Road to Revolution

Chapter 6
New Taxes in Colonies

- Stamp Act and Sugar Act passed by England to help pay for the debt from French Indian War
- Economically hurt the colonies in North America
• Colonists didn’t like they were forced to pay tax and had no representation in gov’t back in England ("taxation without representation")
Quartering Act

• Law forcing American colonists to house and feed British soldiers stationed in the colonies
• Hated so much by the colonists that one of the first amendments to the Constitution restricts the US govt’ from doing this
Stamp Act Congress (1765)

- Representatives from within the colonies met in NY to formerly protest the new Stamp act
- This was first time the colonies united together
Sons of Liberty

• Secret society that opposed British policies and laws within the American colonies
• Sam Adams was one of its most vocal leaders
Boston Massacre (1770)

- Group of colonist surrounded British soldiers yelling at them, throwing rocks, etc at them
- British soldiers feared for their lives and fired into the crowd
- 5 colonist were killed
• The British soldiers were arrested and charged with murder
• John Adams became the lawyer for the British soldiers
Adams convinced the jury that the soldiers acted in self defense and the soldiers were found not guilty.
Boston Tea Party (1773)

- Most famous protest of the Tea Act within the colonies
- Colonists dressed as Native Americans and destroyed 342 chests of tea
Intolerable Acts

• Strict laws passed by the British to punish the American colonies
• Quickly increased tension between British and the colonists and help quicken the road to revolution
1<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress (1774)

- Met in Philadelphia
- All colonies sent representatives except for Georgia
- Decided to build an army and ban all trade with the British
Patrick Henry

• Politician from VA
• Strong supporter of war with England for the colonies independence
• “Give me liberty or give me death!”
Paul Revere

• Warned MA colonists that British soldiers were on the move
• “one if by land, two if by sea”
• Actually were two other messengers who helped him
Lexington and Concord (1775)

- First battles of the Revolutionary War
- British soldiers went to Lexington to capture colonial militia soldiers
- British also went to Concord to capture weapons and supplies of the colonial militia
• “shot hear around the world”
• 4000 militia cut off the British on their way back from Concord
• 1000 British soldiers came from Boston to help the attacked British soldiers which is all that saved them from total destruction
Siege of Boston

• 15,000 colonial militia surrounded the British soldiers in Boston during spring 1775
• Plan was for the militia to cover the bays around Boston with cannons so British couldn’t escape or resupply by water
• All the British soldiers eventually leave the city in spring 1776
2nd Continental Congress (1775)

- Met in Philadelphia
- Became America’s gov’t during the revolution
- Created the Continental Army and chose Washington as its commanding general
Battle of Bunker Hill

- Overlooked Boston
- British were sick of sitting during the siege and chose to attack the militia
- Loss for the Americans but inflicted high casualties on British and proved they could fight with the British and be successful
Common Sense

- Written by Thomas Paine
- Talked about need for freedom and independence
- Criticized the British govt
- Helped to spread ideas of freedom throughout the colonies
Declaration of Independence

• Written by Thomas Jefferson with input from a committee of representatives from the colonies
• Adopted July 4, 1776
• Explained why the Americans want independence and what their beliefs were for the new country

• John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress signed it last and in large letters
Founding Fathers

- Ben Franklin, John Adams, Sam Adams, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, James Madison, John Hancock