



THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

During the ten year period between 1763 and 1773, the **colonists** in America had been punished by Great Britain's **Proclamation Line**, unfair taxes, and unwanted soldiers. In 1774, Great Britain closed the Boston **Harbor**. The colonists were afraid that if they didn't do something soon, Great Britain would take complete control of their lives forever.

THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

On September 5, 1774, twelve of the thirteen colonies sent representatives to the First Continental Congress. The meeting was held at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia. The colonists needed to decide what to do about Great Britain's cruel treatment. The leaders of the meeting included Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, and future presidents George Washington and John Adams.

The representatives were all in agreement that Great Britain's taxes and treatment were unfair. They were not in agreement about what to do. Pennsylvania and New York sent **delegates** to find a solution to the problems and make peace with Great Britain. Georgia didn't even send a representative. It was under constant attack by Native Americans and needed the help of British soldiers. The rest of the delegates were split between finding a solution and separating from Great Britain.

In the end, the representatives voted to end all trade with Great Britain until the **Intolerable Acts** were **repealed**. They wrote letters to King George III, asking him to **abolish** the Intolerable Acts. The representatives of the First Continental Congress told the colonists to begin training for war.

THE BEGINNING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

On April 18, 1775, The first shots of the **Revolutionary War** were fired in Lexington, Massachusetts. British troops dressed in bright red uniforms had marched toward the towns of Lexington and Concord searching for the colonists' hidden weapons and gunpowder. Fortunately, the **minutemen** had been warned by Paul Revere that the British were coming. In a quick battle, three Redcoats and two minutemen were killed.

The British soldiers turned back toward Boston. Along the 16 mile journey, more minutemen fired at them from behind trees and stone fences. Over 200 British Redcoats and 90 American minutemen were wounded or killed during the battle.

THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

After the battles of Lexington and Concord, the colonists knew they needed to get organized to have any chance of defeating Great Britain. On May 10, 1775, delegates of the Second Continental Congress met at the State House in Philadelphia. Sixty five representatives from each of the thirteen original colonies gathered to take control of the war. New delegates included John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, and future president Thomas Jefferson.

Representative John Adams wanted to organize a **Continental Army** with troops from each of the thirteen colonies. The Congress asked George Washington to be the commander of the Continental Army. He accepted the job.

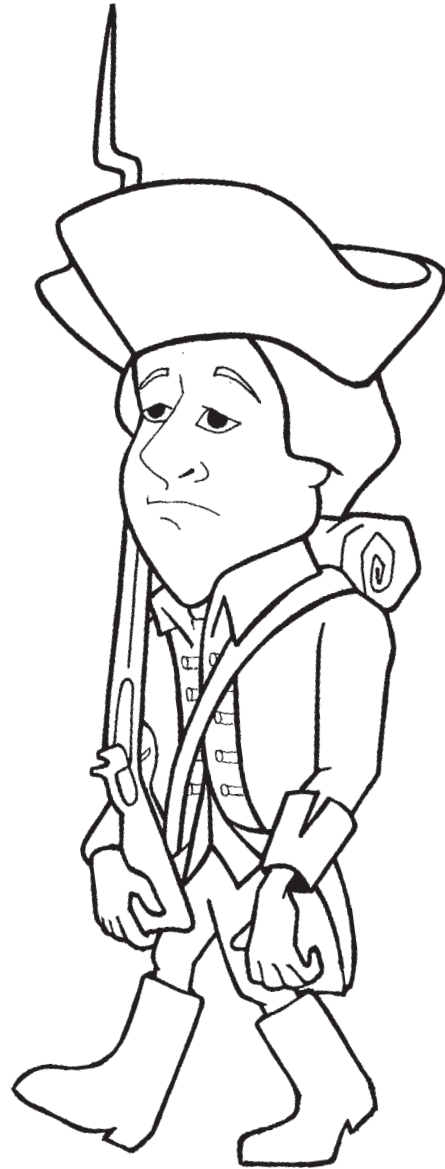
PATRIOTS AND LOYALISTS

General Washington had a difficult job facing him. He traveled to Boston and took charge of the military camps. He found that the **militia** (muh•LIH•shuh) was poorly trained. They didn't have any weapons. The training camps were dirty. If the colonists were going to win this war, they would need money, supplies, and training. Most importantly, the Continental Army needed **loyalty**.

Loyalty proved to be a big problem for General Washington and his Continental Army. Some of the colonists called themselves **Patriots**. The Patriots were willing to support the fight against Great Britain. They volunteered to fight and helped raise money for the war.

Some of the colonists were Loyalists. The Loyalists still supported Great Britain. The Loyalists fought in the British Army, spied on American soldiers, and burned the homes and farms of Patriots.

There were also colonists who didn't take either side and refused to fight at all. General Washington worked hard to pull his army together so they would be ready for battle.



AMERICAN PATRIOT


THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS
★ COMPREHENSION ★


Directions: Read each question carefully. Darken the circle for the correct answer.

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| <p>1 Which colony did not send a representative to the First Continental Congress?</p> <p>A New York
B Delaware
C Georgia
D Pennsylvania</p> <p>2 What was this colony's reason for not attending the meeting?</p> <p>F It didn't think there was anything wrong with the way the colonists were being treated.
G It was too far to travel.
H It couldn't decide who to send.
J It was having difficulty with Native Americans and needed Great Britain's help.</p> <p>3 In which colony were the first shots of the Revolutionary War fired?</p> <p>A Massachusetts
B Pennsylvania
C New York
D North Carolina</p> <p>4 About how much time passed between the First Continental Congress and the Second Continental Congress?</p> <p>F Less than a month
G More than a year
H Less than a year
J Less than a week</p> | <p>5 Who was asked to be in charge of the Continental Army?</p> <p>A Benjamin Franklin
B Thomas Jefferson
C George Washington
D John Adams</p> <p>6 When the commander of the Continental Army visited the military camps in Boston, he found that –</p> <p>F the soldiers were well trained
G the soldiers had plenty of weapons
H he would need to find a way to spend all of the money that had been given to him to train the soldiers
J the soldiers were poorly trained</p> <p>7 If you had been a Patriot, you <u>probably</u> would have –</p> <p>A fought for Great Britain
B fought in the Continental Army
C refused to fight
D fought in the British Army</p> |
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READING

Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 5 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2 (F) (G) (H) (J) | 6 (F) (G) (H) (J) |
| 3 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 7 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4 (F) (G) (H) (J) | |