



American Revolution

Vocabulary Words Week 1



1. **Parliament** The part of the British government in which members make laws for the British people
2. **self-government** A system of government in which people make their own laws
3. **democracy** A government in which the people take part
4. **legislature** The lawmaking branch of a colony, state government, or the national government
5. **ally** A friend, especially in time of war
6. **tax** Money that is paid by the people to run the country
7. **authority** Control over someone or something
8. **tariff** A tax on goods brought into a country
9. **Loyalist** A colonist who supported the British monarch and laws
10. **representation** Acting or speaking on behalf of someone or something
11. **treason** Working against one's own government
12. **petition** A request for action signed by many people
13. **public opinion** What the people of the community think
14. **boycott** A refusal to buy goods or services



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Vocabulary Words Week 2



- 1. repeal** To undo a law or tax
- 2. massacre** The killing of people who cannot defend themselves
- 3. Committee of Correspondence** A group set up in each of the colonies to quickly share information about taxes and other issues by writing letters to groups in other areas
- 4. consequence** The result of an action
- 5. blockade** To use warships to prevent other ships from entering or leaving a harbor
- 6. quarter** To provide or pay for housing
- 7. Continental Congress** A meeting of representatives of the British colonies
- 8. rights** Freedoms
- 9. Minuteman** A member of the Massachusetts colony militia who could quickly be ready to fight the British
- 10. Patriot** A colonist against British rule
- 11. congress** A meeting of representatives who have authority to make decisions
- 12. Patrick Henry** American colonist who spoke out in the Virginia legislature against paying British taxes. His views became widely known, and Loyalists accused him of treason.
- 13. Boston Tea Party** In 1773 colonists dumped tea from British ships into Boston Harbor



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Vocabulary Words Week 3



1. **olive branch** A symbol of peace
2. **Continental** A soldier in the first colonial army, which was headed by George Washington
3. **mercenary** A hired soldier
4. **enlist** To join
5. **revolution** A sudden, complete change of government
6. **independence** Freedom to govern one's own
7. **allegiance** Loyalty
8. **declaration** An official statement
9. **grievance** A complaint
10. **Declaration of Independence** The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen colonies of the United States of America. It was signed on July 4th, 1776
11. **Thomas Jefferson** 3rd U.S. President and the main writer of the Declaration of Independence
12. **Benjamin Franklin** American leader who was sent to Britain to ask Parliament for representation. He was a writer of the Declaration of Independence, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and a respected scientist and business leader.



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Vocabulary Words Week 4



1. **neutral** Not taking a side in a conflict
2. **pacifist** A believer in a peaceful settlement of differences
3. **movement** An effort by many people
4. **encroach** To move onto without asking permission
5. **regiment** A troop of soldiers
6. **siege** A long-lasting attack
7. **treaty** An agreement between countries
8. **negotiate** To talk with one another to work out an agreement
9. **Paul Revere** American who warned the patriots that the British were marching toward Concord, where Patriot weapons were stored
10. **Valley Forge** A location in southeastern Pennsylvania, on the Schuylkill River; site of General Washington's winter headquarters during the Revolutionary War.
11. **Treaty of Paris** An agreement signed by British and American representatives on September 3, 1783.
12. **liberty** freedom