

■ 17. Boston and the American War of Independence

Part 3, Unit 2, Step 1

Before watching

1 What do you know about the American War of Independence? Compare your knowledge in groups. Then try to answer these questions with a partner.

1. When was the American Revolution?
.....
2. Which two sides fought in the Revolutionary War?
.....
3. Where and when were the first battles fought?
.....

2 Next, match the questions above with the facts below and check your initial answers.

- a. The Revolutionary War was fought between Great Britain, which was ruled by King George III at the time, and the colonists in America.
- b. April 19, 1775 – The first battles of the American Revolution were fought at Lexington and Concord, marking the beginnings of armed conflict between Great Britain and America.
- c. The American Revolutionary War lasted from April 1775 to September 1783.

3 Video vocabulary. Match the word on the left with the definition on the right.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. politician | <input type="checkbox"/> a. a solid block used for building |
| 2. conflict | <input type="checkbox"/> b. a road or street leading to a specific place |
| 3. path | <input type="checkbox"/> c. to write your name in a personalised way, for example on a document |
| 4. brick | <input type="checkbox"/> d. a person who works in politics |
| 5. turning point | <input type="checkbox"/> e. the authority to make important decisions |
| 6. oppressive | <input type="checkbox"/> f. a moment which changes the direction of something |

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 7. sign | <input type="checkbox"/> g. a dispute or fight between two sides |
| 8. powers | <input type="checkbox"/> h. using too much force and pressure on someone |

4 Match the two sides of the expressions. In some cases more than one solution is possible.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1. declare | <input type="checkbox"/> a. a treaty |
| 2. sign | <input type="checkbox"/> b. men |
| 3. fight | <input type="checkbox"/> c. a battle |
| 4. lose | <input type="checkbox"/> d. independence |
| 5. command | <input type="checkbox"/> e. powers |
| 6. give | <input type="checkbox"/> f. forces |

While watching

5 Watch the whole clip and number the following places or events in the order they appear or are mentioned in the video.

- a. The American Constitution
- b. The statue of George Washington
- c. Bunker Hill
- d. The Freedom Trail
- e. The Declaration of Independence
- f. Boston Common Park
- g. The Boston Tea Party
- h. The Paris Peace Treaty

6 Now watch again and match the event and the date.

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1773 | <input type="checkbox"/> a. The signing of the American Constitution |
| 1776 | <input type="checkbox"/> b. The start of the American Revolution |
| 1843 | <input type="checkbox"/> c. The creation of Boston Common Park |
| 1634 | <input type="checkbox"/> d. The Declaration of Independence |
| 1783 | <input type="checkbox"/> e. The end of the American Revolution |
| 1787 | <input type="checkbox"/> f. The completion of the Bunker Hill Monument |
| 1775 | <input type="checkbox"/> g. The Boston Tea Party |

7 Watch the whole video again if necessary and then decide if these statements True (T) or False (F).

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Boston Common is America's oldest public park. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. George Washington was first a politician and then a military commander. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The Freedom Trail is a monument. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The Boston Tea Party was a celebration in a garden. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. William Prescott was an American commander. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The Americans won the Battle of Bunker Hill. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The Bunker Hill Monument is not really on Bunker Hill. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Thirty States declared themselves independent in the Declaration of Independence. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. In the Paris Treaty, Britain gave control of Canada to America. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Some States refused to sign the 1787 Constitution at first. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

After watching

8 Divide into three groups. Each group is responsible for researching more information about one of the following key events in the American Revolution: the Boston Tea Party, The Battle of Bunker Hill, The Declaration of Independence. Use Internet resources to find out more about your particular topic. Then form new groups with one member of each of the original groups and explain to the others what you found out about your event. If possible make a poster for your group with pictures and short descriptions of the three events in the American War of Independence.

9 The American Constitution is still in use today and people often refer to its original principles. Go to <http://elizabethclaire.com/store/media/general/free-download/US-Constitution-in-Simple-English-updated.pdf> and look at the summary of the main articles on page 5. Imagine you are in a country setting up a completely new Constitution, following a revolution to win freedom. Working in groups of four, decide on a simple 10-point Constitution for your new State. Think about the form of government you want, how Parliament will be organised, elections, who makes the laws and so on. If possible, print your Constitution and put it on the wall to display to other students.