Causes of the American Revolution
TEST STUDY GUIDE
Terms to Know

Loyalist: person loyal to King George III; they supported England. This person was against protests and boycotts.

Patriot: person who wanted to separate from England. They were angry at how Britain was treating the colonies. This person was for protests and boycotts.

Boycott: When one group refuses to have a financial or social relationship with a country or group as a form of protest. In other words, they won’t buy anything from them as a form of protest. ***When the colonists boycotted British goods, it was an effective form of protest.***

Triangular Trade: The trade route that developed as a result of Mercantilism. It included trade between the Colonies, Africa, and the West Indies. The Middle Passage was the middle leg of the Triangular Trade route which transported slaves from Africa to the New World.

Sons of Liberty: A group formed and led by Samuel Adams that consisted of Patriots who actively protested the British. The participated in the Boston Tea Party.

Minutemen: The Militia men, who were volunteers and not professional soldiers, were ready in a minute to fight to protect their homes and settlements. This is the group that fights the British at Lexington and Concord.

Mother Country: England

Nullify: to undo, neutralize, or invalidate

Repeal: to remove, retract, or cancel.

Continental Army: After war breaks out, this is the army that is set up to defend the colonies. George Washington is the commander and chief.

No Taxation Without Representation: The battle cry of the Patriots. They were made because English Parliament was taxing the colonies, but the colonies did not have any representation in Parliament.

Common Sense: The pamphlet written by Thomas Paine that stated that it was common sense that the Colonists separate from England because England was no longer treating them fairly.

“The Shot Heard Round the World”: The first shot fired at Lexington.

“Tis Time to Part.” written by Thomas Paine to convince colonists to separate, or part, from England.
People

King George III: the King of England.


Samuel Adams: The New England Rabble Rouser who was the doer and organizer. He organizes the Boston Tea Party. He forms the Sons of Liberty, and he organizes the Committees of Correspondence.

Patrick Henry: He was a great orator, or speaker. He famously gave speeches about the Stamp Act, and he was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. His most famous quote was, “Give me liberty or give me death.”

Crispus Attucks: A freed slave who died at the Boston Massacre.

Thomas Jefferson: He was the primary writer of the Declaration of Independence.

George Washington: The Commander of the Continental Army which is formed after Lexington and Concord.

Benjamin Franklin: The most famous and influential American colonist, his support of independence helped convince others to support the Patriots.

Events

The French and Indian War: Both France and England wanted the Ohio River Valley. The Colonists fight alongside the British soldiers which makes them more confident in their ability to defend themselves. England wins the war, and France loses all their North American lands. However, England is broke because of this war and must tax the colonists.

Proclamation of 1763: The colonists were not allowed to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains because England could not afford to go to war with the Natives. This angered the colonists because they had governed themselves for so long. They did not like England’s interference in their affairs. However, the colonists largely ignored the law.

Quartering Act: This law required colonists to house, feed, and transport British soldiers. This directly effected the colonists.

Stamp Act: This was a tax on legal documents, paper, playing cards, etc. The colonists respond by boycotting British goods. The boycotts are effective, and the act is repealed.
Boston Massacre: An unarmed angry mob of Bostonians were fired upon by British soldiers. Several were killed including Crispus Attucks, a freed slave.

Boston Tea Party: The Sons of Liberty, organized by Samuel Adams, protested the East India Tea Company monopoly over tea by throwing 342 crates of tea into Boston Harbor.

Battle of Lexington and Concord: 900 British soldiers marched for Lexington and Concord to take the hidden weapons and arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock. After being warned by Paul Revere, the Minutemen met the soldiers on the Green in Lexington. No one knows who fired the first shot, but it was the shot heard round the world. It was the beginning of the American Revolution. In Concord, the weapons had been moved already.