



Native Americans



The Beginnings of America

Paul Revere



Statue of Liberty



Lincoln Memorial



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NOTHING WAS THOUGHT OF BUT THIS TAXATION,
AND THE EASIEST METHOD OF LIQUIDATION.

THE BAY The Beginnings of America

IT WAS ENOUGH TO VEX
THE SOULS OF THE MEN OF BOSTON TOWN,
TO REBEL AGAINST THE WILL OF THE CROWN.



THEY WERE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF GEORGE THE THIRD;
SO THEY BELIEVED THEY OBTAINED FROM THE CROWN,
BUT THIS BRISTLING, OFFENSIVE PLACARD SET
ON THE WALLS, WAS WORSE THAN A SAYONET,



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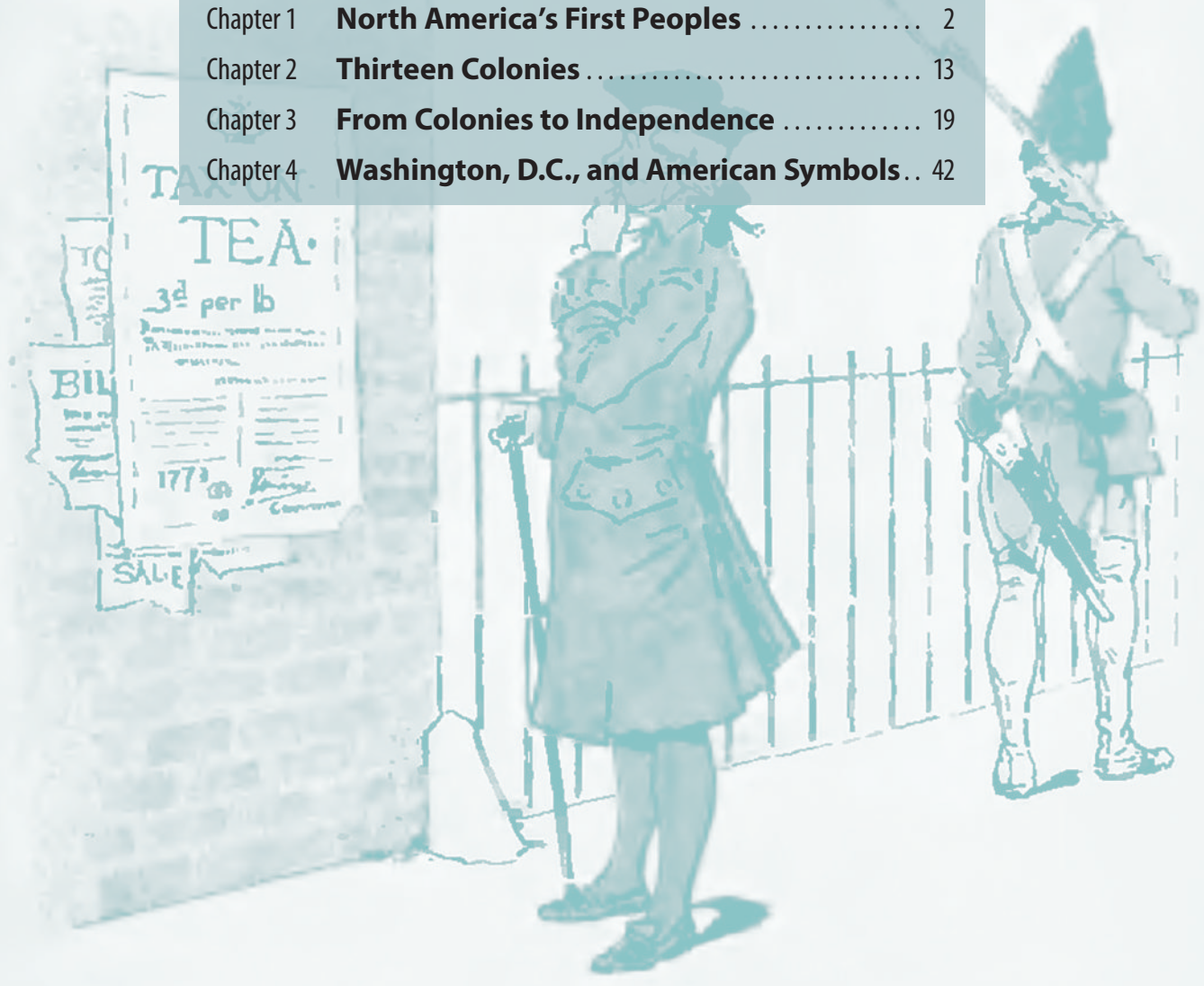
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The Beginnings of America

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SO THEY BELIEVED AND SO THEY AVERRED,
BUT THIS BRISTLING, OFFENSIVE PLACARD SET
ON THE WALLS, WAS WORSE THAN A SAYONET,

North America's First Peoples

Who were the first people to live in North America? Long before there was a country called the United States, Native American groups were the first to call this land home. Each group had its own identity, and they all survived by using the land's resources.



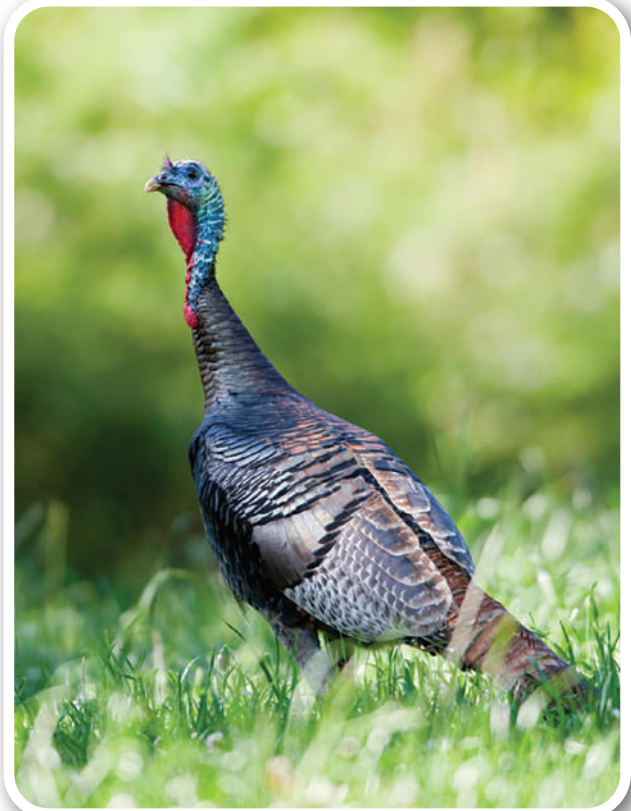
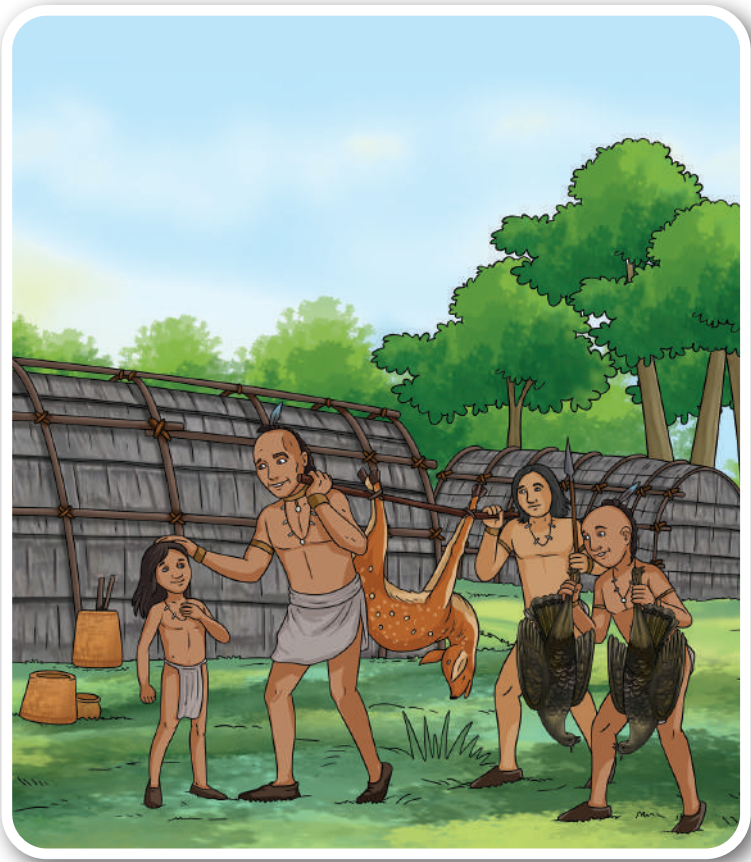
Across the continent, these groups adapted to the environment around them, creating unique cultures.

In the Eastern Woodlands, families lived together in longhouses made of wood. The wood came from nearby trees.

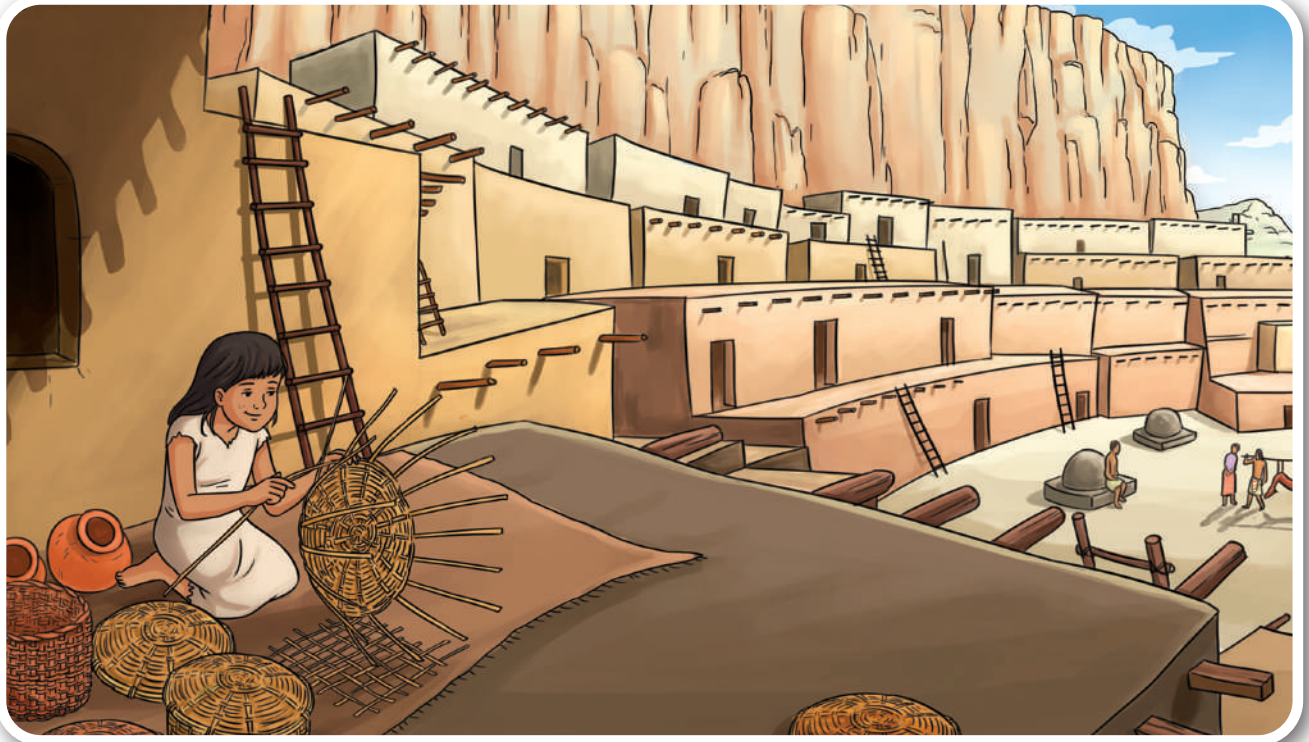


People's days were filled with chopping wood, fishing, and picking nuts and berries.

Native Americans in this area hunted animals like deer and turkey for food. They used animal fur to make blankets and skins to make clothing and shoes. People fished with a line, and a hook made from deer bone. They could travel up and down the rivers in canoes.



Across the continent, the Ancestral Pueblo people lived in the American Southwest. This is around present-day Arizona and New Mexico. They lived in homes built into the cliffs like apartment buildings.



There were many different rooms for different families, including community rooms called *kivas*.



Young people gathered firewood to stay warm on cold desert nights.



They grew corn, beans, and squash. The Pueblo honored Kokopelli, the god of rain, because they relied on farming to survive. Corn was their most important crop. They ate it every day and stored it for times when there was little rain.



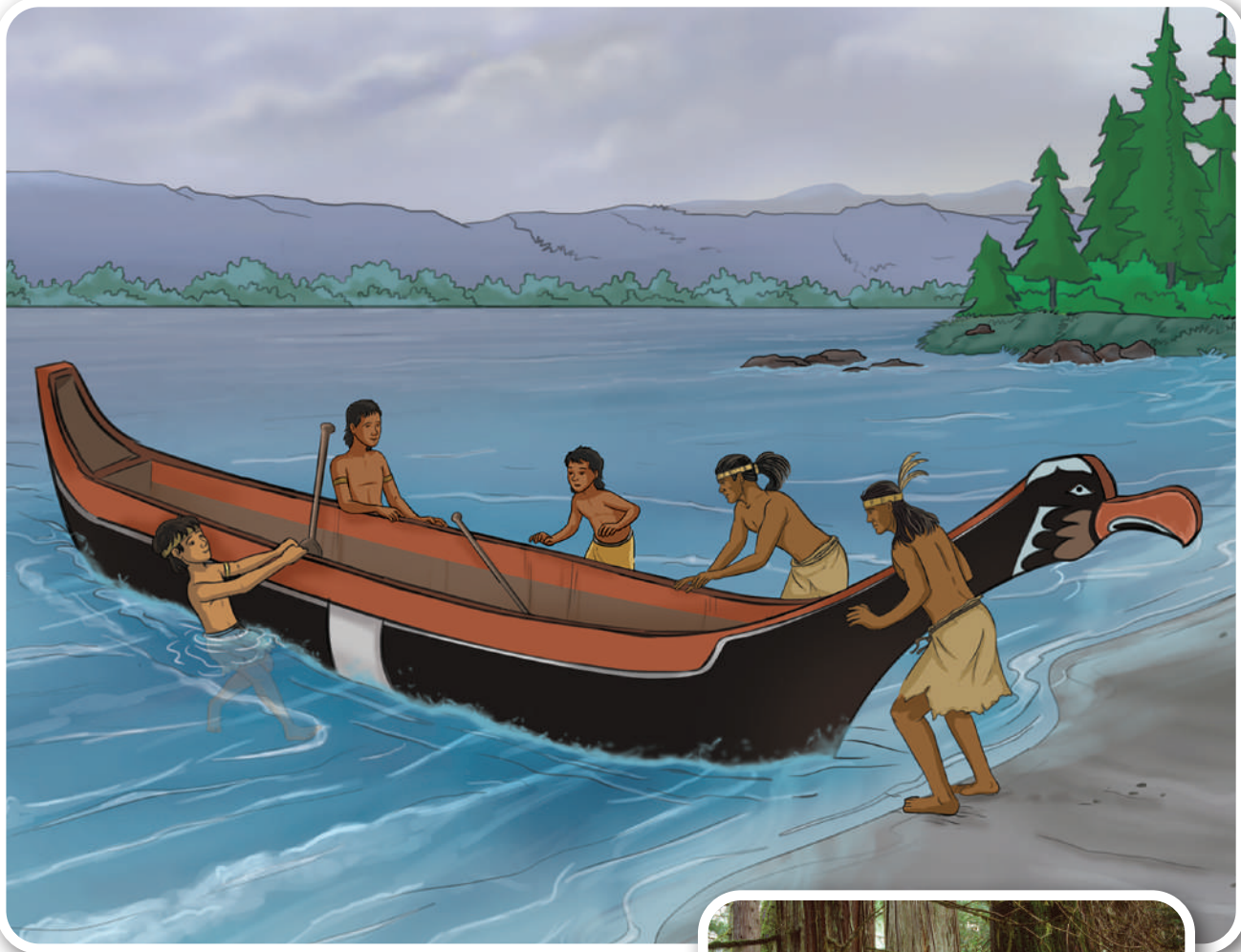
When it was time to pick the crops, everyone worked together in the fields. They picked the fruits and vegetables and stored them. They stored some of the food in beautiful baskets made from yucca plants. The extra food was kept in big storage rooms. After all the hard work, everyone enjoyed a big feast.



Corn, beans, and squash were so important for the Ancestral Pueblo people that they were called the “Three Sisters.”



North of the Pueblo, in the Pacific Northwest, Native Americans carved canoes out of cedar trees for fishing in the ocean. They learned to fish with spears and nets. They caught salmon and stored it to eat in the winter.



The cedar tree of the Pacific Northwest earned the name "Tree of Life." All parts of the tree were used to make not only canoes but also such things as tools, shelter, medicine, and art.



Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest also made totems, tall wooden poles with animal shapes that told stories about the tribe's history. When a new totem was made, villages would hold a gift-giving feast called a *potlatch*. These celebrations included a large meal and gifts like blankets.



Totem poles were usually carved from cedar wood. The skill of carving was handed down from one generation to the next.

The Native people in all regions learned to use the land and resources available to them to live and work together. Native peoples learned how to care for their environment, too.



At certain times of the year, some Native people moved from place to place to feed themselves. They hunted meat, gathered plants, and caught fish.



A Native American Folk Tale—The Legend of the Lost Salmon

Long ago, the Creator taught the Yakima Tribe to respect the salmon. He said, “Do not take more salmon than you need.” If they followed this rule, the Creator promised, the salmon would always return.

For a while, the tribal people listened and cared for the salmon. But one day, they started ignoring the rule. They became greedy and took more salmon than they needed, letting them go to waste. Because of this, the salmon vanished, and the people couldn’t find any.

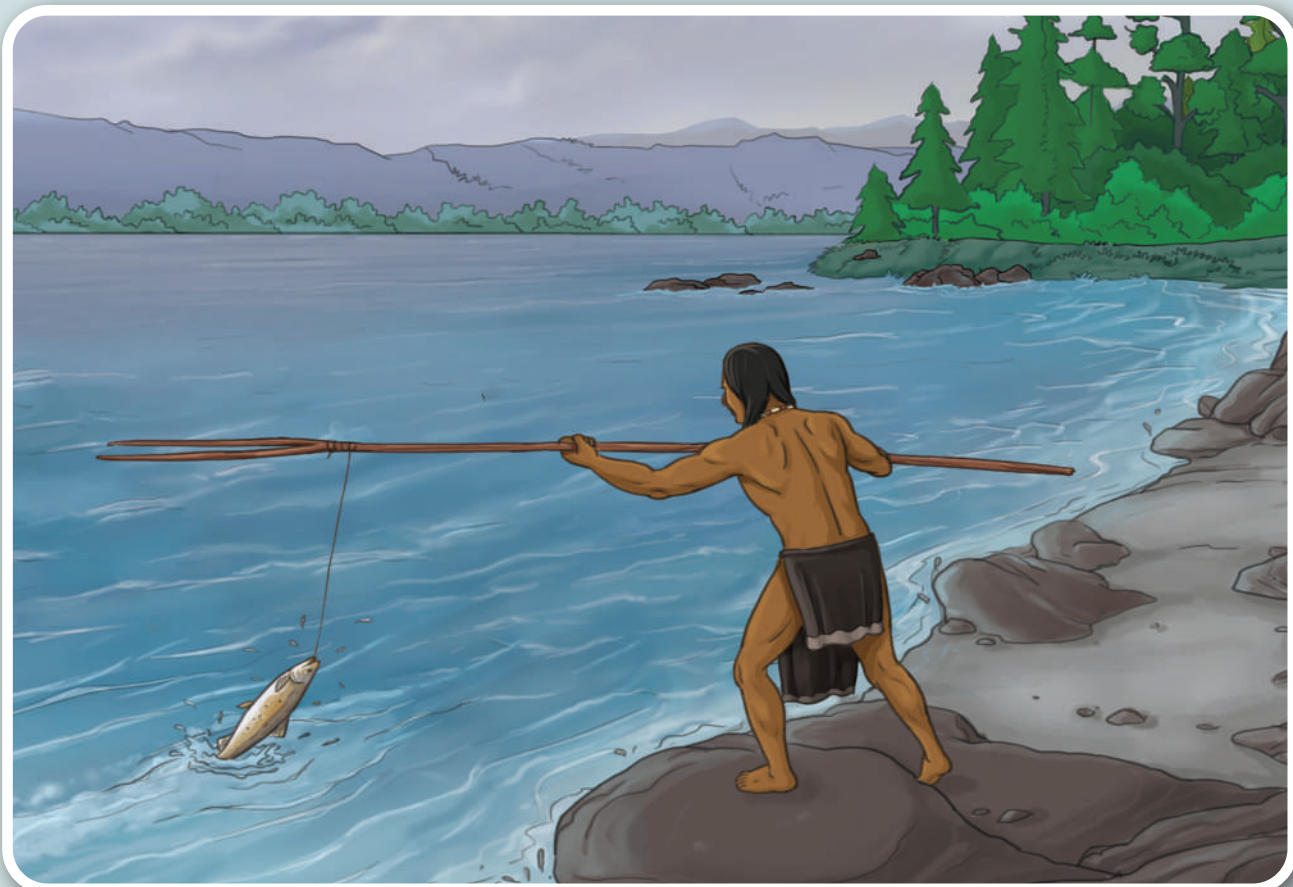
They regretted their greediness when their children and elders became hungry. During their search for food, they found a lifeless salmon on the river bank. Filled with sadness and regret, they said, “If we are given one more chance, we will do better. If only we could awaken this salmon, the other salmon might come up the river.”

The tribe believed the legend that said someone with special powers could bring a dead creature back to life by stepping over it five times. The crafty Coyote tried but failed.

They remembered their wise and elderly tribe member Old Man Rattlesnake, who lived alone. They asked him to use his powers to revive the salmon. Though unsure, Old Man Rattlesnake agreed to try, as he was their last hope.

Despite his old age and frailty, Old Man Rattlesnake slowly and painfully crawled over the salmon four times. On the fifth time, he disappeared inside the salmon. Magically, the salmon came back to life! Soon all the salmon returned to the rivers.

From that day on, the tribe carefully followed the rule to only take as much salmon as they needed. In the spine of every salmon they caught was a white membrane. This, they believed, was Old Man Rattlesnake—a symbol of the life he gave back to the salmon. The tribal people were forever grateful to him for bringing back their precious food and teaching them an important lesson about respecting nature's gifts.



Thirteen Colonies

Long ago, before the United States had its name, it was called the *colonies*. Colonies are lands controlled by other countries that are far away. In the beginning, people from England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland settled in the thirteen North American colonies.



Over time, the nations of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland joined together to become Great Britain. So the thirteen colonies in North America were controlled by Great Britain.

Many people living in the thirteen colonies had come to North America looking for better lives. Most had come from Great Britain, though there were some who had come from other European countries. They called themselves British, not American. They bought their clothes and books from Great Britain and enjoyed drinking British tea. They lived under a monarchy, with a king or queen in charge. One such monarch was King George III. He ruled over England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the American colonies.



King George had fought a war against France and won. But the war was expensive. The king needed to raise money to pay back what he had borrowed. He decided the colonies could help.

The king and his parliament decided to tax the colonies. When the colonists bought items like sugar, paint, newspapers, writing paper, glass, or tea, they would pay extra. That extra money, called a sales tax, would be given to the government.



The colonists were angry! They didn't want to pay extra for everything. They protested and stopped buying these things, causing the government to rethink the taxes. After some time, only tea was still taxed.

Many people came to the colonies for a better life. But not everyone who came was free. Africans who were brought to the colonies were enslaved and forced to work on large farms, known as plantations. They worked hard growing crops but did not have the same rights as the colonists. These enslaved Africans played a huge part in helping the British colonies become strong and rich. However, enslaved people did not receive any of those riches.





Among the enslaved Africans was a remarkable woman named Phillis Wheatley. Enslaved people were not supposed to read and write, but Wheatley became a famous poet despite this. She wrote about important ideas like being good, believing in God, and wanting freedom. She also used her poetry to talk about famous people and big events that happened during her lifetime. Her words helped people think about their actions and the world around them.

Anne Hutchinson was another brave woman who lived in the colonies. Even though the rules said that only men could be religious leaders, she didn't agree. She thought that women should also be heard in these matters.

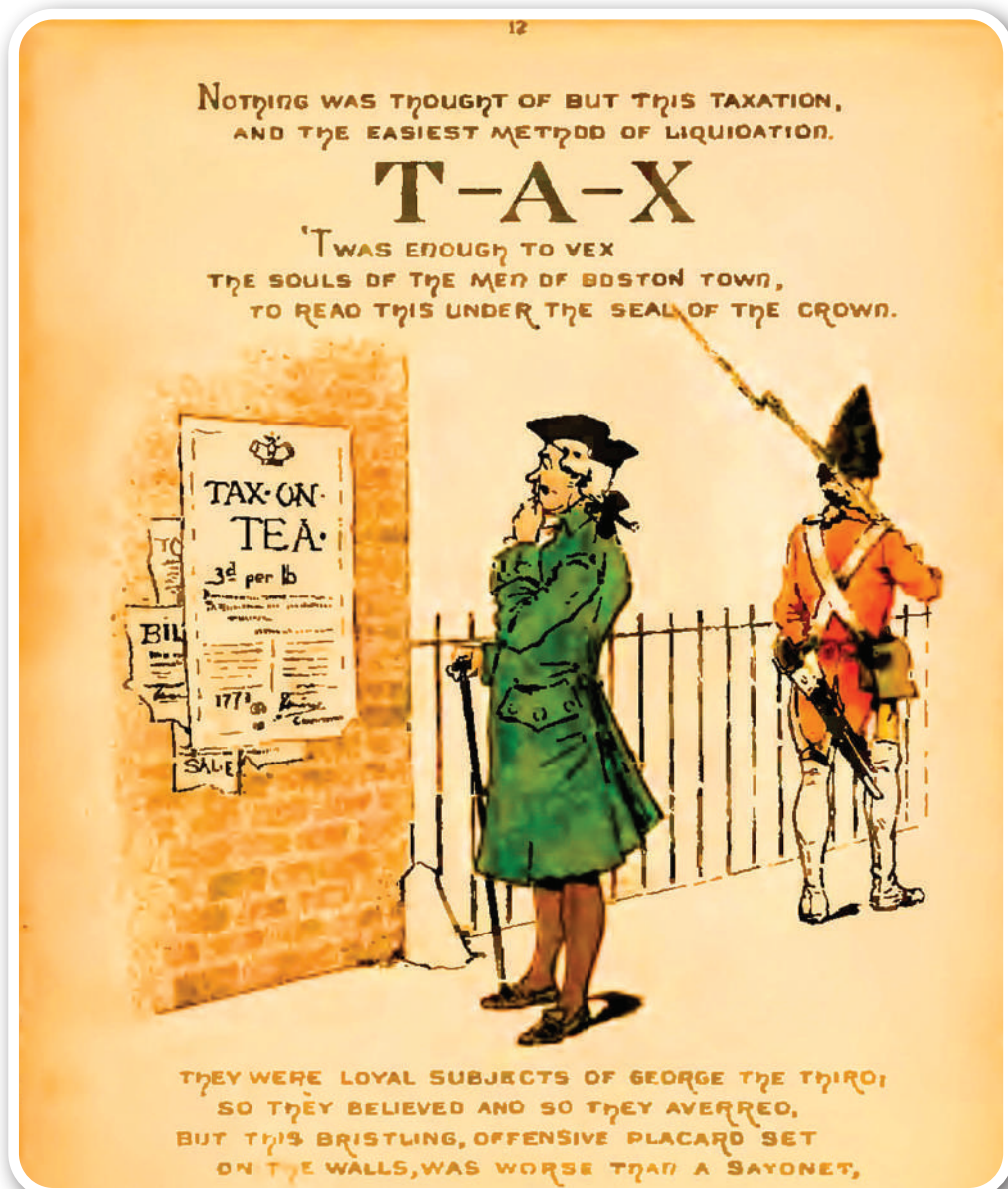


Trial of Mrs. Hutchinson.

Hutchinson held meetings. She would tell stories about her faith. This was not common at the time. But both men and women liked to listen to her because she respected everyone's opinions. This was a big step toward what we now consider an important American value: free speech.

From Colonies to Independence

Many people in the thirteen colonies loved to drink tea. Even though tea was expensive, people saved money to buy it from Great Britain. The tax on tea that you learned about in Chapter 2 made it even more expensive. Colonists decided they would stop drinking tea.



British ships carrying tea were turned away. But one winter day, the governor of Massachusetts allowed three ships carrying tea to sail into Boston Harbor. That night, a group of men dressed like Native Americans climbed onto the ships and dumped all the tea into the water! This became known as the Boston Tea Party.



News about the Boston Tea Party traveled quickly, and not just through the colonies. When King George and Parliament heard about it, they sent soldiers to Boston. British soldiers were called “redcoats” because of their bright red uniforms. They closed Boston Harbor as punishment. With the harbor closed, no food or supplies could get in. To show their support, people from across the thirteen colonies sent food and other goods to Boston.



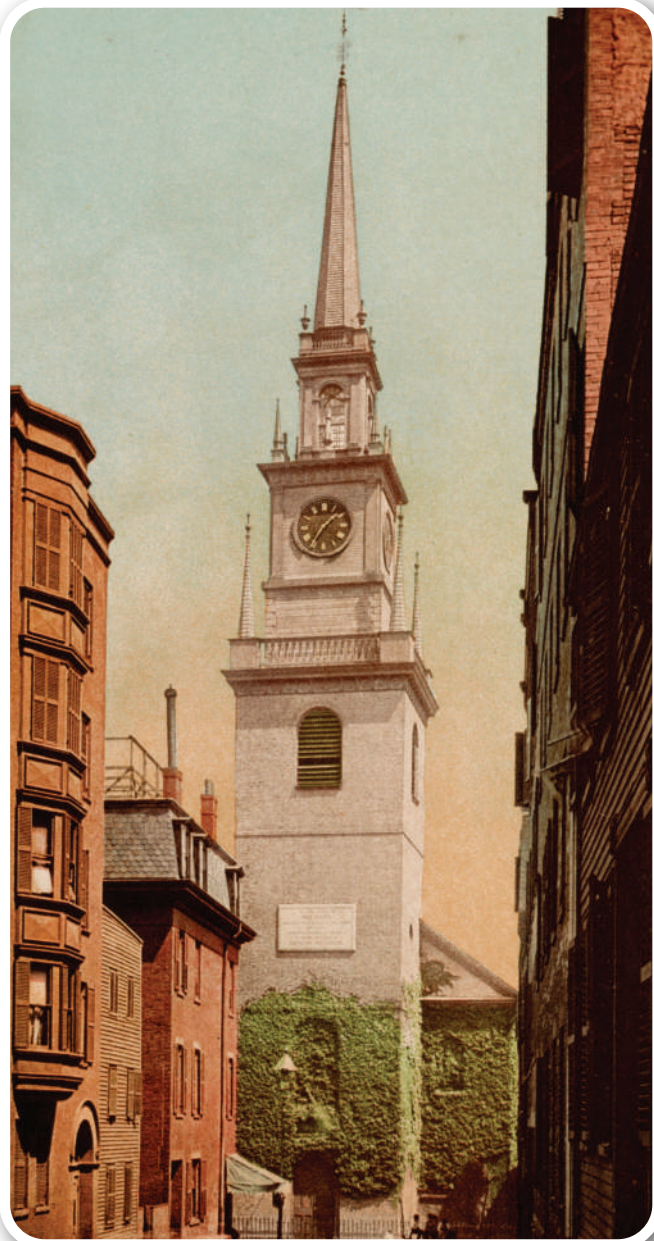
While all this was happening, leaders from every colony gathered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to write a letter to King George. They explained why they were unhappy and asked for fair treatment. Imagine them sitting around a big table, scratching their thoughts onto paper with quill pens. This meeting marked the start of the colonies coming together. Many colonists realized that they could no longer support King George. They were called patriots because they were loyal to the colonies, not Britain.



Most colonists did not want war. After all, most of them were not trained to fight. But even after they sent the letter, the colonists got ready to defend themselves. In the town of Concord, near Boston, they hid weapons just in case fighting broke out. The redcoats found out about the hidden weapons and planned to go to Concord to take them away.



Paul Revere, who lived in Boston, decided to ride to Concord to warn the patriots that the redcoats were coming to take the weapons away. Before he left, he came up with a clever plan to know how the redcoats were traveling. He asked a fellow patriot to go to the Old North Church's tower in Boston.



If the redcoats were coming by land, one lantern would be lit in the tower. If they were coming across the river, the patriot would light two lanterns.

Revere crossed the dark river in a small boat, keeping an eye on the church tower. All of a sudden, he saw two lights! This meant the redcoats were coming across the river. Once Revere reached the shore, he jumped onto a horse. He rode quickly, shouting, "The regulars are coming out!" to warn the patriots that the redcoats were on their way.



As he passed each house, he saw doors and windows opening and candles being lit. Everyone was getting ready for what was about to happen.



Before Revere could reach Concord, he was captured by the redcoats. But he had already started warning people. Soon, in the town of Lexington near Concord, people were woken up by the sound of marching. The redcoats were there! But they were not alone. Many brave patriots were ready to face them. These patriots from places like Concord and Lexington were called “minutemen” because they could be ready to protect their towns at a minute’s notice.

The minutemen and the redcoats faced each other. Shots were fired, but the minutemen did not back down. When the smoke cleared from the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the patriots stood victorious. This marked the beginning of many battles between the British and the patriots.



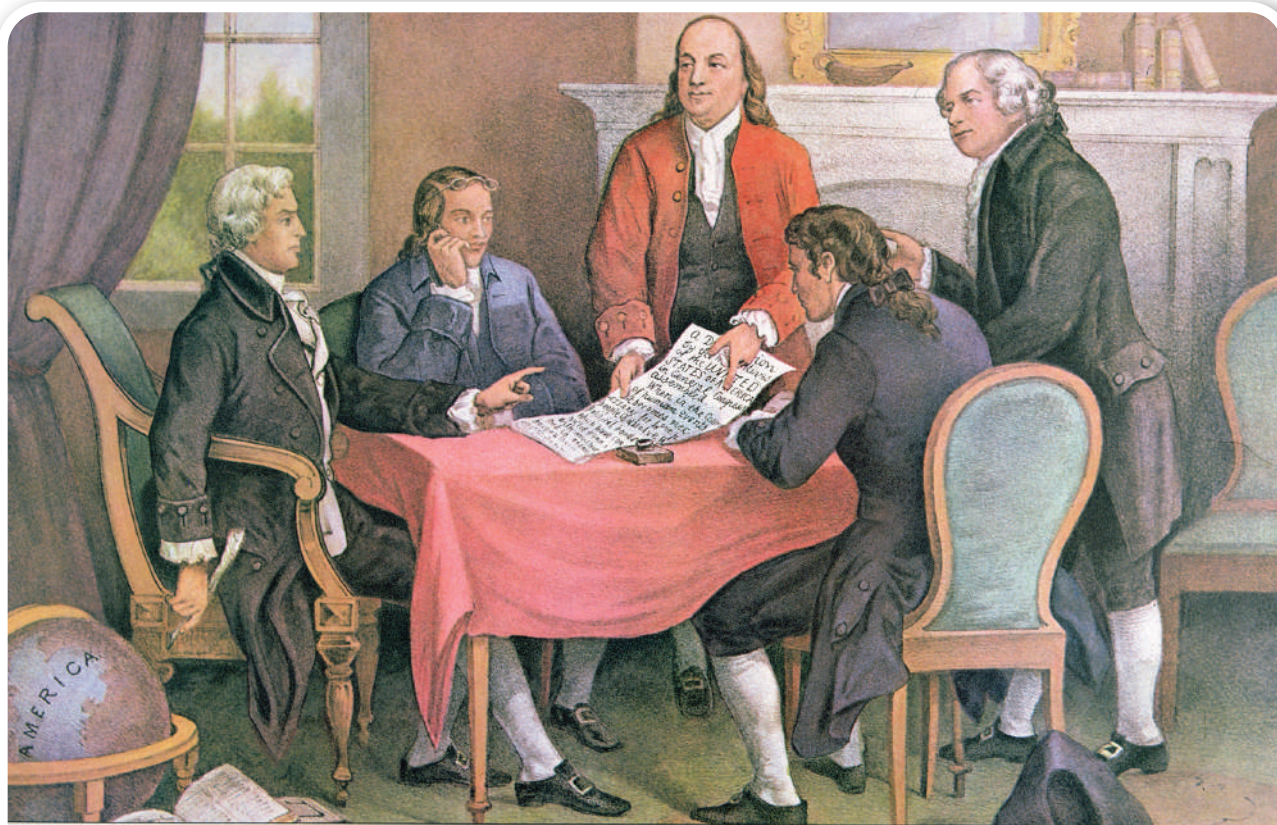


King George and Parliament did not agree with the colonists. Because the colonists had fired at the British soldiers, the king decided to send more British soldiers to America. The leaders of the colonies had a choice. They had to decide whether they wanted to continue to be under British rule or if they wanted to become a new country whereby they could rule themselves.



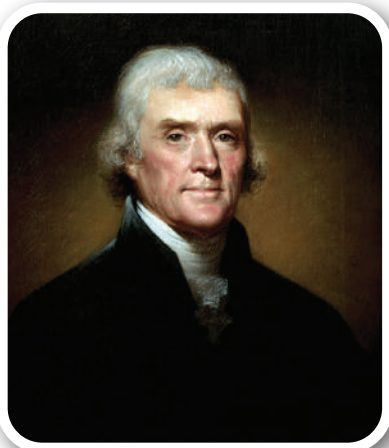
In Virginia, a man named Patrick Henry gave an important speech. He supposedly said, "Give me liberty, or give me death!" This idea reminded everyone how much they wanted to be free. Patrick Henry's strong words helped the leaders make an important decision.

The leaders of the colonies decided to declare independence from Britain. A smart and talented leader named Thomas Jefferson was chosen to write the Declaration of Independence. He had help from John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.



THOMAS JEFFERSON, ROGER SHERMAN, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, JOHN ADAMS

THE DECLARATION COMMITTEE.



Thomas Jefferson

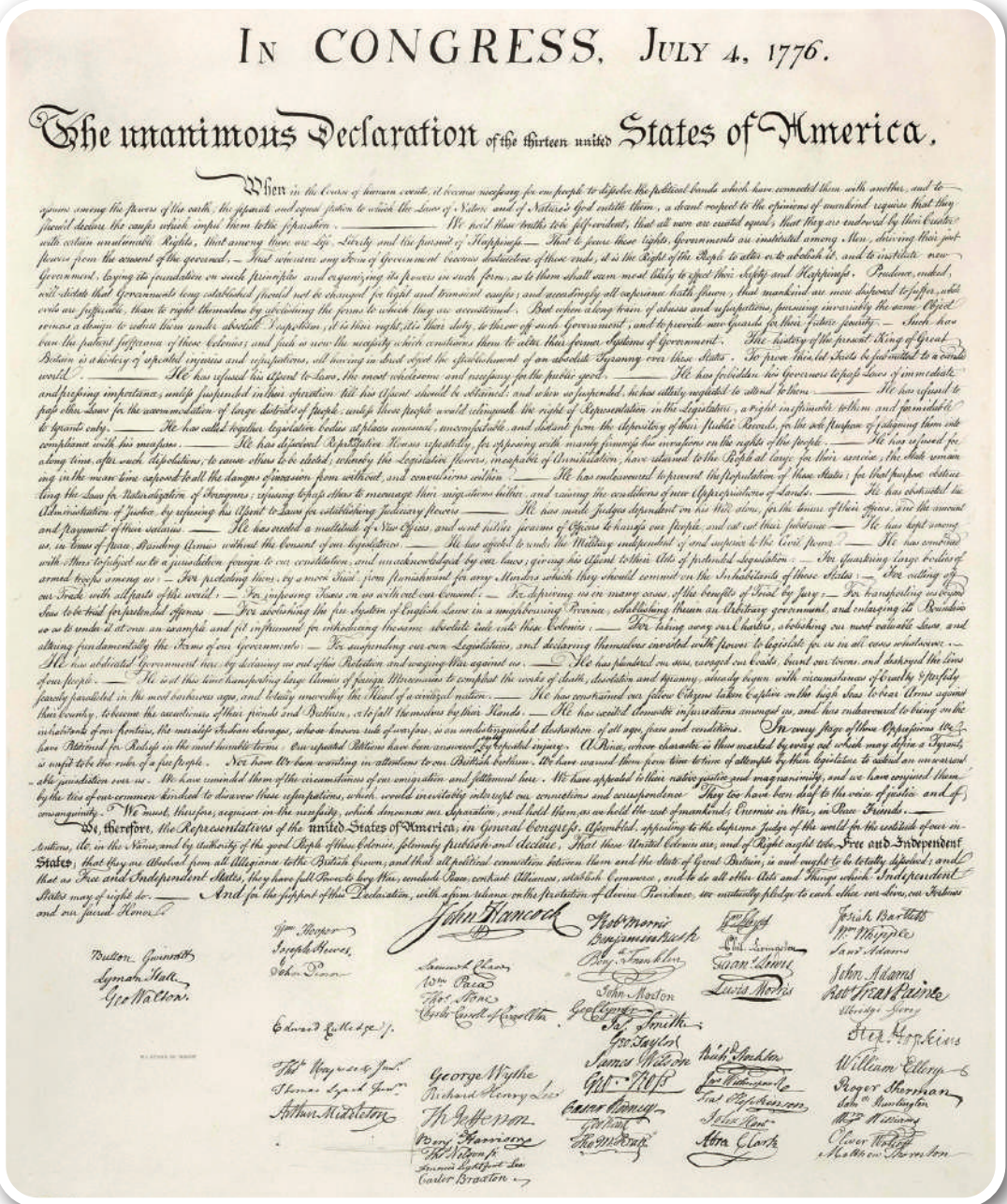


John Adams

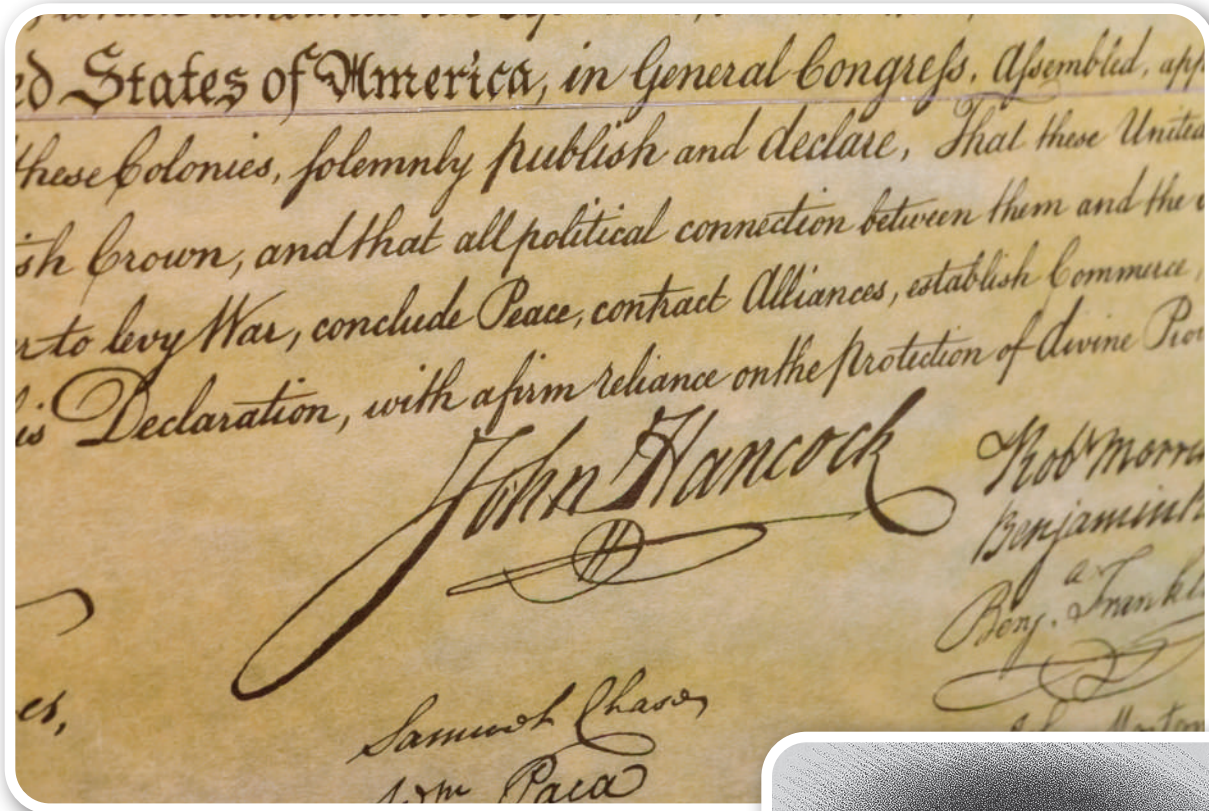


Benjamin Franklin

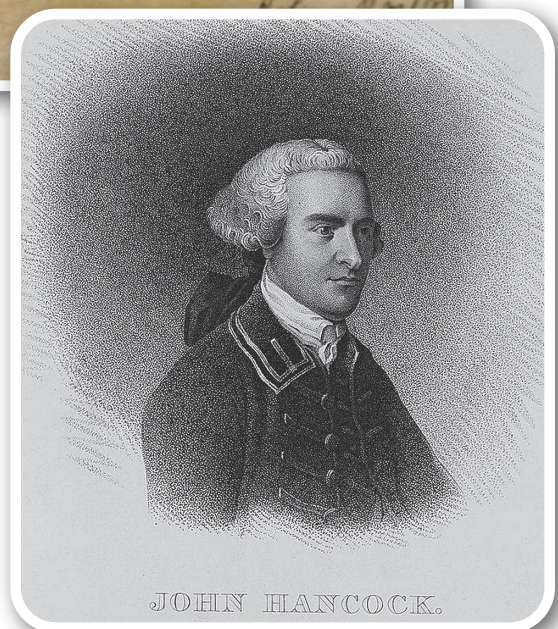
This document stated that if a government treats people badly, then the people have the right to make a new government. This idea was surprising, but still today, most people agree with it. Jefferson also wrote that everyone has the right to live, be free, and be happy. He said that "all men are created equal." This means that everyone is born with the same rights.



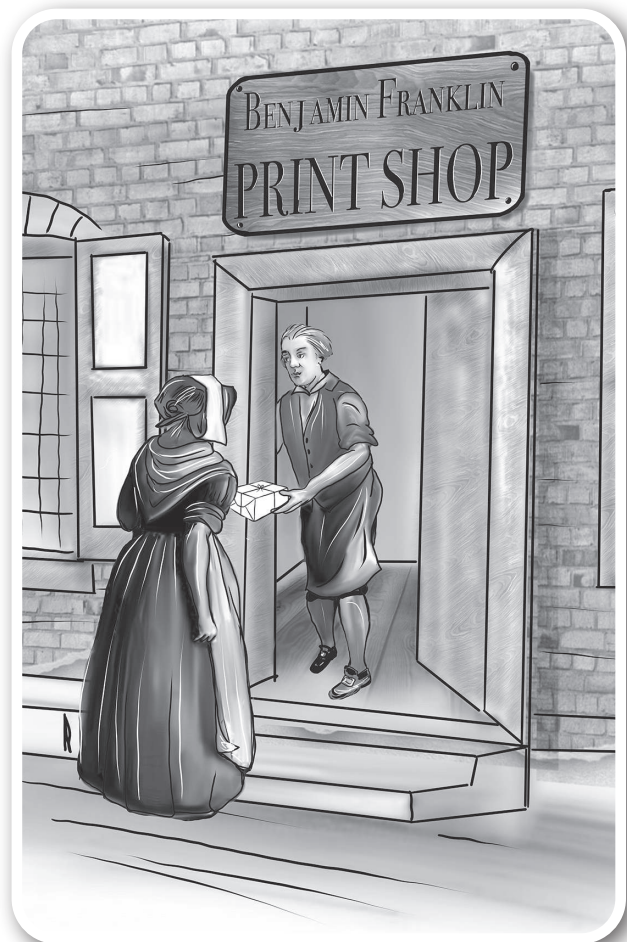
The Declaration of Independence was signed by fifty-six men on July 4, 1776. One of those men was John Hancock, whose large signature became famous. From that moment on, the thirteen colonies became a new nation called the United States of America.



John Hancock was an important political leader and a very wealthy man from Boston, Massachusetts. He is also remembered for his brave stand against British rule. Hancock inspired many others in the fight for American freedom.



During this time, patriots like Benjamin Franklin helped in many ways. Franklin was a printer who helped write the Declaration of Independence. Besides printing books and newspapers, Franklin did many other important things.



Franklin invented a number of useful things that we still use today. He created a special type of stove called the Franklin stove that helped keep houses warm. He also created a chair with a desk attached to its arm and special eyeglasses that helped people see things near and far. Franklin even invented something called a lightning rod that keeps houses safe from lightning strikes.





Another very important patriot was George Washington. Washington was put in charge of the American army after the war began. His army didn't have many weapons, and it lost quite a few battles. The British even took over New York City and made the American soldiers move south, all the way to Pennsylvania, across a river called the Delaware.



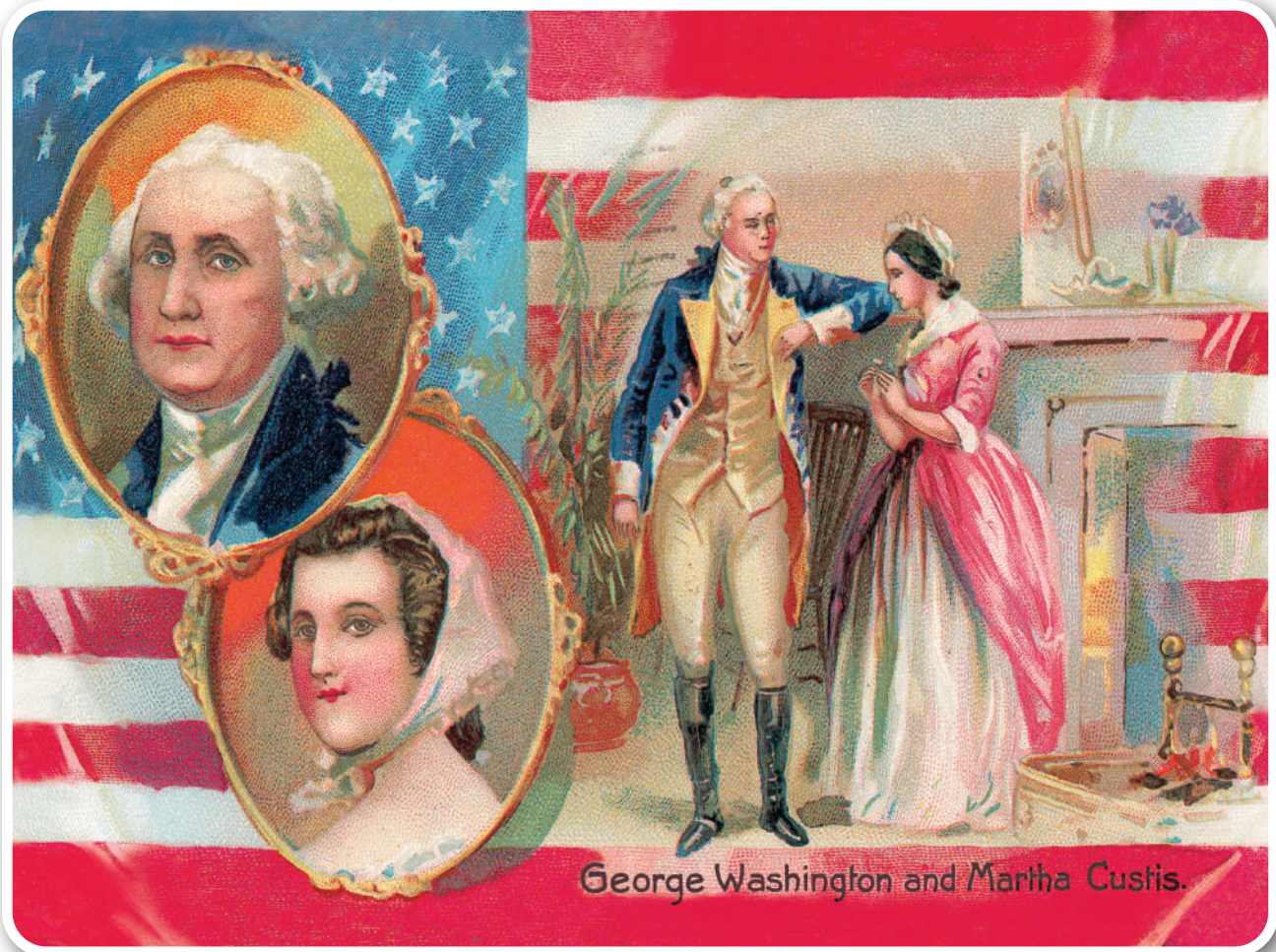
When winter came, the American soldiers were cold and hungry. Some of them did not even have warm coats or shoes. Washington knew he needed to come up with a plan. Because it was Christmas, he knew the British soldiers would be celebrating. What if he surprised them with an attack? On Christmas night, Washington got ready to take his men across the icy Delaware River to battle the British in New Jersey.

A snowstorm began just as they were getting in the boats to cross the river, making it hard to see. But Washington didn't give up. He decided to cross the icy Delaware River first to show his men that they could do it, and they did.

It was morning when the American soldiers arrived at the British camp in Trenton, New Jersey. Because of the storm and the Christmas holiday, the British were not expecting them. The Americans won the battle.



The battle at Trenton was a big win, but it didn't end the war. There was a lot more fighting to be done. After many years, the colonies, now called the United States of America, finally won their independence.



Then, George Washington, who had been a great leader during the war, became the first president of the United States. His wife, Martha Washington, became the First Lady. As First Lady, she organized social gatherings and supported her husband.

The colonists fought for freedom and to create a new country. During this difficult and important fight, some brave people stood out. One of them was an African American man named James Lafayette. He was a spy, which means he secretly gathered information to help the American forces. Even though he was enslaved, Lafayette risked his life to help the colonists win the war.





Today, we light fireworks on the Fourth of July to celebrate the day that Americans decided to become independent. Every American can be inspired by the courage of the patriots during the American Revolution.

An American Folk Tale—George Washington and the Cherry Tree

Once upon a time, there was a young boy named George Washington who lived on a farm with his family. George was curious and loved exploring nature. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, taking care of the plants and trees in his family's garden.

One day, George's father noticed that one of his favorite cherry trees in the garden had been chopped down. He was not happy about it and wanted to find out who was responsible. He asked everyone in the family if they knew what had happened to the tree.

When George's father asked George if he knew anything about the cherry tree, George admitted that he had chopped it down with his new hatchet. Legend says that George declared, "I cannot tell a lie." George's father was surprised but also very proud of his son's honesty.

George's father explained that even though the tree was valuable, he was happier that George had told the truth. He also taught George the importance of being honest, saying that it is always better to tell the truth, even if it means admitting to a mistake.

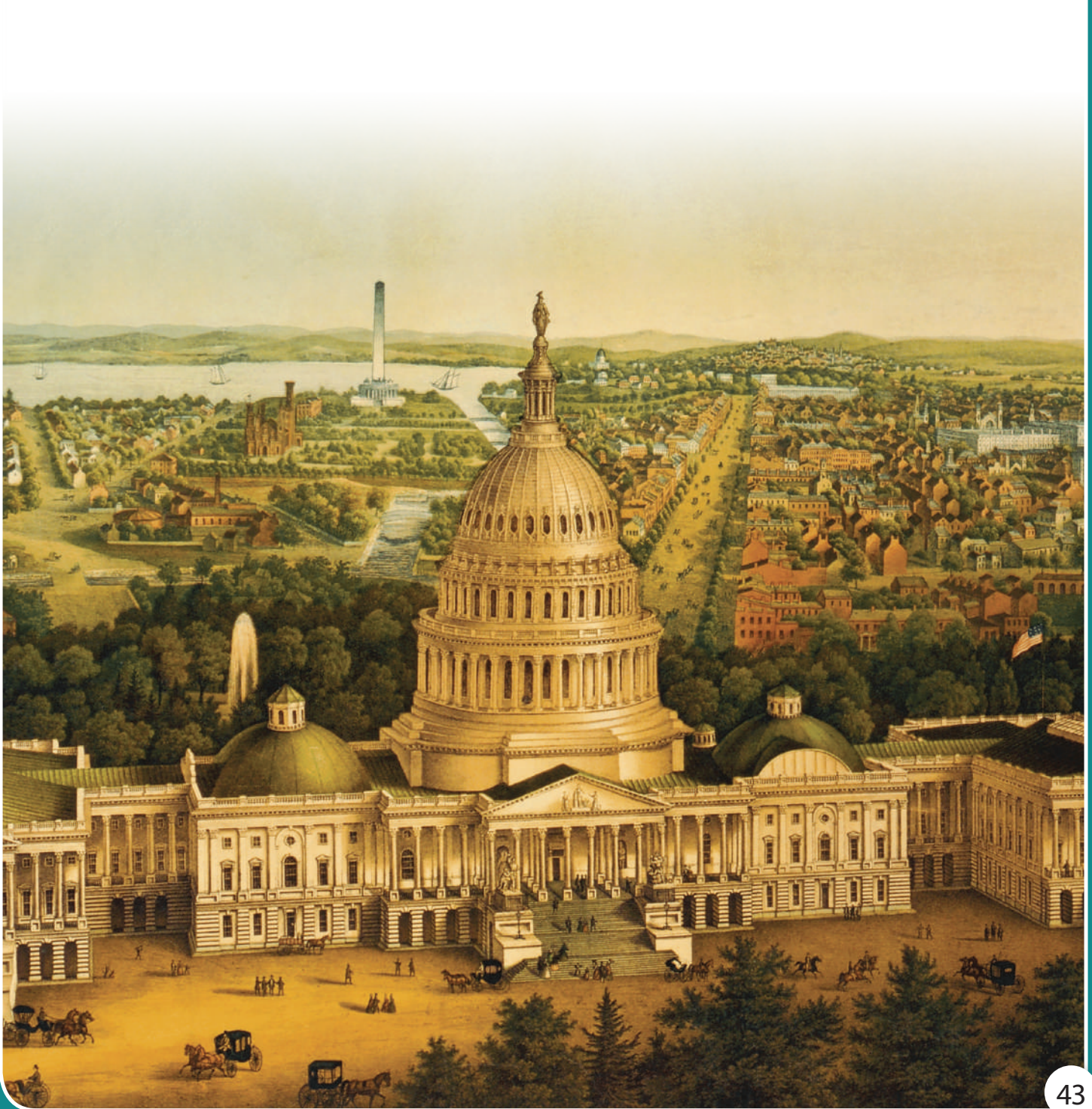


Washington, D.C., and American Symbols

Symbols often represent a people, a place, or a country. Have you ever wondered what places and symbols represent the United States? Let's explore them together!



Every country has a capital city. Ours is the District of Columbia, but you might know it as Washington, D.C. The city is home to beautiful parks, wide avenues, and important buildings. One of these is the U.S. Capitol building, where Congress, the people who make our laws, meets.





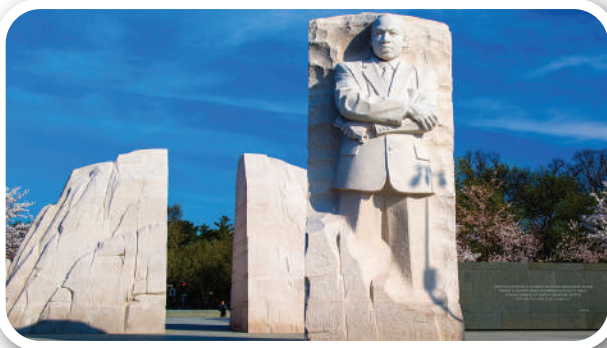
We also have a special place where the president and the president's family live called the White House. George Washington and his wife, Martha, made plans for the mansion, but they never lived there. The first president who lived in the White House was John Adams. His wife, Abigail, was the First Lady. She told her husband to "remember the ladies" when he was serving as president.

Washington, D.C., also has important monuments to remember important people. The Jefferson Memorial honors Thomas Jefferson, who was the third president of the United States and the main writer of the Declaration of Independence.



Jefferson Memorial

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial is a large statue honoring Dr. King, a leader who fought for equality and justice for all people.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

The Lincoln Memorial is a statue and monument that celebrates Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president. He led the country during the Civil War.



Lincoln Memorial

The Washington Monument is a tall, pointed pillar that was built to honor George Washington, the first president of the United States.



Washington Monument

Our country also has special symbols. The first American flag was made with thirteen stars and thirteen red and white stripes, each representing one of the original thirteen colonies. Betsy Ross, a woman from Philadelphia, is believed to have sewn this first flag.



Now our flag has fifty stars for the fifty states and still thirteen stripes for the original thirteen colonies.

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy. American citizens say the pledge to promise loyalty to the United States and its flag.



When saying the pledge, we put our right hand over our heart.

“The Star-Spangled Banner” is the United States’ national anthem. This song was written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812. He was inspired after seeing a U.S. flag flying at dawn after a night of heavy bombing by the British.



Another important symbol is the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. This bell rang to announce that the Declaration of Independence had been sent to the king. To this day, it remains a symbol of America's freedom.



The national motto of the United States is "In God We Trust." First used on coins during the Civil War in the 1860s, it was adopted as the official U.S. motto in 1956.



Uncle Sam is another symbol of the United States. He is often shown as a tall man with a beard, wearing a suit with the colors of the American flag—red, white, and blue. The symbol was created during the War of 1812 and was used to represent the U.S. government.

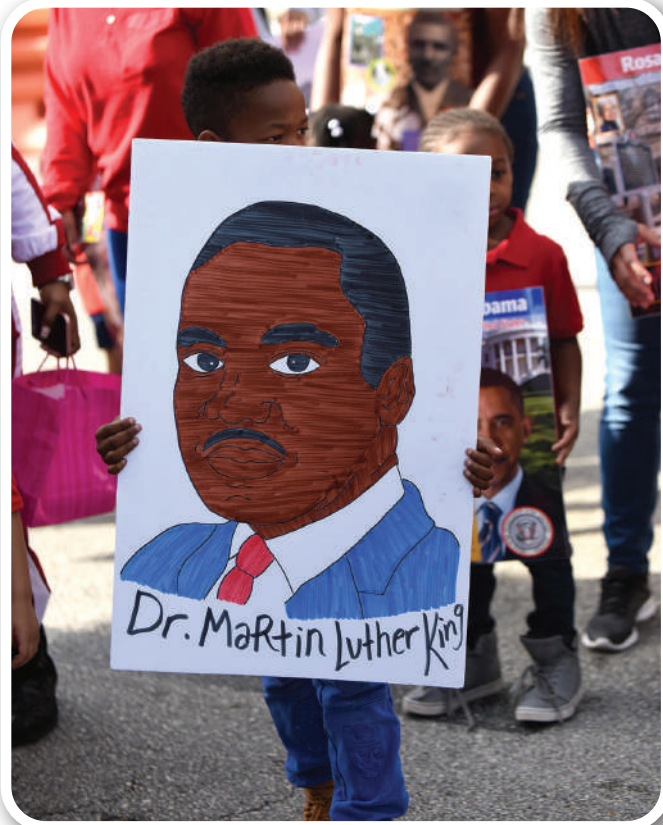


The Statue of Liberty is a large statue that was given to the United States by the people of France. It stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor. The statue is a symbol of freedom and represents the friendship between the two countries.

Have you ever seen a fancy eagle on documents or seals? That's the American bald eagle, and it is on the Great Seal of the United States. Today, there are fifty stars surrounding the eagle, one star for each state. The branch in one of the eagle's claws is an olive branch, a symbol of peace.



These symbols and places help us remember our history and what makes our country special. We celebrate special holidays in the United States, too. For example, on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we remember Dr. King's work to achieve equality for all.



On Independence Day, we celebrate our country's birthday.



On Veterans Day, we honor those who served in our military.



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a monument dedicated to military members who died while serving their country.



Other holidays, like New Year's Day, bring in a fresh start. On Inauguration Day, we celebrate the beginning of a president's term. Washington's Birthday, also known as Presidents' Day, is a time to remember our country's leaders.



Memorial Day is a day to honor the soldiers who bravely served our country.



Mardi Gras is a big carnival and an important celebration in Louisiana. It means Fat Tuesday in French. People dress up in costumes and masks, walk through the streets, and attend parades.

Juneteenth is a special day to commemorate the end of slavery.



Labor Day recognizes the hard work and achievements of American workers.

Columbus Day remembers the arrival of Europeans in the Americas.

On Thanksgiving Day, we share our gratitude and a special meal with friends and family. On Christmas, we may give gifts, go to church, and spend time together.



Each of these holidays brings its own special traditions that help mark time throughout the year.

Then



Now





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