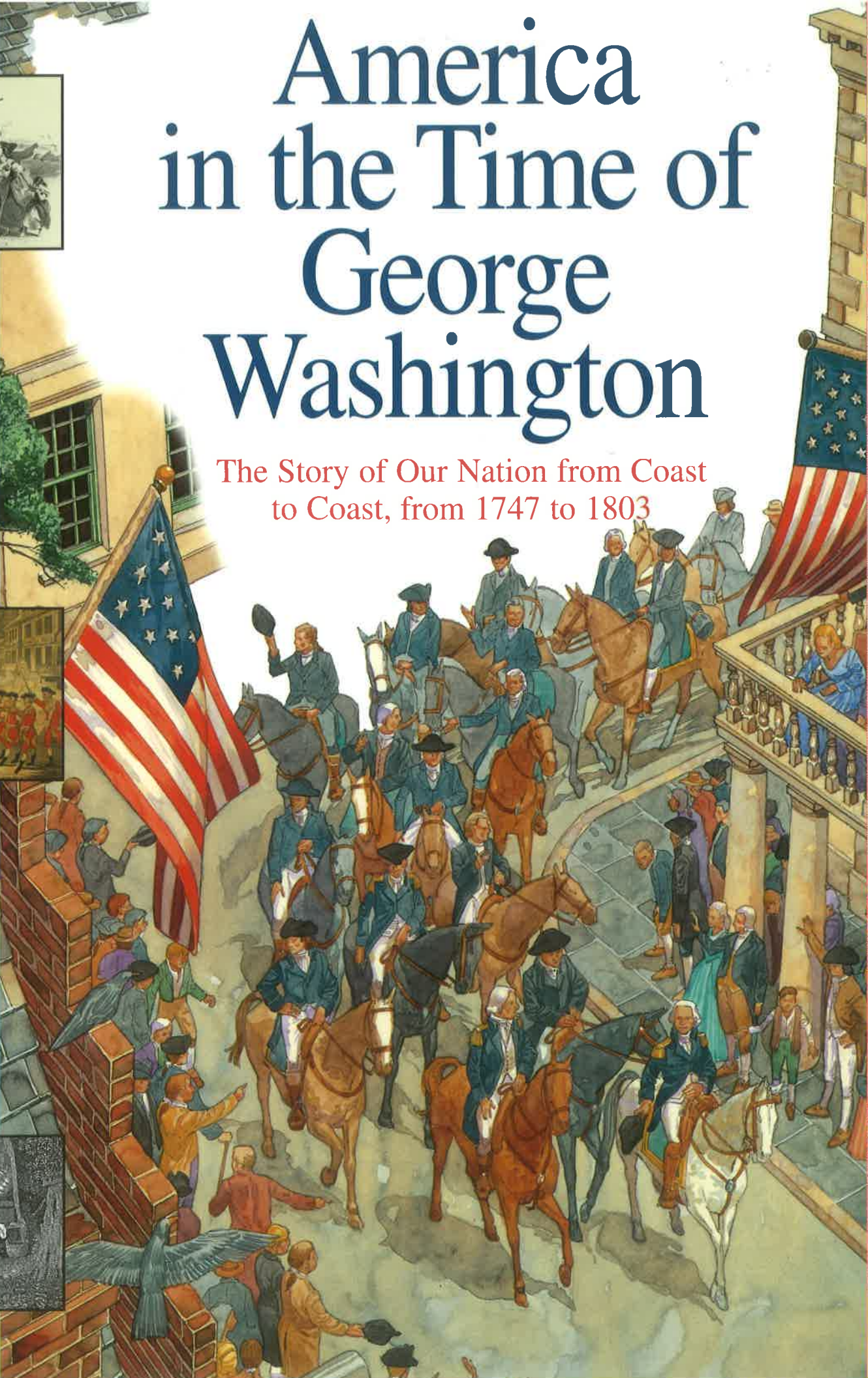
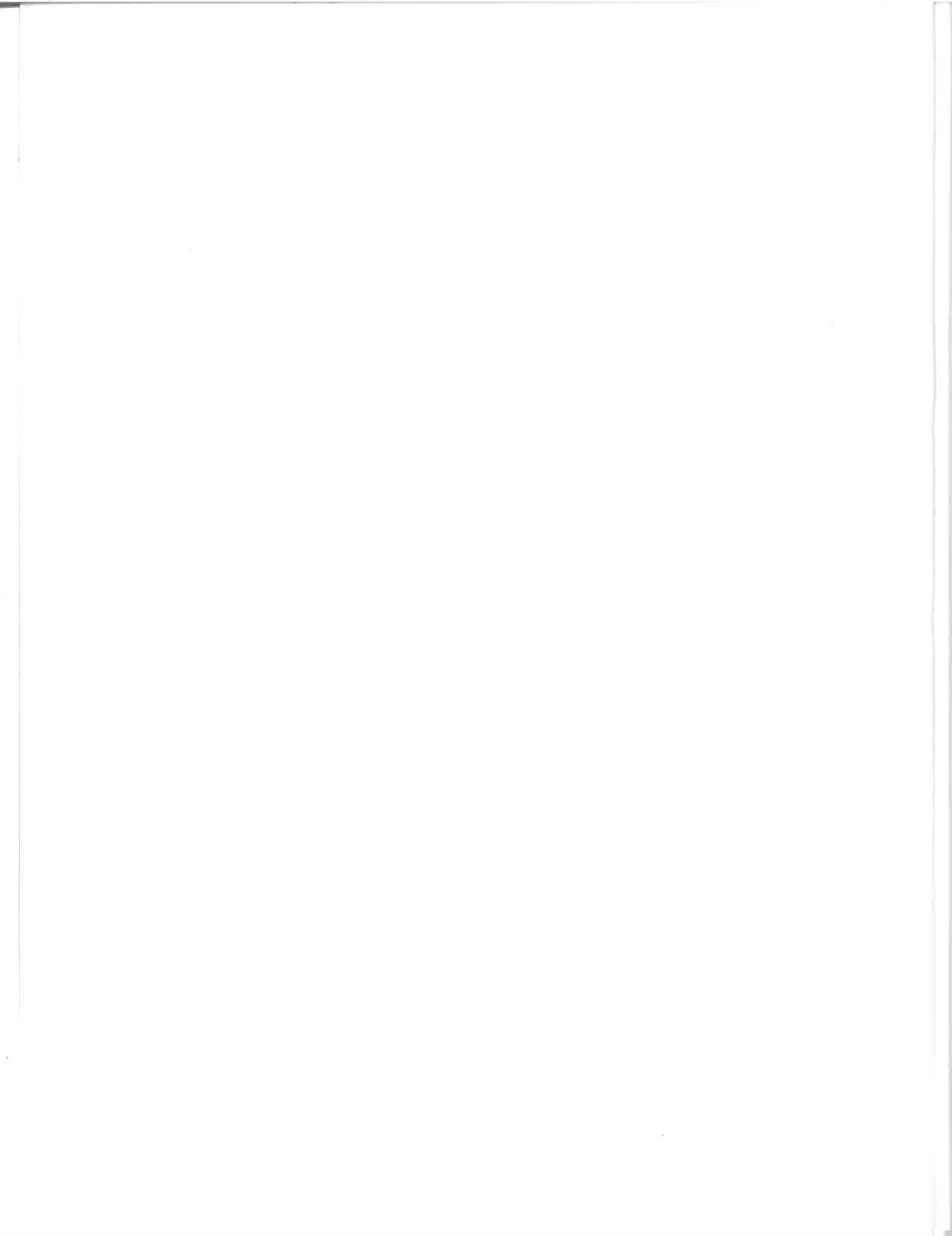


# America in the Time of George Washington

The Story of Our Nation from Coast  
to Coast, from 1747 to 1803





AMERICA IN THE TIME OF  
**GEORGE  
WASHINGTON**

1747 to 1803



Sally Senzell Isaacs

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Page 12: Stamp Act Congress – *Documents of American  
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Page 16: Samuel Adam's quote: From *The Massachusetts  
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Page 125.

Page 20: Patrick Henry's speech. There is no written  
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of Henry by William Wirt, who relied on accounts given to  
him by people who heard the speech.

Page 24: Quote by Joseph Martin, private in First  
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Some of the Adventures, Dangers, and Suffering of a  
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Page 34: Frederick Law Olmsted quote from *Slavery in  
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## ABOUT THIS SERIES

**America in the Time of** is a series of nine books arranged chronologically, meaning that events are described in the order in which they happened. However, since each book focuses on an important person in American history, the timespans of the titles overlap. In each book, most articles deal with a particular event or part of American history. Others deal with aspects of everyday life, such as trade, houses, clothing, and farming. These general articles cover longer periods of time. The little illustrations at the top left of each article are a symbol of the times. They are identified on page 3.

### ▼ About the map

This map shows the United States today. It shows the boundaries and names of all the states. Refer to this map, or to the one on pages 42–43, to locate places talked about in this book.



## About this book

This book is about America from 1747 to 1803—as the nation began to take shape with the help of George Washington. The term America means “the United States of America.” The term British refers to the people and things of England or Great Britain. In 1707, Scotland joined England and Wales to form the country of Great Britain. Usually, we refer to the native people of America as Native Americans. But occasionally we call them Indians, as Christopher Columbus did when he arrived in America in 1492. Words in **bold** are described in more detail in the glossary on page 46.

# INTRODUCTION

This book tells how a small group of English colonies became the United States of America. George Washington played an especially important part in this process. He helped shape the country in three major ways. First, he commanded the Continental Army that fought for independence from Britain. Second, he was president of the **convention**, or group of people, that wrote the United States **Constitution**. Third, he was the first president of the United States.

During this time, it seemed as if America was becoming “the land of the free.” This was not exactly true. Freedom was a stranger to many people in America. Native Americans were rapidly losing the freedom to live on their own land. Africans lost their freedom when they were captured in their native land and sold as **slaves** to work on American farms. Among the European settlers, women did not even share the freedom held by the men. They did not have the rights to vote and own land.

Most of the events described and illustrated in the book took place during George Washington’s life. Other events happened after he died. On many of the pages that describe events during Washington’s life, there are yellow boxes that tell you what he or his family was doing at the time.





1732 to 1754

# YOUNG GEORGE WASHINGTON

While most of America was still wilderness, George Washington was growing up in the colony of Virginia. There were 13 colonies in America, all governed by Britain. Virginia was the oldest colony. By the time Washington was born, many Virginians lived in comfortable homes with large farms.

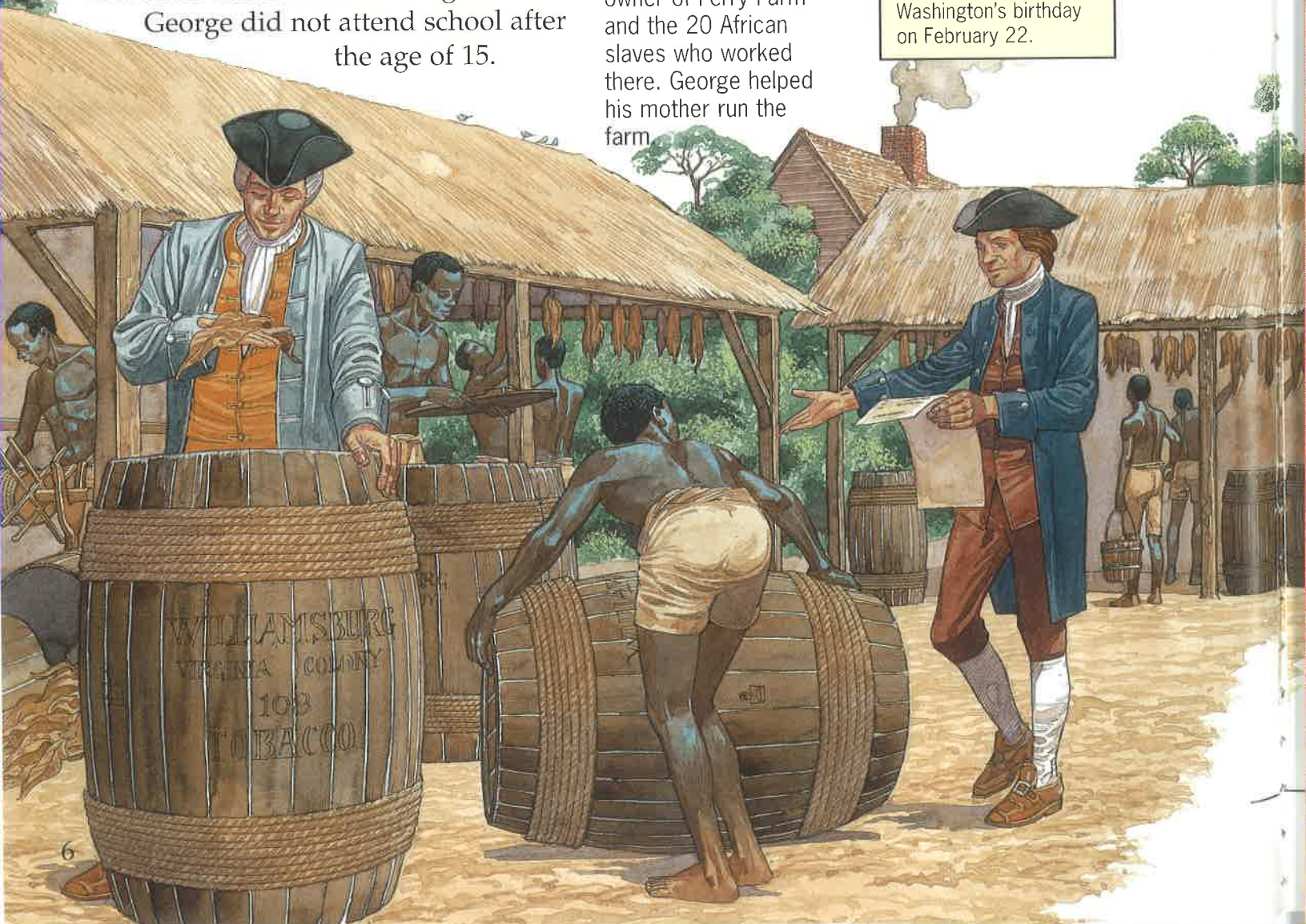
George Washington was born on February 22, 1732. He spent most of his boyhood years on a **plantation** called Ferry Farm near Fredericksburg, Virginia. Historians are uncertain where he attended school. By looking at his old notebooks, it seems that George learned math, geography, and some Latin. Historians agree that George did not attend school after the age of 15.

▼ Tobacco was grown on Ferry Farm. Tobacco leaves were snapped off the stalks, dried, and later loaded into shipping barrels. When George was 11 years old, his father died. George became owner of Ferry Farm and the 20 African slaves who worked there. George helped his mother run the farm.

## How the Washingtons came to Virginia

George's family came from England to the colonies by accident. In the 1650s, his great-grandfather, John, was working on an English ship. The ship ran aground in the Potomac River. John looked around the Virginia colony and decided to settle there. George's father was Augustine Washington. His mother was Mary Ball Washington.

George was actually born on February 11, 1732. In 1752, America changed from using the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. Eleven days were lost from that year. That is why we now celebrate Washington's birthday on February 22.







◀ As a surveyor, George measured and marked out land. People hired him to help them divide up and sell land. At first, George worked near his farm. Then he surveyed the Shenandoah River valley and the wilderness west of Virginia. In July 1749, George Washington was made official surveyor for Culpeper County in Virginia.



▲ At age 20, George Washington joined the Virginia **militia**, a group of volunteer soldiers. This picture, painted by Charles Willson Peale, shows him in 1754 as a colonel of the militia.



◀ During battles with the French, the people of Virginia sought help from Washington and his forces. In this **engraving** of 1755, Washington is shown on horseback.

### From surveyor to soldier

When George was old enough to get a job, he really wanted to be an explorer. He dreamed of sailing ships for the British Royal Navy. His mother, however, would not let him go so far from home. So, George became a surveyor at age 16. If he could not explore the seas, he would explore the unsettled **frontier** west of Virginia. The land was muddy and wooded. George loved the adventure of sleeping outside and cooking over a campfire.

At age 20, George started his **military** career. At this time, there was a vast area of land west of the 13 colonies, called Ohio country. French explorers had **claimed** this land for France. Since the British owned the 13 colonies, they wanted to own the western land, too.

At first, George delivered messages between the French and the British. Then, in April 1754, he led British troops into battle at the start of what was to become a long war with the French.



1754 to 1763

# THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

**America had become a gameboard. Spain, France, and Great Britain placed their markers at various places. Great Britain owned the 13 colonies and northern Canada. Spain claimed the West and Florida. France claimed a vast area in the middle, plus lower Canada.**

In 1754, France and Great Britain started to fight over America. Great Britain wanted the land beside the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Its colonies were growing and its settlers wanted to move west. It tried to take away land from the French as well as from Native Americans. Many Native Americans decided to help the French fight the British. That is why colonists named the nine-year battle the French and Indian War. The war spread to Europe in 1756. People there called it the Seven Years War.

► The war was fought on land and in the water. This British ship was one of many that tried to block French troops and supplies from entering the St. Lawrence River. The French needed to protect their important river settlements of Quebec and Montreal.



### Timeline of the War

- 1754** the French and Indian War begins. George Washington, commander of about 150 men, loses battle at Fort Necessity
- 1756** the war spreads to Europe
- 1757** the French capture Fort Oswego on Lake Ontario and Fort William Henry on Lake George
- 1757** William Pitt becomes Great Britain's Prime Minister and turns the battle in Britain's favor
- 1759** the British capture Quebec
- 1760** the British capture Montreal
- 1762** Spain enters the war on the French side.
- 1763** Great Britain and France sign the Treaty of Paris to end the war. The treaty gave Britain almost all of Canada and French land east of the Mississippi River.

▼ This painting shows the taking of Quebec City in Canada by 30,000 British troops on September 13, 1759. The British forces arrived in 168 ships.

At first, the British lost several battles. Their general, Edward Braddock, knew how to fight in Europe, but not in the forests of America.

George Washington was part of Braddock's troops. He wrote about a surprise attack by the French and Indians: "The English soldiers broke and ran as sheep before the hounds. The general was wounded. He died three days after. I luckily escaped without a wound..."





**A union of colonies**  
The Iroquois were a large and strong group of Native Americans. In 1754, Benjamin Franklin and other British colonists went to Albany, New York, to try to persuade the Iroquois to help the British fight. Eventually the Iroquois agreed. Franklin learned about the Iroquois government—six **nations** joined into one **union**. Franklin soon proposed a union of the American colonies. He said the colonies were like the segments of a snake. They could not survive separately. "Join, or die," he warned colonists.

▲ This Iroquois warrior carries the scalp of an British soldier on the barrel of his musket. This watercolor was painted in 1787.

**The British start to win**

In 1758, the British gathered many more colonial soldiers to fight the French. They also persuaded some Native American tribes to join them. In 1759, they beat the French at Quebec. In 1760, they took control of Montreal. Without them, the French could no longer supply their forts along the St. Lawrence River.

In 1763, Great Britain and France signed a **treaty** to end the war. France gave up all land east of the Mississippi River. They also gave up their land in Canada. They had already given their land west of the Mississippi to Spain in return for Spain's help in the war. Now Great Britain and Spain **claimed** most of North America.

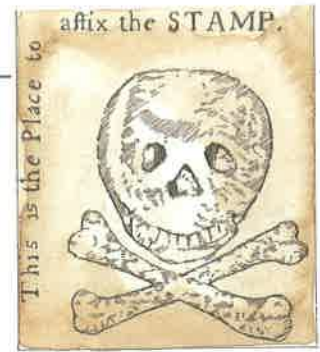
◀ British soldiers—in bright red jackets—did not know how to fight in forests of North America. The French and Indians attacked them by surprise. Later, with better leaders, the British started to win the war.



1764 to 1765

# TAXES

Britain's King George III had a big problem after the French and Indian War. His government needed the money. The war had been very costly. One solution was popular in his country: **Let's make the colonies give us more money!** After all, Great Britain went to great expense to protect the colonies during the war.



▲ This drawing in a newspaper of 1765 shows the colonists' hate for the Stamp Act.

Great Britain made colonists in America pay a **tax** whenever they bought certain things. The tax was extra money added to the normal price. The extra money was sent back to Britain. First a tax on sugar and molasses was passed in 1764.

The British government sent many officials to the colonies to make sure taxes were paid. The officials were allowed to search colonists' homes and stores for goods that might have been **smuggled** into the colonies without paying taxes. The colonists hated the tax and the searches. All British citizens had a right to privacy in their homes. Colonists were no longer being treated as British citizens by the government!

### Yet another tax

The Stamp Act was passed in 1765. Colonists now had to pay a tax on such items as newspapers, calendars, playing cards, and almanacs. A stamp was put on each item to show the tax was paid.

Colonists were furious! They could not vote to elect **representatives** to Britain's government (called **Parliament**). Yet Parliament could make laws about the colonies. Colonists poured into the streets to **protest**. Tax collectors were chased out of town. In 1766, the Stamp Act was removed, but the argument over taxes was not over. The colonists said they would pay taxes only if their own elected governments passed a tax act.



◀ An English magazine cartoon of the time shows the **repeal** of the American Stamp Act on March 18, 1766. The cartoon, called *The Funeral of Ame Stamp*, shows Members of Parliament in Britain crying over the loss of taxes from America. It also shows English ships having unloaded stamps and goods from America.



▲ Through the window of this store, colonists peer at British soldiers. The soldiers will make sure that colonists are paying taxes on certain kinds of goods.

George Washington was among those colonists who in time would fight against this taxation without representation.

Below and left: Three of the British tax stamps.





1765 to 1770

## SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF LIBERTY

Never before had colonists acted together against the British government. Now, however, people of colonies stretching from New Hampshire to Georgia were agreed. They must work together to get their message across to Britain's king. The taxes must be stopped.

In 1765, citizens from nine colonies met at the Stamp Act Congress. They wrote to the British government: "It is inseparably essential to the freedom of a people, and the undoubted right of Englishmen, that no taxes be imposed on them but with their own consent given personally or by their **representatives**."

Other colonists were not satisfied with writing documents. They formed a group called the Sons of Liberty. They told colonists to boycott, or stop buying, British goods. A group of women called the Daughters of Liberty joined the action. They stopped wearing dresses made from British cloth. They worked together to weave homemade cloth.



▲ Phillis Wheatley was one of the most famous poets in the colonies. She came to Boston on a slave ship when she was eight years old. In 1773, her poems were printed by a London publisher. She became the first African American to have a book published.

### Washington's opinion

In 1758, George Washington was first elected as a representative to Virginia's government called the **House of Burgesses**. The House encouraged the boycott of British goods. While he still felt loyal to the British government, Washington was one of the first American leaders to suggest the use of force to protect America's liberty.

In a letter to his friend, George Mason, Washington said, "No man should hesitate to use arms in defense of so valuable a blessing. Yet arms should be the last resort."



### A constant conflict

British merchants were losing money. The colonists were making their own goods instead of buying from them. Britain **repealed** the Stamp Act in 1766. However, the next year it announced new taxes. The Sons and Daughters of Liberty worked even harder to make sure no one bought British goods.

◀ Angry colonists in Boston punish a British tax official by covering him with tar and feathers and forcing him to drink lots of tea.



◀ Life goes on as **protests** swirl through the streets of Boston. In the first floor parlor, or reception room, of a wealthy landowner's townhouse, Sons of Liberty discuss the best way to make Britain repeal the taxes. Upstairs on the second floor, Daughters of Liberty spin thread for making homemade cloth. Other rooms in the house include:

1. servants' bedrooms
2. the householder family's bedrooms
3. dining room
4. parlor
5. kitchen and eating area for servants.



1770

# THE BOSTON MASSACRE

Everyone in Boston could feel the tension. Colonists were furious over the taxes. Many secretly smuggled in goods to avoid paying the tax. Great Britain sent over more soldiers to catch the smugglers. Colonists harassed the soldiers by shouting insults, throwing rocks, and covering them with tar and feathers.

On March 5, 1770, things got totally out of control. British soldiers, called redcoats because of the color of their uniforms, were guarding Boston's Custom House. Tax money was stored here. A group of angry colonists began shouting and throwing rocks at them. A soldier was knocked down. Someone fired a shot. The redcoats panicked and began shooting the colonists. Five colonists died and seven were wounded.

**Where is George Washington?**  
At this time, George Washington is still a **representative** in the **House of Burgesses** and a landowner. By now, he is living at Mount Vernon in Virginia. This was his father's **plantation** which George inherited when his brother died. George lived at Mount Vernon with his wife, Martha, and her two children, Jack and Patsy. George was a careful and successful businessman, investing in a flour mill and reading all he could about farming.

▼ (Below left) This **engraving** was made by Paul Revere soon after the Boston Massacre. It spread the news and the anger of the event. Revere knew the picture did not tell the truth about what happened in Boston. The British soldiers did not stand right in front of the colonists and shoot them. Yet this picture caught the emotions of colonists everywhere. It made them hate the British even more and helped start the Revolutionary War.







◀ British soldiers train on Boston Common. The townsfolk walk across the Common. This painting was made in 1768 by Christian Remick. Near the Common, the Old State House still stands. Built in 1713, this is Boston's oldest building. Before the Revolution, British officials governed the colonies from here. In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read to Bostonians from its balcony.

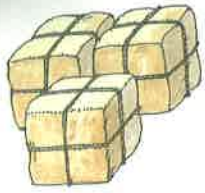
### Horrible treatment of the colonists

The fight at the Custom House was reported throughout the colonies. Colonists such as Samuel Adams exaggerated the event into something huge. As soon as the fighting ended at the Customs House, he wrote articles about it, calling it the Boston Massacre.

There were, of course, two sides to the story. Some redcoats claimed they heard someone shout "Fire!" Others said they heard "Hold your fire!" Regardless of what happened, the colonists were angry.



◀ Crispus Attucks was one of the five men killed in the Boston Massacre. He was probably the first colonist killed by the British army. Attucks was a 47-year-old African American runaway slave and a member of the Sons of Liberty.



1773 to 1774

## BOSTON TEA PARTY

Before now, most colonists saw themselves as British citizens. But by 1773, they were calling themselves citizens of the 13 colonies—of Virginia, New York, Massachusetts, and so on. Furthermore, colonists were talking about fighting against Britain, if necessary.

“This meeting can do nothing more to save the country!” said Samuel Adams on December 16, 1773. He spoke to a town meeting in Boston. The Tea Act was the latest of Britain’s unpopular laws. It was a way of making Americans buy tea from British merchants and putting local merchants out of business.

Fifty members of the Sons of Liberty, disguised as Native Americans, ran to Boston’s harbor. They boarded British ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into the ocean. This event became known as the Boston Tea Party.

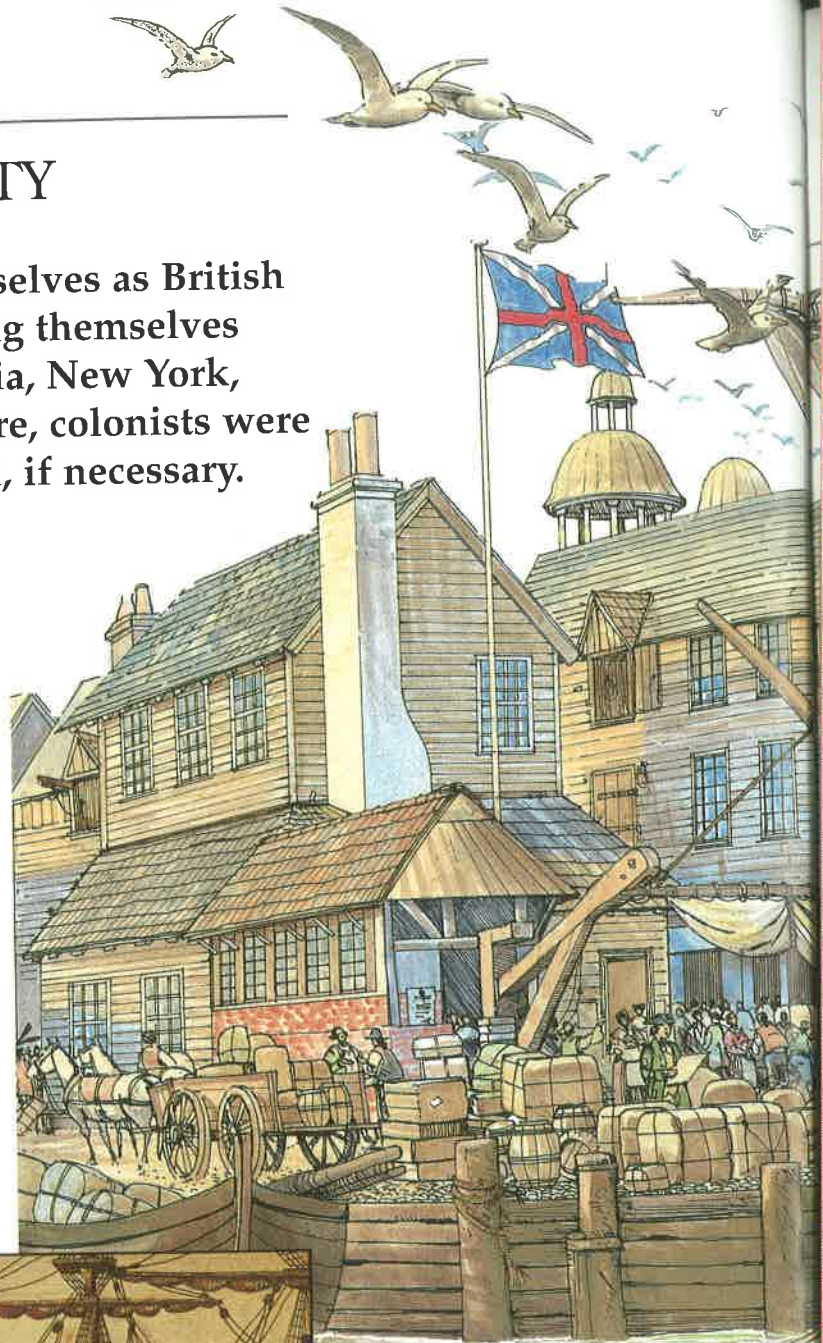
### What Washington thought

When he heard of the Boston Tea Party, George Washington disapproved of the colonists’ wastefulness. However, when he heard of the Intolerable Acts, he was furious. He and other members of Virginia’s **House of Burgesses** protested against the acts so loudly that the British governor forbade them to meet again. They then held secret meetings at the nearby Raleigh Tavern.



▲ On December 16, 1773, Bostonians showed their anger at Britain’s rule over them by dumping British tea into the Atlantic Ocean. This picture is a **lithograph** made in the 1800s by a famous art and printing company called Currier and Ives.

▲ The citizens of Boston depended on their harbor. Food and supplies arrived on ships. American goods were shipped out. At least half of the people earned their living by working on ships or at the harbor. When other colonies heard that Boston’s harbor was closed, they sent rice, flour, and money to help the Bostonians survive.





### Intolerable Acts

In 1774, Great Britain passed more laws to punish the colonists. Colonists called these the Intolerable Acts:

- close Boston harbor
- forbid town meetings, except one each year
- allow customs officials who break the law to have their trials in Britain not America
- force colonists to let British soldiers eat and sleep in their houses.

▼ British customs officials collected gold from merchant ships as a **tax** on goods transported through Boston Harbor.

### The Intolerable Acts

It took several months for the news of the Boston Tea Party to reach Britain. When it did, King George III was angry. To punish the colonists, he closed the port of Boston by anchoring Royal Navy ships in the harbor. Thousands more soldiers were sent to Boston. The British government passed other laws that took away the colonists' rights. The colonists called the laws the Intolerable Acts.

► This engraving of 1770 shows colonial slaves packing tobacco into barrels for shipping to Britain. When Britain introduced the Intolerable Acts, some colonists, including George Washington, threatened to stop all colonial exports to Britain until Boston's Harbor was reopened.





1774

# FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

Massachusetts was suffering under Britain's rules. Leaders of 12 colonies decided to get together and take action. Georgia did not join them. Could this group persuade the king to stop? Could they make a joint decision over colonial rule?

George Washington was a **delegate** from Virginia at the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. It was his first chance to meet with leaders of the other colonies.

The Congress was like a meeting of leaders from different countries. The delegates did not agree on their course of action. Some wanted to politely ask King George to respect their rights. Others were ready to fight. Yet everyone agreed that the colonies must all stick together.

▼ The First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in September, 1774. Peyton Randolph was elected its **president**. Another delegate, John Adams, from Massachusetts, later became the second president of the United States.

## Acts and reactions

**1765** The Stamp Act

**1766** The Stamp Act repealed

**1767** The Townshend Acts (taxes on such things as glass, paper, silk, and tea)

**1770** The Boston Massacre

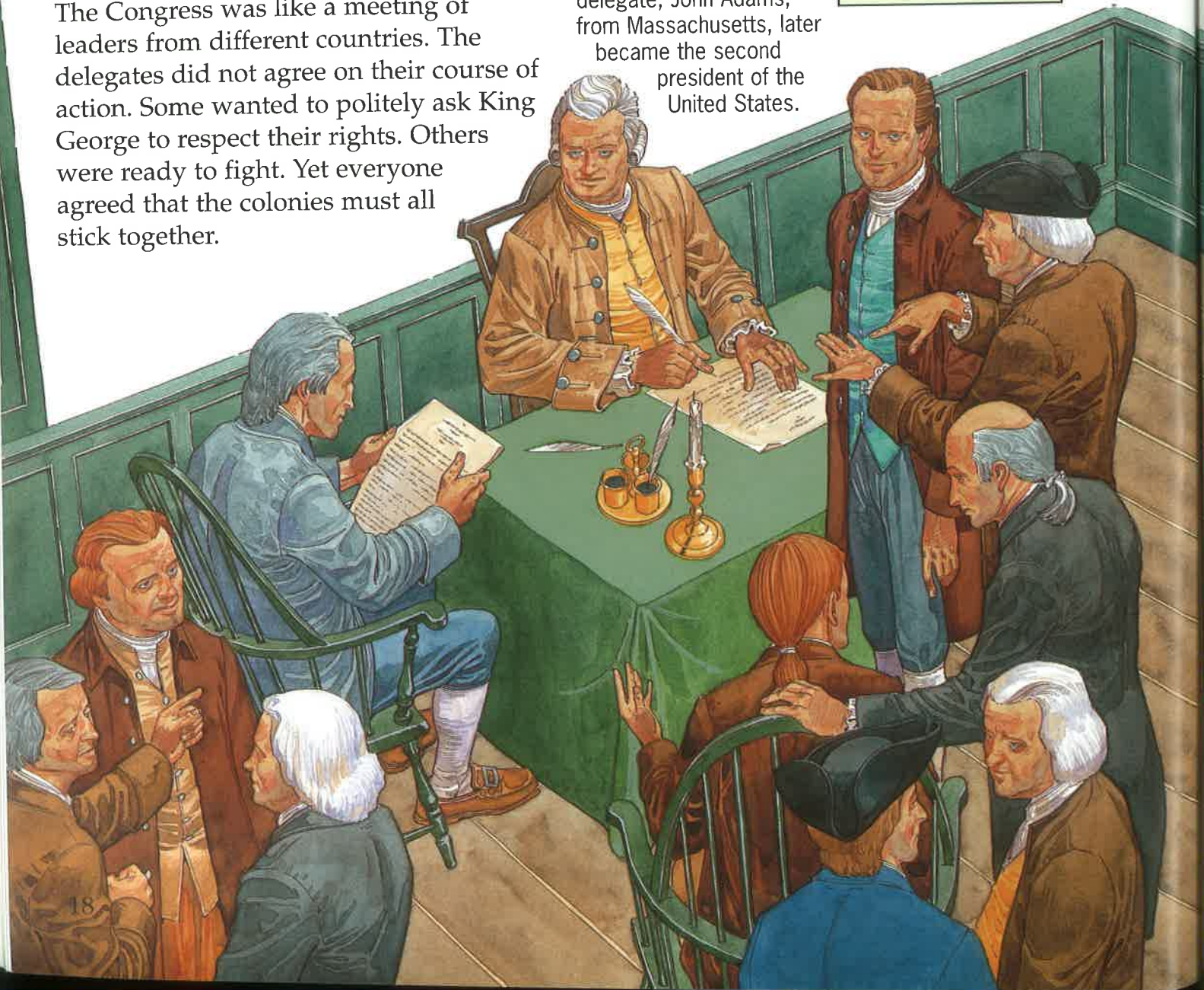
**1770** The Townshend Acts repealed (except tea tax)

**1773, May** The Tea Act

**1773, Dec.** The Boston Tea Party

**1774, May** The Intolerable Acts

**1774, Sept.** the First Continental Congress





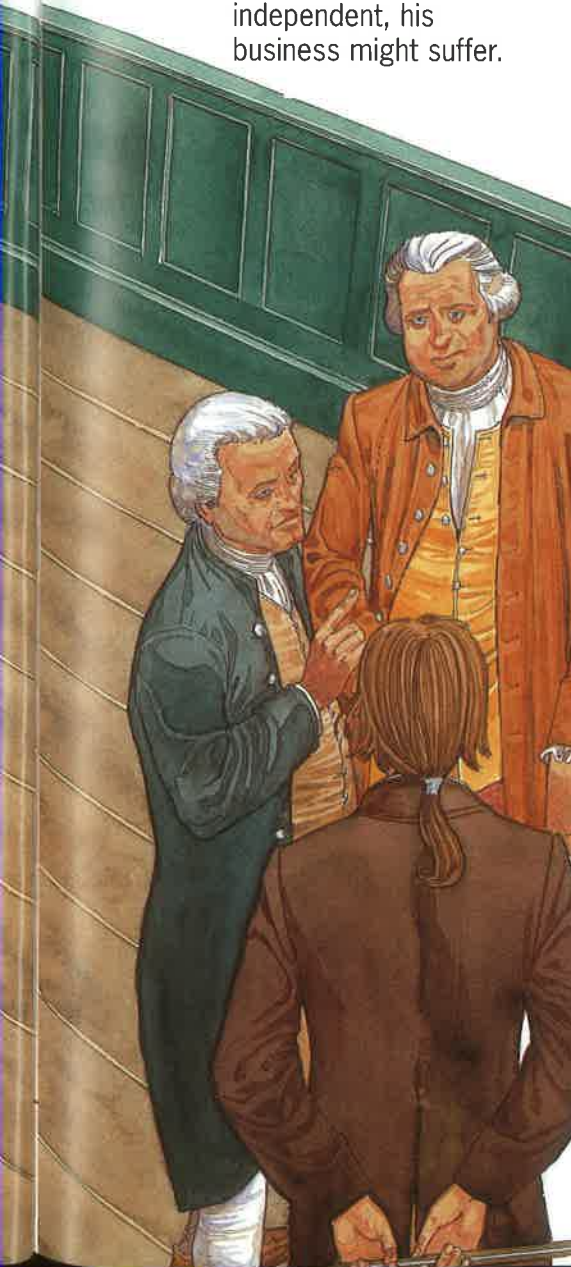
▲ Americans who stayed loyal to the king were called Loyalists. This merchant relied on Britain to send him goods to sell. If the colonies became independent, his business might suffer.



▲ A view of Second Street, Philadelphia, in the 1780s. Wagons, horses, and pedestrians mingle on the street. Women sit outside an inn. There were no paved roads until about 1796. Muddy roads were messy and dangerous for horses. Wooden rails were sometimes laid across a muddy road. This made for a very bumpy ride. By 1780, the population of Philadelphia was over 20,000. Most people were English or Welsh colonists.



▲ Americans who wanted the colonies to be free from Britain were called Patriots. About one-third of the colonists were Patriots, one-third were Loyalists, and the rest were undecided.



◀ This **engraving** from 1775 shows a group of North Carolina women **protesting** the **tax** on tea. They call themselves “Society of Patriotic Ladies.” The women have written an agreement to stop drinking tea. While some women are signing the agreement, others are emptying containers of tea.

### Preparing for emergency action

The First Continental Congress ended with some decisions. The delegates wrote a letter to King George asking him to **repeal** the Intolerable Acts and stop Britain’s taxes on the colonies. The delegates also agreed to return to their colonies with this advice: Stop buying British goods and start forming a **militia**—an army of citizens that might be needed to fight in an emergency. At the end of the meeting, the delegates agreed to meet again in May, 1775.



1775

# A SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

“The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms!” Patrick Henry spoke these words in Virginia on March 23, 1775. He was predicting that war with Britain could not be avoided. In the same speech, he added his now-famous words: “Give me liberty, or give me death!”

The citizens of Massachusetts were preparing for the worst. They collected a large supply of gunpowder in Concord, about 20 miles from Boston. When British General Thomas Gage heard this, he rushed 2,000 troops out of Boston. He ordered them first to Lexington to capture colonial leaders. Then he sent them to Concord to steal the gunpowder.



▲ Britain's **redcoats** were well-trained and disciplined. Britain also hired German soldiers. Some Native Americans and American Loyalists joined the redcoats.

▲ Each colony had a **militia**, a group of volunteer soldiers. They were called minutemen as they were expected to be ready to fight at a minute's notice.





▲ The flintlock musket was used in the Revolutionary War. It fired a large lead ball.

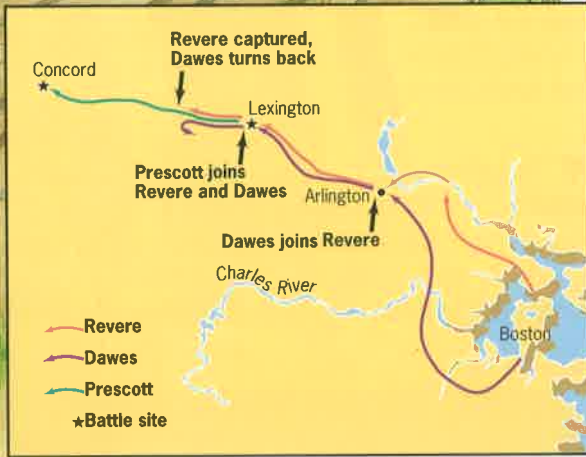
## The Battle of Lexington

A young boy overheard General Gage's plans. He ran and told a group of the Sons of Liberty. Quickly, Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Samuel Prescott galloped through Massachusetts warning people that the British were coming. Warning lanterns were hung from Boston's Old North Church and churchbells roused **minutemen** from their beds.

The redcoats arrived in Lexington and were met by 70 minutemen, led by Captain John Parker. A shot was fired. Each side said the other side fired first. The outnumbered Americans barely had a chance. After a brief battle, eight Americans and one British soldier were killed. The Revolutionary War had begun.

◀ British troops left Boston on April 18, 1775. They reached Lexington the next morning. After a brief battle and victory, they marched to Concord where 300 colonists surprised them. The redcoats retreated back to Boston. All along the way, they were fired at by angry colonists.

▼ A minuteman's wife gives him his musket as he prepares to join the Revolutionary Army. He leaves instantly, abandoning his horse and plow in the field. This illustration was printed by Currier and Ives in 1876. At first, the Revolutionary Army was poorly trained and badly disciplined.



◀ These Americans are firing at British redcoats at Concord. This was America's first serious attack on the British. British casualties were 73 dead and 200 wounded or missing. The Americans lost 49 men, and 44 were wounded or missing. Sixty years later, New England poet Ralph Waldo Emerson called this "the shot heard round the world."





1775 to 1776

# INDEPENDENCE

In May, 1775, the members of the **Second Continental Congress** met in Philadelphia. All 13 colonies were represented. They faced an enormous decision. **Should America declare independence from Great Britain? If they fought a war and lost, they could all be hanged for trying to overthrow the king.**

In May, 1775, the Second Continental Congress made two important decisions. First, they sent King George a statement of loyalty to him, but asked him to end the Intolerable Acts and the fighting. Their second decision was to form the Continental Army. They chose George Washington to be its commander.

## Common Sense

Most colonists were not ready to break away from Great Britain. Thomas Paine helped change their minds. In January, 1776, he wrote a pamphlet called *Common Sense*. He asked why Americans should be ruled by one man living 3,000 miles away. Colonists began talking about Paine's ideas. Many agreed with him.

## The Declaration of Independence

In June, 1776, The Second Continental Congress selected a committee to write a Declaration of Independence. They asked Thomas Jefferson to do most of the writing. After making 80 changes to his draft, the Congress **adopted** the **declaration** on July 4. The American colonies were free from Britain. Britain, however, was not willing to accept this. The colonies would have to earn their independence by winning a war.



▼ This painting by William Walcutt of 1864 shows New Yorkers pulling down a statue of King George III on July 10, 1776.



## Washington in command

Congress chose George Washington to lead the Continental Army because of his military experience in the French and Indian War. While his troops had not done very well in that war, Washington had shown that he could train soldiers well, knew how to run an army, and was courageous. Also, he seemed to have an even temper and strong will. However, Washington was nervous about taking the difficult job.

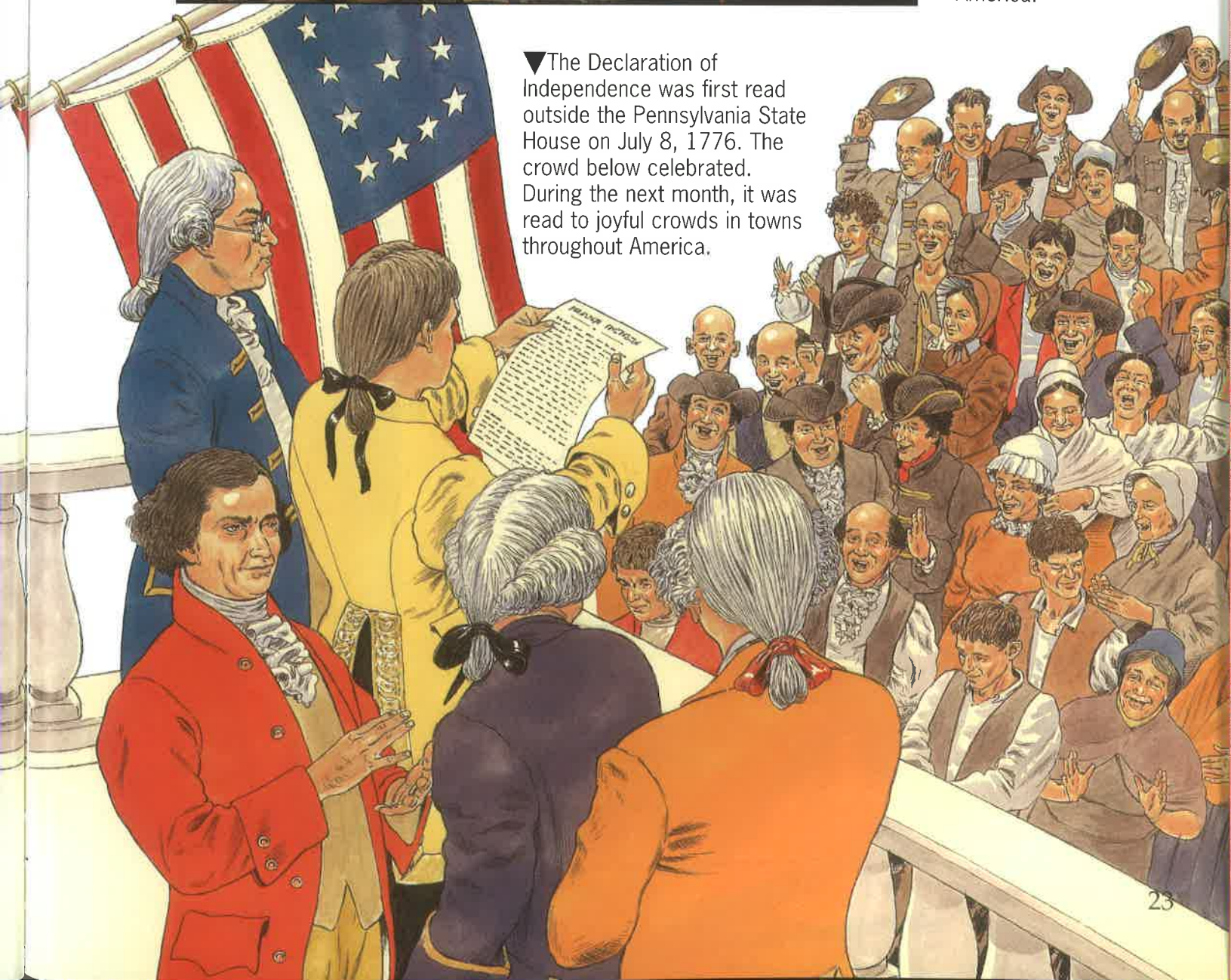
◀ Proud Americans rang this bell on July 8, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was announced. They rang it each year after that on July 8 until 1835. That year, the bell cracked. The bell has been in Philadelphia since 1752. It was first called the Old State House Bell. Around 1839, people named it the Liberty Bell.





◀ This engraving of 1797 by John Trumbull shows the five-member committee presenting the Declaration of Independence to the Congress. Two of the statements made in the document were:

- People have the right to life and liberty, and the right to seek happiness.
- The colonies were breaking away from Great Britain to become the United States of America.



▼ The Declaration of Independence was first read outside the Pennsylvania State House on July 8, 1776. The crowd below celebrated. During the next month, it was read to joyful crowds in towns throughout America.



1776 to 1781

# THE REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER

Word spread through the colonies: Americans had defeated British troops at Concord! In all the colonies, citizens had to decide if they, too, were willing to fight. Thousands were ready. Battles between American and British soldiers broke out in New York, Pennsylvania, the Carolinas, and New Jersey.

George Washington had a difficult job. As commander of the Continental Army, he had to train his men to beat the British soldiers. Until now, men had volunteered as part-time soldiers in their colonial **militia**. They served for a short time, whenever they were needed to defend their communities. Now Washington had to convince men from all the colonies to leave home and join his army.

In August 1776, Washington had about 18,000 soldiers. British General Howe had 41,000. That month, the two sides clashed in New York City. About 400 Americans were killed or wounded, and 1,200 were taken prisoner. The Americans were forced out and New York City remained in British hands for five years.

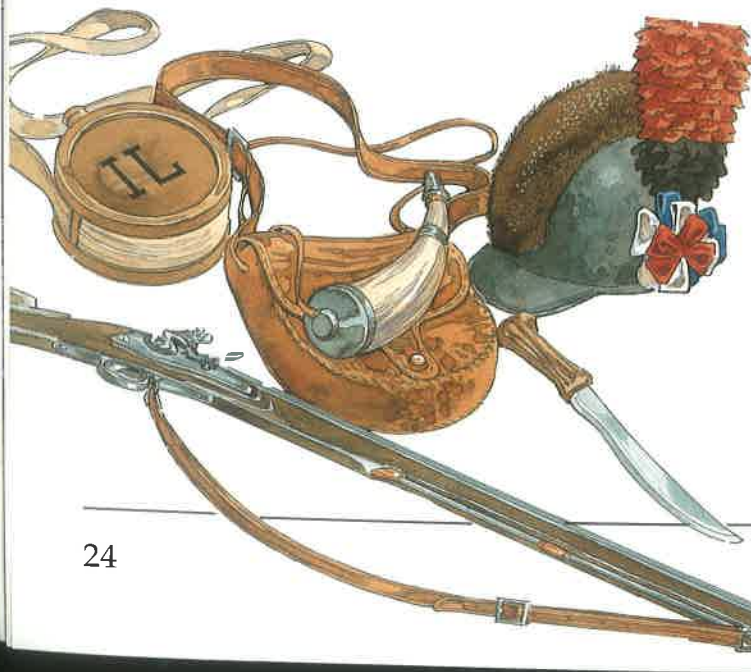
► After their victories at Trenton and Princeton, New Jersey, the Continental Army spent the winter of 1779–1780 in Morristown, New Jersey.



### A new national government

In 1781, the Second Continental **Congress** agreed on the Articles of **Confederation**. This document loosely joined the states together with a national government. The government had little power. It could not collect **taxes**. It had no leader, such as a president. The **states** were afraid of a strong central government. They were afraid that people would lose the right to govern themselves—the very point of the War of Independence with Britain.

► One of the cabins was set up as a medical hut. With few supplies, doctors had to set broken legs and bring down fevers.



► One of Washington's men, ready to fight.

◀ Every soldier in the Continental Army tried to hang onto these essential items: a water bottle, musket, helmet, bullet bag, horn, and knife. The army counted on France, Spain, and the Netherlands for money to buy supplies.

