Just the Facts … American Revolution

Vocabulary

**militia** - an army made up of citizens  
**casualties** - people who are killed, wounded, captured or missing in a war  
**boycott** - to refuse to buy certain goods  
**repeal** - to end or cancel  
**writs of assistance** - special search warrants that allowed tax collectors to search for smuggled goods.  
**propaganda** - information giving only one side of the argument  
**minutemen** - American colony militia members who could be ready to fight at a minute's notice  
**siege** - military blockade of a city or fort  
**unalienable rights** - basic human rights, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness  
**mercenary**s - hired soldiers  
**guerilla warfare** -

Important People

King George III - British monarch during the American Revolution.  
Benjamin Franklin - proposed the Albany Plan of Union which would have united the colonies under one government. He helped secure French aid during the American Revolution.  
Lord Charles Cornwallis - British General - Surrenders to Washington at Yorktown  
Samuel Adams - founded the Sons of Liberty and Committees of Correspondence. He was the mastermind behind the Boston Tea Party.  
Patrick Henry - Patriot who was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses  
Famously said "...give me liberty, or give me death."  
Mercy Otis Warren - female patriot who wrote plays to make the British look foolish  
Henry Knox - Bookseller - Secretary of war - Hauls cannons from Ticonderoga  
Ethan Allen - Led his Green Mountain Boys in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga  
George Washington - commander of the Continental Army  
Thomas Paine - wrote *Common Sense* and *The Crisis*  
Benedict Arnold - American hero at Ticonderoga and Saratoga - later joins the British  
Thomas Jefferson - primary author of the Declaration of Independence.  
John Adams - A diplomat - served in both Continental Congresses - becomes 2nd U.S. president  
Abigail Adams - Wife of John Adams - her letters became a valuable source for historians  
John Burgoyne - British General - "Gentleman" - loser at Saratoga  
Bernardo de Galvez - governor of Spanish Louisiana. Spain entered the war against Britain in 1779. Spain helped the Patriots on the western front.  
Marquis de Lafayette - Frenchman who believed in the Patriot cause. He aided the Patriots with money and supplies. He became a close friend and advisor to George Washington.  
Friedrich von Steuben - German who helped train the Patriots at Valley Forge during the American Revolution.  
John Paul Jones - American naval hero who famously said, "I have not yet begun to fight."
Horatio Gates - American commander at Saratoga

Documents/Institutions

Albany Plan of Union - plan proposed by Ben Franklin that would unite the colonies under one government. The plan was rejected.

Proclamation of 1763 - King George III told the colonists that they could not settle west of the Appalachian Mountains. It was ignored.

Declaration of Independence - formal declaration written mainly by Thomas Jefferson and signed on July 4, 1776. It stated that men possess unalienable rights. It also listed grievances against King George III.

Treaty of Paris 1783 - document that formally ended the American Revolution. This made the Mississippi River the western boundary of the United States.

Events/Acts

Boston Massacre - 5 American colonists were shot and killed by British soldiers in March 1770.

Boston Tea Party - Colonists dressed as Native Americans and dumped 342 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor.

Valley Forge - winter 1777-1778 - low on food/clothing during harsh winter 1/5 of Washington's men died from disease and malnutrition. Friedrich von Steuben trained troops and turned Continental Army into well-trained group of soldiers.

1st Continental Congress - (1774) meeting of colonial delegates in Philadelphia to decide how to respond to increased taxes and abuses of authority by the British government; delegates petitioned King George III, listing the freedoms they believed colonists should enjoy.

2nd Continental Congress - (1775) meeting of colonial delegates in Philadelphia to decide how to react to fighting at Lexington and Concord

Important Dates

1607 - Jamestown was established. This is the first permanent English settlement in North America.

1620 - Pilgrims founded Plymouth Rock

1776 - Declaration of Independence was written and signed.

Wars and Battles:

French & Indian War - (1754-1763) war between French and British. They were fighting for control of North America. Britain won. The consequences for the colonists were 1) taxes 2) Proclamation of 1763.

American Revolution - (1775-1781) Conflict between the British and their American colonies. Battles included:

1. Lexington & Concord (1775) first shots of the Revolution.

2. Battle of Bunker Hill (1776) first battle of the Revolution. Showed colonists that they could hold their own against the British.


4. Saratoga (1777) turning point of the Revolution because France decided to aid the Patriots. Spain helped in west

5. Yorktown (1781) Cornwallis surrenders to Washington. Final battle. We won!