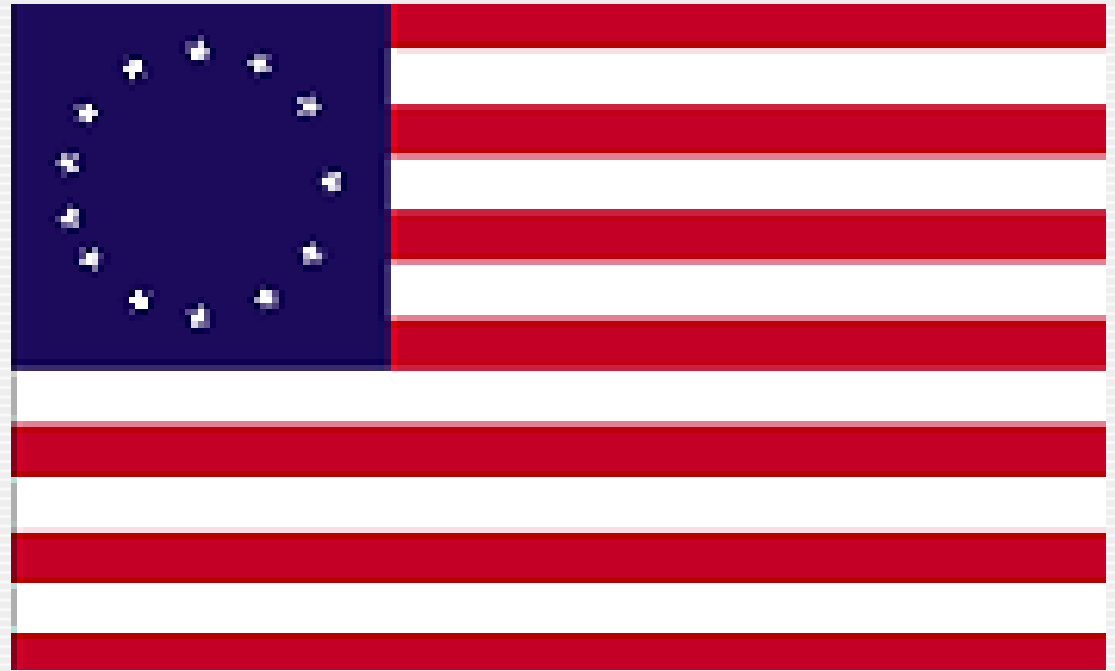




THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW about the early history of United States of America?

Choose the correct alternative

- ❖ Britain established its first colony in north America in *17th/18th Century*
- ❖ The American war of Independence started in *1775/1785*
- ❖ *Twelve/Thirteen* colonies originally formed the United States of America
- ❖ The rebel Army was called *The American Army/The Continental Army*
- ❖ The first American President was *Thomas Jefferson/George Washington*

Colonists = Englishmen



✓KING

GEORGE

III

(RULED
1760-
1811)





READ THE TEXT
ABOUT THE CAUSES
THAT LED TO THE
AMERICAN
REVOLUTION
AND CHECK
YOUR ANSWERS

GLOSSARY:

RIVALRY: the situation in which people, businesses, etc., compete with each other for the same things

UNREST: disagreements or fighting between different groups of people

- Britain established several colonies in North America during the 17th century, starting with Virginia in 1607.
- A century of rivalry between European powers, including England, France, Spain, Austria and Prussia, culminated in the **Seven Years' War (1756-1763)**. After the British victory over the French in the Seven Years' War, Britain became the major colonial power in North America.
- To help cover the expense of defending its north colonies, the British government decided to tax its American colonies more strictly. The problem for many American colonists was not that taxes were high, but that they were not consulted about them, as they had no representation in Parliament. The growing unrest was reflected in the slogan:
- **NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION** and there were lots of political debates about the role of democracy and republican values in society



Glossary

To signal: to make a movement, sound, flash, etc. that gives information or tells people what to do

Store: a place where goods of a particular kind are kept

- In 1773, the “Boston Tea Party” signalled a start of an escalation in protests and violence around the city of Boston. Groups of local militia formed, and in 1775 British soldiers were sent to nearby Lexington to confiscate a store of weapons. As the British soldiers faced the colonial rebels the **“shot heard around the world”** was fired on April 19th 1775. The American War of Independence had begun.
- The thirteen colonies involved formed a provisional government called “The United Colonies of America”, and formed their own “Continental Army” under the leadership of George Washington. They declared their independence in 1776, a date which is still celebrated with a national holiday every year as Independence Day. *The Declaration of Independence*, written by Thomas Jefferson, was influenced by the Enlightenment philosophy that had come out of Europe, and shows the desire for a new, more egalitarian society



THE BOSTON MASSACRE

by Paul Revere
(1770)

The Boston Massacre was an incident on March 5, 1770, in which British Army soldiers killed five male civilians and injured six others. British troops had been stationed in Boston, capital of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, since 1768 in order to protect and support crown-appointed colonial officials attempting to enforce unpopular Parliamentary legislation.





The Tea Act and the Boston Tea Party

The Tea Act, passed by Parliament on May 10, 1773, would launch the final spark to the revolutionary movement in Boston. The act was not intended to raise revenue in the American colonies, and in fact imposed no new taxes. It was designed to prop up the East India Company which was floundering financially and burdened with eighteen million pounds of unsold tea. This tea was to be shipped directly to the colonies, and sold at a bargain price. The [Townshend Duties](#) were still in place, however, and the radical leaders in America found reason to believe that this act was a maneuver to buy popular support for the taxes already in force. The direct sale of tea, via British agents, would also have undercut the business of local merchants.



Influence of the Enlightenment

John Locke (pre-Enlightenment)

- ❖ "There is no divine right of monarchy "
- ❖ the monarchy must strive for the welfare of his subjects
- ❖ otherwise the monarchy can be relieved of his duties

Enlightenment

- Montesquieu:
 - ❖ separation of powers
- Rousseau:
 - ❖ social contract

THE DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE



- When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. **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 (see synonym) of happiness.** That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness.

THE DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE



- **Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. --Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.**

Reading: Skimming exercise



READ QUICKLY THE TEXT *THE DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE* AND ANSWER TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT DOES THE TEXT DEAL WITH ?
2. WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN ?
3. WHO WROTE IT?
4. WHICH PERIOD IS IT REFERRED TO ?
5. WHICH VALUES DOES “ THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ” ASSERT?
6. WHAT ARE THE KEY WORDS OF THE TEXT?
7. WHEN CAN PEOPLE CHANGE THEIR “ FORM OF GOVERNMENT ”?
8. WHY SHOULDN'T THE LONG AND ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENTS BE CHANGED?
9. WHAT IS THE ABSOLUTE DESPOTISM?
10. WHAT SHOULD THE COLONIES DO?
11. WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE PRESENT KING OF GREAT BRITAIN LIKE?
12. DO YOU KNOW WHO IS THE “PRESENT” KING OF GREAT BRITAIN ?

Detailed comprehension

Now read again *The Declaration of American Independence* and decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F), or if the text doesn't say (DS).
Tick the correct answer



1. THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN ESTABLISHED A DICTATORSHIP IN THE COLONIES T F DS
2. LIBERTY IS AN UNALIENABLE RIGHT T F DS
3. EACH HUMAN BEING ISN'T CREATED EQUAL TO ANOTHER T F DS
4. GREAT BRITAIN DIDN'T ALLOW THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE T F DS
5. PEOPLE CAN'T ABOLISH A GOVERNMENT T F DS
6. IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THE CAUSES OF SEPARATIONS ARE MENTIONED. T F DS
7. THE UNALIENABLE RIGHTS ARE ONLY TWO T F DS
8. LARGE BODIES OF ARMED TROOPS WERE QUARTERED IN THE COLONIES T F DS



GLOSSARY

Defeat: failure to win or to be successful

At the hands of:
(FORMAL) if you experience something at the hands of somebody, they are the cause of it

Treaty: a formal agreement between two or more countries

- British suffered some surprise defeats at the hands of the Continental Army but returned to the war with reinforcements. The Americans formed an alliance with France in 1778, and the French helped the Americans with money, weapons, ships and soldiers.
- The British, under General Cornwallis, were forced to surrender at Yorktown in 1781.
- The war formally ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783 and the United States became a sovereign state, with George Washington as its first President

THE PEACE OF PARIS



Match the words (1-8) from the text to the definitions (a-h)



Words

1. *colonies* _____
2. *representation* _____
3. *slogan* _____
4. *militia* _____
5. *inalienable* _____
6. *alliance* _____
7. *sovereign* _____
8. *surrender* _____

Definitions

- a) a group of soldiers who are not professional
- b) with the power to govern itself
- c) can't be taken away
- d) stop resisting the enemy
- e) Countries or areas ruled by more powerful country
- f) Agreement between two countries to help each other
- g) A short easy-to-remember phrase
- h) When someone is chosen to speak for the whole group

Answer the questions



1. HOW DID THE RESULT OF THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR AFFECT BRITAIN'S ROLE IN THE WORLD?
2. WHAT DID THE SLOGAN "NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION" MEAN? WHY WAS IT IMPORTANT?
3. WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE BRITISH SOLDIERS GOING TO LEXINGTON?
4. WHO DECLARED THEIR INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 4th 1776?
5. IN WHAT WAYS IS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE STILL MODERN?
6. WHAT ALLIANCE WAS MADE IN 1778?
7. WHEN DID THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE END?



George Washington



READ THE TEXT AND PUT THE PHRASES (A-F) IN THE CORRECT POSITION (1-6)

- A. REFUSED TO RUN FOR A THIRD TERM
- B. AMERICAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS
- C. AN EXPERIENCED SOLDIER
- D. THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE USA
- E. BECAME THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
- F. IMPORTANT AMERICAN VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

He was born in 1732 in what was then the British colony of Virginia. He was (1) _____ and led the Americans to victory in War of Independence. When the War ended, he (2) _____ from 1789 to 1797, the only President ever to receive 100% of the electoral votes. He refused the offer of a salary of \$ 25,000 dollars a year, saying that he wanted only to be a selfless public servant, but later accepted it when he was persuaded that the American presidency must be open to all citizens, not just those who can afford to do the job for free. He served two terms as President, but (3) _____, establishing the policy that exists today of allowing a maximum of two terms in office for any President.

Washington laid the foundations of many (4) _____.

He wanted to respect the republican ideals associated with the founding of the American nation, and he did not copy the power-hungry European royal courts, refusing to be addressed as anything more majestic than “Mr. President”. He thought the United States should concentrate on American interests. He made sure that America did not interfere in European politics and that other countries didn't influence (5) _____. Washington DC, (6) _____, is named in his honour.

THE
CONSTITUTIONS
OF THE SEVERAL
INDEPENDENT STATES
OF
AMERICA;
THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE;
AND THE
ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION
BETWEEN THE SAID STATES.
TO WHICH ARE NOW ADDED, THE
DECLARATION OF RIGHTS;
THE
NON-IMPORTATION AGREEMENT;
AND THE
PETITION OF CONGRESS TO THE KING
DELIVERED BY MR. PENN.
WITH AN
APPENDIX,
CONTAINING THE
TREATIES BETWEEN HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MA-
JESTY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;
THE
PROVISIONAL TREATY WITH AMERICA;
AND (NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED)
AN AUTHENTIC COPY OF THE TREATY CON-
CLUDED BETWEEN THEIR HIGH MIGHTINES-
SES THE STATES-GENERAL, AND THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA.
THE WHOLE ARRANGED, WITH A
PREFACE AND DEDICATION,
By the Rev. WILLIAM JACKSON.
LONDON:
Printed for J. STOCKDALE, in Piccadilly. 1781.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Achievements:

1. Establishment of a fair policy for lands west of the Appalachians.
 - Survey Act of 1785
 - Northwest Ordinance Act of 1787
 - Congress enacted two land ordinances providing organization.
2. Created a peace treaty with Great Britain
 - signed in 1783
 - Britain recognized American Independence
 - Britain enlarged the nation's boundaries
3. Set up departments of Foreign Affairs, War, Marine, and Treasury
 - this was done under a single permanent secretary

Failures:

1. Congress did not have the power to levy or collect taxes
 - could only raise money by borrowing or requesting money from states
2. Did not have the power to regulate trade
3. Could not force anyone to obey laws or abide by the Articles of Confederation
 - could only advise and request the states to comply
4. Approval of 9/13 states was needed to pass laws
 - this caused many problems and made passing laws almost impossible
5. All the states had to agree to make an amendment
6. The central government had no executive branch

See also [RATIFICATION](#) (link to video)

WRITING

- READ THE TEXT BELOW. THE TEXT IS DIVIDED IN SEQUENCES.
- CHANGE THE ARCHAIC EXPRESSIONS (IN BOLD) IN A MODERN WAY
- UNDERLINE THE KEY WORDS, THEN WRITE A TOPIC SENTENCE FOR EVERY SEQUENCE. (USE THE GLOSSARY)
- EXPAND EVERY TOPIC SENTENCE AND CONNECT THEM (NO MORE THAN FIFTY WORDS)
- (USE THE GLOSSARY)

THE DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

➤ When in the Course of human events , it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal **station which the laws of Nature and of Nature's God** entitle them a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation

➤ We hold these truths to be self-evident :

- all men are created equal
- they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights;
- among these are life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness;
- to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed;
- whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principals and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness.

WRITING



- Prudence, indeed will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes ; and accordingly all experience **hath shown**, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.
- But when a **long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object** evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their duty to throw off such Government and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.
- The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world

- To abolish=abolire
- Accordingly= conformemente(a ciò che...)
- Accustomed= abituato
- To alter= cambiare

To assume=assumere

Bond=vincolo, legame

Candid=imparziale

- Consent=consenso
- To constrain=costringere, obbligare
- Decent=conveniente, onesto
- To derive=ottenere, trarre,ricavare
- Design=progetto
- To dilate=imporre,dettare
- To dissolve=sciogliere
- To effect=realizzare, attuare
- End=fine, scopo
- To endow=dotare
- To entitle=dare, conferire
- To evince= dimostrare
- Former=precedente



GLOSSARY

- Guard= custode,difensore, guardiano
- To hold= considerare, sostenere, credere

To impel=spingere,costringere

To lay=collocare,porre,basare

Likely=adatto

- Mankind=genere umano,umanità
- Object=scopo, obiettivo
- Power=potere,potenza
- To provide=designare,stabilire
- Pursuit=ricerca,proseguimento
- To right itself=rivendicare i propri diritti, rendere giustizia a se stessi
- To secure=assicurare
- Station=posizione, posto, condizione
- To submit=sottoporre, presentare
- To suffer=sopportare
- To throw off= abbattere
- Train=seguito
- Transient=transitorio, passeggero

Exercises

YOU CAN ALSO USE THE FOLLOWING WORDS

SPEAKING

- Azione=action
- Insopportabile=intolerabile
- Ribellarsi= to rebel, to protest
- Ribellione= rebellion, insurrection
- Separarsi= to separate, to part (from)
- Situazione=situation

- The class must be divided in three groups
- ❖ GROUP A – George Washington;
- ❖ GROUP B – Benjamin Franklin;
- ❖ GROUP C – King George).
- A student of each group becomes a
- historical character who has to answer to the questions of his group.
- It's very important to read the characters' life before starting.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S LIFE

George Washington was born on February 22nd 1732. Today known as the Father of his Country. He was an American general as well as the Commander in Chief of the colonial armies in the American Revolutionary war, then served as President of the 1787 Constitutional Convention and became the first President of the United States. In 1757, Washington began his service with the Virginia militia as a colonel. He served in the Ohio Valley before being asked to aid the British Army during the French and Indian War. Before resigning his commission to marry in 1757, he organized The First Virginia Regiment.

Washington stopped serving in the military in 1758. One year later, he was elected in the Virginia House of Burgesses.

Washington spoke against tighter British control. He expressed opposition to the Stamp Act, the first direct tax on colonies, and to the Townshend Acts (enacted in 1767). In May 1769, he introduced a proposal drafted by his friend George Mason to boycott English goods until the Acts were repealed. Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts in 1770. However, Washington regarded the passage of the Intolerable Acts in 1774 as an “invasion of our Rights and Privileges”.

In 1787, Washington presided over the American Constitutional Congress in 1787, Washington's presence, more than his participation, was enough to encourage the Congress forward, after which he pushed for the adoption of the Constitution where, again, his presence was enough to convince most states, including Virginia.

In 1789, George Washington was anonymously elected as the first President of the United States, the only man to ever achieve a unanimous election by the electoral college, and he was re elected in 1792. Washington relinquished the presidency to John Adams in March of 1797, in the same year he returned to mount Vernon where he spent time on his farming. Two years later, on July 13th 1799, Adams appointed Washington Commander in chief of the American army in any war that might break out with France, later that year, on December 14th, Washington died.

Throughout his life, Washington was a proponent of democracy, fair treatment of slaves. The proclamation of neutrality of 1793 provided a basis for avoiding any involvement in foreign conflicts; the plans to build a strong central government by funding the national debt, the creation of an effective tax system, and of a national bank. He avoided the temptation of war and began a decade of peace with Britain through the Jay Treaty in 1795. Although never officially joining the Federalist Party, Washington supported its programs and was its inspirational leader.

Each group's representative reads aloud the characters' life and the other members of the group take notes on its most important points to ask some questions. After taking notes they ask the questions and the character performing George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and King George uses the sheet about the characters' life to help him/her answering. The following questions are possible one to be asked.

PERFORM AN INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE WASHINGTON

- 1) When were you born?
- 2) What did you serve in 1754?
- 3) When did you stop serving in the military?
- 4) What did you speak against?
- 5) What happened for you in 1759?
- 6) When did you become the first American President?
- 7) Which were the main results under your presidency?
- 8) According to you, why are you remembered by American people nowadays?



THE STAMP ACT



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN 'S BIOGRAPHY

Benjamin Franklin (January 17th , 1706- April 17th ,1790) was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America. A noted polymath, Franklin was a leading author and printer, satirist, political theorist politician, scientist, inventor, civic activist, statesman, and diplomat. As a scientist, he was a major figure in the Enlightenment and the history of physics for his discoveries and theories regarding electricity. He invented the lightning rod, bifocals, the Franklin stove, a carriage odometer, and the glass 'armonica'. He formed both the first public lending library in America and first fire department in Pennsylvania. He was an early proponent of colonial unity, and as a political writer and activist he supported the idea of an American nation. As a diplomat during the American Revolution he secured the French alliance that helped to make independence of the United States possible. Franklin is credited as being foundational to the roots of American values and character, a marriage of the practical and democratic Puritan values of thrift, hard work, education, community spirit, self-governing institutions, and opposition to authoritarianism both political and religious, with the scientific and tolerant values of the Enlightenment. In the words of Henry Steele Commager "In Franklin could be merged the virtues of Puritanism without its defects, the illumination of the Enlightenment without its heat. To Walter Isaacson, this makes Franklin, "the most accomplished American of his age and the most influential in inventing the type of society America would become".

PERFORM AN INTERVIEW WITH BENJAMIN FRANKLIN)

- 1) Where and when were you born?
- 2) Which was your most important contribution to America as a politician?
- 3) And as a diplomat?
- 4) You are also a very famous scientist. How did you contribute in this sector?

Franklin became a newspaper editor, printer, and merchant in Philadelphia, becoming very wealthy, writing and publishing *Poor Richard's Almanac* and the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. Franklin was interested in science and technology, and gained international renown for his famous experiments. He played a major role in establishing the University of Pennsylvania and Franklin & Marshall College and was elected the first president of the American Philosophical Society. Franklin became a national hero in America when he spearheaded the effort to have Parliament repeal the unpopular Stamp Act. An accomplished diplomat, he was widely admired among the French as American minister to Paris and was a major figure in the development of positive Franco-American relations. From 1775 to 1776, Franklin was Postmaster General under the Continental Congress and from 1785 to 1788 was President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. Toward the end of his life, he became one of the most prominent abolitionists. His colorful life and legacy of scientific and political achievement, and status as one of America's most influential Founding Fathers, has seen Franklin honored on coinage and money; warships; the names of many towns, counties, educational institutions, namesakes, and companies; and more than two centuries after his death, countless cultural references.

5) In Henry Steele Commager's words "in you could be merged the virtues of Puritanism without its defects", what does he mean?

6) Why did you become a national hero for American people?

7) Which is your position about slavery?

KING GEORGE'S LIFE

King George III (known as the king who lost America) , was born in 1738. King George's father, The prince of Wales died when he was young. When George III was 22, in 1760, his grandfather, George II, died. On September 8th, 1761 he married Princess Charlotte Sophia from Mecklenburg-Strelitz, in Germany and on September 22nd, 1761, George III became King of England. George himself was of partial German ancestry. George and Charlotte had 15 children, one of whom, George IV would be the next King. King George III sat upon the throne of England from 1760-1820. It was on his watch that the American colonies were lost. King George III, after the French and Indian War, had large debts to pay, and thought he could extract the necessary money from the colonies. King George was incensed when the insolent American colonists objected to the taxes being levied, particularly the Stamp Act. When the Stamp Act was repealed, George flew into a rage. King George thought the colonists should be dealt with harshly for their disobedience and insolence. Using his profound influence, he pushed through the Townshend Acts , in 1766, taxing many commodity items including tea resulting in the famous Boston Tea Party. King George was eventually humbled as the American colonies successfully became the United States of America. Other colonies began to rebel after America's success and king George remained embroiled in one conflict or another for many years.

PERFORM AN INTERVIEW WITH THE KING GEORGE III

- 1) When were you born?
- 2) When did you become king of The United Kingdom?
- 3) Why did you levy the American colonies' taxes ?
- 4) What happened when the Stamp Act was repealed?
- 5) Why were you humbled?
- 6) What did your other colonies do after American Independence?