The American revolution

**THE VOICE OF HISTORY**

“The distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders are no more. I am not a Virginian, but an American!”

Patrick Henry

**THE WORDS YOU NEED**

Associa ogni termine alla corretta definizione inserendo il numero corrispondente nella casella.

- **treaty**
  1. port

- **trade**
  2. written agreement between countries

- **harbour**
  3. activity of buying and selling, or exchanging goods

**VOCABULARY**

**TO BREAK OUT:** to start.

**DEFEAT:** insuccess, failure.

**COMMANDER IN CHIEF:** someone who holds the supreme command of an army.

**READ AND LISTEN**

**The thirteen colonies**

During the XVIII century the relation between Great Britain and its 13 American colonies grew worse. The British government tried to increase control over the colonies and started to impose new laws and taxes. The colonies strongly opposed them also because they had no representatives in the British Parliament. In 1773 Britain imposed a new tax on tea: as a protest, a large amount of imported tea was thrown into the harbour of Boston by a group of American patriots. This event is known as the **Boston Tea Party**.
The War of Independence (1776-1783)

In 1774 each colony chose delegates to represent them and to discuss possible actions. When in 1775 the British soldiers on the continent were ordered to arrest the leaders of the American rebels, the war became inevitable. The representatives of the thirteen colonies met in Philadelphia and appointed George Washington Commander in chief of the American army. On July, 4th 1776 they draw up the Declaration of Independence and declared their independence from Great Britain.
This marked the birth of the United States of America.

The Constitution

After the defeat of the British forces in the battle of Yorktown (1781), the Treaty of Versailles was signed in Paris in 1783 and Great Britain recognized the independence of the United States of America. In 1787 the US Constitution was signed: George Washington was chosen as first President and Washington became the capital city of the Union. This document represented the foundation of the Federal Government in the country.