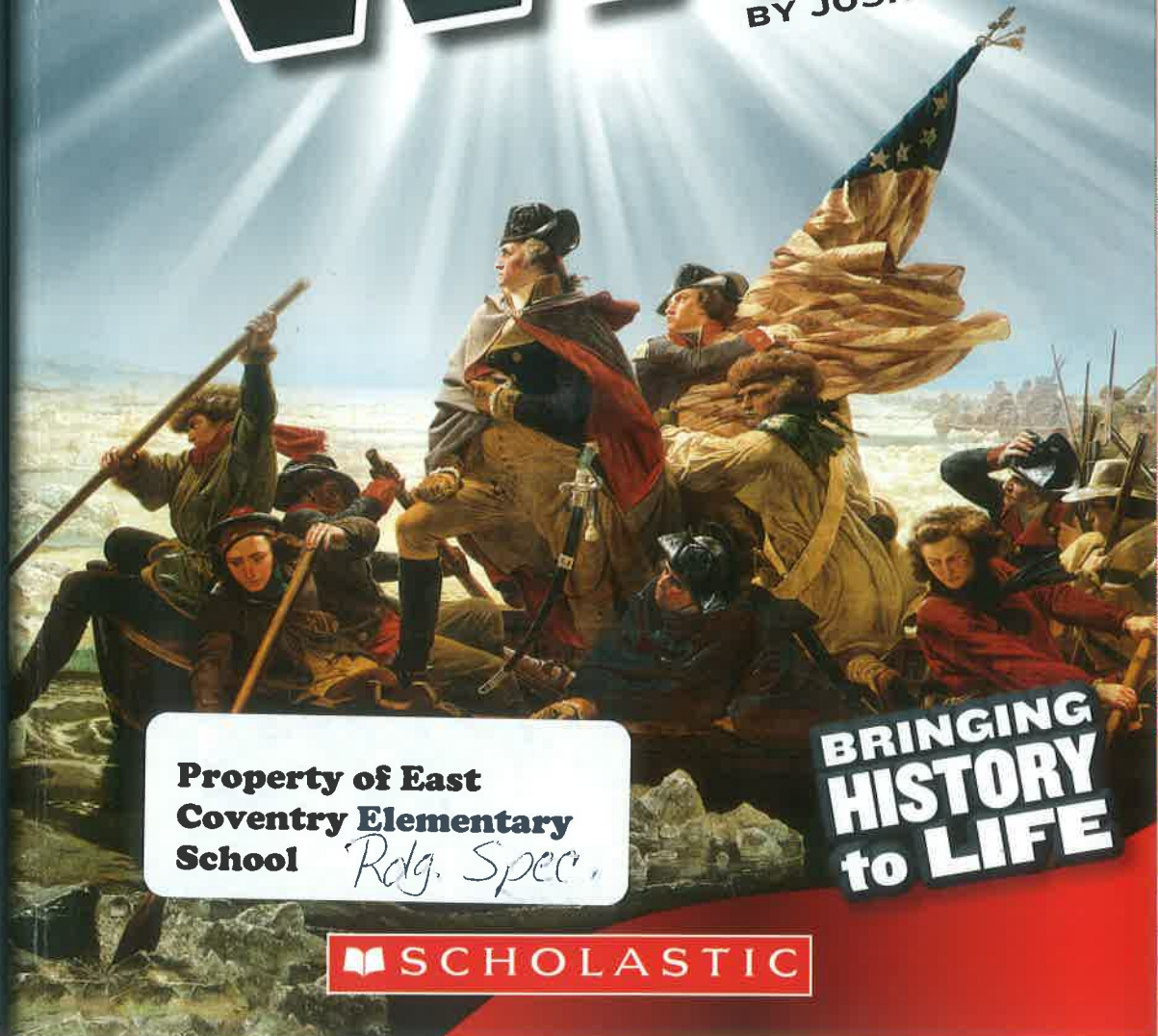


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OF FREEDOM™

The REVOLUTIONARY WAR

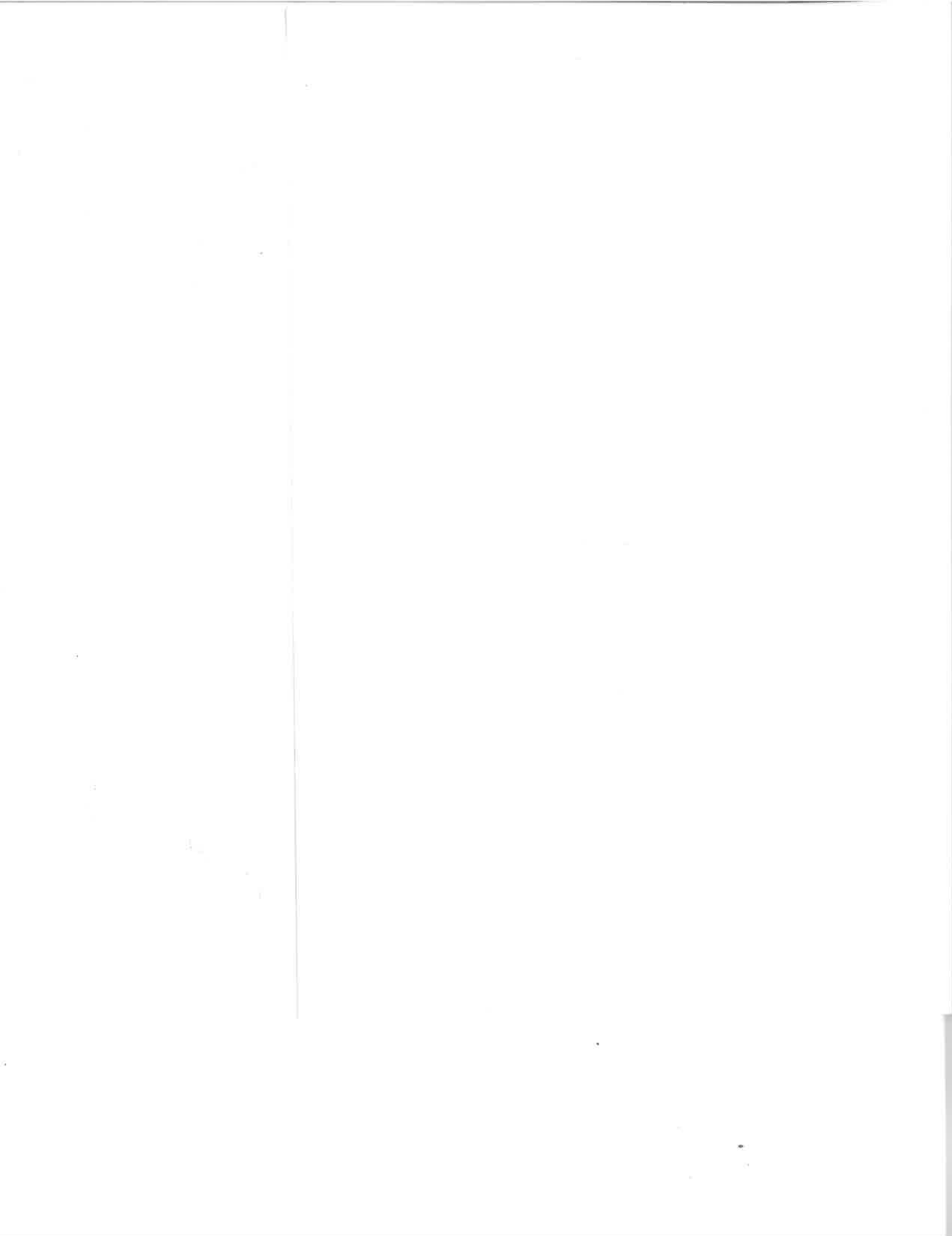
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**CORNERSTONES
OF FREEDOM™**

The **REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

BY JOSH GREGORY

CHILDREN'S PRESS®

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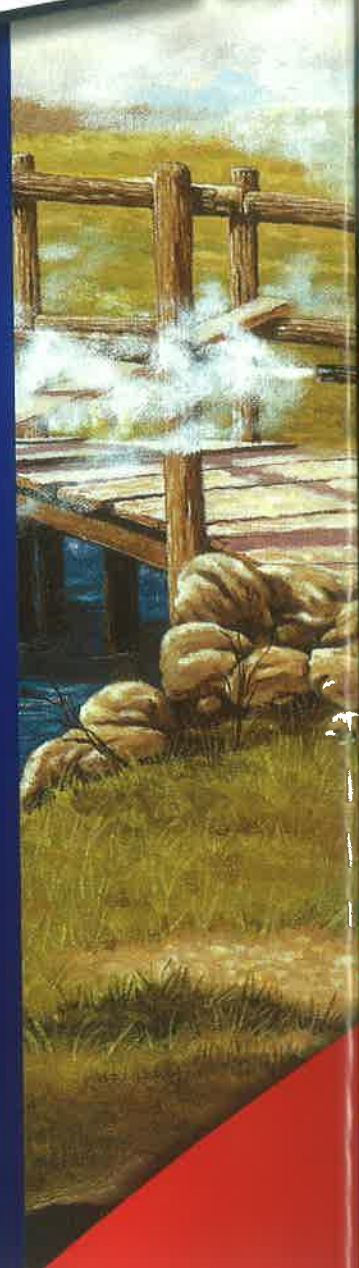
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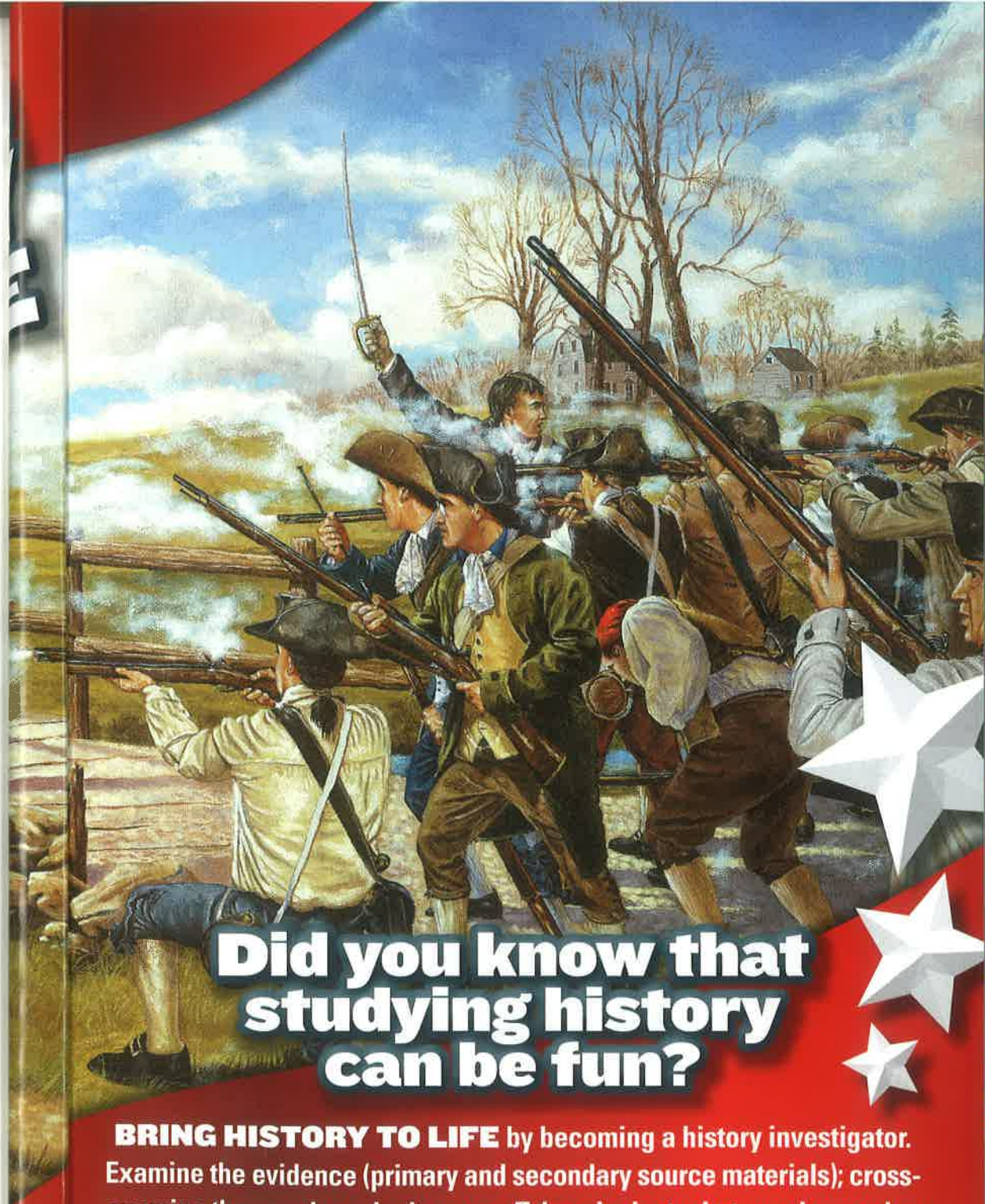
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Did you know that studying history can be fun?

BRING HISTORY TO LIFE by becoming a history investigator. Examine the evidence (primary and secondary source materials); cross-examine the people and witnesses. Take a look at what was happening at the time—but be careful! What happened years ago might suddenly become incredibly interesting and change the way you think!

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SETTING THE SCENE

A New Start in North America



The colonies expanded quickly as businesses found success in the new continent.

In the early 17th century, English **colonists** began settling in North America. Most came to find land and work. They hoped to become successful and wealthy. One of their goals was to expand westward where land

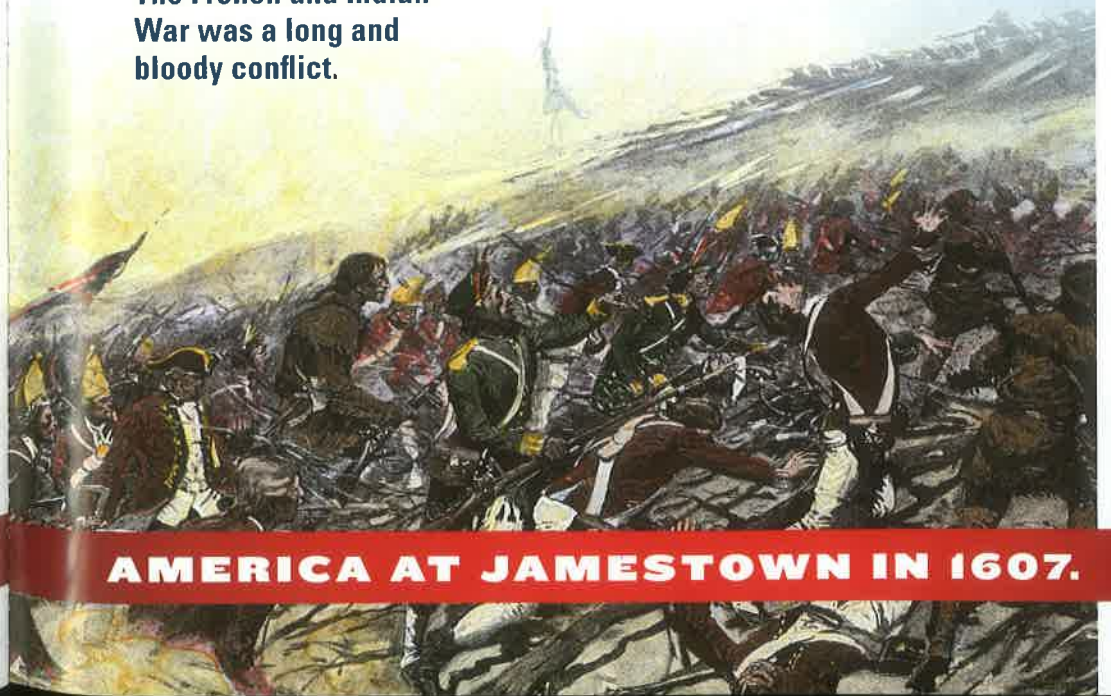
THE ENGLISH FIRST SETTLED NORTH

and opportunities were plentiful. Slavery was legal in America at the time. It played an important role in the growth of the colonies, especially in the South.

By the mid-18th century, the settlers had established 13 colonies along North America's Atlantic coast. The colonists were British. They were **subjects** of Great Britain, under the king. Colonists were expected to follow the laws that Parliament made in England.

In 1754, war broke out between France and Great Britain for control of North America. Both sides had Native American allies. The American colonists fought alongside Great Britain. Great Britain won the conflict, known both as the French and Indian War and the Seven Years' War. The victory cost Britain huge sums of money and created the problem of having to govern and protect new lands they won from France.

The French and Indian War was a long and bloody conflict.



AMERICA AT JAMESTOWN IN 1607.

CHAPTER 1

SEEDS OF REBELLION

The British military protected the colonies from Native American attacks along the western frontier.



The background of the page is a light blue sky with bright sun rays emanating from the top center. In the top right corner, there are three white, 3D-style stars of varying sizes. The text is contained within a white rectangular box with a thin black border.

BRITAIN HAD TO QUICKLY

decide how to govern the new land. Colonists were eager to expand westward. But all the land west of the colonies was Indian territory. Violence between Native Americans and British troops and colonists often occurred along the western edges of the colonies.

Britain could set up a new form of government for the recently acquired lands. Many colonists were unhappy with Britain's decision to limit their movements. They believed Britain did not have the right to **sovereignty** in North America.

Too Many Taxes

To pay off its war **debt**, Great Britain began taxing the American colonies to raise money. The colonists believed the British did not have this right. Great Britain argued that it did hold this sovereign right in the American colonies. Britain had imposed taxes throughout all of its colonial holdings. It assumed it could do so in its American colonies.

In 1764, Parliament issued the Plantation Act, also known as the Sugar Act. This act placed a high **duty** on sugar and molasses **imported** from non-British merchants. The colonists would be forced to purchase all of their sugar and molasses from British merchants.

In 1765, Parliament issued the Stamp Act. Although stamp acts were common in Britain, it angered colonists. The act placed a tax on almost all printed papers, including newspapers, legal documents, and certain kinds of books. These papers could not be issued or sold without special stamps purchased from the British government.

Colonists had no voice in Britain's government because they were not allowed to vote in the British elections. They argued it was unfair for them to



A VIEW FROM ABROAD

The British had no intention of taking away the rights of American colonists. The taxes they imposed were simply a fair way of making the Americans help pay for the French and Indian War and for the forts they built to protect American lands in the west. Britain saw its actions as a way of ensuring that the Americans had the same rights and obligations that the British did in Britain.

be taxed without representation. Many colonists refused to pay for stamps. Others burned stamps, rioted, and threatened British workers in charge of selling the stamps.

Colonial merchants began refusing to purchase goods from British merchants. British merchants protested to Parliament that the Stamp Act was harming their businesses. In 1766, Parliament **repealed** the tax. But it issued a new act on the same day. The Declaratory

Act stated that the British government had the power to tax and make laws for the colonies whenever and however it wished.

In 1767, Parliament issued new acts placing duties on imported goods such as glass, paper, and tea. These acts and several others were known as the Townshend Acts. British officers soon were stationed at colonial ports to make sure the duties were paid. Colonists

began **smuggling** goods such as tea into the country so they would not have to pay duties.

The Boston Massacre

In 1768, 4,000 British troops were sent to Boston, Massachusetts. Tensions grew between the colonists and the soldiers.

On March 5, 1770, a barber's **apprentice** named Edward Garrick was sent to collect payment owed by a British officer. When Garrick arrived at the British offices, a guard refused to let him in. The two began arguing and soon drew the attention of nearby colonists.

American colonists were subject to the laws of the British Parliament.



A FIRSTHAND LOOK AT THE BOSTON MASSACRE

A Boston politician named Samuel Adams began referring to the March 5 shootings as “the Boston Massacre.” Paul Revere was a Boston silversmith and friend of Adams’s. He tried to stir up the colonists’ anger toward Great Britain by making an engraving of the event. Revere falsely portrayed what happened at the massacre. He showed organized British soldiers intentionally firing on the colonists. The engraving was published in newspapers and seen by thousands of colonists. Soon, it was widely believed that the British soldiers had killed colonists on purpose. See page 60 for a link to view the engraving online.

The Boston Tea Party

Parliament repealed most of the Townshend Acts on the day of the Boston Massacre. But the British left the tea duty in place to maintain the principle that Parliament had a right to tax the colonists.

A major London tea supplier called the East India Company lost a lot of business when Americans stopped purchasing its tea. By 1773, the company had 17 million pounds (7.7 million kilograms) of unsold tea in its warehouses. Usually, the company grew its tea in India and shipped it to England. British tea merchants purchased this tea and shipped it to America, where they sold it at higher prices.

In May 1773, Parliament changed this system with the Tea Act. The Tea Act allowed the East India Company to sell its tea directly to the colonists. The goal of the act would be to help the company’s business and allow



The Sons of Liberty destroyed thousands of pounds of tea during the Boston Tea Party.

Americans to buy tea at lower prices. It would also hurt smuggling in the area, a major problem for the British, because the Tea Act made British tea cheap and easy to get.

The colonists, however, saw the Tea Act as yet another example of Great Britain taxing them without the right to do so. By the time news of the act reached America, seven East India Company ships were already on their way to Boston. Samuel Adams was among the

colonial leaders who wanted to prevent the company from selling its tea. He realized that by accepting the tea, Americans would also be accepting Parliament's right to tax the colonists. He and a group of rebels called the Sons of Liberty began planning a protest.

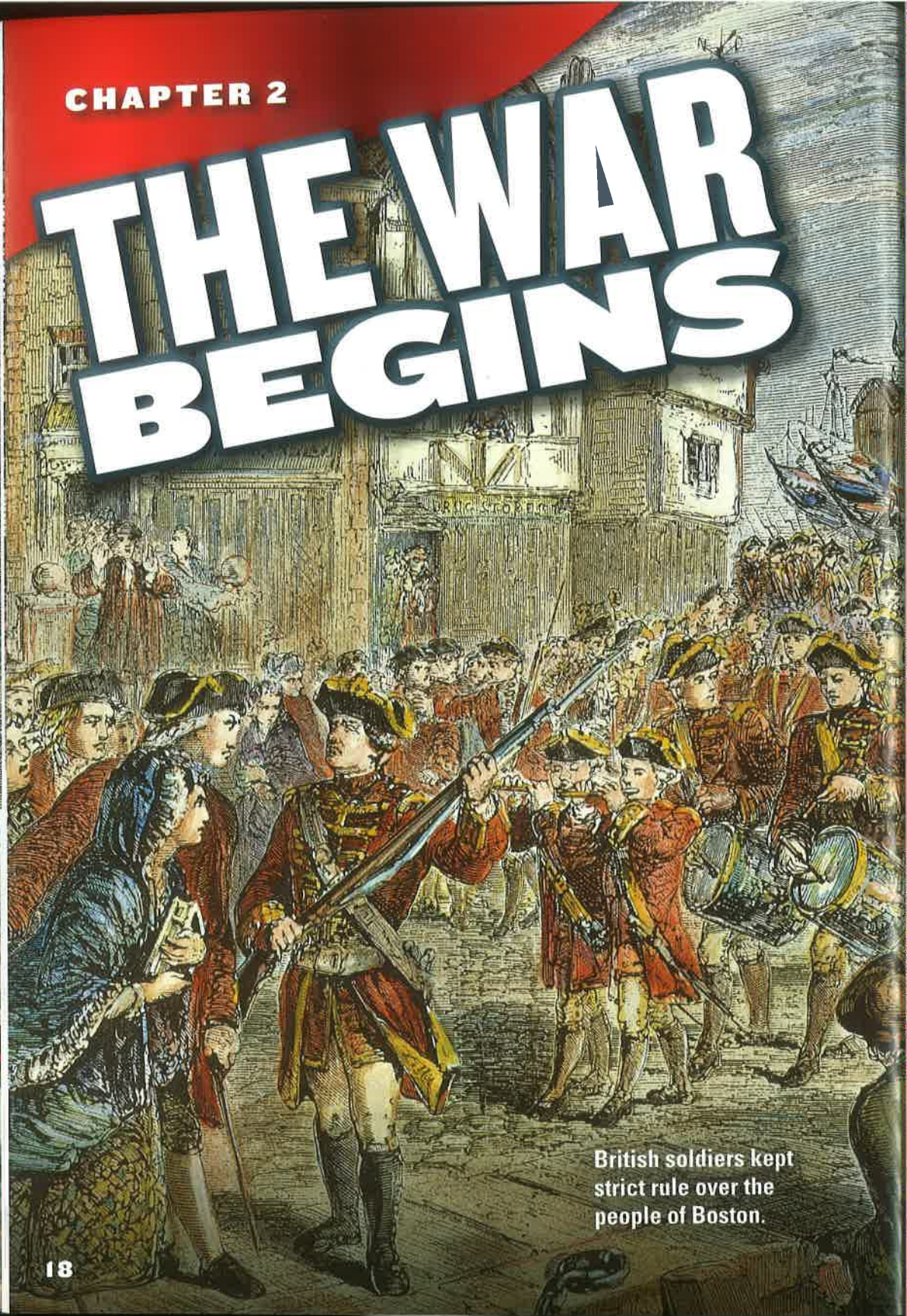
The ships began arriving in Boston Harbor in late November. The Sons of Liberty guarded the ships so they could not be unloaded. The Sons of Liberty tried to convince British officials to send the ships back. But the officials refused. On the night of December 16, 1773, a group of colonists dressed as Mohawk Indians snuck into the harbor and threw the crates of tea into the water.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES




Most historians today agree that the Boston Massacre was not a massacre but a riot. The British soldiers were in America to enforce laws that the British believed they had the right to enact. Some of the colonists who gathered that day had clubs and knives. Tempers flared, and the British started firing wildly. The event was used by many colonists to turn public opinion against the British. The strategy worked, and the Boston Massacre fueled much of the colonists' hatred toward the king and Parliament.

THE WAR BEGINS



British soldiers kept strict rule over the people of Boston.



IN 1774, PARLIAMENT BEGAN passing a series of laws that came to be known as the Intolerable Acts. These acts were designed to punish Massachusetts for destroying millions of dollars worth of property. Parliament then ordered Boston Harbor to be closed until the colonists paid for the tea they had destroyed. British general Thomas Gage was named governor of Massachusetts. It became illegal for the colonists to hold town meetings or elect their own officials without permission from the British.

The Administration of Justice Act required that any British officials charged with murder be tried for their crimes in England rather than in the colonies. The colonists saw this as a way to legalize any murders committed by British soldiers in the colonies. The acts also saw the return of an unpopular law that allowed British officials to house their troops in colonists' homes.

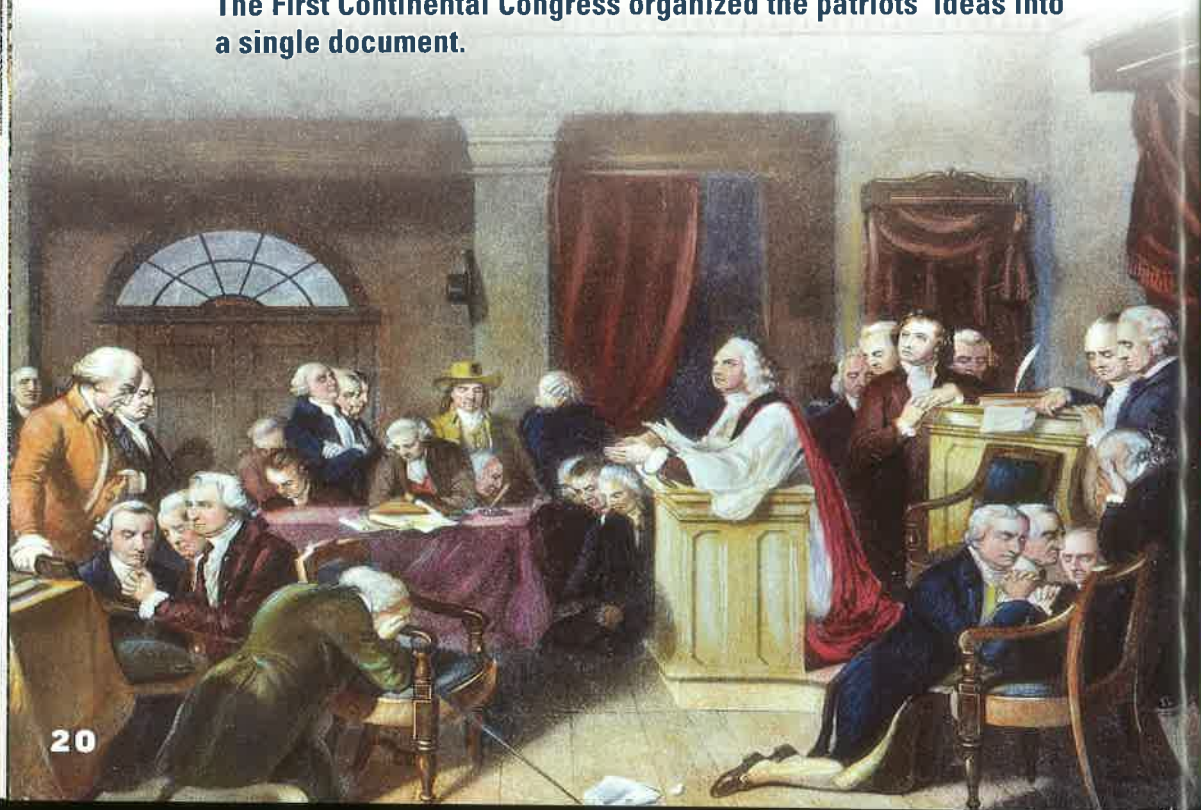
The First Continental Congress

On September 5, 1774, representatives from 12 of the 13 colonies met in Philadelphia to discuss what should be done in response to the Intolerable Acts. These men called themselves the Continental Congress.

They decided that each of the colonies would be given a single vote in all decisions. They agreed that the colonies should be free from any taxes for which they did not vote. They also agreed that the British military should not be allowed in the colonies without American permission.

They created a document that stated what they believed their rights should be. Among these were the right to hold meetings, the right to a fair trial by

The First Continental Congress organized the patriots' ideas into a single document.



A FIRSTHAND LOOK AT THE PLAN OF UNION

Some members of the Continental Congress wanted to end tensions with Britain and remain peacefully under British rule. Pennsylvania representative Joseph Galloway created a document called the Plan of Union. The document explained his idea for an American government that would work with the British government to make laws for the colonies. Galloway remained loyal to Britain when the colonists went to war. See page 60 for a link to view the document online.

jury, and the right to own property. The Congress sent the document to King George III in hopes that the British government would agree to the demands. The Continental Congress agreed to stop importing goods from British merchants until the demands were met. They also agreed to stop exporting their own products to the British if the demands were still not met within a year.

Spies and Militias

Local **militias** had existed since the earliest days of the colonies. Many militiamen had fought in the French and Indian War. They began to gather ammunition and other supplies in preparation for conflict with Britain.

Many militiamen were not interested in making peace with Great Britain. In Massachusetts, a network of spies formed under the leadership of Samuel Adams, John



The Battles of Lexington and Concord, in Massachusetts, marked the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

Hancock, and Paul Revere. Revere organized a group whose purpose was to keep an eye on the activities of General Gage.

In April 1775, spies learned that Gage was planning an attack against the rebels. His troops would march toward Lexington, just 12 miles (19 kilometers) northwest of Boston. They planned to arrest Adams and Hancock for **treason**. The troops would then head west to the town of Concord, where militia groups had secretly been storing supplies.

The Battle of Lexington

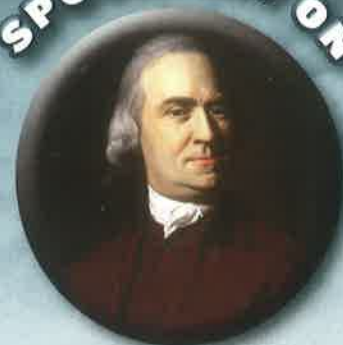
Thanks to the information from Revere's spy network, the men at Concord hid or destroyed their supplies. They were ready for the British. On April 18, Revere learned that Gage's troops would begin their march later that night.

Revere and his men took no chances in making sure their warning reached

Lexington and Concord. He and a friend each set out on horseback toward Lexington. Three other men climbed to the top of a tall church tower and used lanterns to signal riders in the nearby town of Charlestown. The riders alerted other colonists that the British were coming.

The next morning, 700 British soldiers arrived at Lexington and commanded the 77 waiting militiamen to throw down their weapons. The militiamen refused. A shot was fired. It's not clear who fired the first shot. It was likely a colonist shooting from behind a fence. The British returned fire and charged. These were the first shots fired

SPOTLIGHT ON



Samuel Adams

Continental Congressman Samuel Adams was one of the most influential American leaders during the Revolutionary War and the years that led up to it. Through his writings and involvement with various organizations, he became one of the leading voices of the growing resistance. After the war, he served as a state senator and governor of Massachusetts.

in the American Revolutionary War. Eight militiamen were killed. Nine others were wounded.

The Battle of Concord

The British marched toward Concord. They still hoped to find and destroy the Americans' hidden weapons. The Concord militia waited for the British across a bridge just north of the town. As the British forces began searching the town, militias from the surrounding areas arrived to join up with their Concord allies.

The British found ammunition and wooden gun carriages. The carriages were frames on which large guns were mounted to be fired. The British tried to burn the carriages. But they accidentally set the town courthouse on fire. The militiamen saw the fire and began marching over the bridge into town. British troops fired warning shots, but the Americans refused to back down. British troops soon began firing at the militiamen.

The British met with significant resistance from the colonists at Concord.



The American troops outnumbered the British and were able to drive them back quickly. But the British forces met resistance as they retreated from Concord. Hundreds of militiamen from as far away as New Hampshire had positioned themselves along the roads back to Boston. They hid on hilltops, behind trees, and in barns. The British had no way to defend themselves against this style of fighting. They quickly marched back to Charlestown.

The victories at Lexington and Concord inspired militias from around the colonies to begin marching toward Boston. Soon, about 15,000 American troops surrounded the city. Gage and 6,500 British soldiers were trapped.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

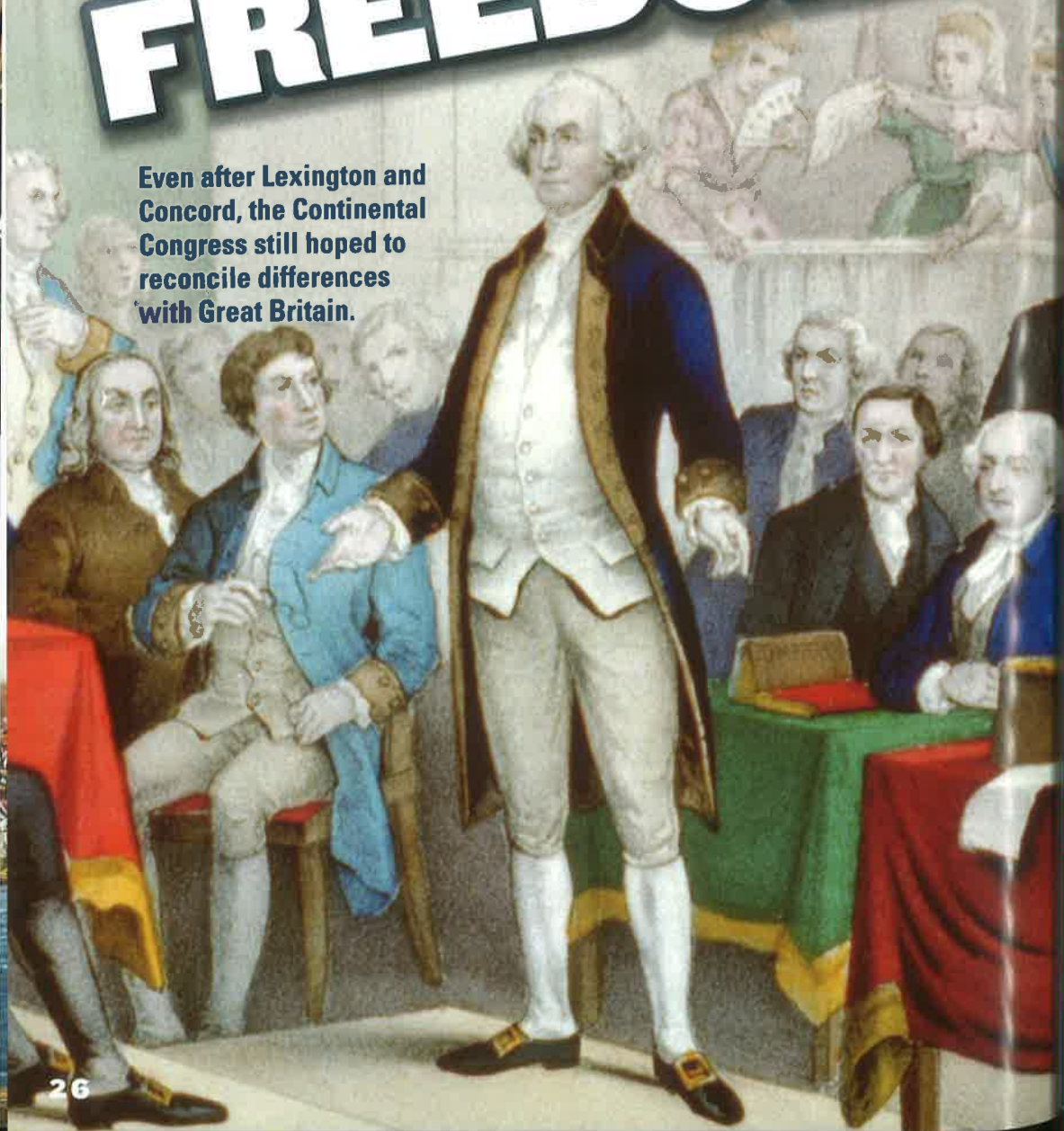



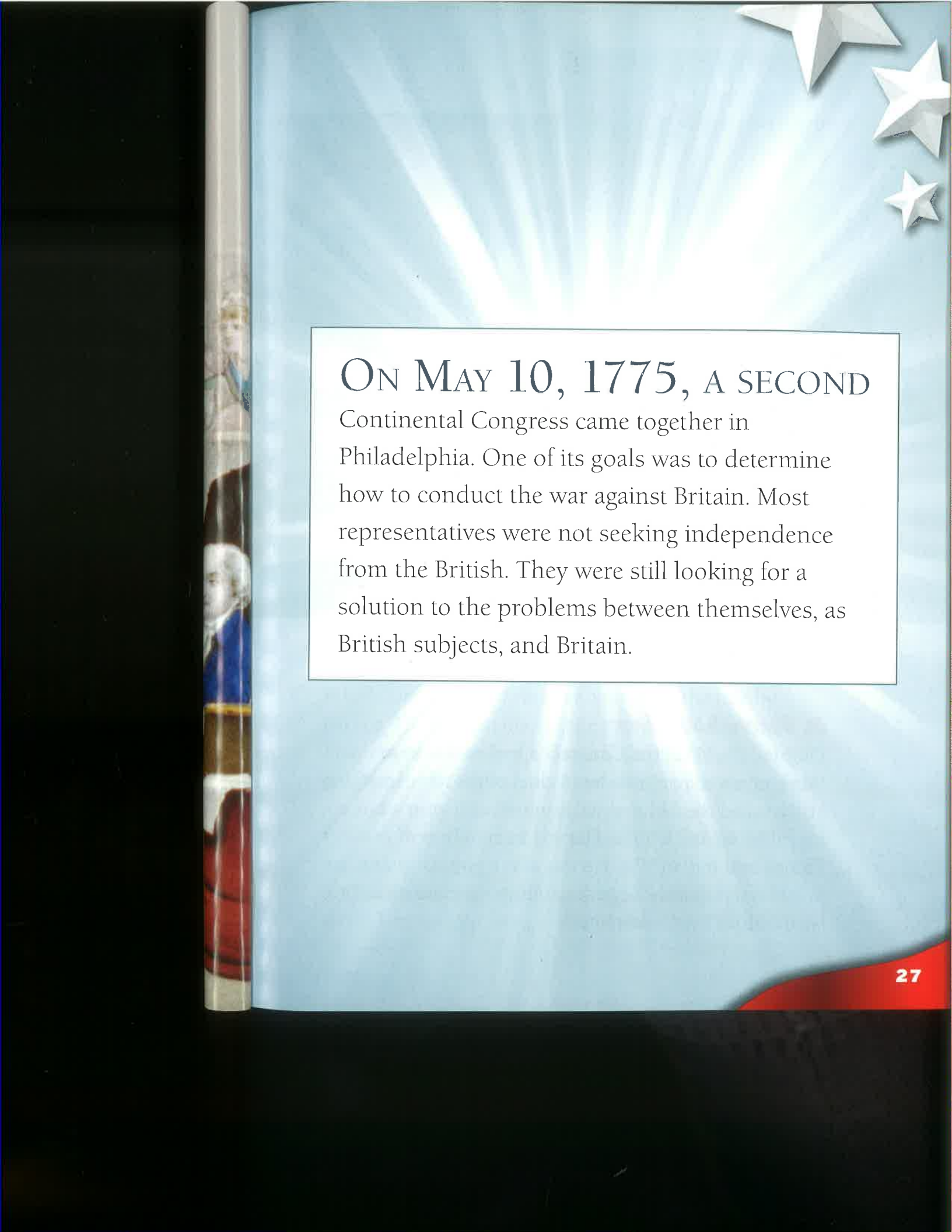
The American militia at Concord began marching toward the British troops when they saw their town burning. But the fires were purely accidental. British troops even tried to help the townspeople put out the fires. It is possible that before seeing the fires, the militiamen might not have attacked the British. But some historians believe they were ready and willing to fight under any circumstances. The men who fought at Concord were a special group of militiamen known as the minutemen. They were ready to fight at a moment's notice.

CHAPTER 3

THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Even after Lexington and Concord, the Continental Congress still hoped to reconcile differences with Great Britain.





ON MAY 10, 1775, A SECOND
Continental Congress came together in Philadelphia. One of its goals was to determine how to conduct the war against Britain. Most representatives were not seeking independence from the British. They were still looking for a solution to the problems between themselves, as British subjects, and Britain.



George Washington proved to be a well-liked and effective military leader.

A New Leader

On June 15, 1775, the Congress appointed George Washington as commander in chief of the new American army, called the Continental army. Washington was a wealthy farmer who had served as an officer in the French and Indian War. He was also a popular politician. Washington quickly began recruiting men and collecting weapons for the Continentals.

The Battle of Bunker Hill

The first major battle of the war occurred just two days after Washington was handed control of the army. Just across the river from Boston, two high hills in Charlestown offered the perfect spot to fire down on the British troops in the city. American colonel William Prescott and his soldiers began **fortifying** the hills,

which were known as Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill.

The Americans built their defenses atop Breed's Hill. British forces began firing cannons from the nearby harbor. The cannon blasts didn't stop the Americans. They continued to build. General Gage realized that the only way to force the Americans off the hills was to send ground troops into battle. He ordered Major General William Howe to attack the hills with 2,300 British soldiers.

The Americans began firing as soon as the British arrived on the northern banks of the river. The British

SPOTLIGHT ON



George Washington

George Washington was born into a wealthy family of Virginia plantation owners on February 22, 1732. When he was 22 years old, he was made an officer in the British military and fought in the French and Indian War. Following the American Revolution, Washington played a major role in the creation of the U.S. Constitution. He was elected in 1789 as the first U.S. president.



General Montgomery was killed in the attack on Quebec.

eventually drove the Americans back from the hills, but at great cost. More than 1,000 British soldiers were killed in the attack. The Americans lost 450 soldiers. Even though the British won the battle, the Americans had proved themselves capable fighters. Great Britain soon placed Howe in charge of the British forces. General Gage returned to England.

The Next Battles

In fall 1775, American forces invaded Canada, which was under British rule. American general Richard Montgomery took control of Montreal in early November. He then set out to join his troops with the forces of Benedict Arnold. Montgomery and Arnold attempted to take the city of Quebec. They were unsuccessful.

On February 27, 1776, about 1,000 American militiamen defeated a force of 1,600 **Loyalists** outside Wilmington, North Carolina.

By summer 1776, the Continental Congress had finally decided that it would be impossible for the colonies to remain under British rule. Independence from Britain became America's goal.

The Declaration of Independence

On June 11, 1776, Congress members Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman, John Adams, Robert Livingston, and Benjamin Franklin began working on a document that would explain the colonies' reasons for seeking independence.

A FIRSTHAND LOOK AT

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most well-known and important documents in U.S. history. The ideas it contains became the foundation of the U.S. government. Since 1952, the one-page document has been on display at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. It is kept in a special airtight case that prevents the paper from decaying. Each year, millions of Americans visit the National Archives to get a look at it. See page 60 for a link to view the document online.



The Declaration of Independence was approved on July 4, 1776.

The Declaration of Independence was written mainly by Jefferson. It stated, "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Because Great Britain had never asked consent of the colonists before passing laws for them, the Americans believed that it was their right to separate and form their own government. On July 2, the Congress voted to declare independence. Two days later, they approved the Declaration of Independence as their official statement.

Attack on New York

Great Britain sent Admiral Richard Howe, brother of William Howe, to America with a fleet of ships and 34,000 soldiers. The Howes were to meet with American leaders and demand that they surrender. The officers offered **pardons** to the Americans if they would end the conflict. The Americans refused, and the Howes began making plans to capture New York.

On August 27, General Howe landed troops on Long Island, New York. He was quickly able to force Washington's army west from Brooklyn into Manhattan. Two weeks later, Howe moved his troops into Manhattan. By October, he had pushed Washington north into the nearby town of White Plains.

The Battle of White Plains

Washington left behind two **garrisons**. He hoped that they would slow down Howe's pursuit. The first was at Fort Lee, across the Hudson River to the west of Manhattan. The other was at Fort Washington, in northern Manhattan. Howe's forces slipped between the garrisons and chased Washington into White Plains. Washington lost the battle. He was once again forced to withdraw northward with his 14,000 troops.

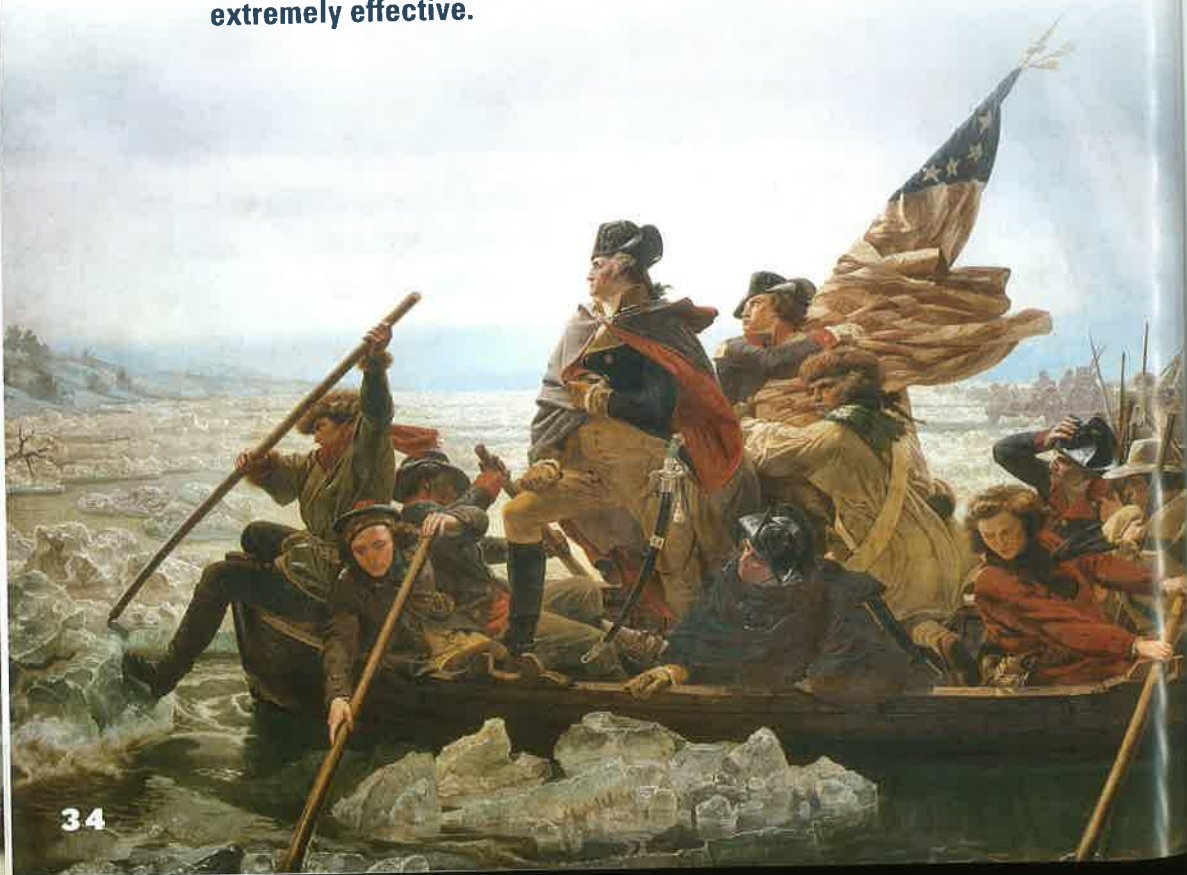
Poor weather prevented Howe from following. He turned back toward Manhattan and set his sights on Fort Washington. On November 20, British general Charles Cornwallis took over Fort Lee and began driving Washington's troops southwest across New Jersey. By

late December, Washington had been forced across the Delaware River. The Continental army now had only 6,000 troops. Howe and Cornwallis began settling down for the winter, when fighting usually slowed down. They left their men at posts along the eastern side of the Delaware River.

The Battles of Trenton and Princeton

Washington knew that only 1,400 British troops guarded the city of Trenton, New Jersey, on the eastern banks of the Delaware. On December 25, 1776,

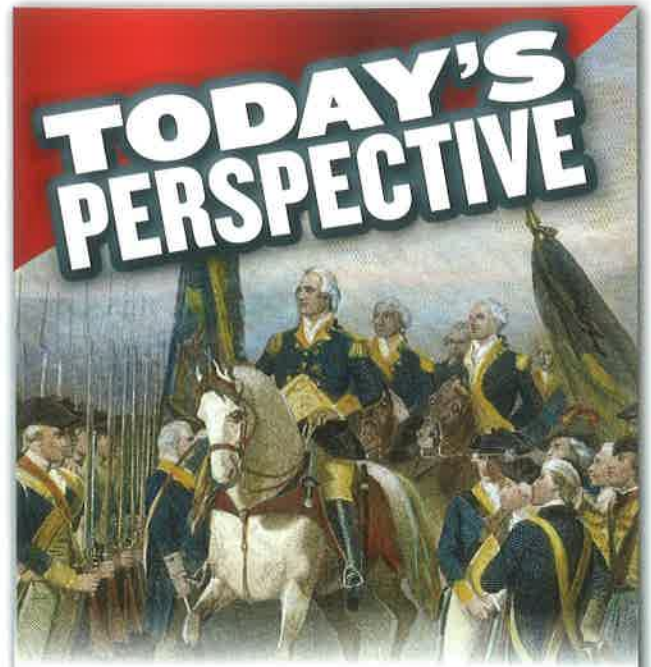
Washington's surprise attack in New Jersey proved to be extremely effective.



Washington launched a surprise attack across the icy river with 4,200 American soldiers. The Americans easily overtook the British forces. They moved on to take Trenton the next day.

On January 2, 1777, General Cornwallis arrived at Trenton with 8,000 troops. He attacked, but Washington cleverly snuck away westward. Late that night, Washington began moving his men north toward Princeton.

The next morning, Washington's army defeated the British forces at Princeton. This cleared a path to move northward to the town of Morristown. There, Washington was able to settle in for the winter and begin rebuilding his army.

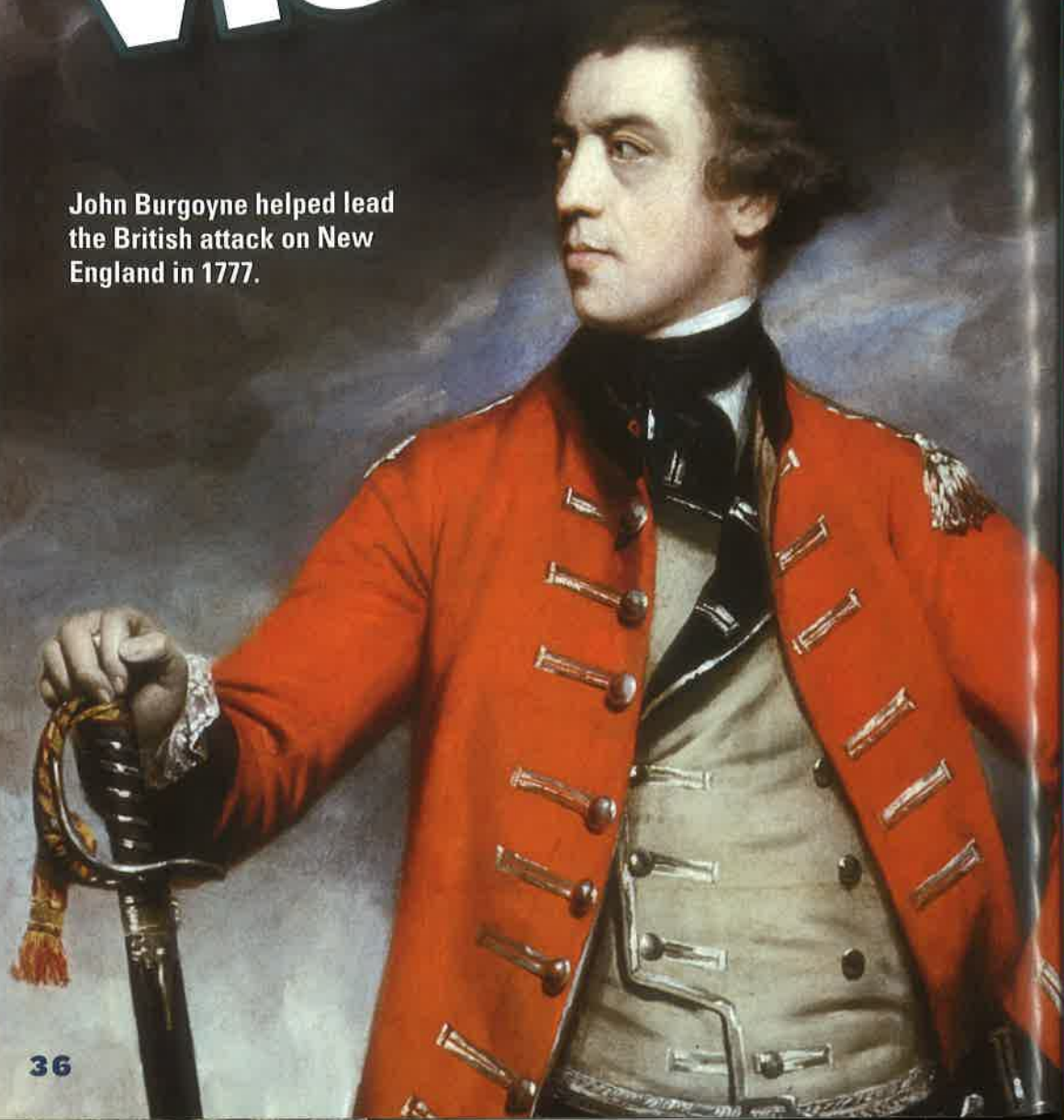


George Washington was chosen to be the commander in chief of the Continental army for his military abilities and commitment to the cause of colonial freedom. The Second Continental Congress also hoped that choosing a wealthy farmer from Virginia would tie the southern colonies more closely to the rebellion. Washington increased the length of time soldiers would serve, equipped his men, and molded the rebels into a professional army. Most historians agree that the Continental army would not have defeated the British without Washington's leadership.

CHAPTER 4

ONWARD TO VICTORY

John Burgoyne helped lead the British attack on New England in 1777.



The background of the page is a light blue gradient with a sunburst effect emanating from the top center. In the top right corner, there are three white, three-dimensional stars of varying sizes. The text is contained within a white rectangular box with a thin black border.

GREAT BRITAIN VIEWED

New England as the center of the Americans' power. British leaders began planning ways to cut it off from the rest of the colonies. When winter passed, British general John Burgoyne began moving south from Canada toward New York, where he joined forces with General Howe.



The American forces were unable to hold their ground at the Battle of the Brandywine, in Pennsylvania.

Brandywine and Saratoga

In July 1777, General Howe left Burgoyne and his men to hold New York. Howe began moving south toward Pennsylvania, where he planned to take Philadelphia. On September 11, he defeated Washington at Brandywine Creek, just 25 miles (40 km) outside of Philadelphia. But Howe's decision to take Philadelphia was a costly mistake.

About the same time that General Howe had set off for Philadelphia, Burgoyne went on the offensive. He

captured the American forts Ticonderoga and Edward in July and then moved on to make camp in the town of Saratoga. Burgoyne planned to move his troops south and take the city of Albany. But General Horatio Gates was camped nearby with a growing American force.

The two sides clashed on September 19. Gates's forces were able to hold back the British. Burgoyne was forced to withdraw. In early October, Burgoyne took 1,500 soldiers and attempted to circle around the side of the American army. The British were quickly defeated, and Gates began using his massive army to surround the main British camp. Burgoyne was forced to surrender several days later.

Burgoyne's surrender was a major victory for the Americans.

