

Table of Contents

Resources	5	We Want Freedom! We Don't	19
Taxation Without Representation/The First Continental Congress	6	Keeping the Peace	20
The Shot Heard Round the World	7	Hardship	21
“The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere”	9	Retreat	22
The Minutemen	10	Christmas on the River	23
Minuteman Paper Doll	11	Washington Crossing the River	25
Weapons of War	12	Surprise!	26
Name the Weapons	13	A Secret Message	27
The Battle of Breed’s Hill	14	Staying to Fight/Another Surprise!	28
Medical Treatment (Mistreatment)	15	The Beginning of the End	29
A New Leader	16	Viewpoints of the War	30
“Common Sense”	17	Honoring George Washington	31
An Army in Trouble	18	Did You Know?	32



Washington Crossing the Delaware

Resources

To enhance this study for your students, the following resources are recommended:

Books to Read Aloud

Crossing the Delaware by Louise Peacock, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Simon & Schuster, 1998.

The subtitle of this book is *A History in Many Voices*, and that's exactly what it is. The author's narrative is enlivened by quotations of George Washington and others involved in the revolution as well as excerpts from letters from an imaginary American soldier. The accompanying illustrations bring the story to life.

US Kids History: Book of the American Revolution by Howard Egger-Bovet and Marlene Smith-Baranzini, Little, Brown and Company, 1994.

Interesting facts, maps, stories, descriptions of battles, details about army life and more with correlated learning activities.

Videos

The Revolutionary War (Vol. II), Discovery Communications, Inc., 1995. (for The Learning Channel)

The first 10 minutes of this excellent video explains and dramatizes Washington's crossing of the Delaware and the taking of Trenton and Princeton, New Jersey. The entire Revolutionary War is covered in this three-volume

production.

Web Sites

www.aande.com/tv/shows/thecrossing/firstpresident.html

This web site includes information about Washington crossing the Delaware River and photos from the A&E television drama about this historical event. Also included are links to other related web sites.

www.fodc.org/photomap/washxing.htm

This site provides photos of the Delaware River area today where Washington and his soldiers crossed. Also provided is a photo of the reenactment of the crossing which is performed every year on Christmas Day.

www-personal.umich.edu/~hanauer/tour/washington.html

Great photos of the Delaware River area where Washington crossed, the reenactment, paintings of the event and the 1999 New Jersey state quarter which commemorates Washington's crossing.



Washington Crossing the Delaware

Taxation Without Representation

In the early 1770s America consisted of 13 colonies in a 1500-mile strip along the Atlantic Ocean in the north-east corner of the country. About two and a half million people lived in the colonies, including half a million black slaves.

When the colonies had first been settled, the colonists thought of themselves as British subjects creating a “New England” in America. They had expected to have the same rights people back home in England had. They had accepted the idea that they owed allegiance to the king and obedience to the laws of Parliament. But America was weeks or even months away from the English king and other leaders. Orders and laws could take six months to get to the colonies. Some degree of self-government was obviously required and was put into practice.

The more decisions they made for themselves, the more the colonists thought of themselves not as Englishmen, but as Americans who had a right to govern themselves. No longer feeling the need for protection from British troops, the Americans decided they could take care of themselves. Who needed England? They wanted to become self-sufficient, independent from “the Mother country.”

King George II and the British Parliament continued to tax the colonists and make rules without giving them any say in what happened. When the colonists rebelled against this “taxation without representation,” boat-loads of British soldiers were sent to the colonies to maintain order. The constant presence of the soldiers angered the colonists and made them even more determined not to give in to King George.

The First Continental Congress

In September 1774, the First Continental Congress was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with delegates from 12 of the colonies; only Georgia was not represented. The colonists had learned the importance of a united front. Among those present were Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and Samuel and John Adams. The delegates debated for seven weeks about what they should do, hoping to come up with a way of compromising with King George but still keeping some independence. But they couldn’t find a way. They voted instead to break off all trade with Great Britain. King George refused to back down, and it was only a few months later when war actually broke out.

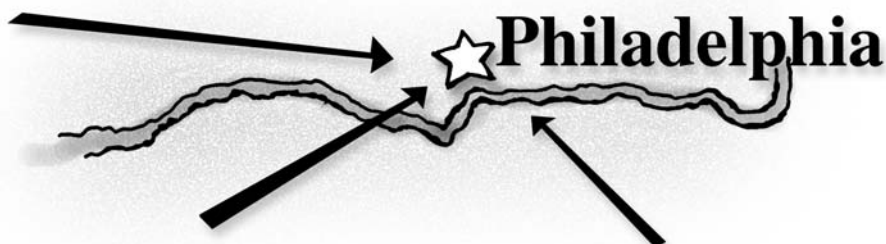
Map Activity

Have students point out the states which were once the 13 original colonies on a United States map (New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia).

Then have them find Philadelphia where the First Continental Congress was held.

Use rulers and the map key that shows the scale of miles to inches to figure out about how far the delegates of each colony had to travel to get to the congress. Students may be able to use the mileage distance chart between major cities that can be found on road maps to get a more exact reading of these distances.

Discuss how the delegates probably traveled to the meeting. How long might it have taken them to get from their colonies to Philadelphia?



Washington Crossing the Delaware

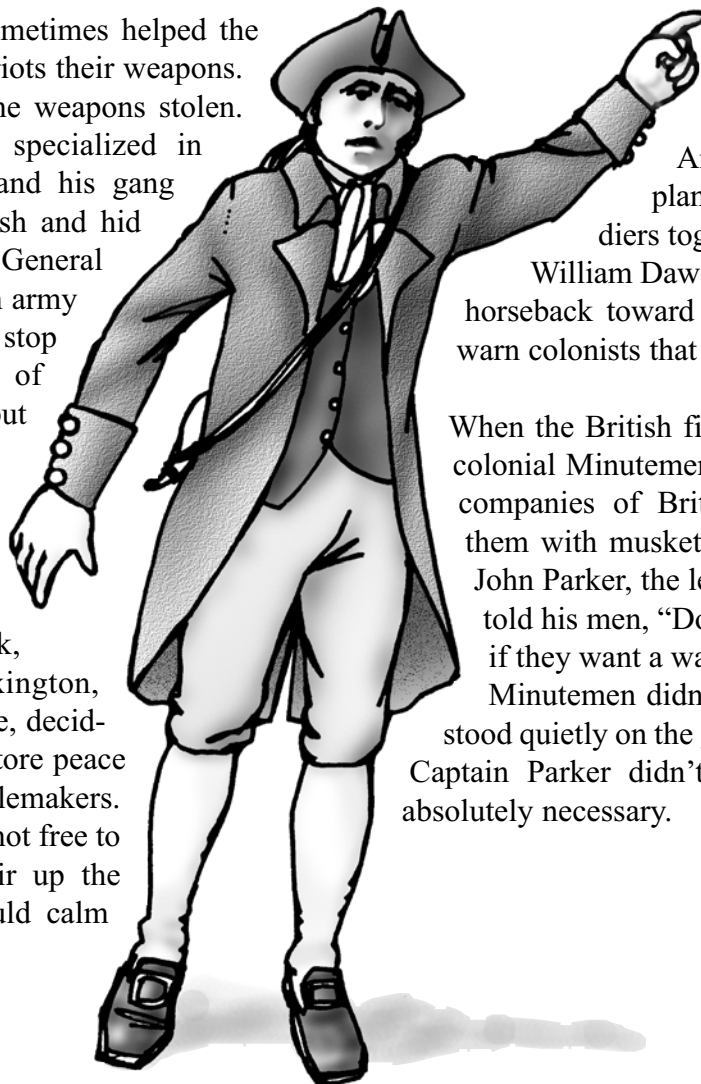
The Shot Heard Round the World

American colonists were preparing for war with England. Many members of village militia companies volunteered to be Minutemen, ready for action at a minute's notice. Each Minuteman provided his own supplies: musket, powder horn, bullet mold, blanket and knapsack. Several times a week groups of Minutemen practiced marching and loading their weapons. They didn't practice actual shooting because gunpowder supplies were so low. Smugglers brought gunpowder from the West Indies and guns were bought illegally and hidden.

British soldiers in Boston sometimes helped the Americans by selling the patriots their weapons. The soldiers then reported the weapons stolen. Men such as Paul Revere specialized in undercover work. Revere and his gang stole cannons from the British and hid them in the countryside. General Gage, in charge of the British army stationed in Boston, tried to stop the American stockpiling of weapons and ammunition, but he had little success.

Two of the ringleaders in America's growing rebellion against England were Samuel Adams and John Hancock, both staying in Lexington, Massachusetts. General Gage, decided the only way he could restore peace was to capture the two troublemakers. If Adams and Hancock were not free to make fiery speeches and stir up the colonists, maybe things would calm down.

General Gage gathered his British troops together quietly in dark Boston and the 12-mile march to Lexington began on April 18, 1775. Every precaution was taken not to alert the colonists. Only Gage's top commanders knew his plan. The soldiers themselves hadn't even been told what their mission would be. When his soldiers came to a brook, they waded across instead of walking on the bridge. The stamping of their boots on the bridge's wooden planks might have been heard by neighboring farmers. General Gage was determined to take Lexington completely by surprise, grab Adams and Hancock, then quickly go on to Concord to seize American guns and ammunition that were stored there.



But thanks to colonial spies who had been watching the comings and goings of the British troops and listening in on private conversations, the Americans knew General Gage's plans before he even had his soldiers together. Two messengers named William Dawes and Paul Revere galloped on horseback toward Lexington, 12 miles away, to warn colonists that the British were coming.

When the British finally arrived in Lexington, 70 colonial Minutemen were ready for them. As six companies of British soldiers marched toward them with muskets and bayonets ready, Captain John Parker, the leader of the American soldiers, told his men, "Don't fire unless fired upon. But if they want a war, let it begin here today." The Minutemen didn't try to block the road. They stood quietly on the green with their muskets ready. Captain Parker didn't want a fight unless it was absolutely necessary.