



5th Grade Writing Unit 2: Informational Text

Reference Text Packet

Name: _____

Please keep until: December 12th, 2014

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Colonization and the Revolutionary War Introduction to the Revolutionary War

As the colonies took root, they grew used to mostly governing themselves. Great Britain decided it wanted more control. It began to force new taxes on the colonists. They wanted to raise money from the goods they were shipping to the colonies. In 1764, the British Parliament passed the Sugar Act to raise the tax on sugar. The next year, the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act. Colonists now had to pay taxes for newspapers, marriage licenses, and all other legal documents.

Many colonists were angered by these taxes. They hadn't agreed to them and felt they were illegal and unfair. Each new tax led to a bigger **protest**¹ by the colonists. Besides taxes, many colonists were also unhappy about some of the rules the British were forcing on them. In 1765, the British Parliament passed the Quartering Act. The act stated that colonists had to agree to give British troops food and let them stay in their homes. Colonists who were unhappy with how the British were treating them decided to fight back peacefully.

In 1765, the Stamp Act Congress met in New York. The Congress was made up of representatives from many colonies. The representatives agreed to **boycott**² British goods until the Stamp Act was **repealed**³. That same year, the Sons of Liberty, a secret organization of colonists in favor of liberty, was formed.

Tensions grew between the Colonists and the British. In 1770, tensions erupted with the Boston Massacre. British troops in Boston found themselves confronted by a crowd of angry colonists. The crowd shouted at the troops and threw snowballs and other small objects at them. The soldiers panicked. One soldier started firing his gun. Then more soldiers fired into the unarmed crowd. Five colonists were killed and six were injured.

The British government was afraid of losing control over the colonies. They removed all the taxes on imports to try to make the colonists happy. They

¹ **protest** – object strongly and publicly

² **boycott** – to join together and refuse to buy or use a product or service

³ **repealed** – taken back

allowed, however, one tax to remain in place for tea. In 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act to help get the East India Company out of financial trouble. This act enabled the British trading company to sell tea in America at a low price. Even with a tax on tea, the British company had a price advantage over American tea companies. The colonists were furious. They feared East India's tea would put American tea companies out of business. In Boston, a leader of the resistance named Samuel Adams decided to protest. He spoke to a group of colonists on December 16, 1773 at the Old South Church in Boston. Shortly after he spoke, a large group of men boarded British ships and dumped thousands of pounds of East India's tea into the harbor. Crowds of onlookers gathered to celebrate the **rebellious**¹ act. They nicknamed the event the Boston Tea Party.

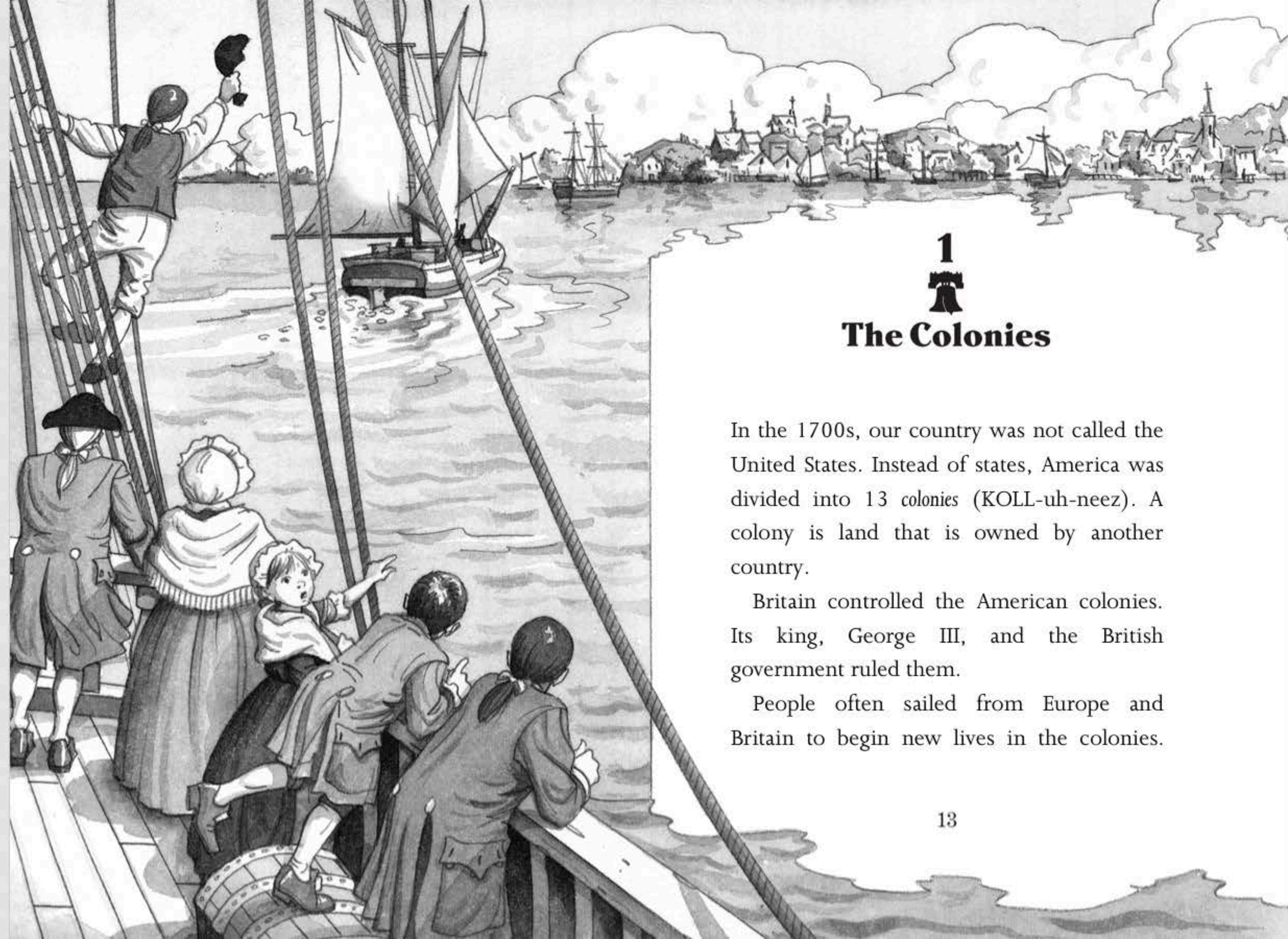
The British responded quickly and harshly. In 1774, they passed several measures known as the Intolerable Acts. They closed the Boston port and made it difficult for the major city to function. Other colonies, especially Maryland, helped Boston survive by sending food and supplies.

All of these events had two main consequences. First, they made the colonists resent Britain. Britain's government seemed far away and out of touch with the colonists' needs. Many colonists began to think about ruling themselves. Second, they helped unite the colonists. The colonists had come to the New World with very different backgrounds and lifestyles. They were **sprawled**² across the East Coast of this big continent. But Britain's acts gave them a single purpose and a common cause: justice and liberty.

In September 1774, the first meeting of the First Continental Congress took place. Representatives from 12 of the American colonies met to discuss how they would unite and defend their rights as men. Within months the Revolutionary War would begin. Less than two years later, on July 4, 1776, America would declare its independence.

¹ **rebellious** – defying authority, disobedient

² **sprawled** – spread out all over the place



1



The Colonies

In the 1700s, our country was not called the United States. Instead of states, America was divided into 13 colonies (KOLL-uh-nee-z). A colony is land that is owned by another country.

Britain controlled the American colonies. Its king, George III, and the British government ruled them.

People often sailed from Europe and Britain to begin new lives in the colonies.



People who live in colonies are called colonists.

Some came for freedom to worship as they pleased. Others came for land. Still others came for work.

The trip was long and dangerous. It could take two months or more. Storms often pounded the small ships. Sometimes there wasn't enough food on board. Many people became sick and died.



Rich colonists often sent their sons to school in England.

The Colonists

In the 1700s, there were almost two million people in the colonies. Many families came from Britain. They did not think of themselves as "Americans."

They thought of themselves as British. Their loyalty was to the king.

Other colonists came from Germany, France, Holland, Sweden, and Finland. Many of them came to farm the fertile land in the middle colonies. They didn't think of themselves as Americans, either. They called themselves New Yorkers, Virginians, or other names based on their colonies.

The colonies also had slaves, who were brought over from West Africa. Most slaves lived on large farms called *plantations* (plan-TAY-shunz) in the southern colonies. They worked in the fields or as house servants.

There were also American Indians in the colonies. They were there long before the colonists arrived. Many lost their lands as the colonies grew larger.





The Colonies Prosper

By 1750, the colonies were prospering. America was rich in natural resources.

Vast forests covered the land. There was wood for building and heating houses. There was plenty of wildlife and fish for food and furs. Much of the soil was good for growing crops.

Prosper means "to be successful."



Natural resources are useful things that are found in nature.

Natural Resources

Wood

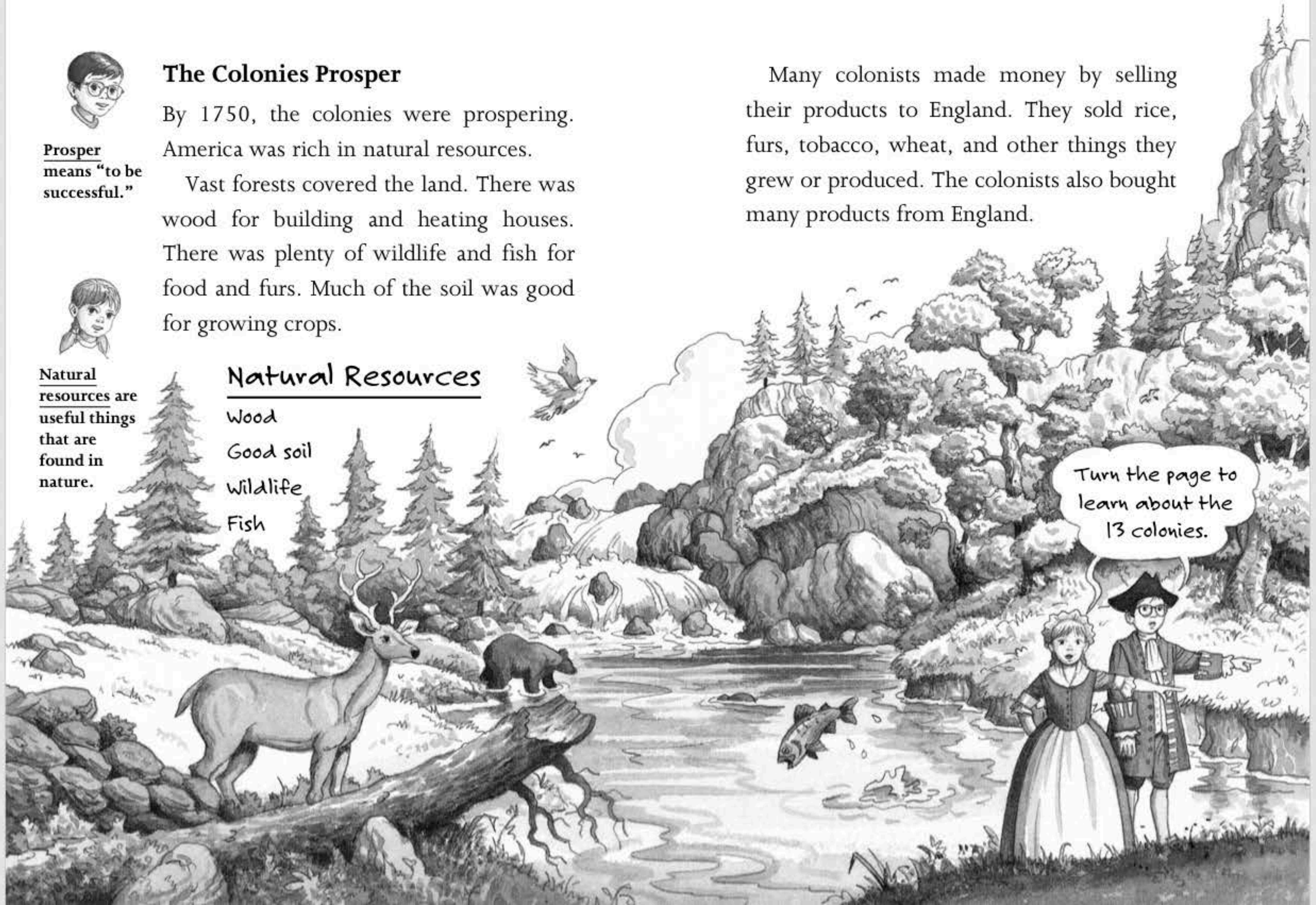
Good soil


Wildlife

Fish

Many colonists made money by selling their products to England. They sold rice, furs, tobacco, wheat, and other things they grew or produced. The colonists also bought many products from England.

Turn the page to learn about the 13 colonies.



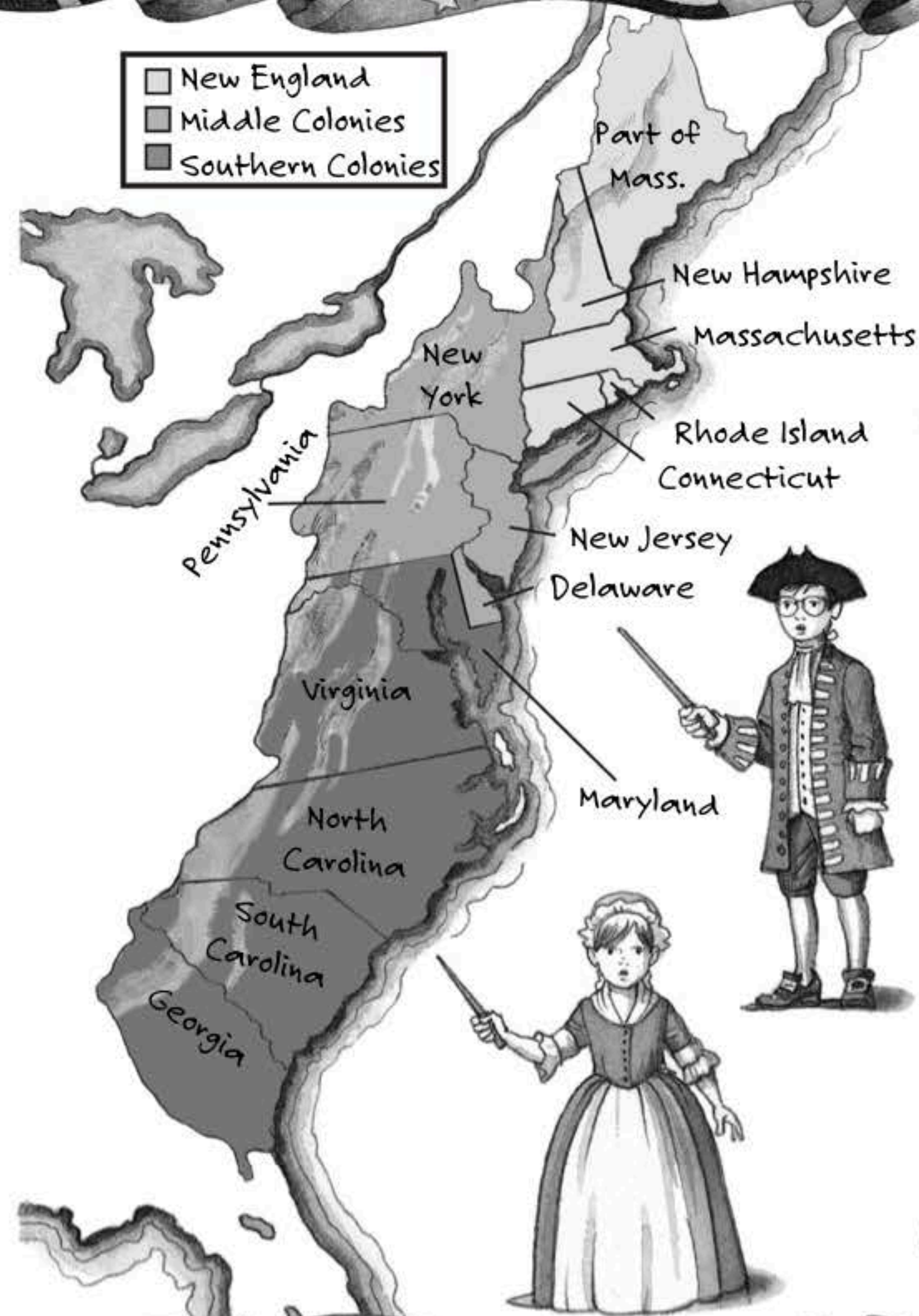


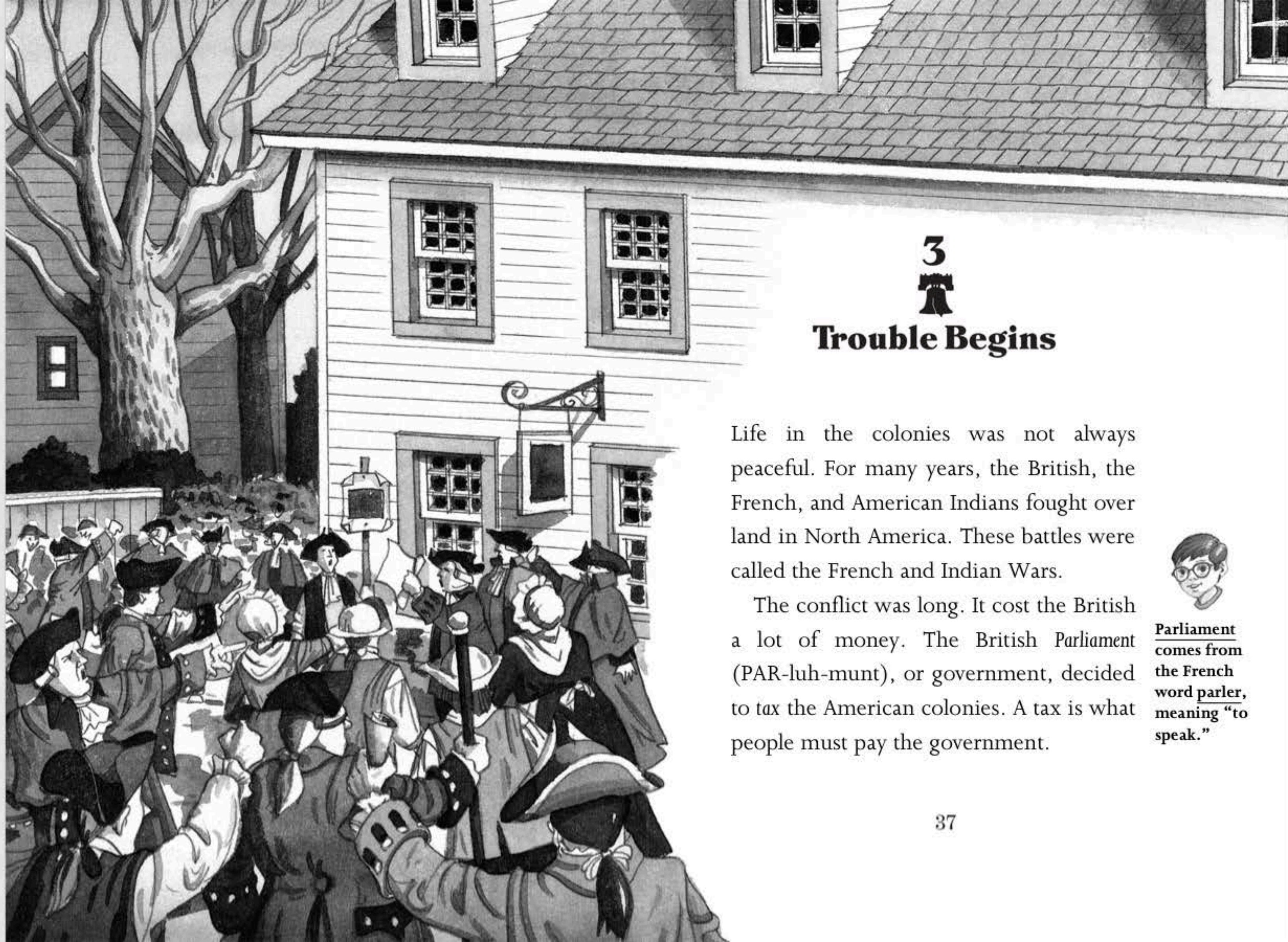
Jack and Annie's Guide to the 13 Colonies

All the colonies but Pennsylvania were on the Atlantic coast. The soil was poor in New England. Some people were farmers. But many New England colonists became shipbuilders, fishermen, or merchants.

In the middle colonies, the land was rich and fertile. Farmers grew grain that fed most of the other colonies. These colonies were known as the "bread colonies."

Tobacco was the biggest crop in the southern colonies. Rice was also a popular crop. Many large plantations in South Carolina grew it in the wet lowlands.





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Trouble Begins

Life in the colonies was not always peaceful. For many years, the British, the French, and American Indians fought over land in North America. These battles were called the French and Indian Wars.

The conflict was long. It cost the British a lot of money. The British Parliament (PAR-luh-munt), or government, decided to tax the American colonies. A tax is what people must pay the government.



Parliament comes from the French word **parler**, meaning “to speak.”



Parliament

The colonists had no say, or *repre-sentation* (reh-prih-zen-TAY-shun), in Par-liament. They could not vote on these new taxes. They thought this was unfair. They complained about “taxation without representation.”

The Stamp Act

In 1765, Britain ordered the colonies to pay a new tax. Everyone had to buy a tax stamp to put on their important papers. Newspapers had to be printed on special stamped paper that cost extra money. There was even a tax on playing cards!

Many of the colonists were outraged. Throughout the colonies, men formed



Tax on a newspaper cost as much as a British soldier made in a day.



These are some of the stamps required by the Stamp Act.



groups called the Sons of Liberty. These groups met in secret. They vowed to fight the Stamp Act.



Liberty comes from the Latin word **libre**, which means “free.”

On the day the tax took effect, shops were closed. Church bells rang. In Portsmouth, New Hampshire, a coffin with the word liberty on it was carried through the streets.



The colonists even protested with teapots.

Some colonists refused to pay the tax or buy stamps. They ran tax collectors out of town. Stamp Act riots broke out in the big cities. In Boston, men burned the Stamp Act Office. The British decided to end the Stamp Act.

But many colonists were still angry. Some began calling themselves patriots (PAY-tree-uts). Patriots are people who love their country enough to fight for it. Other colonists remained loyal to Britain. They called themselves loyalists (LOY-uh-lists).

The Boston Massacre

The British sent an extra 4,000 troops into Boston. The colonists in Boston did not want the soldiers in their city.

In 1770, a mob gathered around a



Patriot comes from the ancient Greek word **patriotes**, which means “fatherland.”



A **massacre** is the killing of a group of people.



It was never known who yelled the order to fire.

British soldier standing guard in front of a customs house. They began to throw snowballs filled with rocks. Other British troops rushed out to rescue him. Some-one in the crowd shouted, "Fire!"



Patriot Paul Revere created this engraving of the Boston Massacre.

The British were under orders not to shoot. But they panicked. They began shooting into the crowd. Five colonists were killed. The colonists called this the Boston Massacre (MASS-SIH-KUR).

The Boston Tea Party

Many colonists liked to drink tea. When the British placed a new tax on tea, the colonists were very angry. In November 1773, three British ships sailed into Boston Harbor. They were loaded with tea.

On December 16, a large crowd gathered at the Old South Church in Boston. They met to protest the tax.

When it was dark, some men painted their faces like Mohawk Indians. They didn't want anyone to know who they



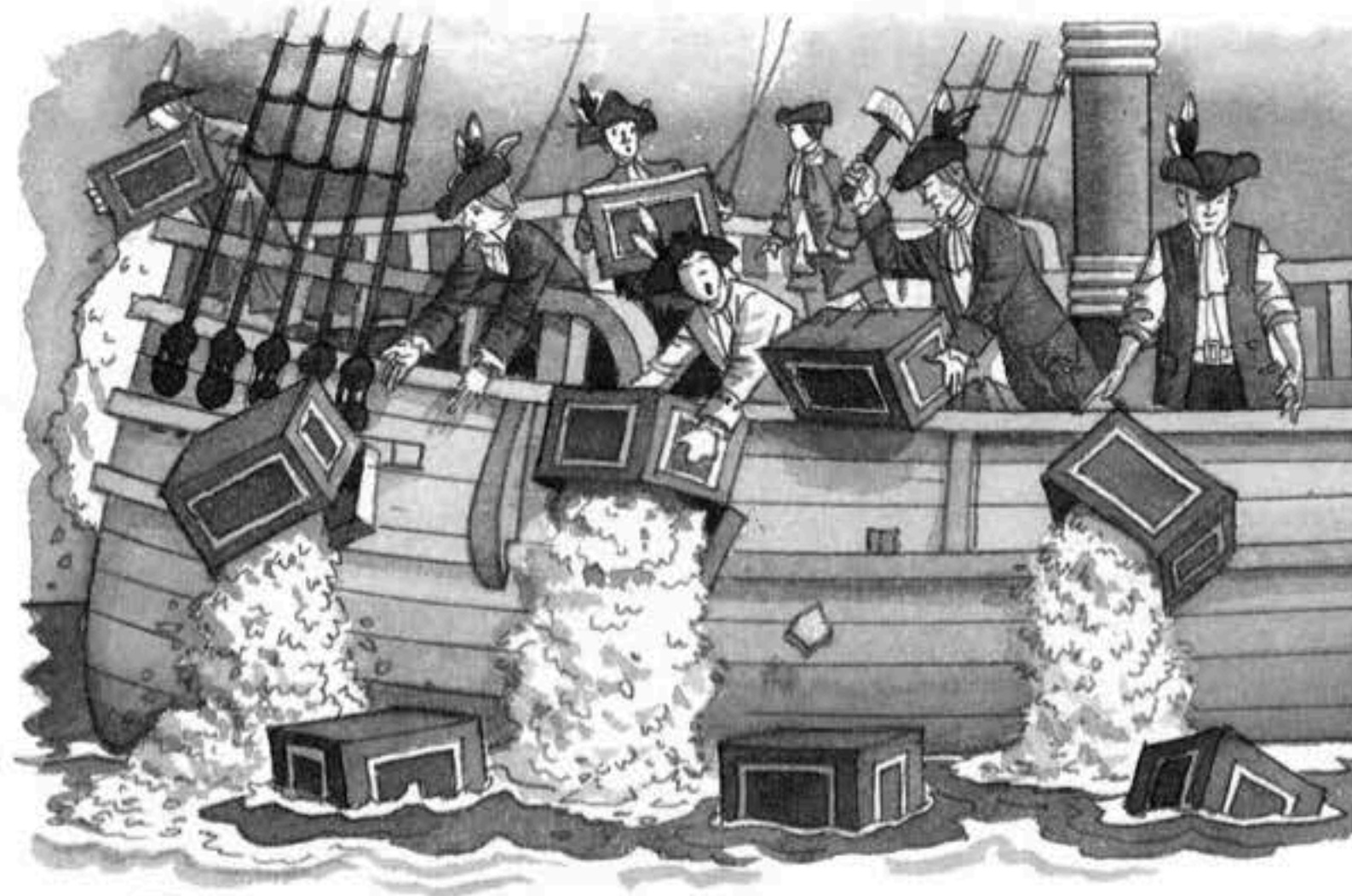
Coffee became popular when the colonists gave up tea.



The tea they dumped would be worth about \$90,000 today.

were. The men headed down to the harbor. Quickly, they slipped into rowboats and rowed out to the ships. Then they leapt aboard and dumped tons of tea into the harbor.

The British were furious with them. King George III ordered Boston Harbor



Men used tomahawks to break open containers of tea.

closed. He put tighter controls over the colonists. In June 1774, more British troops were sent to Boston.

Liberty Trees and Boycotts

Other colonies heard what was happening in Boston. They sent food and money to help. They boycotted British goods.

The colonists also flew liberty flags from trees. They called them "liberty trees." British soldiers often cut down the trees. When they did, colonists put up liberty poles instead.

Loyalists still wanted to live peacefully with Britain. But some patriots wanted to free themselves of British rule forever.



Boycott means "to stop buying products or doing business with someone."



American Revolution: Patriots and Loyalists

The Revolutionary War split the people of the American colonies into two groups: the loyalists and the patriots.

What was a patriot?

Patriots were people who wanted the American colonies to gain their independence from Britain. They wanted their own country called the United States.

Why did people become patriots?

People in the Americas felt they weren't being treated fairly by the British. They were being taxed without any say or representation in the British government. Soon cries for "liberty" were being heard throughout the colonies. The patriots wanted freedom from British rule.

Famous Patriots

There were many famous patriots. Some of them became presidents such as Thomas Jefferson who wrote the Declaration of Independence and John Adams. Perhaps the most famous patriot at the time was George Washington who led the Continental Army and later became the first President of the United States. Other famous patriots included Paul Revere, Samuel Adams, Ethan Allen, Patrick Henry, and Ben Franklin. These people are often called the Founding Fathers of the United States.

What was a loyalist?

Not everyone who lived in the American colonies wanted to break away from the British. There were many people who wanted to stay part of Britain and remain British citizens. These people were called loyalists.

Why did some people remain loyal?

Many people felt that their lives would be better off if the colonies remained under British rule. Some of these people were simply afraid to go up against the might of the British army. Others had business interests in England and knew that English trade was important to the economy. Still others thought that British rule would be better than patriot rule.

Famous Loyalists

Since the loyalists lost the war, there aren't as many famous loyalists as there are patriots. Benedict Arnold was a general in the Continental Army who went to fight for the British. Another famous loyalist was Joseph Galloway who was the Pennsylvania delegate to the Continental Congress but later worked for the British army. Other famous loyalists include Thomas Hutchinson (governor of Massachusetts colony), Andrew Allen, John Butler (leader of the loyalists troops Butler's Rangers), and David Mathews (mayor of New York City).

What happened to loyalists during the war?

Life for the loyalists became increasingly difficult during the war. Loyalists who lived in areas controlled by the patriots were in constant danger from radical patriots. Many of them lost their homes and businesses.

Many loyalists left the country and went back to Britain. Others decided to help the British fight the patriots. They either joined the British army or formed their own groups of fighters such as the Loyal Greens and the Royal American Regiment.

What happened to the loyalists after the war?

Many loyalists moved to England after the war ended. A lot of them lost their fortunes and land that they had built up over years in the Americas. In some cases the British government paid them for their loyalty, but it was usually not nearly as much as they had lost. The United States government wanted the loyalists to stay. They felt the new country could use their skills and education. Few stayed, however.

Interesting Facts About Patriots and Loyalists

- Other names for patriots included Sons of Liberty, Rebels, Whigs, and Colonials.
- Other names for loyalists included Tories, Royalists, and the King's Friends.
- Many loyalists lived in New York City. It was known as the Tory capital of America.
- Not everyone picked a side. Many people tried to remain neutral so they could avoid conflict and the war.
- Patriot towns created juries of men called "committees of safety". Patriots would swear an oath to these men in order to get a pass to travel freely through patriot controlled land.
- Members of the Sons of Liberty wore a medal with a picture of a tree on it.



4



The Shot Heard Round the World

In September 1774, 56 delegates traveled to Philadelphia. They came from all the colonies except Georgia. The delegates met to discuss the troubles in Massachusetts. They called this meeting the First Continental (kon-tuh-NEN-tul) Congress.



A delegate is someone chosen to speak for a group.

As they talked, the delegates began to feel more united. Patrick Henry from Virginia declared, “I am not a Virginian but an American!”

The Congress wrote a letter to King George III. They told him all the unfair things Britain had done to the colonies.

Minutemen Prepare for War

The colonists prepared to fight for their freedom. Each colony had men in a militia (muh-LIH-shuh). The militia met several times a year to train as soldiers. These men called themselves “Minutemen.”

Minutemen used this name because they could be ready to fight at a min-ute’s notice. Some even slept with their weapons!



Militia comes from Latin and means “military.”



This Minuteman statue is in Concord, Massachusetts.



The Ride of Paul Revere

The colonists were afraid that the British would take their weapons away. In Massachusetts, Minutemen hid guns and gunpowder in the village of Concord.

The night of April 18, 1775, British soldiers left Boston. They planned to go to Concord and capture the weapons. They didn't know the patriots were watching their every move.

A colonist climbed the tower of the Old North Church. He hung two lanterns there. That was to signal that the British were on their way across the Charles River.

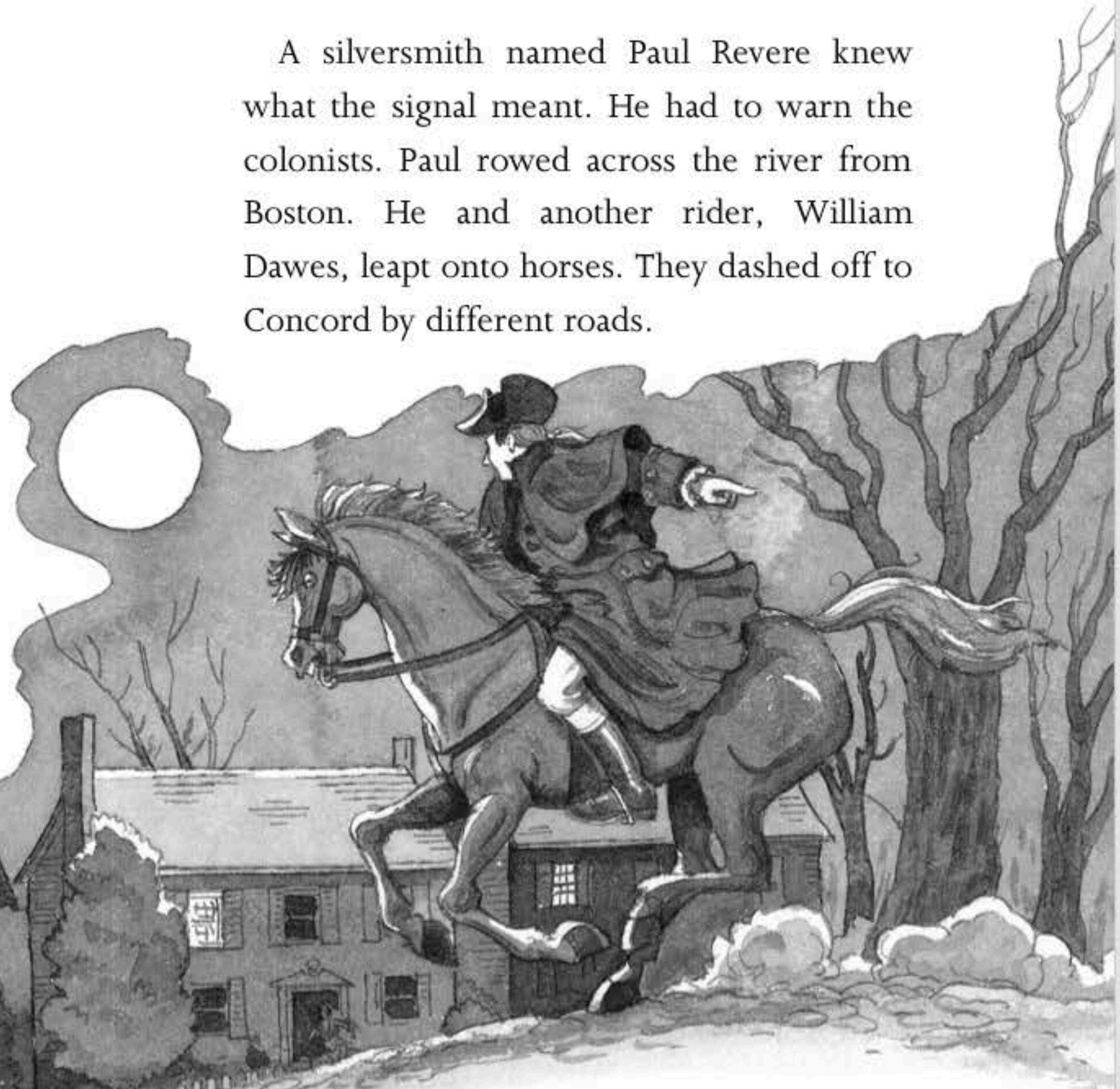
A silversmith named Paul Revere knew what the signal meant. He had to warn the colonists. Paul rowed across the river from Boston. He and another rider, William Dawes, leapt onto horses. They dashed off to Concord by different roads.



Concord is
17 miles from
Boston.



The signal
was "One if
by land, two
if by sea."



One story says Paul forgot his spurs.
He sent his dog home with a note
asking his wife to send them.





“They promised to blow my brains out if I attempted to run,” Paul Revere said.

Then Paul rode through the countryside yelling, “To arms! To arms!” Sleepy patriots stumbled out of bed. They grabbed their muskets, or arms, and rushed to head off the British.

Paul and William Dawes met up again as they raced toward Concord. They were joined by a young doctor named Samuel Prescott. As the three riders approached Concord, British soldiers

stopped them. They took Paul prisoner. But William Dawes and Dr. Prescott escaped to warn the colonists.



A green is a grassy piece of land in the middle of a village.

Lexington and Concord

The British marched into Lexington. A small group of armed Minutemen waited on the village green. Shots rang out.

Eight Minutemen were killed. The





One militia group raced 16 miles to reach Concord.



Retreat means "to turn back."

British marched on. But by now Minutemen from nearby villages had flooded into Concord.

When the British arrived, a group of Minutemen were waiting on Concord's North Bridge. They began firing. The British were badly outnumbered. They knew they could not win. They turned back to Boston.

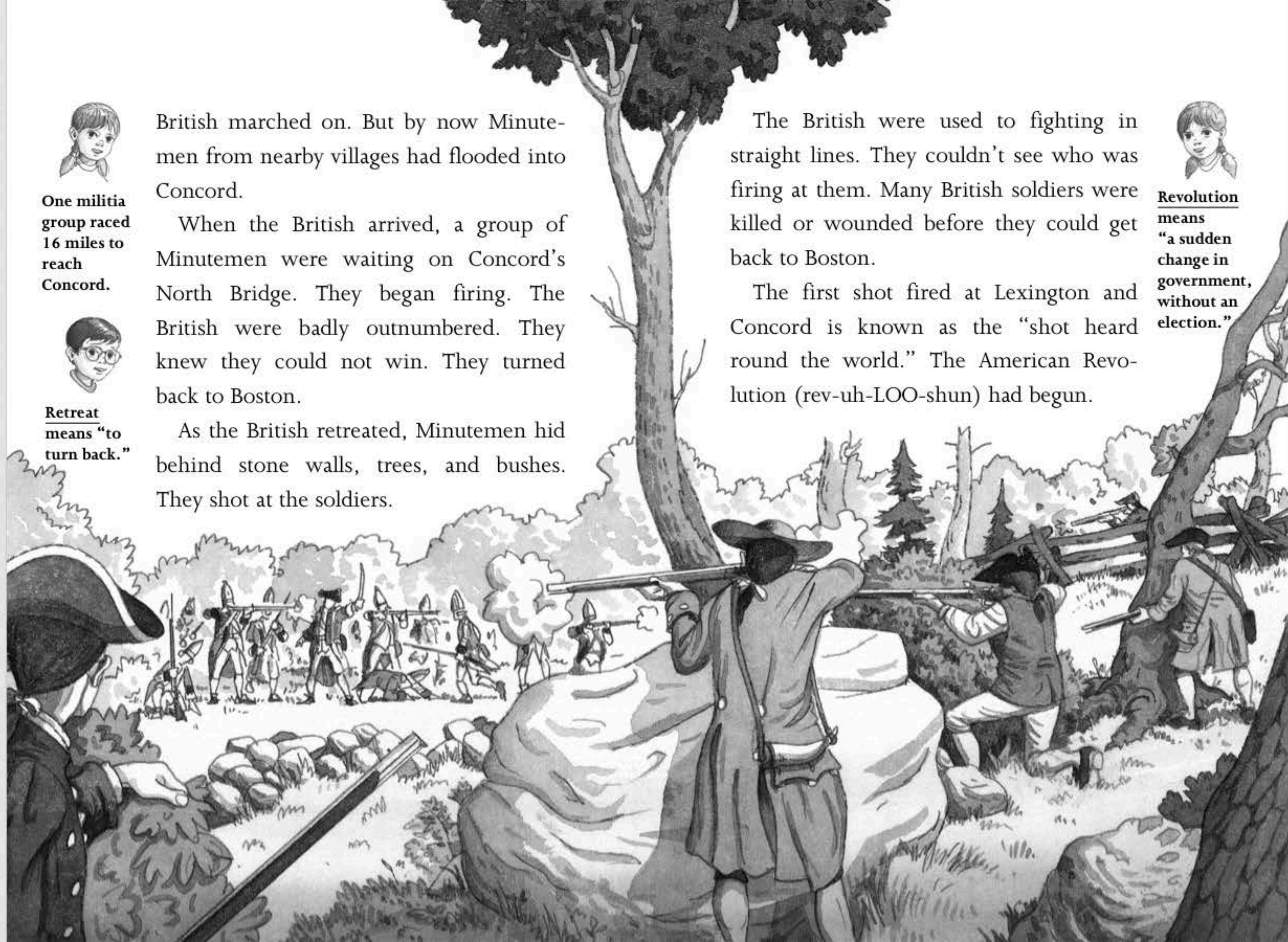
As the British retreated, Minutemen hid behind stone walls, trees, and bushes. They shot at the soldiers.

The British were used to fighting in straight lines. They couldn't see who was firing at them. Many British soldiers were killed or wounded before they could get back to Boston.

The first shot fired at Lexington and Concord is known as the "shot heard round the world." The American Revolution (rev-uh-LOO-shun) had begun.



Revolution means "a sudden change in government, without an election."





Weapons of the American Revolution



Colonial weapons were bulky and hard to use.

Musket: Muskets were the most common weapon in colonial times. They were six to seven feet long. They were hard to aim and often missed. Their range was about 100 yards.



Musket



It took time to reload them between shots.

Bayonet: Muskets often had bayonets fitted on one end. A bayonet is like a sword. A musket with a bayonet on it gave soldiers two weapons in one.



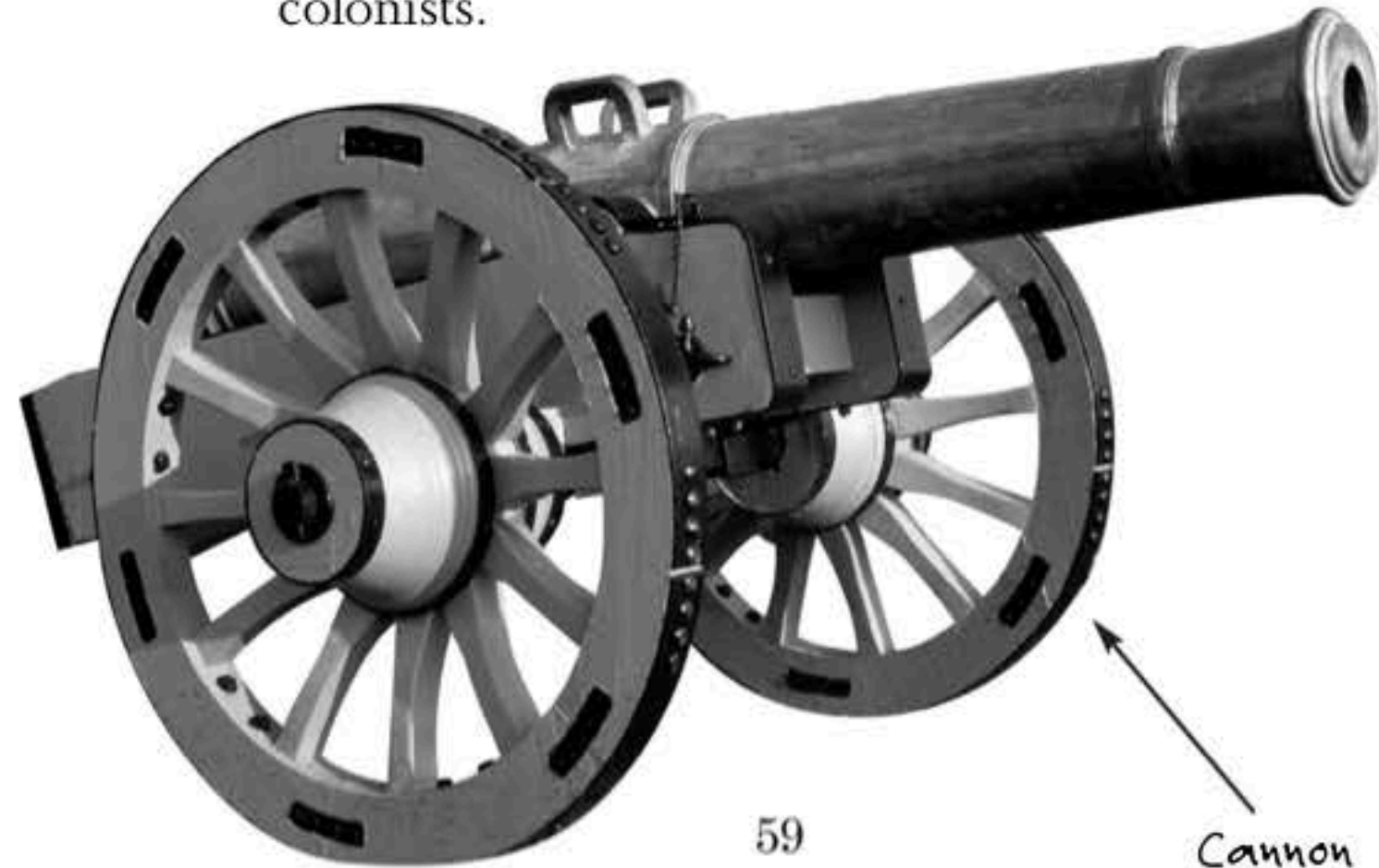
Bayonet

58

Rifle: Rifles were about five to six feet long. A good marksman could hit objects 300 yards away with a rifle.

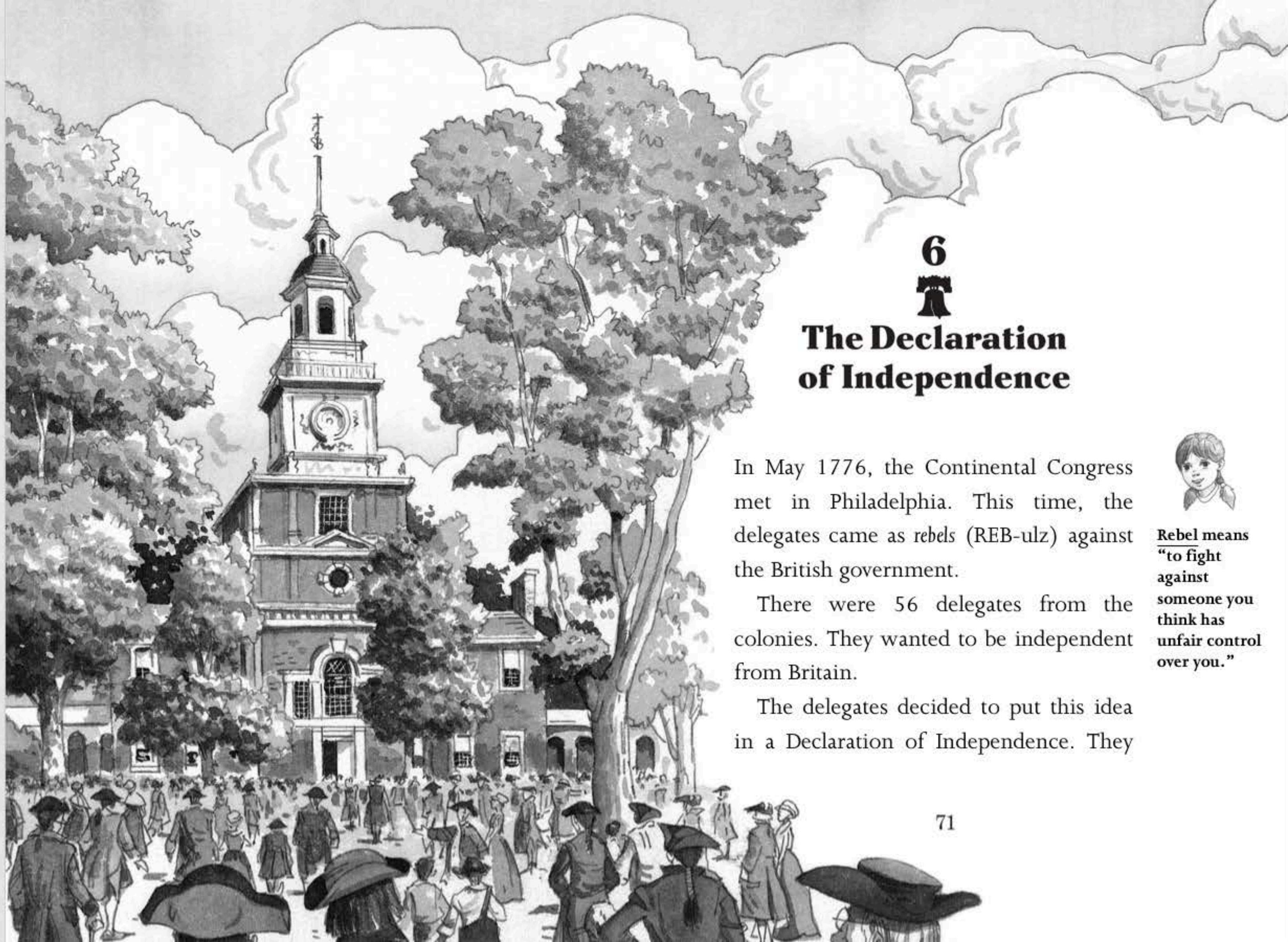


Cannon: Cannons were the most powerful weapon in the war. They could hit a target several hundred yards away. The British had more cannons than the colonists.



59

Cannon



6



The Declaration of Independence

In May 1776, the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. This time, the delegates came as rebels (REB-ulz) against the British government.

There were 56 delegates from the colonies. They wanted to be independent from Britain.

The delegates decided to put this idea in a Declaration of Independence. They



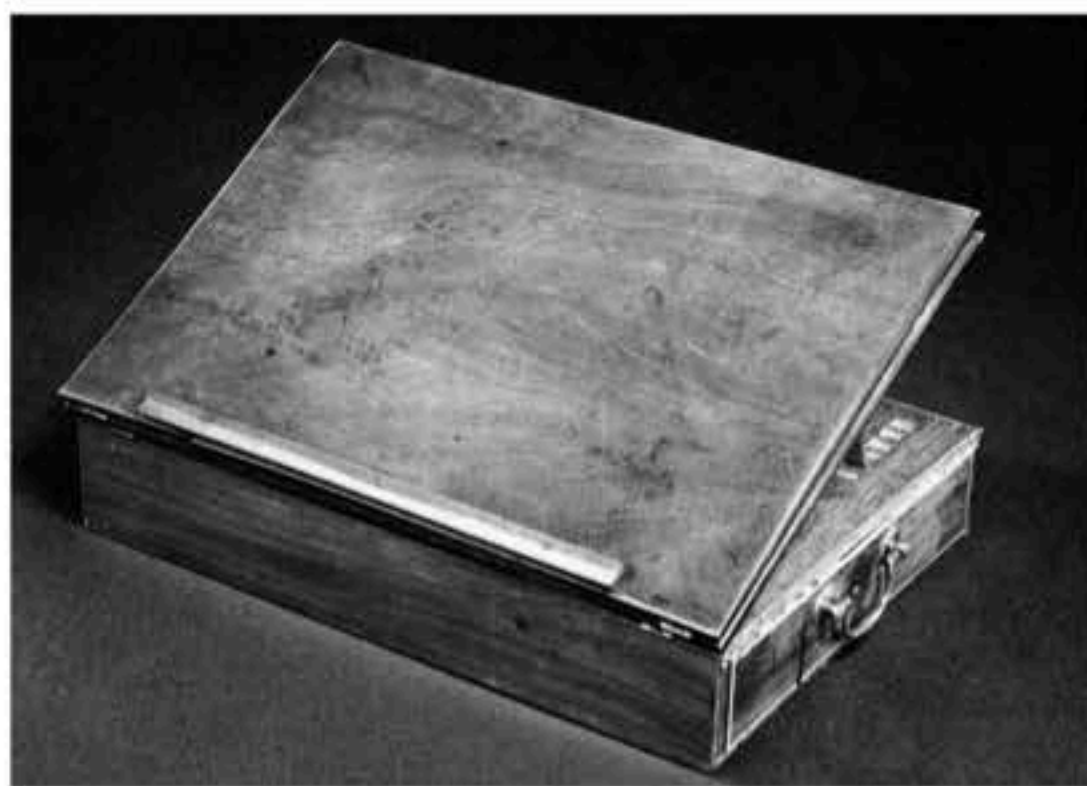
Rebel means
“to fight
against
someone you
think has
unfair control
over you.”



These men are often called the “fathers of our country.”

chose Thomas Jefferson from Virginia to write it. They asked four other men to help him. Among them were John Adams of Massachusetts and Ben Franklin of Pennsylvania.

It took Thomas Jefferson 17 days to write the Declaration. Each day he got up and played his violin. Then he put his portable desk on a table and began to write. The words he wrote would inspire



Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence on this portable desk.

people all over the world. And they continue to inspire us today.

Ideas in the Declaration

In the first section of the Declaration, Jefferson wrote that all men were equal. They had the right to life. They had the right of liberty and the right to seek happiness.

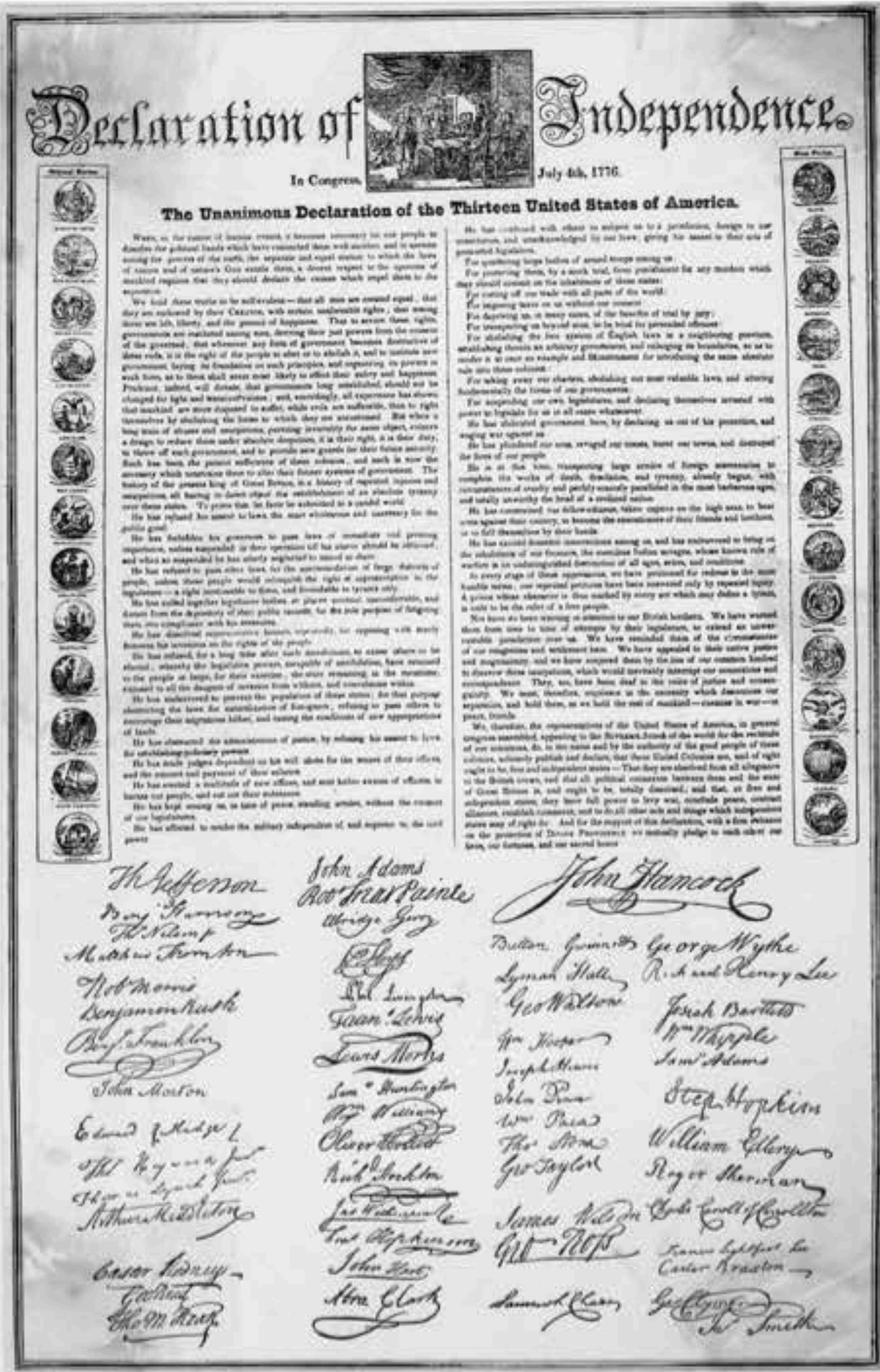
Second, Jefferson wrote that people should be able to choose how they want to be governed. He said that government should protect the people and respect their rights.

Rights

Life

Liberty

Pursuit of happiness



The Declaration of Independence said that "all men are created equal."

The Declaration also said that if the people decided their government was not protecting them, they had the right to change it. Finally, Jefferson listed all the wrongs the British had done to the colonists. He wanted everyone to know how Britain had treated the colonists.

Not fair! The Declaration did not free slaves. It did not apply to women, either. There were nearly 200 years of struggle before we had equality for all Americans.





Fifty-six delegates signed the Declaration.

On July 4, 1776, the delegates met in Independence Hall in Philadelphia to vote on the Declaration of Independence. They voted to accept it.

The men knew that declaring independence from Britain was dangerous. If the colonists fought and didn't win, the British would punish them ... maybe even hang them.

They knew they all had to work together. Benjamin Franklin said, "We must all hang together, or most assuredly we will all hang separately."

After the vote, they rang a large bell at Independence Hall called the Liberty Bell. The bell rang all day. As the bell pealed out, people all over Philadelphia knew the Declaration had been approved.



The Liberty Bell cracked in 1846 and cannot ring today.

Overview of the American Revolution



English soldiers search a settler's house (1770s)

In 1763 England won the French and Indian War against France (which had been fought mainly in North America), and so the English-speaking settlers on the East Coast could stop worrying that they were about to be taken over by France. To pay for that war, the English government began to make the the English-speaking settlers pay more and more taxes. This made England a lot of money, but it made the settlers more and more angry. They were especially angry because they couldn't vote or speak for themselves in England about these taxes. The settlers said this was "taxation without representation" and it was wrong.

The settlers decided to boycott everything they had been buying from English traders - they would not buy their tea, clothes, glass, paper, and so on (This is when many Americans began to drink coffee). To show that they meant it, in 1773 they threw a lot of tea on an English ship overboard, into the ocean - this is called the "Boston Tea Party." Women proudly spun and wove their own cloth, though they had not done it for a long time.



In 1775, two years later, the first shots were fired in Massachusetts. England and the United States were now at war. Some Native American Tribes (The Iroquois and the Cherokee) decided to help England with the war because they thought the English would stop settlers from moving into their land. About a quarter of the settlers took the side of England too (we call them loyalists). The other three-quarters of settlers were against England (we call them patriots).

George Washington was the commander in chief of the United States' army. At first he won, and on July 4th, 1776 the United States government published the Declaration of Independence. But then the English government sent lots more men to fight (women weren't allowed), and soon the United States was losing the war.

At this point, Benjamin Franklin went to Paris and succeeded in getting the French king to send help. In 1777 the French navy helped send in lots of weapons for the United States army to use. Then Spain and the Netherlands also came in on the side of France. Nobody was on the side of England. Even some English people were on the side of the United States.

By 1781, the United States (with the help of the French general Lafayette, other French soldiers, and lots of French money) had won several big battles. Even when the English won, they couldn't get people to support them, or get their navy through to help them. So in October the English army surrendered to George Washington and the settlers won. That was the end of the Revolutionary War.



George Washington



Benjamin Franklin



The French general Lafayette