



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.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> treaty | 1. port |
| <input type="checkbox"/> trade | 2. written agreement between countries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> harbour | 3. activity of buying and selling, or exchanging goods |

American patriots throwing British tea into Boston Harbour. This protest in known as Boston Tea Party.

VOCABULARY

TO BREAK OUT: to start.

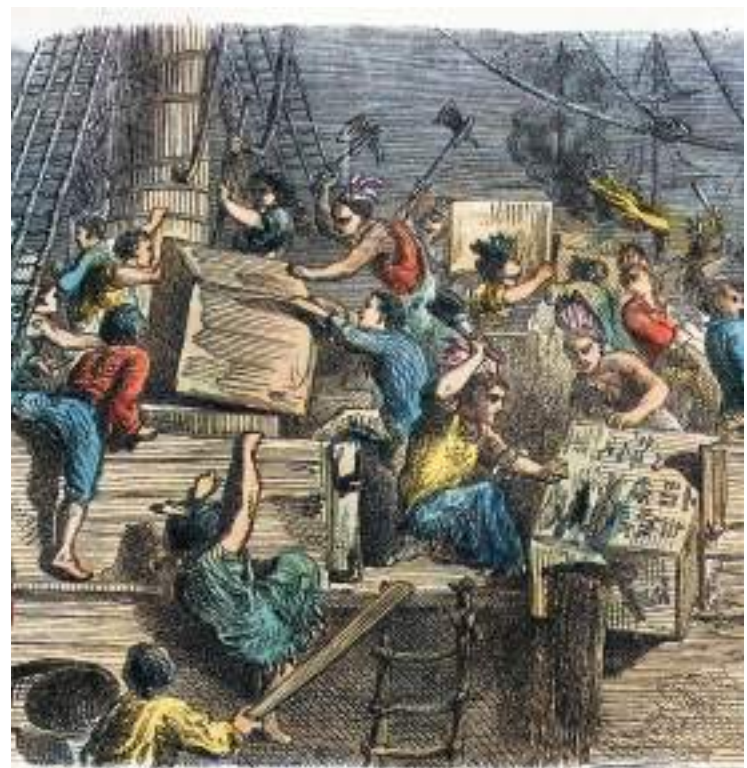
DEFEAT: insuccess, failure.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF: someone who hold 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.



American commissioners of the preliminary peace agreement with Great Britain.

The first page of the Treaty of Versailles which established the American independence from Great Britain.



PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH

1. Unisci con una freccia il termine alla sua traduzione.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| a. to increase | 1. importare |
| b. to draw up | 2. nominare |
| c. to appoint | 3. firmare |
| d. to sign | 4. aumentare |
| e. to import | 5. redigere, stendere un documento |

2. Rispondi alle seguenti domande.

1. What was the Boston Tea Party?
2. Which document represented the birth of the United States of America?
3. Who was the first President of the United States of America?