

The American Revolution

Lesson 3.3 The Colonists Declare Independence

Key Terms

Paul Revere
militia
Loyalists
Second Continental Congress
Continental Army
Thomas Paine
republic
Declaration of Independence
Thomas Jefferson
natural rights

The First Shots Are Fired: Text

1. **Identify Cause and Effect** How could the battles of Lexington and Concord be considered a success for the Patriots?
2. **Draw Conclusions** The opening shot at Lexington and Concord is sometimes called “the shot heard ‘round the world.” What do you think this means?

Colonists Disagree Over British Rule: Text

3. **Paraphrase** Analyze the Loyalist quote in the first paragraph of this text. Then summarize in your own words how the Loyalists felt about the Patriots and why they felt this way.
4. **Assess an Argument** Imagine that both Jonathan Sewell and John Adams are writing letters to you about the struggle between Britain and the American colonies. Which man has a stronger argument? Reread the quotes from both men to understand their arguments.
5. **Compare and Contrast** How did the Patriots stereotype the Loyalists? Who were the Loyalists in reality?
6. **Summarize** Why did many American Indians and slaves oppose the Patriots?
7. **Identify Supporting Details** Which Patriot actions may have discouraged some Loyalists from changing their beliefs?

The Decision to Declare Independence: Text

8. **Compare and Contrast** What ideas did Thomas Paine express in his pamphlet *Common Sense*?
9. **Explain an Argument** According to Thomas Paine, “The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind.” Explain what he meant by this. Was he right? Explain why or why not.
10. **Cite Evidence** In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson stated that “all men are created equal.” Did the colonies live up to this idea at the time?