

THE LEE RESOLUTION JUNE 7, 1776

...war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, a
...aration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence,

John Hancock

Robt Morris

Benjamin Franklin

Benj. Franklin

Samuel Chase

Wm. Paca

Tho: Stone

Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Geo. Clymer

John Morton

Ja: Sm...
Geo. Taylor

James Wilson

Geo. Ross

George Wythe

Richard Henry Lee

Th: Jefferson

Wm: Harrison

Tho: Nelson jr.

Francis Lightfoot Lee

Carler Braxton

Cesar Rodney

Geo: Ross

Tho: M: ...

THE LEE RESOLUTION

By 1776, the American colonies had been fighting Great Britain for over a year. Although many colonists opposed British policies, not everyone supported independence. Some still hoped for reconciliation with King George III.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced a resolution calling for independence. Congress debated the proposal for several weeks before voting on July 2.

The Lee Resolution did three main things:

1. Declared the colonies free and independent states.
2. Called for foreign alliances.
3. Proposed a plan for confederation among the states.

The first section became the formal decision for independence. Once approved, Congress needed a document explaining that to the world. Thomas Jefferson and the Committee of Five prepared what became the Declaration of Independence.

John Adams later wrote that July 2 should be remembered as America's true independence day because it was the day Congress voted for independence.



GRADES 5-8 LESSON

- Engage:
 - What does it mean to be independent?
- Explore:
 - Timeline Activity
 - Using the timeline cards provided, put the events in chronological order that led to the Lee Resolution.
- Explain:
 - Using the provided informational text, read and discuss the importance of the Lee Resolution and who Richard Henry Lee was.
- Elaborate:
 - Provide students with the Lee Resolution and have them answer the following questions:
 - What is the resolution saying?
 - What is the impact of the Lee Resolution?
 - Discuss together.
- Evaluate:
 - Exit Ticket:
 - Why was the Lee Resolution an important step towards independence?

The Lee Resolution - June 7, 1776

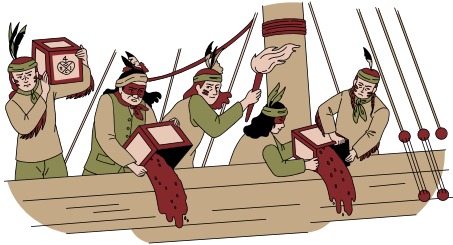
"Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances.

That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

GRADES 5-8 LESSON

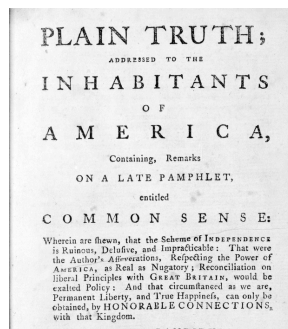
BOSTON TEA PARTY



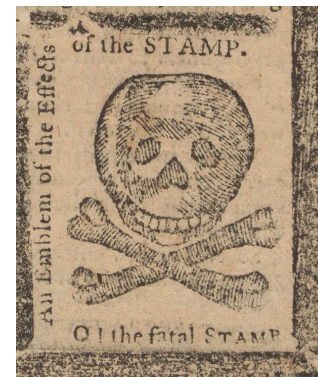
BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD



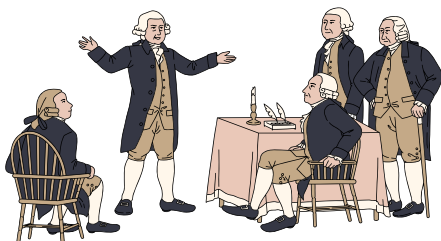
"COMMON SENSE" IS PUBLISHED



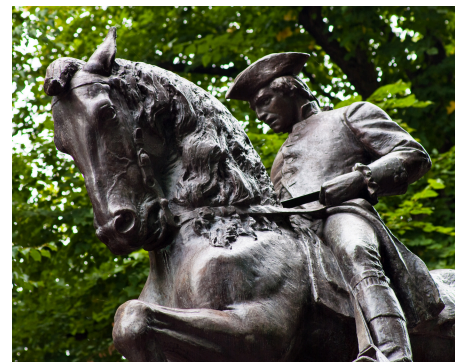
THE STAMP ACT



FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS FORMS



PAUL REVERE'S RIDE



THE LEE RESOLUTION

The Lee Resolution - June 7, 1776

"Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances.

That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

What is the resolution saying?

What is the impact of the Lee Resolution?

HIGH SCHOOL LESSON

In June of 1776, before the Declaration was adopted, the Continental Congress looked at a proposal introduced by Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee, known as the Lee Resolution. It said that the American colonies "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States." On June 7, 1776, Lee introduced the resolution, and on July 2, 1776, Congress approved it. The Declaration of Independence followed two days later on July 4.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Lee Resolution, students have an opportunity to examine the moment when Congress formally chose independence and to understand why this vote was one of the most important in American history.

- Essential Question
 - Why was the Lee Resolution the biggest step toward American independence?
- Learning Objectives
 - Students will:
 - Explain the purpose and significance of the Lee Resolution.
 - Analyze a primary source from the Continental Congress.
 - Evaluate the risks and consequences of declaring independence.
 - Connect the Lee Resolution to the Declaration of Independence and America's 250th anniversary.
- Materials Needed:
 - Copy of the Lee Resolution (included below)
 - Student analysis worksheet
 - Pencil/highlighter
- Possible Bell Ringer
 - Ask students:
 - "If you were a member of Congress in 1776, what risks would you face by voting to separate from Great Britain?"
 - Allow students to brainstorm individually before discussing as a class.

The Lee Resolution (June 7, 1776)

"Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances.

That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

HIGH SCHOOL LESSON

Document Analysis Questions

Part I: Understanding the Text

1. What does the phrase "free and independent States" mean?
2. What does Congress mean when it says the colonies are "absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown"?
3. According to the resolution, what should happen to political ties with Great Britain?
4. What additional actions does Congress propose besides declaring independence?

Part II: Historical Thinking

1. Why do you think Congress wanted foreign alliances immediately after declaring independence?
2. What dangers did delegates face if Britain defeated the colonies?
3. Why might some delegates have hesitated to support independence?
4. How is this resolution different from the Declaration of Independence?

Part III: Connections to Today

1. Why should Americans remember the Lee Resolution during the nation's 250th anniversary celebrations?
2. Do you think voting for independence was the most important decision made by the Continental Congress? Explain.

- Classroom Discussion

- Ask:

- "Was the vote for independence on July 2 more important than the Declaration of Independence on July 4?"
 - Divide students into two groups:
 - Group A argues that the Lee Resolution was the most important event.
 - Group B argues that the Declaration was more important because it explained America's reasons for independence.
 - Have students support their arguments with evidence from the primary source.

- Possible Assessment

- Please answer:

- Why was the Lee Resolution a turning point in American history? Use at least one piece of evidence from the primary source.