Standard 4 Vocabulary

1. 1st Continental Congress – Delegates met 1774 to draft a list of grievances to send to the King and agreed to meet again
2. 2nd Continental Congress- Convention of delegates from the 13 colonies, the congress managed the war effort, and moved toward independence.
3. Olive Branch Petition- was an attempt to avoid war; “Return to former harmony with Great Britain”
4. George Washington- Appointed as the Commander of the Continental Army
5. Continental Army- formed after the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War by the colonies that became the United States of America.
6. Declaration of Independence- written by Thomas Jefferson; Explained the reasons why the colonies were separating from Great Britain; signed 1776
7. John Locke – English philosopher; Life, liberty and property; impact on Declaration of Independence
8. Social Contract theory – Idea that the people must give up some of their rights in return for protection from the government
9. Revolutionary War – 1774-1783; Conflict between American colonies and Great Britain resulting in American independence
10. Lexington and Concord – First conflict of the American Revolutionary War
11. Minutemen – group of fighters that could be ready at a moment’s notice (former militia)
12. Valley Forge – Low point of the war for the Americans; low supplies and starvation
13. Marquis de Lafayette – French aristocrat who helped train American soldiers; became like a son to Washington
14. Baron Von Steuben – Prussian military officer who helped organize and train the Continental Army at the beginning of the war
15. Crossing the Delaware – George Washington, Christmas Eve/Day 1776; Surprise attack on British and Hessian troops
16. Battle of Trenton – First much needed victory for American forces during the war
17. Saratoga – Turning point of the Revolutionary War
18. Battle of Yorktown – Final battle of the Revolutionary War
19. General Charles Cornwallis – British commander of the southern campaign; surrendered at the Battle of Yorktown
20. Treaty of Paris 1783 – Ended the American Revolutionary War; Established the United States as an independent nation