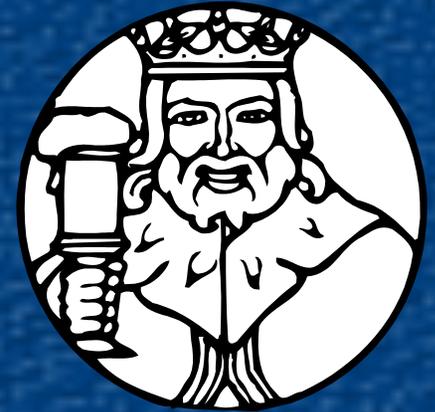
The background of the slide is a blurred image of the American flag, showing the red and white stripes and the blue field with white stars. The text is overlaid on this background.

Causes of the American Revolution

SS4H4: The students will explain the causes, events and the results of the American Revolution.

The Taxation Acts



- The King of England started taxing the colonists in the form of Taxation Acts in 1764.
- He felt that the colonists should bear the burden of the expense of maintaining the colonies.
- Click on [Taxation Acts](#) to see a time line of the acts.

The Sugar and Stamp Acts

- The **Sugar Act** was the first law passed by the King of England that over taxed the colonists on goods shipped to the colonies. These included sugar, coffee and cloth.
- The **Stamp Act** was another taxation law on the colonists. This act taxed newspapers, almanacs, legal documents, pamphlets, dice, and playing cards.
- The **Townshend Acts** put tax on tea, glass, lead, paints and paper.



How Did the Colonists Respond?

- Some Merchants avoided the taxes by smuggling in goods that they needed.
- Other Merchants in large port cities agreed to boycott British goods.
- American colonists responded to Parliament's acts with organized protest. Throughout the colonies, a network of secret organizations known as the **Sons of Liberty** was created, aimed at intimidating the stamp agents who collected Parliament's taxes. Before the Stamp Act could even take effect, all the appointed stamp agents in the colonies had resigned. The Massachusetts Assembly suggested a meeting of all the colonies to work for the repeal of the Stamp Act. All but four colonies were represented. The Stamp Act Congress passed a "Declaration of Rights and Grievances," which claimed that American colonists were equal to all other British citizens, protested **No taxation without representation**, and stated that, without colonial representation in Parliament, Parliament could not tax colonists.

The Boston Massacre



- The colonists did not like having the British soldiers in their city and homes.
- The **Boston Massacre** was a conflict between the British soldiers and colonists that occurred on March 5, 1770.
- A group of soldiers opened fire on an unfriendly crowd of colonists when they started throwing things at the soldiers.
- This resulted in the death of three Americans.



The Boston Tea Party



- The **Boston Tea Party** occurred on December 16, 1773.
- Unhappy with the Tea Act that taxed the colonist's tea, the colonists dressed as Mohawk Indians and dumped a ship load of tea into the ocean.

The Intolerable Acts

- The King of England was outraged at the colonists for throwing the ship load of tea into the harbor.
- To punish the colonists, he passed several acts, called the **Intolerable or Coercive Acts**, that banned the loading or unloading of any ships in Boston harbor.
- The people of Boston were unable to send or receive goods.
- The First Continental Congress sent a letter to King George III and asked him to stop taxing the colonists. It is unfair to tax without representation in Parliament.



“The Road to Revolution”

- The Taxation Acts, the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, and the Intolerable Acts were the four main causes that lead to the American Revolution.
- Click [“The Road to Revolution”](#) to play an interactive game about the American Revolution.



Battles of the American Revolution

- **Battles at Concord and Lexington**

- After the passage (1774) of the [Intolerable Acts](#) by the British Parliament, unrest in the colonies increased. The British commander at Boston, Gen. Thomas [Gage](#), sought to avoid armed rebellion by sending a column of royal infantry from Boston to capture colonial military stores at Concord. News of his plan was dispatched to the countryside by **Paul Revere**, William Dawes, and Samuel Prescott. As the advance column under Major John [Pitcairn](#) reached Lexington, they came upon a group of militia (the minutemen). After a brief exchange of shots in which several Americans were killed, the colonials withdrew, and the British continued to Concord. Here they destroyed some military supplies, fought another engagement, and began a harried withdrawal to Boston, which cost them over 200 casualties. Minute men force troops back to Boston and **George Washington** takes control of the Continental Army.

- **The Battle of Saratoga**

- After numerous battles, the turning point in the war came in 1777 at the Battle of Saratoga in upstate New York. When American forces won, their victory encouraged France to pledge its support for the United States in the Franco-American Alliance of 1778. A year later, Spain followed suit and also entered the war against Britain. Spain, hoping to see Britain driven out of North America, had tacitly supported the Americans by providing them with munitions and supplies since the beginning of the war. Their entry as combatants took pressure off the Americans, as Britain was forced to divert troops to fight the Spanish elsewhere. Finally, the Netherlands entered the war against Britain in 1780.

- **The Surrender at Yorktown**

- Fortified by the Franco-American Alliance, the Americans maintained an impasse with the British until 1781, when the Americans laid siege to a large encampment of British forces under Lord Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia. Scattered battles persisted until 1783, but the British, weary of the stalemate, decided to negotiate peace.

The Road to Independence

- Colonists wanted freedom from Britain.
- **Patrick Henry** continued to give speeches.
- **Thomas Paine** wrote a pamphlet called Common Sense about independence.
- More and more colonist wanted independence.
- Delegates to the **Second Continental Congress** agreed that separation from Britain was the only answer. Richard Henry Lee asked Congress to officially declare independence.
- Congress asked **Thomas Jefferson** and four others to write the Declaration of Independence.
- At the bottom of the document delegates to congress signed their name and **John Hancock**, president of congress signed his name in large letters.

Key People

- King George III
- George Washington
- Benjamin Franklin
- Thomas Jefferson
- Benedict Arnold
- Patrick Henry
- John Adams

King George III

- King of England
- Ruled the Colonists unfairly

George Washington

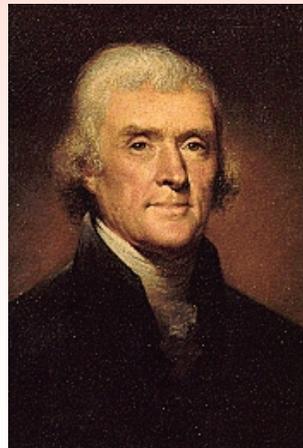
- Fought in the French and Indian War
- Commander of the Continental Army
- Led the Colonist to Victory over Britain

Benjamin Franklin

- Created the Albany plan during the French and Indian War
- Go between Man
- Tried to get help from France

Thomas Jefferson

- Wrote the Declaration of Independence
- Elected third president in 1800
- Doubles the Size of US with the Louisiana Purchase
- Sends Lewis and Clark to explore the West



Benedict Arnold

- Fought for the Colonist and won the battle at Saratoga
- Was not given enough credit for his efforts during the battle and chose to fight for the British.
- Switched Sides!

Patrick Henry and John Adams

- Patrick Henry
 - Member of Virginia's House of Burgesses
- Made speeches to the Colonist against King George III
- John Adams:
 - Boston Lawyer: Defended the soldiers after Boston Massacre
 - Argued strongly for Independence
 - Elected second president of the US

