in the 13 Colonies. Because of unrest caused by the Townshend Acts, Britain sent many soldiers (known as *Redcoats*, for their uniform) to the city. On March 5, 1770, some Bostonians were insulting and throwing rocks at a group of Redcoats. The soldiers responded by firing into the crowd, killing 5 people in what would become known as the **Boston Massacre**.



Three years later, when Britain tried to force colonists to pay for shipments of tea, a group of Bostonians wearing disguises went onto the ship and threw all of the tea into the water. This protest, later known as the **Boston Tea Party**, angered Britain greatly. They responded with new *acts*.

*Americans throwing the Cargoes of the Tea Ships into the River
at Boston*

The Colonies Begin to Unite



Key Events: The "Intolerable Acts" (1774)
The First Continental Congress (1774)

- The British government passed a series of acts in response to the Boston Tea Party, which became known as the **Intolerable Acts** because they were so harsh. The acts punished Boston and expanded British control in the colonies, and they were greatly opposed.





The colonists formed the **First Continental Congress** in response. It included representatives from the colonies, who *joined together* to oppose the Intolerable Acts and to support Boston.

War Breaks Out



Key Events: Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775)
The Second Continental Congress (1775)
The Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)

- By 1775, relations between the Colonies and Great Britain were worse than ever. Colonists began to *stockpile* (collect) weapons illegally. When the British soldiers found out, they marched to take the weapons from the city of Concord, west of Boston. However, the colonists formed *militias* (town armies) to stop them. The Redcoats and Colonial militias (known as *Minutemen*, because they were ready to fight at any minute) first fought in Lexington. It is unknown which side fired the first shot. The Redcoats then continued on to Concord, where they found even more Minutemen and fought again. The Minutemen chased the Redcoats all the way back to Boston. Together, these battles are known as the Battles of **Lexington and Concord**. They were the first battles of the Revolutionary War.

Battles of Lexington and Concord



Just a couple months after Lexington and Concord, all 13 Colonies joined together to create the **Second Continental Congress**. The Congress tried to *make peace* with Great Britain, but the King would not.



Therefore, the Congress chose *George Washington* to lead the new *Continental Army*, and on *July 4, 1776*, they signed the **Declaration of Independence**, in which the United States officially separated itself from Great Britain. Today, we celebrate *July 4th* as *Independence Day* in the United States, although the war continued for seven more years (until 1883).



Questions

Was the American Revolution inevitable?

How did the movement toward revolution cause the Declaration of Independence to be written?

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: A COMPARISON OF RESOURCES

	BRITAIN	THIRTEEN COLONIES
Population	Approximately 12,000,000	Approximately 2,800,000
Money	Richest country in the world	No money to support the war effort
Army	Large, well-trained army	Willing, but poorly equipped, volunteer force
Leaders	Many skilled officers	Few officers capable of leading
Location	Vast strange land without nearby supplies	Familiar land with close, but limited, supplies

4. Based on the table, which of the following looked like the most likely outcome of the war?
- A. The colonies would win.
 - B. The British would win.
 - C. A truce would be declared.
 - D. The thirteen colonies would expand.
5. Based on the table, in what area were the colonists most prepared?
- A. They had the most people.
 - B. They had the largest budget.
 - C. They had many trained military officers.
 - D. They easily could locate their supplies.

List the **Key Events** from each section (10 total):

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Activity

- Choose 1 or 2 of the Key Events above that you think was/were most influential in leading to war.
- **My choice(s):**
- Write a paragraph arguing why your choice(s) had the *most* effect. Remember, you can also include a sentence or two about why other choices are *not as good* as yours.

The Declaration of Independence: What Does it Say?

- The Declaration of Independence was designed for multiple audiences: the King, the colonists, and the world. It was also designed to multitask. Its goals were to rally the troops, win foreign allies, and to announce the creation of a new country. The introductory sentence states the Declaration's main purpose, to explain the colonists' right to revolution. In other words, "to declare the causes which impel them to the separation." Congress had to prove the legitimacy of its cause. It had just defied the most powerful nation on Earth. It needed to motivate foreign allies to join the fight.



Pulling down the Statue of King George III

After a public reading of the Declaration of Independence at Bowling Green, on July 9, 1776, New Yorkers pulled down the statue of King George III. Parts of the statue were reportedly melted down and used for bullets. Courtesy of Lafayette College Art Collection Easton, Pennsylvania

Preamble

- These are the lines contemporary Americans know best:
 - *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness.”*
- These stirring words were designed to convince Americans to put their lives on the line for the cause. Separation from the mother country threatened their sense of security, economic stability, and identity. The preamble sought to inspire and unite them through the vision of a better life.

What is the main idea in the previous excerpt from the **Declaration of Independence?**

- A. All men are endowed with alienable rights.
- B. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are important freedoms.
- C. King George II of Britain was a tyrant.
- D. People have the right to end destructive governments and form new ones.

List of Grievances

- The list of 27 complaints against King George III constitute the proof of the right to rebellion. Congress cast “the causes which impel them to separation” in universal terms for an international audience. Join our fight, reads the subtext, and you join humankind’s fight against tyranny.

Resolution of Independence

- The most important and dramatic statement comes near the end: “That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States.” It declares a complete break with Britain and its King and claims the powers of an independent country.

In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

DECLARATION,

By the REPRESENTATIVES of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
In GENERAL CONGRESS Assembled.

WHEN in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind require, that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes, and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former system of government. The history of the present King of Great-Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid

For protecting them by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the World:

For imposing Taxes on us without our consent:

For depriving us, in many Cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws, in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of Death, Desolation and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited Domestic Insurrections among us, and has endeavored to bring on

Preamble

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

- ***The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America***, *When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.*
- *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.*

Questions

- Thomas Jefferson chose to begin the Declaration with the words, “The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.” Do you feel this was necessary? Why or why not? Could the 13 colonies have declared independence if they were not unanimous? Why or why not?
- What rights did Jefferson list as important? He says that people make governments to protect those rights. What did he say the people should do if their rights are not being respected by the government?

Homework!

Active Assignments



Week 3

To begin, select an activity from All Activities

[Select New Activity](#) 



All Activities

Completion: 0/5 (0%)



No Due Date