



The American Revolution

If you used Lessons From History 1400's to 1700's you studied the American Revolution last spring. Use this first unit as a review. Review your timeline to help your children understand that you are picking up from where you left off last year. Read some books you didn't have time for. If you concentrated on the battles and the war conditions, you can take this opportunity to get another perspective. Toliver's Secret or Johnny Tremain will give you a glimpse into the lives of individuals involved in the war. If you are wanting to head in another direction, take this opportunity to study the history of the American flag and read about Betsy Ross. (Of course, Lessons From History 1400's to 1700's is not a prerequisite to this book.)

The American Revolution lasted from 1760 to 1783. There were 15 years of tension leading up to war. The Revolutionary War started in 1775 and lasted until 1783, including six years of fighting and two years of peace negotiations.

In 1760, King George III came to power. He went through several prime ministers looking for one that would carry out his orders. He began imposing excessive taxes on the American colonies to try to pay off war debts from the Seven Year War with France.

Among these taxes was a stamp tax. Every legal paper had to have a special seal put on it and these seals were expensive. The colonists refused and England finally backed down. England repealed the stamp act, but replaced it with a collection of taxes on British goods: paper, cloth, tea, paint, glass, and lead. The people responded with a boycott of all English goods.

The people of Boston were the most angry and complained the loudest. Angry but well-behaved dissenter groups formed. One group provoked soldiers, and the soldiers fired on the dissenters, killing five people. This was known as the Boston Massacre (March, 1770.) England withdrew its soldiers from Boston and repealed all the taxes except for the tax on tea.

Colonists dressed up as Indians and dumped all the tea from one ship into the harbor. This is called the Boston Tea Party (December, 1773.) England was angry and issued the Boston Port Act, which insisted that Boston pay for the tea (\$10,000 worth), or the ports would be closed. This would mean almost complete unemployment for this shipping town.

Letters were written and the first Continental Congress was formed to discuss Boston's situation. It was decided that no one need obey the Boston Port Act, and that Americans should start preparing for war. At the same time, they wrote a letter to England called the Declaration of Rights, explaining how England's parliament had violated the colonists' rights. England ignored the letter.

Fighting began when the British went to seize the American leaders John Hancock and Samuel Adams (April, 1775.) Paul Revere and William Dawes, express riders, rode ahead to warn the people to hide their ammunition supply and get ready for the British troops.

Minutemen came quickly and surrounded the British troops in Boston. A second Continental Congress was held with the purpose of organizing an army to defend America's liberties. They chose George Washington to lead the army.

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed by the Continental Congress.

The battle of Bunker Hill was the first major battle. It took place just outside of Boston.

There is not room to discuss the individual events of the war. You can read those for yourself.

The last battle took place in Yorktown in 1781. A peace treaty was finally signed in Paris in 1783. America was now a free, independent nation. The treaty stated that the United States of America stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, and from the Great Lakes to Florida.

Books

The Light and The Glory for Children

The Child's Story of America from Christian Liberty Press

✓ Sam the Minuteman by Nathaniel Benchley

George the Drummer Boy by Nathaniel Benchley

Guns for General Washington by Seymour Reit

✓ Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes Juv F

American Revolution, 1760 - 1783 by Bruce Bliven Jr J973.3 B

✓ Toliver's Secret by Esther Wood Bradley Juv B72

Early Thunder by Jean Fritz

Silver for General Washington by Enid Meadowcroft

Traitor: The Case of Benedict Arnold by Jean Fritz J 923.5 Ar6

The Green Mountain Boys by Daniel Thompson

The Story of the Green Mountain Boys by Susan Clinton J 973.3 C61

✓ We the People the Story of the Constitution by Spier

✓ The Fourth of July Story by Dalgliesh

✓ Mr. Revere and I by Robert Lawson Juv L44

There were many good videos at our library concerning the Revolutionary War

