The American Revolution

- LG 2: Compare the causes, characteristics, and consequences of the American Revolution and French Revolution.
Tensions Between Britain and Its Colonists

- Pontiac’s Rebellion
- Seven Years’ War (French & Indian War)
Stamp Act, Sugar Act, Townshend Act

- Required colonists to pay a tax on everyday goods
- Meant to raise money for British war expenses
- Protests began – led by Sons of Liberty
- Opposition to Stamp Act began to unite the colonies
1773: British Parliament gave the British East India Company a monopoly on tea sales in the colonies

Colonists saw this as a scheme to hide the tea tax

Colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians climbed onto BEIC ships and dumped the tea into the harbor
Coercive Acts

- British reaction to Boston Tea Party
  - Coercive Acts - England
  - Intolerable Acts – Colonies
    - Quartering Act
    - Massachusetts Govt. Act
    - Boston Harbor Blockade
The Quartering Act required colonists to feed and house British troops in their homes. No one’s property was safe from an invasion by the despised British troops.

The Massachusetts Government Act put the colony under the control of an appointed governor. The elected assembly was closed down, and town meetings were banned. Colonists lost the right to govern themselves.
First Continental Congress

- 1774: delegates from 12 colonies met in Philadelphia
  - Colonists upset about paying taxes but not being represented in Parliament
  - “No taxation without representation”
Lexington & Concord

- British government declared Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion
- 1775: British troops sent to confiscate weapons

“shot heard ‘round the world”
Revolutionaries

- Thomas Paine: *Common Sense*
- Thomas Jefferson: *Summary View of the Rights of British America*
- Benjamin Franklin
- John Adams

“Why is it that we hesitate? From Britain we can expect nothing but ruin. If she is admitted to the government of America again, this continent will not be worth living in.”
Second Continental Congress

- Created a continental army
- July 1776: Congress issued Declaration of Independence and renamed the 13 colonies as the United States of America
  - Colonies break from England
“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness – That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it....”
Loyalists vs. Patriots

OR: Tories vs. Rebels

Tories/Loyalists: colonists who opposed the revolt against their mother country (Britain)

Rebels/Patriots: colonists who supported independence from Britain
Revolutionary War

- 1776: British forces capture NYC and attack Philadelphia
- 1777: British army coming from Canada is defeated at Battle of Saratoga (changed momentum)
- 1778: France joins
- 1778 – 1781: Stalemate
- 1781: Washington forced the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia
- 1783: Treaty of Paris
  - France agreed to recognize the U.S. as an independent nation
Results of the War

- Constitution: based on Enlightenment ideas and Montesquieu’s separation of powers
  - Citizens gained more political rights
- Relocation of Loyalists: 60,000 moved to Canada
- Trade: increased between American and Britain
- Expansion: Americans move west of the Appalachians – relocate Native Americans
- French debt: bankrupt ➔ French Revolution
Political Cartoon Analysis