Chapter 2, Section 1: Colonial Resistance and Rebellion

Conflicts between Great Britain and the American colonies escalate, until the colonists finally declare their independence.

Opening Activity:

In a paragraph write about a time when a small quarrel had mushroomed into a larger fight.

CA Social Science Content Standards: 11.1.1, 11.1.2
Define the following terms:

- King George III
- Sugar Act
- Stamp Act
- Samuel Adams
- Boston Massacre
- Boston Tea Party
- John Locke
- Thomas Jefferson
- Declaration of Ind.
- Common Sense
I. The Colonies Organize to Resist Britain

A. The Sugar Act

-King George III—British king during the American Revolution.

-Writs of assistance allow searches for smuggled goods, even homes.

-Prime Minister George Grenville passes Sugar Act to end colonial smuggling.

-Sugar Act (1764)—taxes on imports changed.

-Lowered taxes by 2/3 on molasses and taxed other imports that hadn’t been previously taxed.

-Violators tried by vice-admiralty court, not colonial court.

-Merchants and traders fear reduced profits.
The Sugar Act
1764
B. **The Stamp Act**

- **Stamp Act** (1765) taxes printed items like wills and newspapers—first tax on goods and services.

- Colonial assemblies protest lack of representation in Parliament.

- Merchants in New York, Boston, Philadelphia boycott British goods.

- Parliament repeals Stamp Act (1766), passes Declaratory Act same day—Parliament has right to do as it pleases.

- **Townshend Acts** (1767) tax imports from Britain, like lead, glass, paint, paper, tea.

- **Samuel Adams**, a founder of the Sons of Liberty, leads new boycott.
The Stamp Act
II. Tension Mounts in Massachusetts

A. Violence Erupts in Boston

- **Boston Massacre**—British guards fire on a colonial mob that was taunting them (1770), five killed.

- Lord Frederick North, prime minister, has most (except on tea) of the Townshend Acts repealed—cost more to enforce it (170,000£) then they collected (295£).
The Townshend Acts and the Boston Massacre
B. The Boston Tea Party

-Tea Act (1773) lets British East India Co. avoid tax; undercuts colonists.

-Boston Tea Party—disguised Boston rebels dump 18,000 ponds of tea into Boston harbor.
The Boston Tea Party
C. The Intolerable Acts

- Intolerable Acts (1774) close Boston harbor; place Boston under martial law.

- Part of which was the second Quartering Act (1774)—colonists had to house British soldiers.

- In 1774 First Continental Congress meets, declares colonial rights—Minutemen, civilian soldiers, began to stockpile weapons.
The Intolerable Acts

The First Continental Congress
III. The Road to Revolution

A. Fighting at Lexington and Concord

- April 18, 1775, Paul Revere and others rode to spread the word about the British troops.

- 700 British troops march to Concord to disarm colonial militia.

- At Lexington, British soldiers fight 70 minutemen, 8 colonists killed—“Battle of Lexington” lasted 15 minutes.

- British find Concord’s arsenal empty; return to Boston, are ambushed by 4 to 5,000 minutemen—British under siege by colonists.
The Revolution Begins, 1775

- Revere captured.
- Prescott joins Dawes and Revere.
- Prescott goes forward.
- Dawes escapes and turns back.

Legend:
- Revere’s route
- Dawes’s route
- Prescott’s route
- British advance
- British retreat
- Battle
B. The Second Continental Congress

-Congress forms Continental Army; George Washington in command.
C. The Battle of Bunker Hill

- 2,400 British battle militia on Breed’s Hill, suffer 1,000 casualties.

- King George III rejects Continental Congress’s Olive Branch Petition which called for the return to “the former harmony.”
IV. The Patriots Declare Independence

A. The Ideas Behind the Revolution

-1760s to 1770s—Enlightenment ideas spread throughout colonies.

- John Locke, English philosopher, influences colonists:
  * People have natural rights to life, liberty, and property.
  * People consent to obey a government that protects these rights.
  * People can resist or overthrow government.

-British have religious, legal tradition of civil and property rights—Magna Carta, 1215.
B. Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense*

- *Common Sense*—pamphlet attacking King George and monarchy.

- Argues for independence, influences many colonists.
C. Declaring Independence

- Congress appoints committee to prepare declaration to Britain.


- **Declaration of Independence** is colonies’ formal statement of freedom.

- Lists British violations and colonists’ rights as citizens.

- July 4, 1776 delegates adopt declaration—now the colonist would have to fight for their freedom.
In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America.
Review Questions

1. The Declaration of Independence elaborates on the Enlightenment idea of _______________.
2. John Locke’s idea of an agreement in which people consent to choose and obey a government so long as it safeguards its natural rights is called a _______________.
3. Thomas Paine’s _________________ argued that the American colonies should be independent of England.
4. When writing the Declaration of Independence, ________________ drew on John Locke’s idea about how people have the right to replace a government that does not respect their rights.
5. Both the Stamp Act and the Townsend Act were attempts to ___________ the colonists.
6. 18,000 pounds of _____________ were dumped in the Boston Harbor in 1733 in protest of Britain’s tax policies.

Words:

- tea
- tax
- Common Sense
- social contract
- natural rights
- Thomas Jefferson