

Revolution! The Fight for Independence

Chapter 1 - Section 2

The Revolution Begins

- ✦ Great Britain suspended Mass. Assembly
- ✦ Mass. militia began to drill in preparation for war (Minutemen) - Storing arms at Concord
- ✦ Not everyone favored resistance, many were still loyal to the King (Loyalists)



Plan to Disarm

- ✦ April 1775, General Gage decided seize arms stored in Concord
- ✦ April 18th, 700 British Red Coats left Boston - Patriots sent messengers to warn the others (Paul Revere)



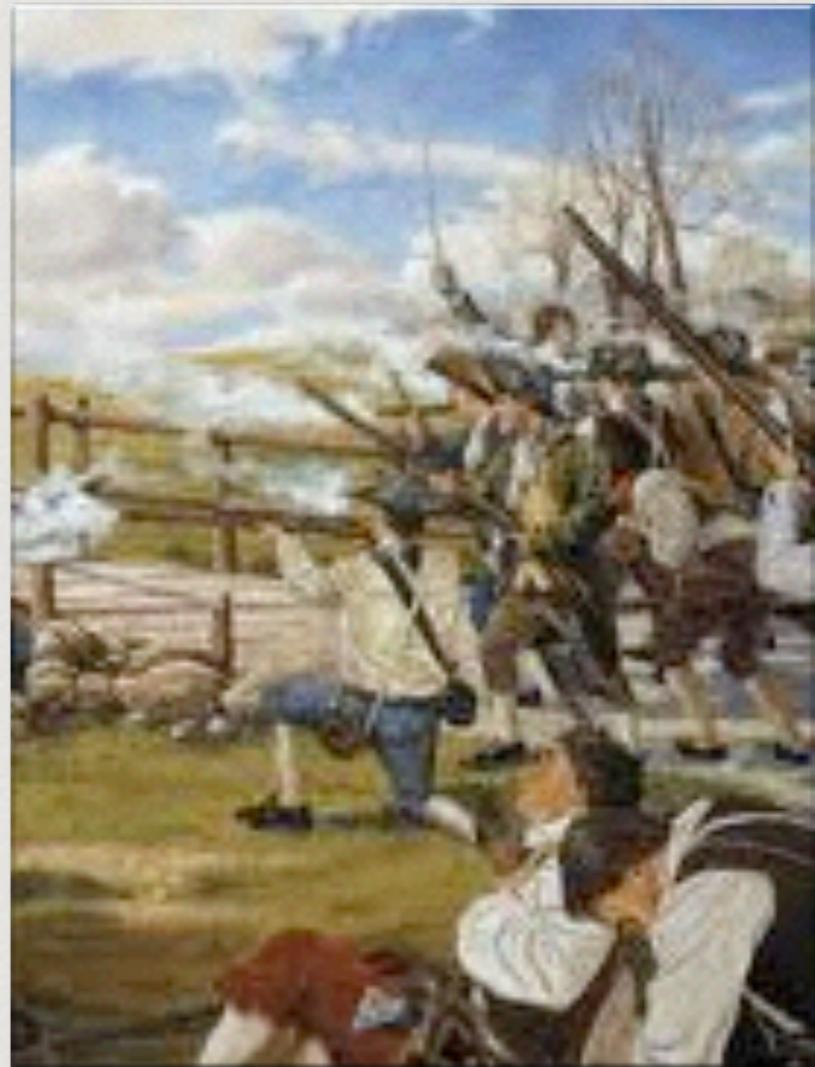
Battle of Lexington

- * Famous Ride of Paul Revere -
“British are Coming!!”
- * “Shot heard around the world”
- * Starts the American Revolution
- * 700 English v. 70 “minutemen”
- * 8 “Minutemen” died - British
marched on to Concord



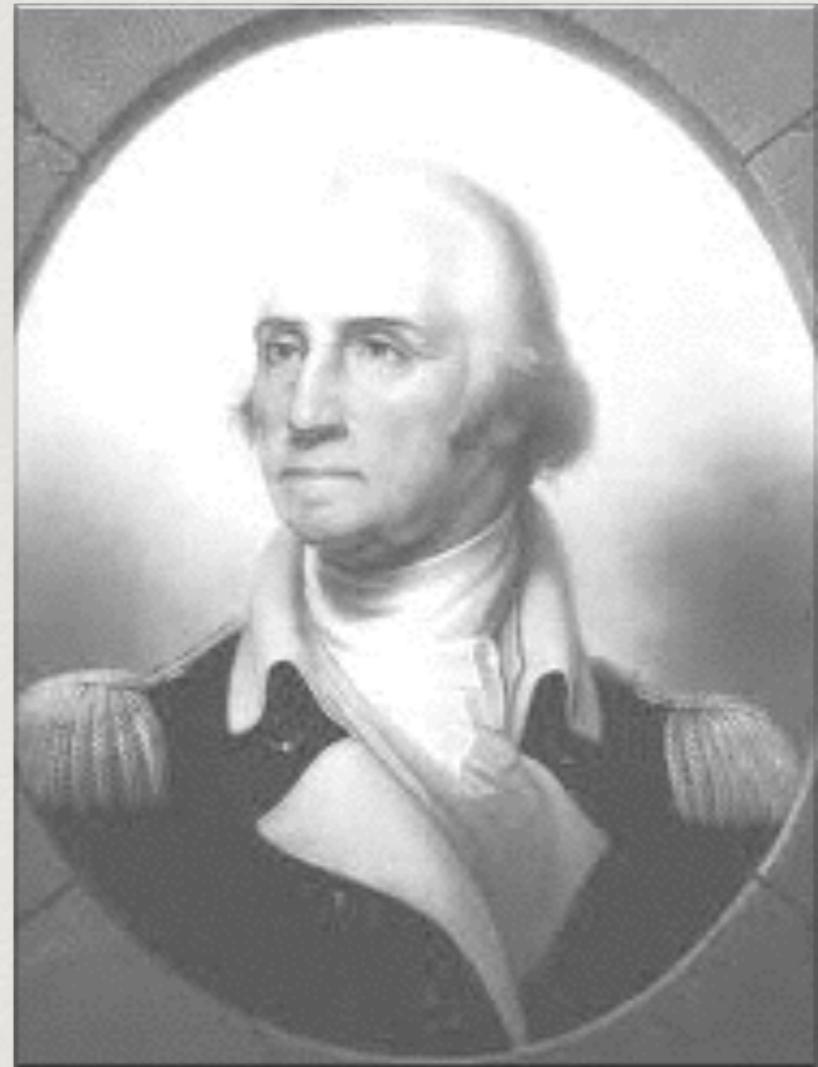
Battle of Concord

- * British headed to Concord only to find the arms had been moved
- * Minutemen launched a surprise attack on the British (hid behind walls, barns, stone fences) greatly outnumbered by the Red Coats (400 militia / 700 Red Coats)
- * 1st colonist victory



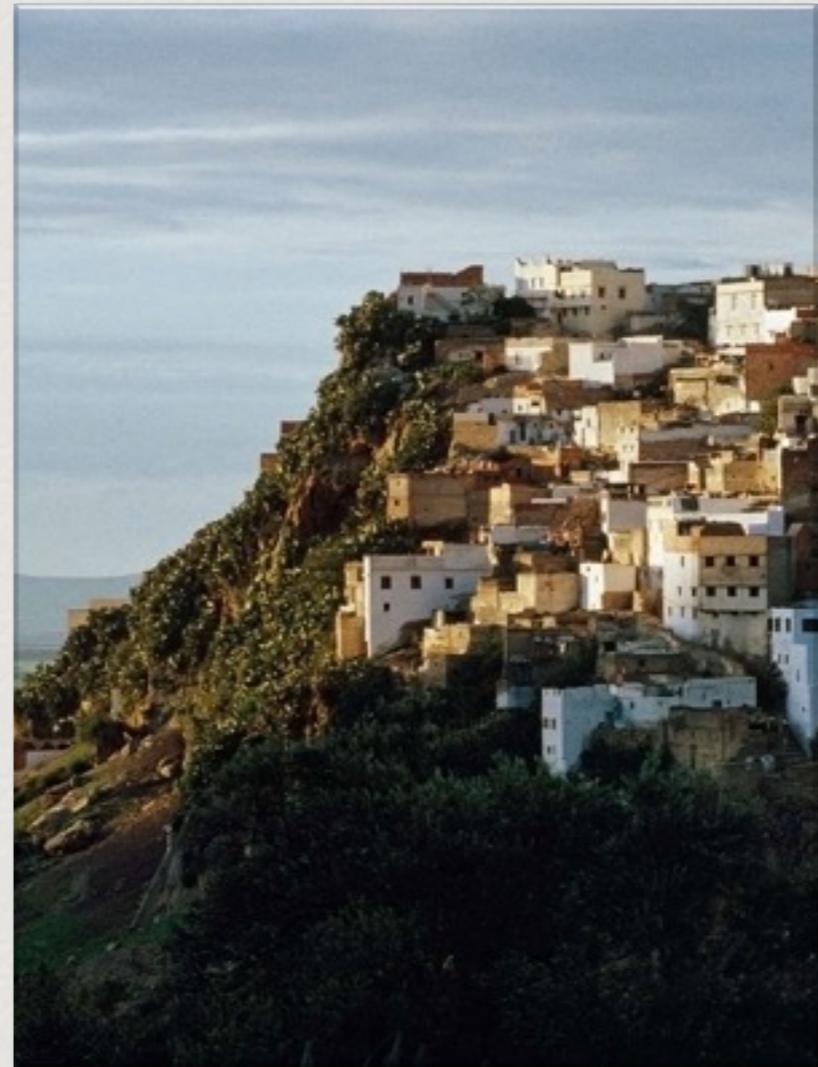
George Washington

- * 3 weeks after Concord, the Second Continental Congress “adopted” Boston’s militia (Surrounding Red Coats at Boston)
- * George Washington is named Commander in Chief of the Continental Army (13 colonies)



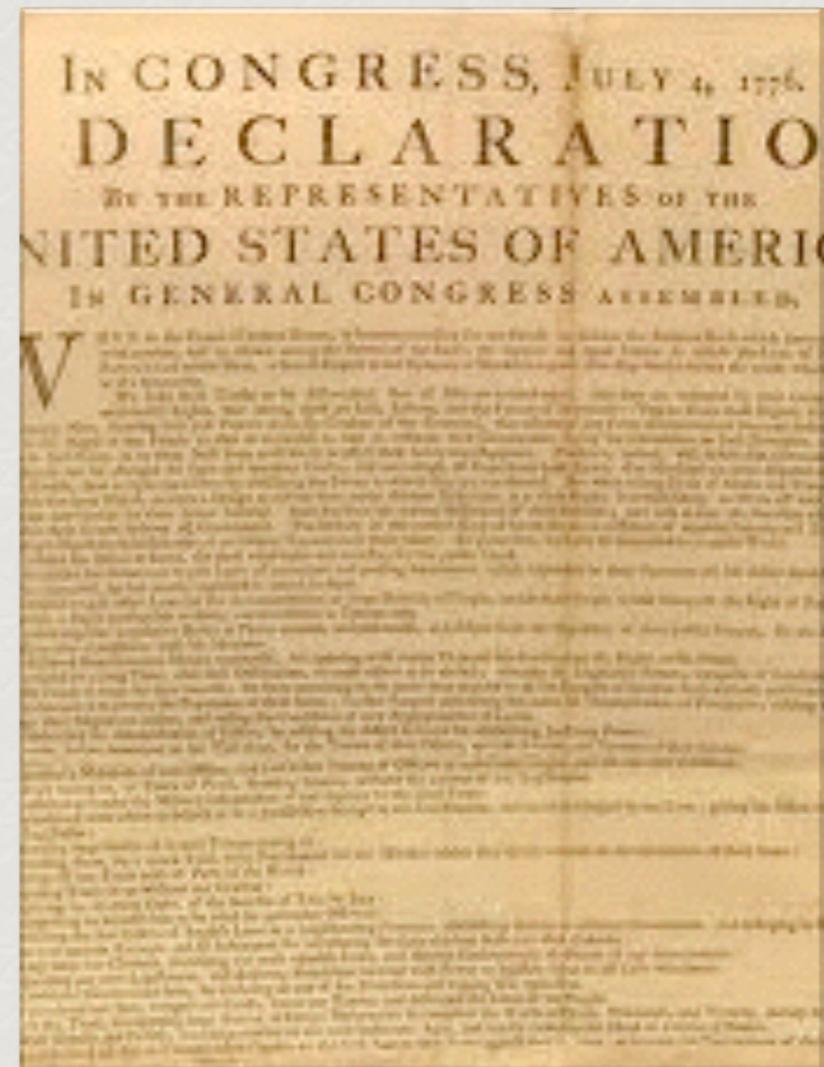
Decision for Independence

- ✦ July 1775 - The 2nd Continental Congress sent King George III the “Olive Branch Petition”
- ✦ King George III - disregarded petition
- ✦ 2nd Continental Congress began preparations to separate from England, establish a navy & began seizing merchant ships



Dec. of Independence

- * Colonies officially declare themselves independent of British authority
- * Claimed their natural rights were violated
- * Following Locke's theory, (Life, Liberty, Happiness) & they overthrew the government



Declaration of Independence



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Overview

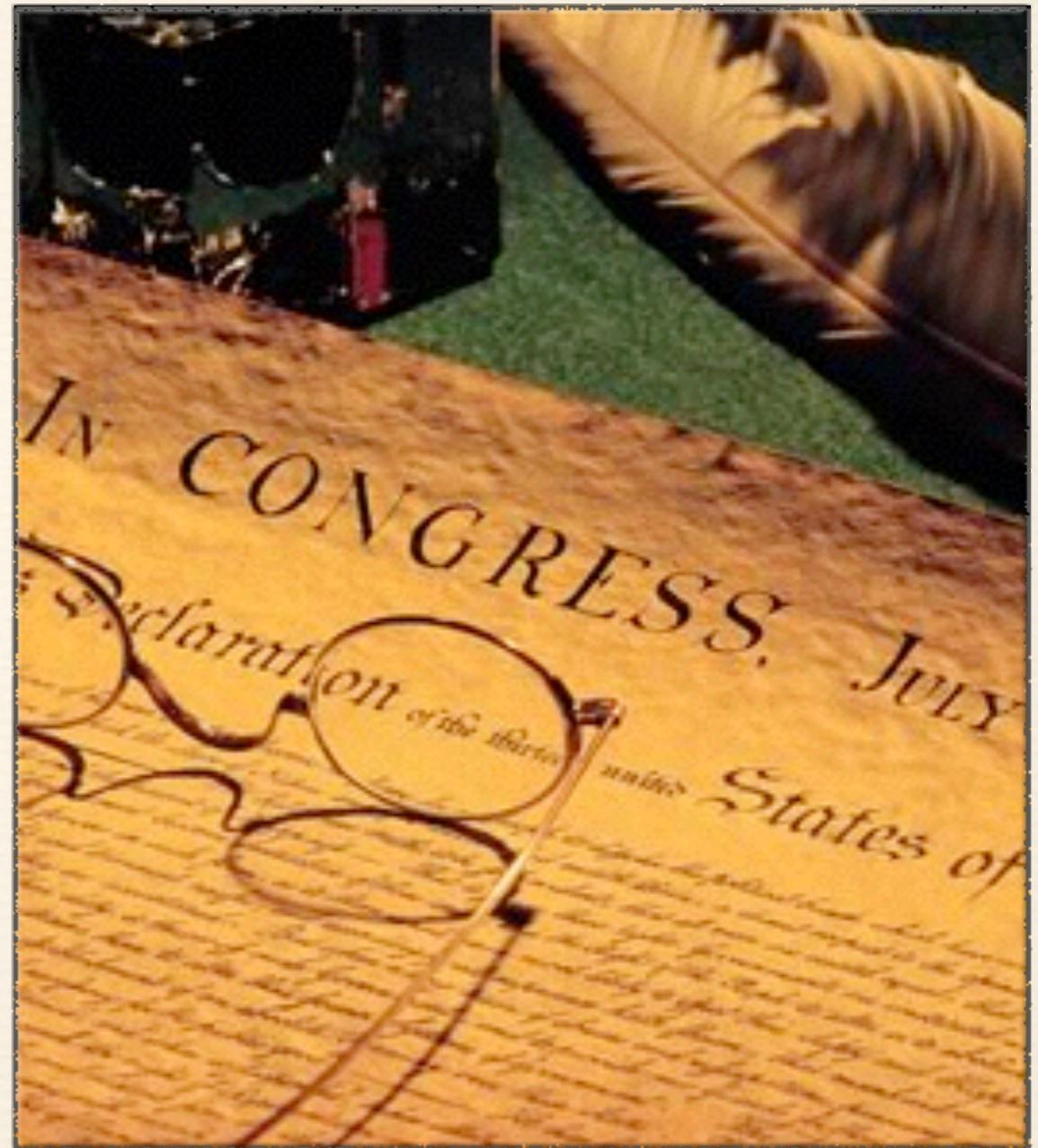
- ❖ The Declaration of Independence is vastly important because it states that a government exists for the benefit of the people and that "all men are created equal." It was adopted by the Thirteen American Colonies on July 4, 1776, and the document is regarded as the best-written statement of individual rights in history. In the Declaration of Independence, the Colonies not only declared their freedom from Great Britain, but they also addressed the reasons for the proclamation. The Declaration of Independence became an expression of the American mind, and pursuit of freedom.

Inspiration = The Enlightenment

- ❖ John Locke - “Natural Rights” - Believed in Life, Liberty, Happiness
- ❖ Jean Jacques Rousseau - “Social Contract” / Republic
- Govt should be formed by the consent people
- ❖ Baron Montesquieu - Suggested there should be three branched of govt - Executive, Legislative, Judicial branches - all three regulating each other.

Dec. of Independence

- ❖ 1. Preamble
- ❖ 2. Dec. of Natural Rights
- ❖ 3. List of Grievances
- ❖ 4. Resolution of Independence



Part 3 - List of Grievances

- ❖ Colonist wanted to list all complaints against King George III of Britain so the world could see his actions, understand why the colonist want to separate and hopefully have the rest of the worlds support
- ❖ Colonist called him out!!
- ❖ Total of 27 “Grievances”



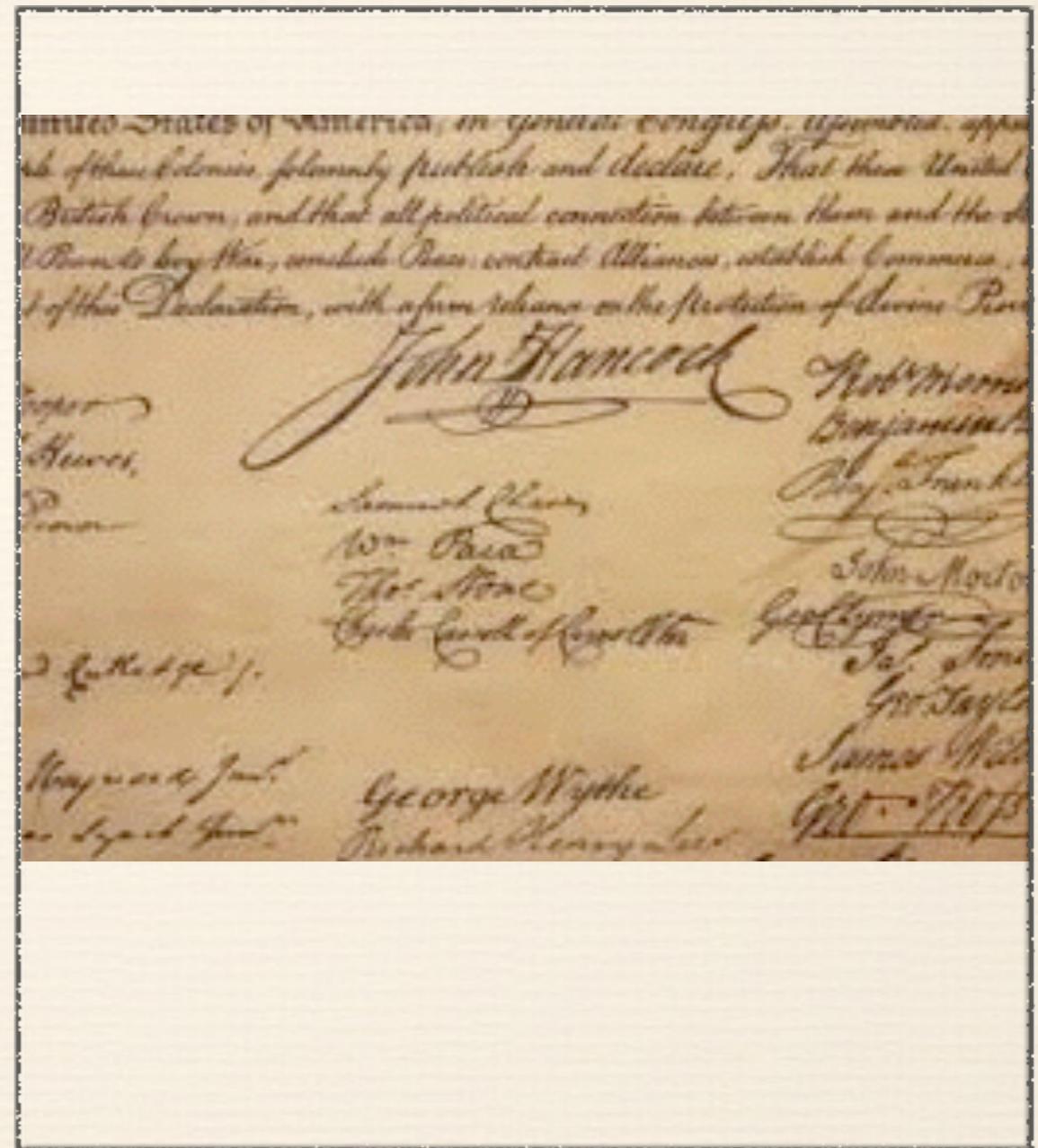
Part 4 - Resolution of Independence

- ❖ Declares the colonies
“Free” and Independent
States from Great Britain
- ❖ Declaring the right to trade with other countries, make alliances, and full power to declare war



Signers of the Declaration of Independence

- ❖ On July 4, 1776 the original declaration of Independence was signed by only two people, Charles Thomson as Secretary and John Hancock as President of the Continental Congress.
- ❖ Original document lost while re-printing the document for distribution and the King of England
- ❖ On August 2, 1776 the delegates returned to Philadelphia to sign a newly prepared Declaration of Independence and for some known reason Thomson was not invited to sign. 56 people signed total



Questions??????