**Causes of the Revolution**

* **The French and Indian War**
  + Britain and France fought over **Ohio River Valley**
  + Most American Indians became **allies** with the French
  + Britain won the war and gained control of most land in Canada and east of the Mississippi River
  + American Indians were upset and attacked British forts
  + Britain made the **Proclamation of 1763**, which said that colonists could not settle west of the Appalachian Mountains – colonists were upset because they could not live in the Ohio River Valley
* **“No Taxation without Representation!”**
  + After the French and Indian War, **King George III** and the **British Parliament** needed money to pay for the war so they **taxed** the colonists
    - Examples: **Sugar Act** taxed sugar, coffee, cloth, **Stamp Act** taxed things printed on paper
  + In 1765, colonists decided to **boycott** British goods
  + Colonists formed **Sons of Liberty** (led violent protests – beat up tax collectors and wrecked the homes of British officials) and **Daughters of Liberty** (wove cloth so colonists did not have to buy cloth from Britain)
* **The Boston Massacre**
  + Crowd of colonists yelled and threw snowballs at a British soldier, so soldiers fired guns
  + Five colonists were killed
  + **Paul Revere** – Made picture of Boston Massacre to show colonists that British soldiers were dangerous
* **Boston Tea Party**
  + 1773 – Parliament passed the **Tea Act**, which Allowed Britain to sell tea in America for a very low price, but if colonists bought it they would be paying British tax
  + Colonists would not buy the tea, so it just sat in the Boston Harbor
  + Colonists got rid of the tea on December 16, 1773 – Sons of Liberty boarded the ships illegally and threw the tea into the Boston Harbor
  + Britain was angry and passed the **Intolerable Acts** – stopped trade between Boston and Britain, ended town meetings, gave Britain control over colony’s government, and sent more soldiers to Boston, colonists had to give soldiers food and shelter 🡪 Colonists were furious!

**The American Revolution Begins**

* Patriots began preparing for war by training **militia** (mostly farmers) for battle
* British soldiers heard that Patriots were storing gun powder so they panned an attack
* April 18, 1775 – **Paul Revere** rode out of Boston to warn the militia
* **The Battle of Lexington**
  + British soldiers reached Lexington before sunrise, but the minutemen could not stop them
  + Eight colonists died and nine were wounded, so British were able to march to Concord
* **The Battle of Concord**
  + Minutemen forced the British to turn back to Boston
  + On the way back to Boston, all the Patriots from small towns shot at the British soldiers from behind trees and stone walls – More than 250 British soldiers were wounded or killed

**The Declaration of Independence**

* **Gaining support**
  + **Patrick Henry** – Made a speech to convince colonists of the importance of independence – “Give me liberty or give me death!”
  + **John Adams** argued for independence, and more and more people agreed with his view
* Finally on June 7, 1776, Congress decided to write the **Declaration of Independence – Thomas Jefferson** wrote it
  + (Part 1) Promises to explain why colonies must break away from Britain, (Part 2) Explains the **natural rights** that all people are born with – equality for all, (Part 3) **The longest section lists complaints against the king**, (Part 4) Declares the colonies independent, (Part 5) Delegates signed their name
* On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted to accept the Declaration of Independence, which marked the moment when Americans chose to rule themselves
* By signing the Declaration of Independence, colonists became enemies of the King by committing the crime of **treason** (the crime of fighting against one’s own government)
* The Declaration of Independence still inspires people to work for **liberty** and **equal rights**

**Important Battles**

* **George Washington** became the commander for the **Continental Army**
* **Patriots** – wanted independence for the colonies, **Loyalists** – still loyal to King George III
* **Battle of Saratoga** 
  + 1777 – British began attacking New York from Canada – Americans tried to stop them in **Saratoga**
  + **Benedict Arnold** led many attacks against the British and forced the British to surrender
  + **The French decided to join the Americans** and sent money, soldiers, and a navy to help fight
  + Continental Army continued training during the winter at **Valley Forge**, Pennsylvania – became stronger
* **Battle of Yorktown**
  + British began invading and controlling Southern colonies
  + Benedict Arnold became a **traitor** and secretly changed sides to fight for the British
  + British brought their army to **Yorktown**, Virginia – located on a **peninsula** surrounded in rivers
  + Washington marched troops and French sailed ships to Yorktown
    - Surprised the British, then fired cannons day and night
    - **British army surrendered because they were trapped on a peninsula** – Washington used geography to win the battle
  + The war lasted for two more years, but this was the last big battle in the war

**The War Ends**

* On September 3, 1783, Britain and the colonists signed the **Treaty of Paris**
* King George III agreed that the United States of America was an independent nation
* The Americans gained land – north to British Canada, west to the Mississippi River, south to Spanish Florida

**\*\* Don’t forget to review previous units – Planets and Colonial Regions/natural resources found in each region! \*\***