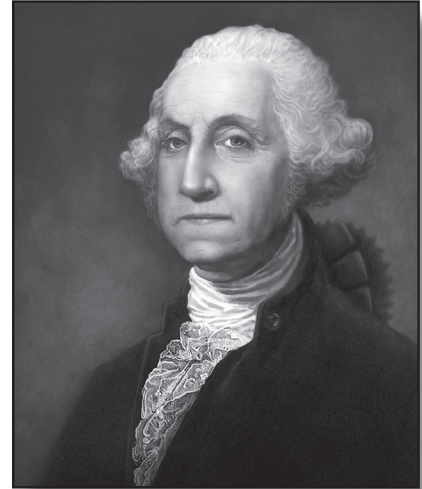




Major Figures

There were many people that played important roles during the **American Revolution**.

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He went to school until he was fifteen. Washington then trained and worked as a land surveyor. When his brother died, he received the family property and returned there to be a farmer on the **plantation**. He married Martha Custis and got more land through his marriage to her. Their main house was on a Virginia plantation called **Mount Vernon**.



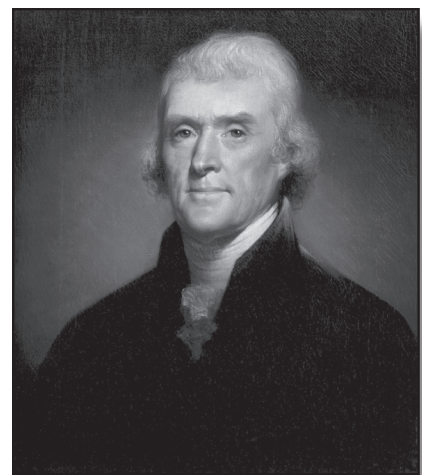
Washington was made the **commander** of the **Virginia Militia** in 1755. He served as an officer in the French and Indian War. He was said to be witty and charming and was a great leader of men. He was also well respected. Because of his experience, he was made the **commander-in-chief** of the **Continental Army** in 1775 when the war started. He led the army in the northern colonies. Washington retreated out of New York and lost the town. However, he re-crossed the **Delaware River** in the winter and surprised the British at **Trenton** and **Princeton**. He helped the army survive a tough winter at **Valley Forge**. He moved the army south in 1781 to meet the southern army. They trapped **Cornwallis** and the British at **Yorktown**. There, Cornwallis **surrendered** his army to Washington.



What battles did George Washington fight in?

After the war ended in 1783, Washington returned to his plantation to farm. He came back into politics in 1787 to help write the **U.S. Constitution**. Washington became the first **president** of the United States in 1789 and served until 1797. He is often called the "**Father of our country**" because of all he did during the **Revolution** and the forming of the United States.

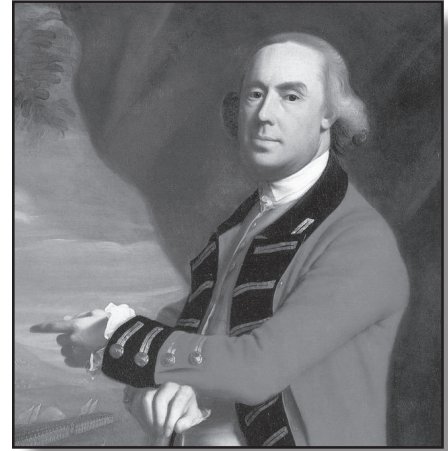
Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743 in Virginia. He was well educated and became a lawyer. He also had many other talents. He was an architect and an inventor. He loved the law and politics as well as music and education. Before the Revolution, Jefferson wrote many **pamphlets** for the **Patriot** side. He was one of the main writers of the **Declaration of Independence**. He was very concerned with the rights of the colonists. He felt that all people had the right to "**life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness**".





Major Figures

General Thomas Gage fought for the British. He joined the British Army in 1740. He fought in Europe and in the French and Indian War in the Americas. He was well liked and admired. He even had a nickname—“**Honest Tom**”. Gage was the British **commander-in-chief** in America after the French and Indian War. He showed some talent as a politician. Some of the colonists thought he was too tough. Back in England, most people thought that he wasn't tough enough. In 1775, General Gage was the British **governor** of Massachusetts. He ordered the British troops to march on **Concord** to seize Patriot weapons. This results in the first battles of the war—**Lexington and Concord**. Gage was also in charge of Boston for the **Battle of Bunker Hill**. He was called back to Britain shortly after that.



General William Howe was a British nobleman. He entered the British Army in 1746. He fought in the French and Indian War. He was praised by the famous General Wolf for his excellent record. Howe became the British commander-in-chief in 1775 at the start of the war. One of Howe's problems was that he admired the colonists. He didn't really want to fight them. He was also said to be lazy and too cautious. Because of these reasons, Howe was not very successful during the Revolution. Howe abandoned Boston in March of 1776. Later in 1776, he led the attack on New York. Howe captured the town and forced Washington to **retreat**. However, he was not able to stop Washington. Howe then led the campaign to take Philadelphia. He captured it in September of 1777. General Howe was not happy in Philadelphia even after his success. He asked to **resign** in October.

Baron Von Steuben was a **captain** in the **Prussian Army**. Prussia was a country in Europe. He fought for Prussia in the Seven Years War in Europe. He left the Prussian Army in 1763 and came to America. He was given the job of training the new **Continental Army**. He was very successful. He trained the troops in the **European style of warfare**. This meant the art of moving together in large groups. He made them a disciplined force. Von Steuben also wrote the drill book for the American Army. In 1778, he was made an **inspector general**. After the war, he was given a **pension** and **land grants**. He **retired** to his new lands in New York state.



King George III was born in 1738. He was the King of England from 1760 until his death in 1820. King George was in favor of the strong measures and taxes on the colonies. He felt that the laws and taxes were needed to master and control the colonies. He never wanted to give America **independence**. He felt that the war was punishment for their **rebellion**. King George III is often called “**Mad**” **King George**. Later in life, he suffered from poor health and a disease that caused **insanity**.