

In this unit, students will focus on what caused the thirteen North American colonies to break away and become an independent nation.

What's the story?

Students will learn that **disagreements** about **principles of government** led colonists in North America to seek **independence from Great Britain**.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn about the **important events** and **people** that led to the colonists' decision to **declare independence** from the **British government**. They will also read two literary selections from that time period.

Students will **review** the stages of the **writing process** and will engage in a variety of **writing activities**, such as recording key information from what they are reading about the American Revolution. These activities will prepare them to **write** a five-paragraph **cause-and-effect essay** focused on what they have learned.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. Why did the British government tax the colonists?
Follow up: Why did that make the colonists angry?
2. Who were the Sons of Liberty?
Follow up: What form of protest did they lead in Boston Harbor? How was this act of protest named?
3. In what ways was Samuel Adams different from other political leaders of the time?
4. What does the Declaration of Independence outline?
Follow up: Who wrote it and who reviewed it? What do you think was meant by "the pursuit of happiness"?
5. At the beginning of the war between the British and the colonists, who seemed more likely to win the war? Why?
Follow up: What was the morale of the army when George Washington wrote to the Continental Congress? What did you read that makes you think that?
6. What event happened that signified that the Continental Army had won the Revolutionary War?
Follow up: What was signed declaring that the colonists had won their independence?