

A revolutionary period



The French and Indian War

At the beginning of the 18th century, the Indians started attacking the British people who had settled down in the 13th colony. The French helped the Indians because they wanted to get the land where the British were.

The King of England sent his army to defend the British citizens from America. It cost a lot of money to England and the King was becoming unpopular in Britain. So, he decided that the colonists had to pay the price of the French and Indian War. He created the Stamp Act of 1765. It was a tax on all legal documents, newspapers and other documents.



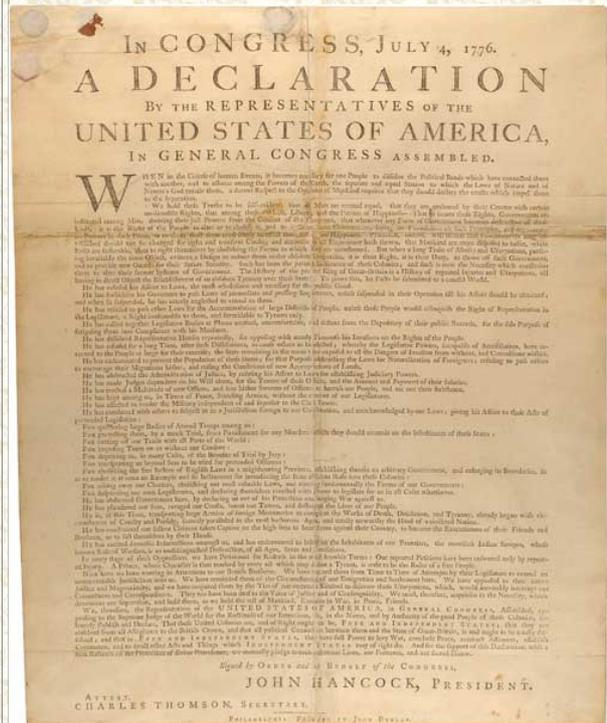
The colonists' rebellion

The colonists didn't like this tax and they started to rebel. The Boston Tea Party in 1773 was an act of revolt against the British and their tax on tea in the Colonies.

In 1775, the War of Independence began. It opposed the colonists, who wanted to become independent, to the British army. This war is also called the Revolutionary War.

The colonists wrote the Declaration of Independence on the 4th July 1776 in [Philadelphia](#) (Thomas [Jefferson](#) and Benjamin Franklin helped write it).

The British finally capitulated on October 19, 1781. Americans were officially independent of Britain and they could establish their own government.



The birth of the USA

After the Revolutionary War, the people of the 13 colonies did not want to have one government for every state.

They decided that delegates from every state should meet in Philadelphia. There, they wrote the Articles of Confederation, which formed the constitution.

The constitution is a set of rules used for the whole nation. These rules established justice and ensured domestic tranquility. Soon the delegates formed the First Continental Congress. This was a step towards one government for the entire nation.

In 1789, [George Washington](#) became the first president of the USA.

