

# The Youth Museum

## America's Pathways to Independence

### Discussion Questions

- The colonists objected to British taxes because they had no representation in Parliament. Many times, they would gather at Liberty Tree Meetings to discuss their opposition to these "taxations without representation". Imagine you are a colonist attending one of those meetings. Write an article to be posted in the town square or printed in the local broadside describing the Liberty Tree Meeting. (Worksheet included)
- What is a boycott and how is it an effective form of protest?
- Who was Crispus Attucks? Why do you think he felt so strongly about freedom and liberty?
- Why did the Sons of Liberty throw British tea into the harbor? What did the king do to punish the colonists after the Boston Tea Party?
- Paul Revere was a member of the Sons of Liberty. What important role did he play on the night of April 18, 1775?
- On April 19, 1775, the minutemen stood face-to-face with the British soldiers at Lexington. A shot was fired. That shot became known as what?
- In 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote The Declaration of Independence. Fifty-six men then signed the document. These men were committing treason and could have been hanged for signing. Why do you think these men risked everything to sign this declaration?
- General Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington at Yorktown, Virginia on October 17, 1781, thus ending the Revolutionary War. What new challenges did the United States of America face?
- In 1781, the states accepted The Articles of Confederation. The articles gave Congress very little power. Delegates were sent to Philadelphia to attend a federal convention. What document was written there?
- What are the three branches of government outlined in the United States Constitution?
- Imagine you are a delegate at the Constitutional Convention. The convention is almost over, the Constitution has been written, and the delegates are debating the articles. Write a letter to a family member in your home state describing the summer of 1781 in Philadelphia. You might mention the heat of the summer, the curiosity of local citizens and even describe some of the fighting that took place. (Worksheet included)