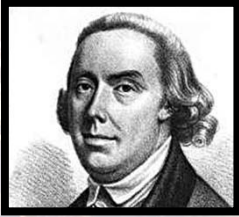


Declaring Independence

Chapter 4, Section 1


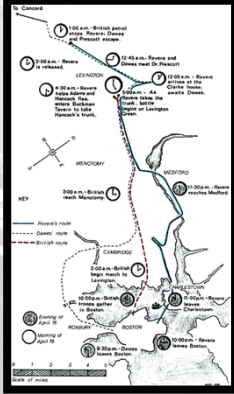
Lexington and Concord

- **"Minute Men"**
 - Colonial militias organized to protect the colonies
 - So named b/c they were to respond in a moment's notice
 - Had been stockpiling arms at **Concord**
 - 20 miles W. of Boston
- **Thomas Gage**
 - **Commander-in-chief** of British forces in N. America
 - Appointed **governor** of Mass.
 - Ordered to use troops to re-establish order and arrest rebel leaders
 - **Sam Adams** and **John Hancock**
 - To capture weapons at Concord



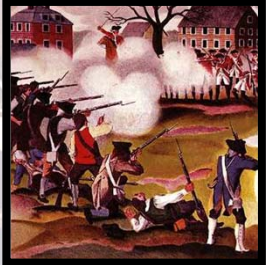
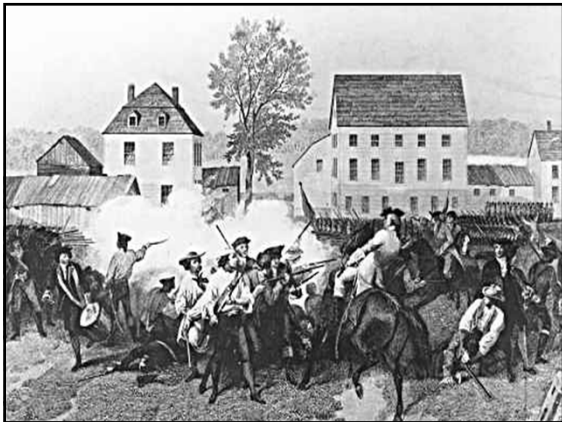
Paul Revere

- Road along w/ other horsemen to warn the countryside

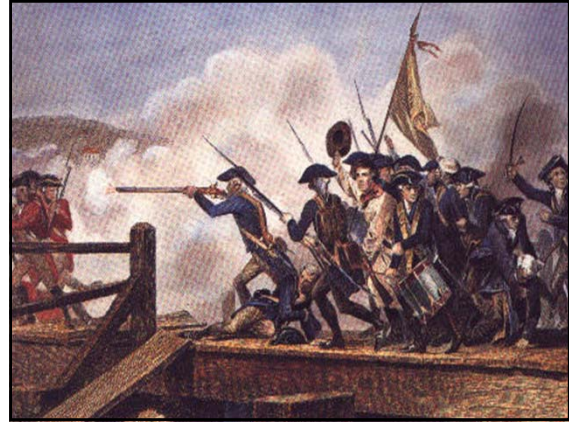
Battle of Lexington

- Redcoats met by "Minute Men" on the commons
 - Morning of April 19, 1775
 - 700 Redcoats vs. 70 "Minute Men"
- "Minute Men" argued briefly and began to w/draw.
- A shot was fired.
 - **"The shot heard around the world."**
 - Sparked a general skirmish
 - 8 "Minute Men" left dead.

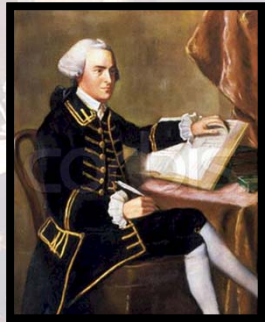
Battle of Concord

- Redcoats continued march to Concord.
- Met w/ guerrilla attacks from colonials
 - Deterred attack on Concord
 - Continued to harass troops back to Boston
 - 273 Redcoats injured or killed.



2nd Continental Congress (1775)

- Met in Independence Hall in Philadelphia
- 1st met on May 10, 1775
 - About a month after Lexington and Concord
- Only 12 colonies originally represented
 - Georgia arrived late.
- John Hancock
 - Chosen as the pres. of the 2nd Continental Congress
- George Washington
 - Appted. commander-in-chief of the Continental Army
 - Had worn uniform to 1st session, giving a strong hint



Battle of Bunker Hill

- Colonists seized Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill in Charlestown
 - Opposite Boston
- Redcoats tried to seize Breed's Hill twice.
 - Failed and suffered heavy losses
- On the 3rd try, Redcoats were successful.
 - Colonists ran out of ammo.
 - 1,000 Redcoats killed vs. 400 colonials



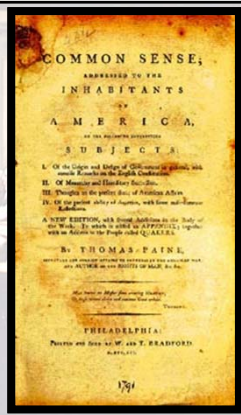
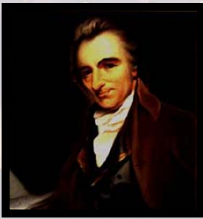


Results of Battle of Bunker Hill

- Gage replaced as c-in-c.
 - By Wm. Howe
- Congress dispatched Olive Branch Petition.
 - Final plea to the king
- Congress authorized more severe action.
 - Ordered Canada to be seized
 - Created committees to seek foreign aid
 - Created a navy
 - Commanded by Esek Hopkins of Rhode Island

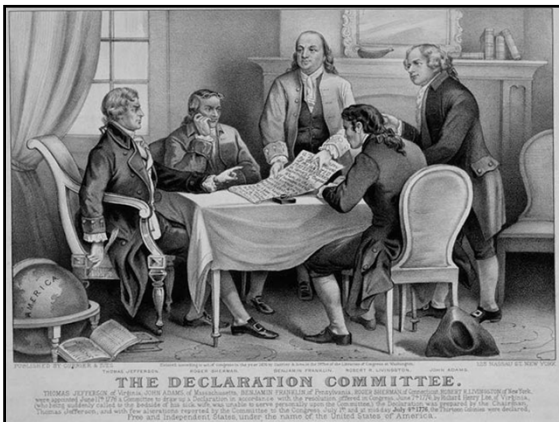
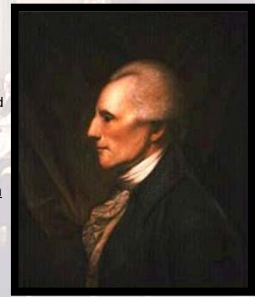
Thomas Paine

- Wrote Common Sense
 - Pamphlet promoting separation from the British
- Convinced the colonists to support independence



Decision for Independence

- Richard Henry Lee of Virginia
 - Introduced resolution for independence
 - "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, Free and Independent States."
- Committee chosen to write Declaration of Independence.
 - John Adams, Roger Sherman, Ben Franklin, Robert Livingston, Thomas Jefferson
 - Written mostly by Jefferson
- Formally adopted Dec. of Ind. on July 4, 1776





Parts of the Declaration

- Explanation of the social contract
 - To justify the separation
 - Influenced by John Locke
 - Promoted the idea of “natural rights”
 - Rights a person should never give up
 - Life, liberty, and property
 - “. . . all men are created equal, . . . they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”
 - Promoted the idea that if a gov't tries to take these rights away, it is the duty of man to rebel against that gov't
 - “. . . 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. . . .”

Parts of the Declaration

- List of grievances
 - Directed towards George III
 - Shows how the colonists' rights had been violated
 - “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 world.”
- Explanation of efforts made by the colonists to get the “injuries and usurpations” redressed
 - But were ignored
 - “In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury.”
- Formal declaration of independence
 - “We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States. . . .”
- Signatures of the delegates
 - John Hancock was first, since he was pres.

Purpose of the Declaration

- To convince the people of England that the colonists were justified
- To convince other major states that the colonists were justified
 - France and Spain
- To convince the colonists that they were justified
 - 1/3 of colonists → supported independence
 - 1/3 of colonists → against independence
 - Loyalists or Tories
 - 1/3 of colonists → don't care