



Georgia Studies

**Unit 3 – Revolution,
Statehood, and Westward
Expansion**

**Lesson 1 – Causes of the
American Revolution**

Study Presentation



Lesson 1 – Causes of the American Revolution

- **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**
 - How did the causes of the American Revolution impact Georgia?
 - Why was trade so important to the colonies during the American Revolution?

North America, 1754

- Spain claimed Florida and Mexico
- France claimed land from Louisiana to the Great Lakes, and parts of Canada; New Orleans (south) and Detroit (north) anchored French settlements
- Great Britain had established the 13 colonies along the Atlantic coast

French and Indian War

Origins

- France and Great Britain wanted the treasures (resources, gold, land, etc.) of the American continent
- Both countries feared the other would gain the most power
- France had the stronger army with more experienced leadership; British had better navy
- Both sides had allies with certain Indian tribes

The French and Indian War

- Both sides claimed the Ohio River Valley area (more than 200,000 square miles)
- The French built several forts in the area; many Indians sided with the French
- The Virginia governor sent Captain **George Washington** with soldiers to Fort Necessity (near today's Pittsburgh); a battle erupted
- The war soon spread to Europe; by 1758, the British controlled the Ohio Valley
- The **Treaty of Paris** (1763) ended the war; the British were victorious.

Georgia and the War's Aftermath

- Treaty of Paris set Georgia's western boundary at the Mississippi River
- **Proclamation of 1763** (King George III): Georgia's southern boundary set at St. Mary's River; Georgia colonists could not settle west of the Appalachian Mountains as the land was reserved for Native Americans.
- Cherokee and Creek tribes gave up land claims north of Augusta and in the coastal region

Unhappy with British Acts

- Great Britain needed money; much debt and security expenses resulted from the French and Indian War
- Sugar Act: tax on sugar and molasses imported from the West Indies
- **Stamp Act**: tax on newspapers, legal documents, and licenses
- Georgians disapproved of these acts

The Liberty Boys

- Part of larger group, the “Sons of Liberty”
- Georgians who came together to oppose the Stamp Act
- Some called them “Liberty Brawlers”
- Met in taverns, such as Savannah’s Tondee’s Tavern
- Georgia only colony to actually sell the stamps
- Stamp Act was eventually repealed

Protests Increase

- Georgia protested the British taxation (acts) to a small extent. The other 12 colonies were more directly effected by many of these acts and reacted (protested) more strongly.
- Noble Wimberly Jones, speaker of Georgia colonial assembly, led Townshend Act protests
- Townshend Acts: placed import taxes on tea, paper, glass, and coloring for paints
- Governor Wright disbanded the assembly to try to end the protests

Intolerable Acts

- Boston Tea Party – Protest against the Tea Act in Boston, Massachusetts on December 16, 1773. Members of the Sons of Liberty, dressed as Native Americans, dumped 90,000 lbs. of tea into Boston Harbor.
- Great Britain punished the Massachusetts colony by creating the Coercive Acts (called the “**Intolerable Acts**” by the colonists).
- The Intolerable Acts had four major effects:
 1. Closed Boston Harbor
 2. Cancelled the Massachusetts Royal Charter
 3. British officials accused of crimes in Massachusetts were tried in Great Britain.
 4. Quartering Act – Citizens of Massachusetts were forced to house and feed British troops at their own expense.

Declaration of Independence

- Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" pamphlet encourage colonies to break from Great Britain; sold more than 500,000 copies
- Other pamphlets, including "The Crisis" influenced opinion
- August 2, 1776: **Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, and George Walton** (representatives from Georgia) sign the **Declaration of Independence**
- The Declaration meant the colonists were one nation; Georgians prepared for war