

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION- VIDEO WORKSHEET

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHi4dbW7wNY>

1. BEFORE WATCHING

What do you already know about the American revolution?

2. FIRST VIEWING – THE BIG PICTURE

What is the video mainly about?

- ☐ A. The American revolution's impact on today's America.
- ☒ B. The main events that led to American independence
- ☐ C. The creation of the American Constitution
- ☐ D. The relationship between the United States and France

The American Revolution (also called the American war of Independence) was a conflict between Britain / the British government and the 13 American colonies

It took place in the: ☐ 16th century ☐ 17th century ☒ 18th century ☐ 19th century

It lasted 8 years

3. UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES

Complete the sentences.

- After the Seven Years' War, Britain which was deeply in debt needed money and decided to tax the American colonies.

Before that, the colonies were largely left to govern themselves

- The colonists objected to taxation because they resented their lack of representation in the British Parliament. They demanded the same rights as other British subjects.

- Colonial resistance led to violence in 1770 when British soldiers killed 5 men during the "Boston Massacre"

[* 1756-1763: international conflict involving several European powers, especially Britain and France. Fight for power and territory, especially in America. In Northern America, it is also called the French and "Indian" war]

4. THE "BOSTON TEA PARTY" AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

- When did it happen? 1773 ("3 years later")

- What happened? Bostonians dumped British ships tea cargoes into the harbour

- Why? To protest against taxes

- Reactions: a) the British wanted to reassert their authority with punitive measures

b) colonial delegates met in Philadelphia around George Washington and John and Samuel Adams to organise the protest: they refused taxation and the maintenance of the British Army in the colonies

5. THE WAR and THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

- Which event triggered the war? A clash between militia men (American) and British soldiers
- When? April 1775
- Who created the continental army? George Washington
- Why did the Congress decide to create a standing army of soldiers doing long-term service?

Because the recruitment was difficult (poor inexperienced young men volunteered to have cash or land)

- Which battle was a key moment in the war? Victory of Saratoga (General Gates) – [Sept-Oct 1777]
- Who helped train the American troops? The French
- Did the British lose all the battles? No, many victories (Bunker Hill + spectacular victories in the South)
- Where did the British surrender? Yorktown, Virginia When? 1781

6. THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE – (DATE: July 4th 1776)

- Who was involved in drafting it? 5 men among whom Benjamin Franklin and John Adams [+Thomas Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston, and Roger Sherman]
- Who is its main author? Thomas Jefferson

7. WHAT HAS THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION CHANGED?

- Why might it be important beyond the Revolution itself? (positive elements)
It has eliminated the formal nobility + recognised the inheritance rights of women
It has replaced the elected monarchy with an elected government system
- Which contradictions are there between the text of the Declaration of Independence and life in the USA at the time?
30% of the American population were slaves and were still considered property
women weren't given the right to vote (remember when they got it?? 1920)

8. RECAP: BUILDING A TIMELINE

- Number the events from 1 to 7.

___ The Treaty of Paris (= _____)

___ The Boston Tea Party takes place.

___ The Declaration of Independence is adopted.

___ Britain and the colonies go to war.

___ The French support the American rebels.

___ Britain imposes new taxes on the colonies.

___ The American colonies defeat Britain.

- Add the dates: Beginning of war: _____ Declaration : _____ Treaty of Paris: _____

1. Britain imposes new taxes; 2. Boston Tea Party (1773); 3. Britain and colonies go to war (1775); 4. Declaration of Independence (1776); 5. French support becomes decisive (especially after the Franco-American alliance, 1778); 6. American victory / British defeat (1781 at Yorktown); 7. Treaty of Paris (Britain recognizes the USA)(1783).

9. LOOKING AHEAD – 250 YEARS LATER

The United States marked the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

What aspects of the American Revolution can you still see, hear or recognize in the USA today?

What is the legacy of the American Revolution in the USA today?

Why do Americans continue to refer to the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence when they argue about political and social issues today?

Which further questions could we wonder about? What might be questioned 250 years later?

NB: Read these excerpts from the Declaration of Independence and react:

1. 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**.
2. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, **deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed**,
3. — 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**.