

Independence Timeline TRIVIA GAME

Print out and cut the cards for your players and keep the answer sheet for yourself. Shuffle the cards and lay them out on the kitchen table. On Monday, have a child look over the cards and pick out the one he thinks happened first. If they choose the right card, have them read it out loud. If they choose the wrong card, have them guess again until they choose correctly. Afterward, place the card on the table so that you can put the number 2 card next to it Tuesday morning. Continue building the timeline each morning for the rest of the week until you place the final card on Sunday.

ANSWER KEY:

1765, March	The Stamp Act
1770, March	The Boston Massacre
1773, December	The Boston Tea Party
1775, April 18	Paul Revere's Ride
1775, April 19	Shots Fired at Lexington and Concord
1776, January	Common Sense Fuels Independence
1776, July 4	Declaration of Independence

The Stamp Act

The Stamp Act was passed by the British Parliament on March 22, 1765. The new tax was imposed on all American colonists and required them to pay a tax on every piece of printed paper they used. Ship's papers, legal documents, licenses, newspapers, other publications, and even playing cards were taxed. The money collected by the Stamp Act was to be used to help pay the costs of defending and protecting the American frontier. Colonists violently protested the measure. What outraged colonists was not so much the tax as much as the fact that it was being imposed from England. Reaction to the Stamp Act in the colonies was occasionally riotous. In Massachusetts, rioters ransacked the home of the newly appointed stamp commissioner, Andrew Oliver. He resigned the position the next day. By November 1, 1765, the day the Stamp Act was to officially go into effect, there was not a single stamp commissioner left in the colonies to collect the tax.



The Boston Massacre



The Boston Massacre was the killing of five colonists by British soldiers on March 5, 1770. A mob, marching on the Customs House, was fired upon by a detachment of British troops who were being verbally and physically abused by the Americans. It was the culmination of tensions in the American colonies that had been growing since Royal troops first appeared in Massachusetts in October 1768. Patriots label the killings "The Boston Massacre."

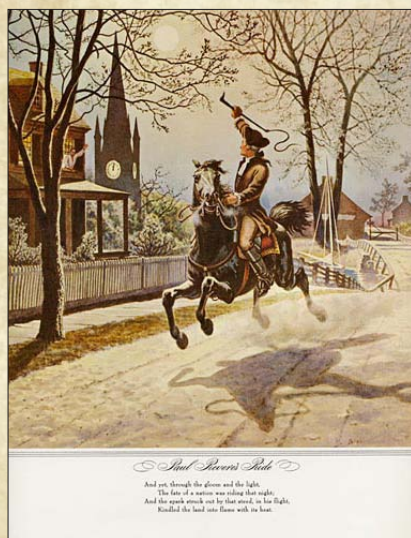
The Boston Tea Party

On the evening of December 16, 1773, a group of men calling themselves the "Sons of Liberty" went to the Boston Harbor. The men were dressed as Mohawk Indians. They quietly boarded three British ships, the *Beaver*, the *Eleanor* and the *Dartmouth*, and dumped forty-five tons of tea into the Boston Harbor. The Boston Tea Party was a protest of British tax policies.



Paul Revere's Ride

On the evening of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere was sent for by Dr. Joseph Warren and instructed to ride to Lexington, Massachusetts, to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that British troops were marching to arrest them. After being rowed across the Charles River to Charlestown by two associates, Paul Revere borrowed a horse from his friend Deacon John Larkin. While in Charlestown, he verified that the local “Sons of Liberty” committee had seen his pre-arranged signals. (Two lanterns had been hung briefly in the bell-tower of Christ Church in Boston, indicating that troops would row “by sea” across the Charles River to Cambridge, rather than marching “by land” out Boston Neck. Revere had arranged for these signals the previous weekend, as he was afraid that he might be prevented from leaving Boston).



Shots Fired at Lexington and Concord

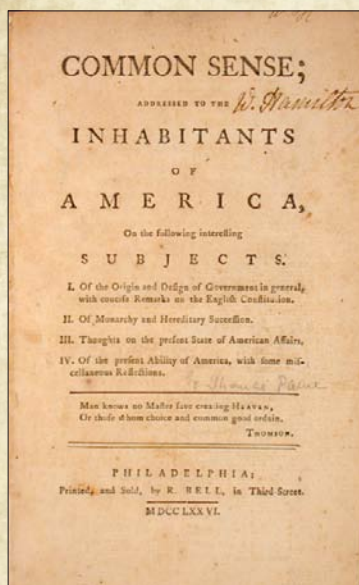
The first shots were fired between American and British troops on April 19, 1775. The British chose to march to Concord because it was an arms depot. This meant that the Americans had stockpiled weapons there. British troops had occupied Boston and were marching on Concord as they passed through Lexington. To this day, no one is sure who fired first, but it was the “Shot Heard ‘Round the World.” Both sides opened fire, and the Americans were forced to withdraw, but they had successfully slowed the British advance. By the time the British got to Concord, the Americans were waiting for them in force. The weapons depot was saved, and the British were forced to retreat.



Common Sense

Thomas Paine inspired the American Revolution with a pamphlet called *Common Sense*.

The pamphlet was published anonymously by Thomas Paine in January of 1776. Common Sense brought the rising revolutionary sentiment into sharp focus by placing blame for the suffering of the colonies directly on the reigning British monarch, George III. Paine's political pamphlet was an instant best-seller, both in the colonies and in Europe, and went through several printings. Common Sense was debated in taverns and on street corners; providing Americans the fuel to fight for independence. The spirit of Paine's writings can be found in the Declaration of Independence.



Declaration of Independence

The first draft of Jefferson's Declaration of Independence—already edited by John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston—was presented before Congress on June 28, 1776. 39 revisions were made on the text before it was adopted on the 4th of July, 1776. It wasn't until 5 years later on October 19, 1781, that the American and French forces trapped Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia. He surrendered his British army and America was declared free.

