



**NSDAR Educational Resources Committee**  
**“Causes and Battles of the American Revolution”**  
**Lesson Plan**

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**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**1. Identify the standards to be addressed:**

Causes and battles of the American Revolution are presented in a pictorial display and lecture.

Portions of the book: *My Brother Sam is Dead* relives events of the war for independence. Students trace pictures on cleared x-ray film of the pictorial account. Students research topic assigned and attach reports to x-ray film.

**2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:**

Students will have a clear understand of causes and battles of the American Revolution. Students will demonstrate knowledge of topics related to the war of independence to include a research paper.

**3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:**

Box decorated to represent 13 colonies. X-ray film for each student which has been soaked in bleach and water to clear. Sharpie ultra fine permanent markers. CraZArt Classic Marker (not washable markers), Download of pictures provided (26) Batch 1-6, Enlargement of pictures is optional. Book: *My Brother Sam Is Dead*, Authors: James Lincoln Collier & Christopher Collier (Portions needed for lesson are included with lesson plan.) Individual topic for student's research.

**4. Introduction of the topic:**

Complete wording attached.

**5. Procedure for instruction:**

Complete wording attached.

**6. Lesson closure:**

Complete wording attached.

American Revolution Lesson Plan:

## **The Beginning of the United States of America**

Good Morning! My name is Mrs. Hagmann, and I am a member of Daughters of the American Revolution. I joined this organization because my ancestors fought in the American Revolution and I wished for all to remember the sacrifice made for the freedom of our country. We'll discuss History this morning, things that happened in the past which leads to where we are today. You will have an opportunity to write history also.

Initially, the United States was inhabited by Native Americans who had lived here for thousands of years. The English came to America in 1607 and settled in a place called Jamestown, Virginia. Other European nations settled in North America...France, Spain and the Netherlands. Each had different opinions and goals.

(Share pictures of each flag when mentioned and place in box.)

The American box represents the 13 colonies and can help us understand what happened to explain what started the years of war between 13 colonies and the strongest military force in the world, England.

Our box represents the 13 colonies established on our shores. The initial 13 colonies of New England were settled to practice religious freedom. People settled in small towns and family farms and provided lumber, ship building, and international trade. (Green on our Map). The middle colonies setup family farms and businesses mostly in cities and graded in wheat, barley, and other grains (Purple on our Map). The southern colonies setup large agricultural and trading companies with small towns serving as plantations for trading tobacco, cotton, and rice. ( State Display.)

The years 1607 to 1732 are known as the Colonial Period in our history. By 1750, the population grew to 2 million. This is when growing disagreements with England began as ideals of democracy (freedom) led to the Colonial Assembly in 1774.

Seven issues led to the American Revolution were:

(Ask for 7 volunteers who can hold a display for others to see.) (Ask volunteer to read the issue.)

**When read: Put the issue in the box.**

1. French and Indian—Territorial claims between the French and British in the Ohio River Valley caused a war. Americans were taxed heavily to recoup monetary losses by England. (11 x 14 Picture display)
2. Stamp act --- The 1765 act requiring colonist to pay tax on printed documents, various licenses, and other goods. ( 11 x 14 display Picture of Stamps)
3. Townshend Acts --- The Act of 1767 authorized Parliament to issue taxes on in-demand imports such as glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea. The act established custom offices to inspect goods and collect taxes along with new courts to punish those who did not follow the new laws.
4. Boston Massacre ---Colonists protested the new British taxes and laws. A group called the Sons of Liberty formed in 1765 in Boston. A fight broke out in Boston and several colonists were shot

and killed. Actually, Americans dressed as Mohawk Indians raided a British ship and destroyed the merchandize. (11 z 14 display Picture of Boston Massacre)

5. Intolerable Acts – Punishment by the British for the Boston Tea Party caused more new laws to be issued by the British. (11 z 14 display of acts.)
6. Boston Blockade – British ships blockaded Boston Harbor. Everybody was punished.
7. Growing Unity Among the Colonies – The British could not control the colonies with their new laws (11 x 14 picture of laws. The laws made the Rebels unite. It was in 1774 that twelve of the thirteen colonies sent representatives to the First Continental Congress. They sent King George III a petition to repeal the Intolerable Acts. He did not even respond.

Opinions and issues are getting heavier and heavier in our box.

**What will happen if we weigh the box with many issues and too much weight?**

Yes: The box soon becomes so weighted that it collapses, and we must take new actions.

Action is what the colonies began in 1775 and ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Our nation was born, The United States of America along with its Declaration of Independence. The date: July 4, 1776. Rebel leaders had won the Revolutionary War and started a new country.

(Thank volunteers.)

Was the course of the war easy? NO I would like to read to you sections from several chapters of My Brother Sam Is Dead written by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier. It tells a story of a young boy's love of his brother caught in the arms of war. My challenge is for you to read the book in its entirety later.

### My Brother Sam Is Dead

Chapter 1:

It was April, and outside in the dark, the rain whipped against the windows of our tavern, making a sound like muffled drums. We were concentrating on our dinner, and everybody jumped when the door shammed open and banged against the wall, making the plates rattle in their racks. My brother Sam was standing there, wearing a uniform.

Sam announces: "We are beating the British in Massachusetts." Nobody said anything. We were silent and shocked. I could not take my eyes off him because I was so proud. "All right now," Father said. "Tell us the news again in an orderly manner. Father had a temper and I could see he was trying hard not to lose it. Father raised his hand and slammed it down on the table: "It my house I will decide what constitutes treason. What have they been teaching you at college." Sam speaks: "Sir, it's worth dying to be free. That made Father shout. "Free! Free to do what, Sam? Free to mock your King? To shoot your neighbor? To make a mess of thousands of lives? Where have been getting these ideas?"

It made me nervous to listen to Sam argue with Father. Father was firm. "As a subject of His Majesty, George the Third, should you question his ways! Answer me this, Sam---do you really think you know better than the King and those learned men in Parliament!"

To be honest, I wasn't sure if Sam was right about the fighting anyway. It did make me glad to have him come home. As Sam helped me with the animals in the barn, he took a death breath. "I came to get the Brown Bess." That shocked me more than him saying he was going to fight. The Brown Bess was the type of gun most everybody around Connecticut had. It was brown, and got its name from Queen Elizabeth, whose nickname was Bess, because they first used that type of gun a lot during her time. Sam, You can't do that I said."

Tim and Sam approach Father in the living room. I was sent to bed, but Sam and Father continue earlier words. "I will not have subversion, I will not have treason in my house. We are Englishmen, we are subjects of the King, this rebellion is the talk of madmen." Father---Go Sam! Get Out!

Gun in hand, Sam leaves for as he knows he must have a weapon to fight in this war of independence.

**Question: Tim is a young boy. How might he feel with a Father supporting England and a brother supporting the Patriots? Let's see.....**

## Chapter 2:

Our neighbors are Mr. Life and Susannah. Father was born in Redding where we have our tavern, but Mother was born over in New York. Because our church was the English Church, the people here on the Ridge seemed to be more on the Tory side and wanted to be loyal to the King. To tell the truth, I did not understand what the argument was all about. But now it seemed like it wasn't going to be just arguments. Around fifty of the Minutemen and lots of British troops had been killed on Friday in Lexington or Concord, or wherever it was, although nobody seemed to know how many.

Our friend, Tim Warrups did not look much like an Indian. He wore the same kind of brown shirt and trousers any farmer around Redding wore, and he spoke pretty good English. "Hello Tim," I said. Then he said in a low voice, "If I tell you were Sam is, you don't tell nobody?" He looked at me hard, and squeezed by arm---not enough to hurt me. Tim took me to his shack. Sam and their daughter Betsy were sitting by a fire holding hands. Nobody said anything for a minute. I picked up a stick and began to push it into the fire to see it burn. Betsy said, "Timmy, are you on our father's side or Sam's? I did not know how to answer her question. "It's simple," Sam said. "Either we're going to be free or we're not." "What side is your family on, Betsy." "Oh, we're all Patriots. After all, my grandfather is head of the militia."

"Tim, you could help us by keeping an ear out in the tavern. With all the Tories around Redding, there'll be lots of talk about what the Lobsterbacks are up to. You could find out who the Tories are--- who's on our side and things like that." I whispered. "Good-bye."

**Question: Why would citizens of the colonies side with the British?**

## Chapter 3

It's a funny thing. You'd think that if there was war going on in our country, it would change everything, it would make life different. Of course, there were battles. There was a battle at Bunker Hill where the Patriots massacred the British troops before they were driven off, and the Rebels also took Fort Taconderoga without much of a fight.

Once Father did actually throw a man out of the tavern. He was a stranger, and I guess he didn't realize that Redding was such a Tory town because he told somebody that the only good Lobsterback was a dead Lobsterback and that King George was a great hairy fool. The man smacked his beer mug down on the table. "I thought I was among free men, not slaves."

Betsy entered the tavern and wished to speak with me. "Tim, if Sam came back to Redding, would you tell your father?" "I wish Sam would give Father back the Brown Bess." "Please stop worrying about the gun. Just tell me what you would do if Sam came back for a visit." I still hadn't made up my mind which side I was on in the war, and I didn't care whether Sam was a Patriot or a Tory. All I could think about was snuggling up to him and listening to him talk.

#### Chapter 4

I was so excited I could hardly stand it. I felt all sparkly inside---sort of scared and happy both at the same time. I needed a big excuse to get away. I began chopping wood and thought of another reason to slip away. I was thinking about that when I first heard the horses. I straightened up. There were a lot of them coming up the Fairfield Road from the south and they were coming pretty fast. It was a party of maybe twenty people, an even distance apart. I could see that some of them had on blue uniforms which meant that they were Continentals---the Rebel troops. The officers wore swords, the ordinary soldiers held Brown Besses like ours slung over their backs. I was scared, but I was curious.

Somebody began to shout. The shouting was coming from inside the tavern. I darted across the barnyard and slipped into the kitchen.

Mother was standing up against the fireplace wall. There was a man in front of her, holding a rifle sideways to keep her from getting away. Two other soldiers had hold of Father from the back, twisting his arms behind him so that he couldn't move. The officer in charge stood in front of him with a sword. "We know you have a weapon. Where is it?" He jabbed the sword forward as if he was going to stick it into father. My thoughts were that he Patriots were trying to get the guns away from all the Tories. "I don't have it anymore," Father shouted. "My loyal son Samuel stole it to go play soldier boy." He jabbed again at Father. My father spit. "There are traitors everywhere," he shouted. "Watch your tongue or I will cut it out." He raised the sword and the officer shipped the flat side of the blade across Father's face. Blood! Oh, it scared me to hear Father yelling at the Rebel.

There was only one person who knew what had happened to Brown Bess, and he was up at Tom Worrups". So I began running uphill and down. Then I saw Tom Warrups' shack and stopped running. There was Brown Bess in bed under Sam. I guess Sam had got into the habit of sleeping with it so nobody would steal it. Carefully, I slid my hand down the barrel until I got to the stock, griped it, and gave it a little pull. I was so worried and scared that I didn't even hear Sam coming until I was across Read's pasture. I swiveled around to face Sam. He lunged at me, grabbing for the muzzle of the gun. "Don't come any closer, Sam, or I'll shoot you." Sam stared at me. "Timmy" "Don't move, Sam." It is not loaded, Tim." "Jesus, Sam, Jesus, they're down there and they're going to kill Father if he doesn't give them the Brown Bess. "Who", Who's down there?" Some Continentals, with some others from Fairfield." Then he lunged and took the gun. "Timmy, I cannot go down there." "Why not?" They're supposed to me your friends." "I'm supposed to be in Dansburg buying cattle." "Did you run away?" "I didn't desert, I just came home for a couple of days. Officers don't know where their men are half the

time. If I desert, I would be killed. They've been disarming Tories in lots of places. It's orders from the Connecticut General Assembly. You don't think they're going to let the Tories keep their guns, do you?"

There was smoke coming out the chimney, but that was all---no sounds, no sign of men, no horses. There was Father with a line of blood drying on his face. He and Sam stood 5 feet apart just staring at each other. Then Sam turned and ran. We watched him until he got to the stone wall edge of our pasture. He jumped up on it and stood there looking back at us. Then suddenly he waved, jumped down from the wall, and disappeared into the woodlot.

## Chapter 5

Up to that time the war hadn't been very real. One man who stopped with us had been at the Battle of Lexington and been wounded in the knee. He walked with a limp. The worst part of it was that food was already beginning to get short. Army commissary officers, like the ones Sam was working for, were buying up a lot of livestock to feed the troops. Some soldiers would just take a couple of cows out of somebody's fields without paying for them, too. Both sides did it---the Patriots and the Tories. By January of 1776 food was getting to be a real problem for us, too. Meat, flour, rum, and beer and everything else we needed to run the tavern and the store kept going up and up in price all the time. But still, the worst part of the war was missing Sam.

He seemed so brave and grown-up, and I wished that I could be brave and grown-up like him. It just be wonderful to be able to load up a gun in the casual way he did. Still, I didn't like the idea of being shot or wounded.

So time passed, a war when on. Mr. Hernon and Mr. Warrups entered the tavern. It was Mr. Hernon who asked if I might take some business letters to Fairfield for him. Father answered this with an insistent---NO. But I couldn't forget about it. Mr. Hernon had wanted me to carry some sort of war messages or spy reports or something, and that night as I lay in bed in the loft, I thought about it. Oh, it would scare me all right, walking down to Fairfield with spy messages, but I wanted to do it because it would give me something to boast about to Sam. Two weeks I figured out how to do it. I was out on the road in front of the tavern trying to clean the mud off the boards we laid down when Jerry Sanford came up the road. He said the shad were running and asked me to go along. "Father, Jerry Sanford is going after shad. Can I go?" "All right, go. It would be a nice change to have some fish chowder." This was my excuse to get away.

**Question: Raise your hand if you like to fish? Do you think Tim's idea is good for getting away from home?**

## Chapter 6

p.74 My biggest problem was getting to see Mr. Heron. If Father saw me talking to him, he would be suspicious. My Father was not around when Mr. Heron asked for a keg of rum. Mother said, "Tim will be right over, Mr. Heron. So I slung the keg of rum over my shoulder and followed Mr. Heron up the road to his house. With a lie to my father's knowledge of the delivery of messages, I went back to Mr. Heron's house. I had hardly got my hand up when the door jerked open, and stern Mr. Heron grabbed me by the arm and pulled me in. We walked down a hall and into his study. He sat down at the desk, wrote something out on a piece of paper and sealed it up. "Timothy, you'll have to move quickly. This message has to go to Fairfield. It will take at least five hours to walk down there and to walk back,

and you'll have to be home before dark in order not to raise suspicions." Now listen carefully. I tucked the letter down inside my shirt and left, slipping out the back way and through his pasture before I cut back to the road. I walked at a brisk pace.

Betsy met me on the road. We started walking, "Where are you going in such a brisk pace? I think you're carrying a love letter." I let the name Mr. Hernon slip. She stopped. "What were you seeing Mr. Heron about this morning?" I realized I'd made a big mistake.

"Get off me, Betsy." "Not until I get that letter." My nose went numb when her slapped my face and my eyes stung and tears began to come. She jerked my shirt up, grabbed the letter and jumped to her feet. She was yelling: "Mr. Heron is a Tory. You will get your brother killed." I start to run after her, and then she flung the letter over her shoulder onto the road. I ran up to the letter and picked it up. It was rumpled and dirty. All it said was: "If this message is received, we will know that the messenger is reliable."

I selected My Brother Sam is Dead because it is accurate in its presentation of history and it is very focused on family. The authors published the book in 1974, directly following the Vietnam War, a war in which many of my friends died. There is much surprise to come in the book, and I will leave the book for you to read together as a class.

You might now understand that war is ugly. Some 25,000 American soldiers lost their lives in the American Revolution. Another 25,000 were maimed. As you will be drawing war-time slates, please pay close attention to the appearances and battles of our armies.

Hollywood depicts a spick and span army but a standard uniform was not even approved until 1779. Our Commander in Chief of the Continental Army was George Washington. Soldiers were often on their own to cloth themselves and provide weapons. Money was short, equipment and amination were limited, food scarce, and disease ramped. The French did deliver uniforms as their initial war aid. A Continental Army soldier generally would wear: cotton or linen shirt, wool or cotton breeches or overalls, a 3 sided hat, wool coat, leather shoes or boots, stockings, scarf, cotton or linen vest and a leather belt. It was war and often times it was cold, sickly, and filthy. It was determination and grit shone that made the United States a free power.

(Show picture of Continental army soldier.)

What did the enemy look like? Half were volunteers and the other half career soldiers. They enlisted between the ages of 17 to 25. They were experienced. They received pensions. Twenty percent of the soldiers brought their wives and children with them. They could read. Tactically, they were dominant on the battlefield. Yes: They wore red coats.

(Point to picture of a "Red Coat".)

The outcome of a war depends on far more than one battle, but there are 10 battles which changed the momentum of the American Revolution.

(Would 10 people volunteer if you can hold pictures for others to see?)

1. Lexington and Concord, April 1775. This battle resulted from built up tension over social and political issues.
2. Bunker Hill, June 1775. This one proved there was no turning back. It was a costly British victory.
3. Quebec, Dec. 1775. A series of American victories along the waterways from Lake Champlain into Canada ending Quebec is noted.
4. Charleston, June 1776. The British failure to take this important sea port. This forced the focus of the war to move north.
5. Trenton, Dec. 1776. The British had a dramatic success because of their overwhelming size and skill.
6. Saratoga, Oct 1777. Failure of the British from the north brought a surrender. Most important is that it encouraged the French to openly join our forces.
7. Rhode Island, August 1778. This was a failed American campaign which showed that the alliance with France would not bring a speedy end to the war. The northern front remained a stalemate for the rest of the war.
8. Kings Mountain, Oct 1780. The loyalist militia was annihilated and forced the British to revise their southern strategy. It was a decisive victory for the Patriots.
9. Cowpens, Jan. 1781. The spirits of the American forces were renewed and they initiated a campaign that brought the war to an end.
10. Yorktown, October 1781. The British army was forced to surrender due to the French-American cooperation. The end of the war was here.
11. Thank our volunteers.

In closing, we can return to the book: My Brother Sam is Dead. Our young friend writes: It will be, I am sure, a great history. Free of British domination, the nation has prospered and I along with it. Perhaps on some other anniversary of the United States somebody will read this and see what the cost has been. Father said, "In war the dead pay the debts of the living," and they have paid us well. But somehow, over fifty years later, I keep thinking that there might have been another way, beside war, to achieve the same end.

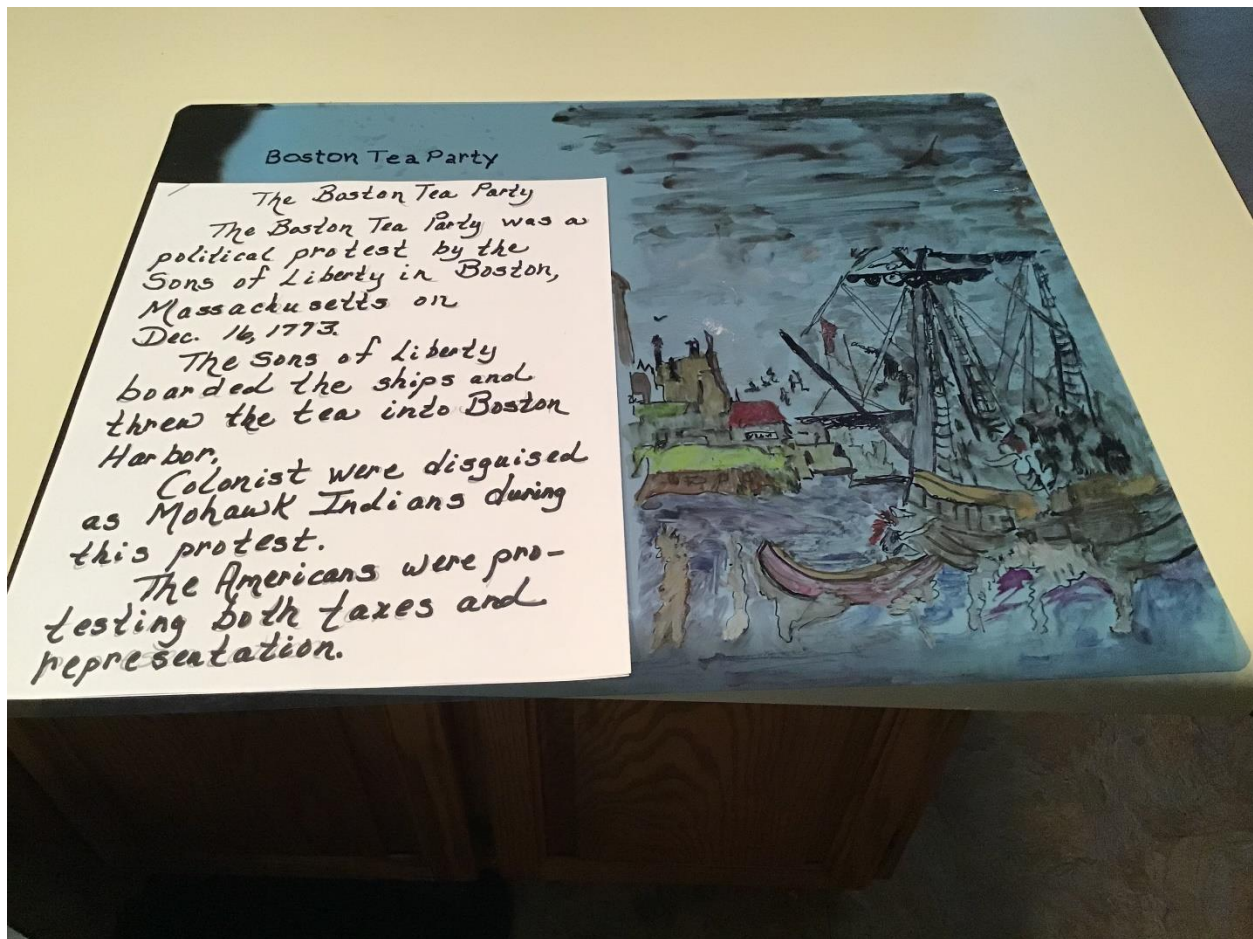
It is now time for you to write history. History of the United States of America. Each of you will have an x-ray film which has a picture clipped to it depicting American History. It also has a report subject for you to research and write a report on from the American Revolution.

You will need to trace this picture onto the film with a permanent black pen. (I will need to collect the pens at the end of our discussion so you will need to work quickly.) You probably will not have time to add color but in the days ahead, you can complete the project. I used watercolors. Paint may be added later or permanent colored markers....not washable. Just raise your hand if you do complete tracing your pictures. I do have markers for you to use if you need them.

Your school library will have interesting books for you to research. I have been told this class has super writers, and I would love to come back and read your project completed.

Example: Final Project to be Completed by Students.





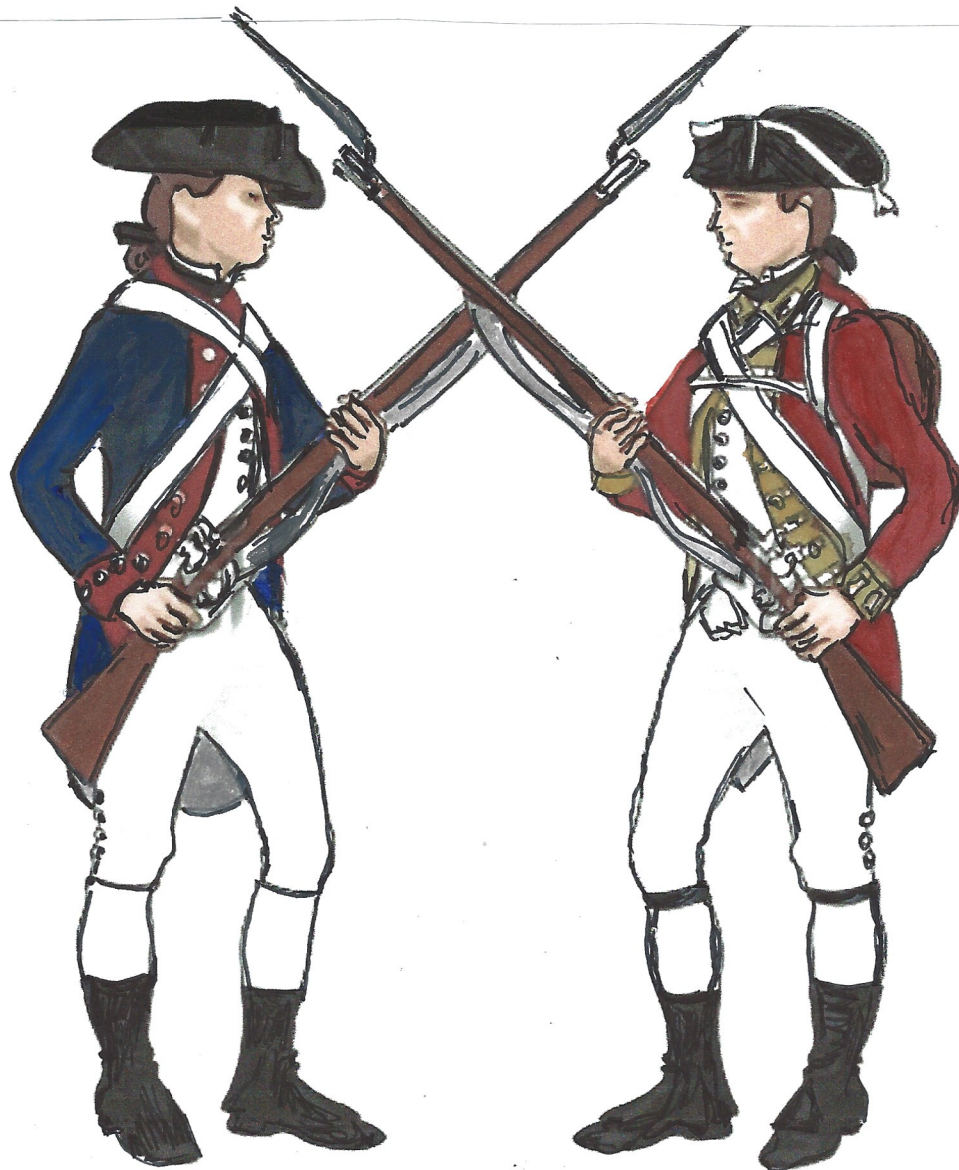
Attached pictures for youth to trace.

List of questions to accompany x-ray film and individual picture.

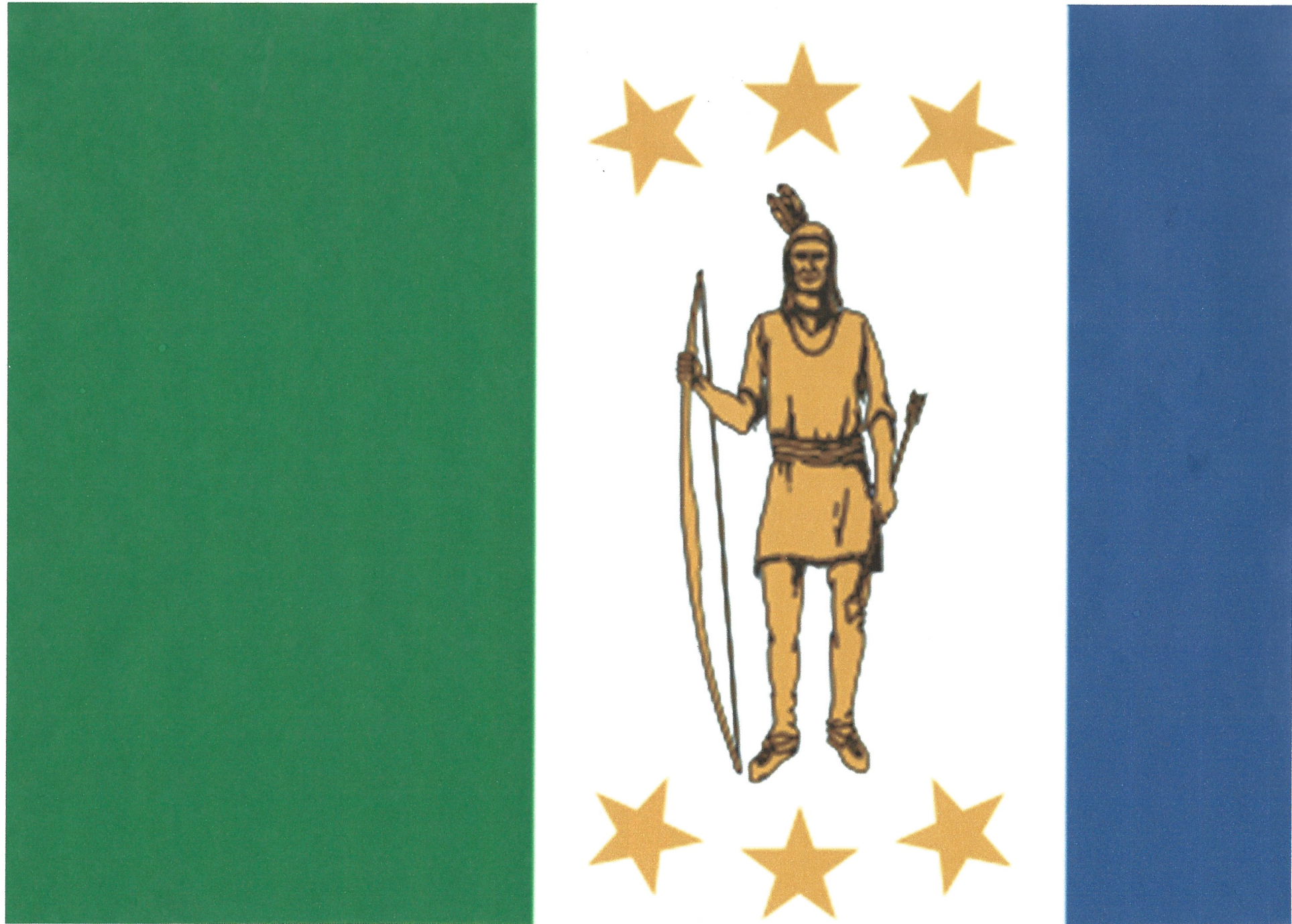
1. Describe Colonial America
2. Describe the 13 colonies.
3. Describe King George III and British during the time of the American Revolution.
4. Describe George Washington, Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.
5. Report on why the French and Indian War might have caused the colonies to up rise.
6. Report on the stamp acts and how they influenced the American Revolution
7. Report on the Boston Massacre.
8. Report on the Intolerable Acts.
9. Describe how the colonies united following British taxation and limited representation.
10. Report on the History of the Battle of Lexington and Concord.
11. Report on the History of Battle of Bunker Hill.
12. Report on the History Boston Tea Party

13. Report on the battle at Cowpin
14. Report on the battle of Trenton
15. Report on the battle Charleston
16. Report on the battle of Kings Mountain
17. Report on the Battle Yorktown
18. Report on Surrender of Cornwallis
19. Report on Boston Blockade
20. Report on the First Congressional Congress.
21. Report on the Constitution of the United States of America.
22. Describe the Treaty of Paris---date and outcome.

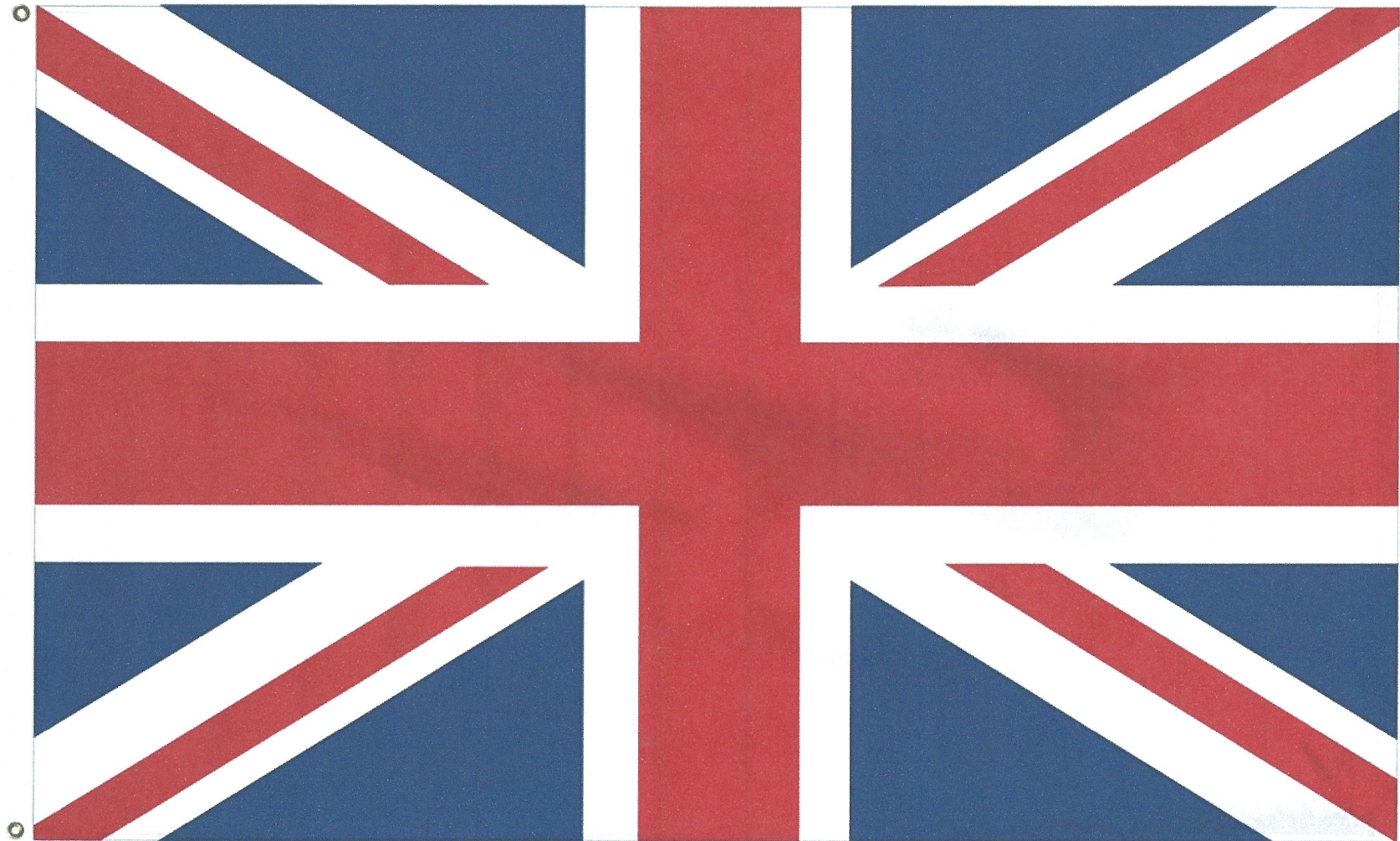
# American Revolution American & British Soldiers



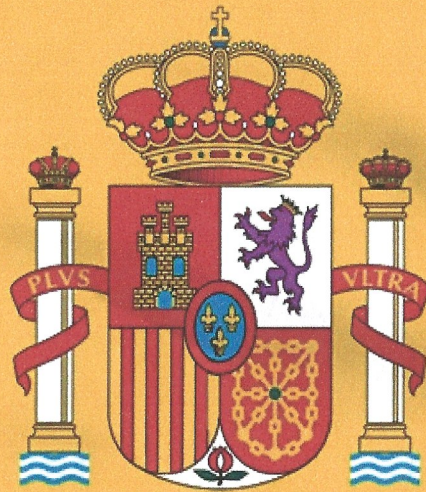
# Native American Flag



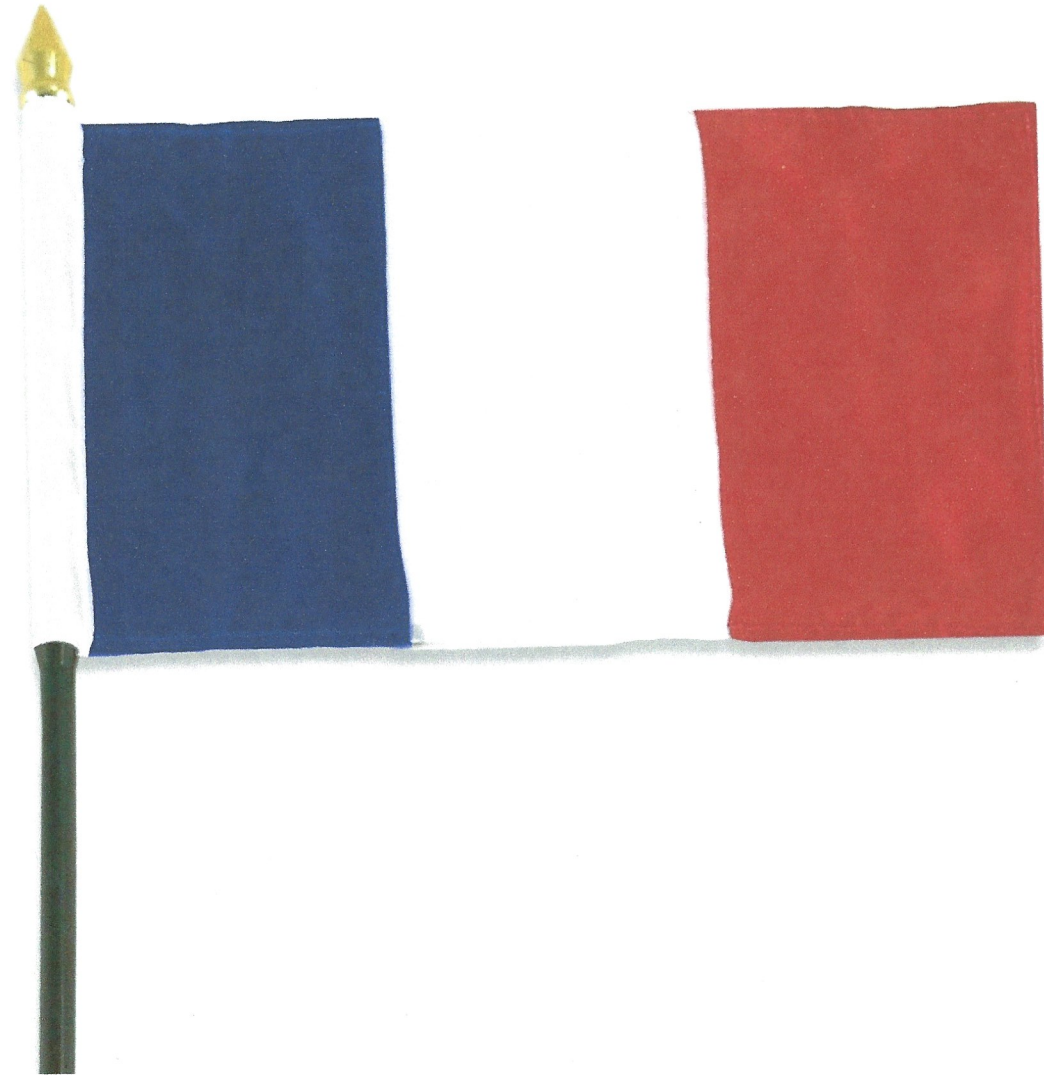
# The English Flag



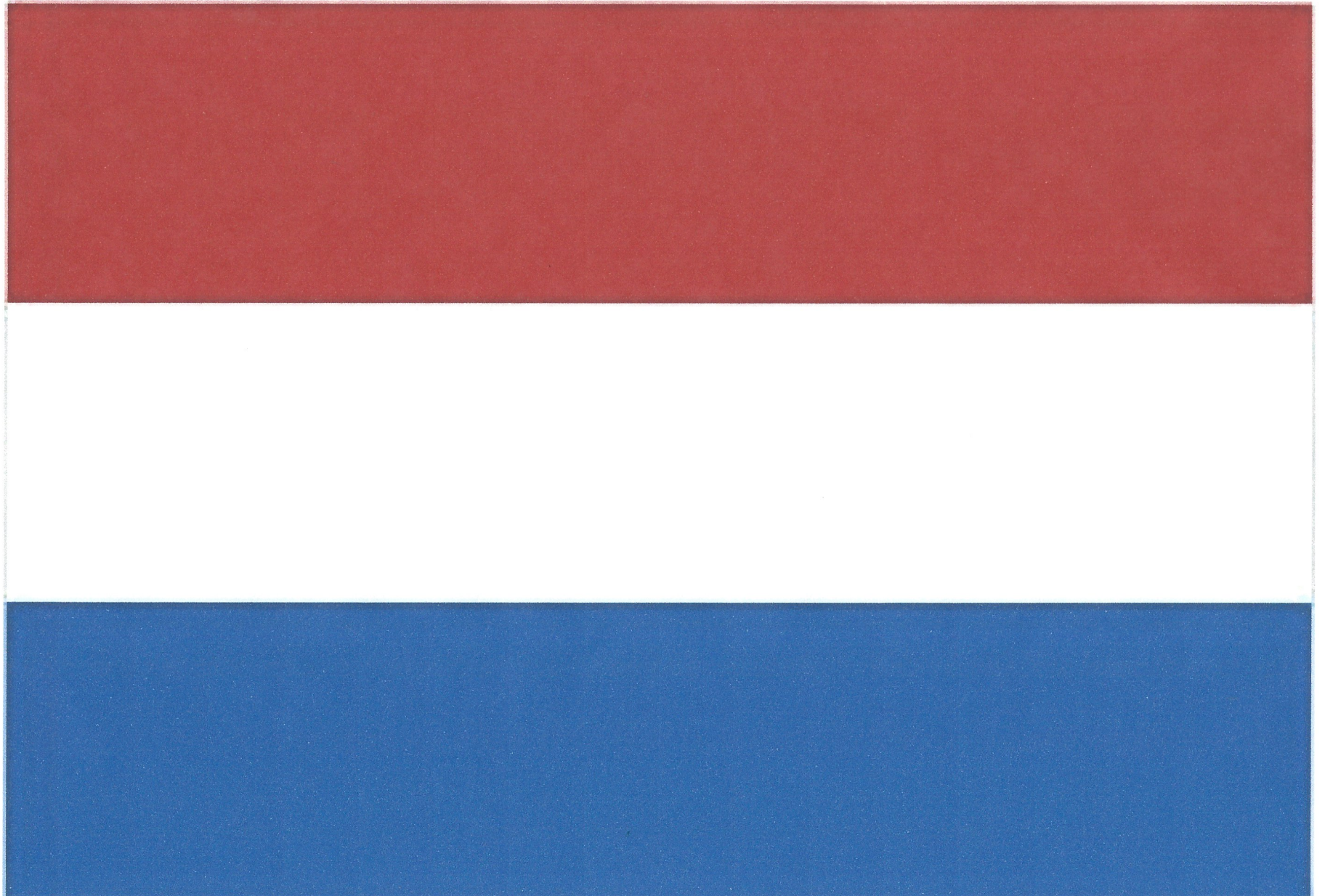
# Flag of Spain



# The French

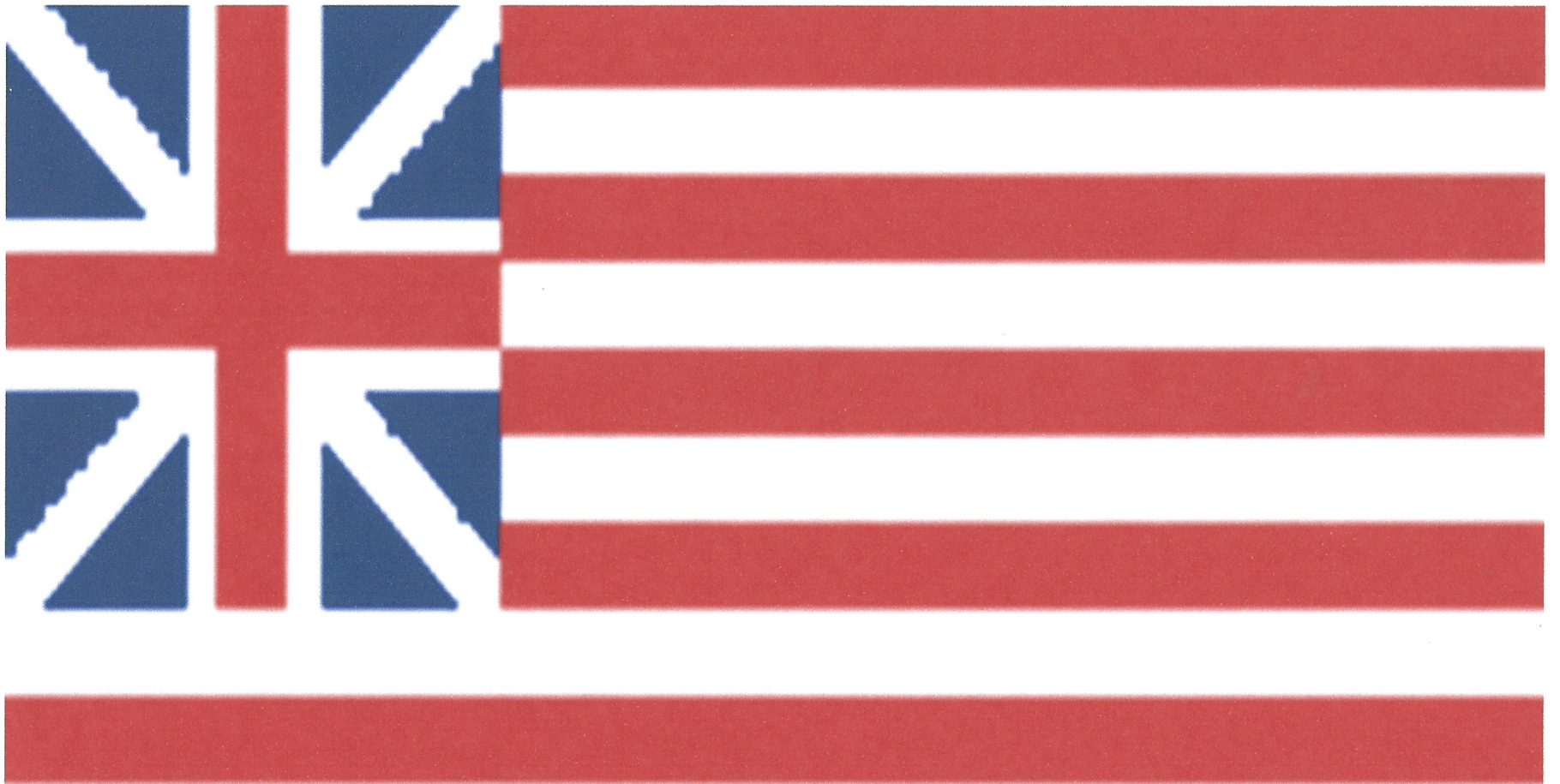


# Flag of the Netherlands





Flag of the Union  
Commissioned by General  
George Washington 1775



# The English North American colonial period: 1607 to 1732

## New England Colonies, Middle Colonies, Southern Colonies

**New England Colonies**  
**Settled:** to practice religious freedom  
**Industry:** lumber, ship building, international trade  
**Culture:** small towns and small family farms

**Middle Colonies**  
**Settled:** to set up family farms and businesses  
**Industry:** agriculture trade in wheat, barley, and other grains  
**Culture:** cities and hard goods industries

**Southern Colonies**  
**Settled:** to set up large agricultural trading companies  
**Industry:** plantation farming of tobacco, cotton, and rice  
**Culture:** small towns served plantation trade

The English North American colonial period was 1607 to 1732.

★  
By 1750, the population grew to 2 million, integrating many groups.

★  
Growing disagreements with England, along with shared democratic ideals and trade, led to the Colonial Assembly of 1774.

Massachusetts  
New Hampshire  
Rhode Island  
Connecticut  
New Jersey  
Delaware  
Maryland  
Virginia  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Georgia  
Atlantic Ocean

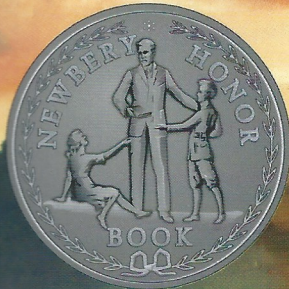
OFFERING Most Virginia

GOLD

# My Brother Sam

The classic novel of  
the Revolutionary War

# Is Dead



James Lincoln Collier & Christopher Collier

SCHOLASTIC

# French and Indian War 1754



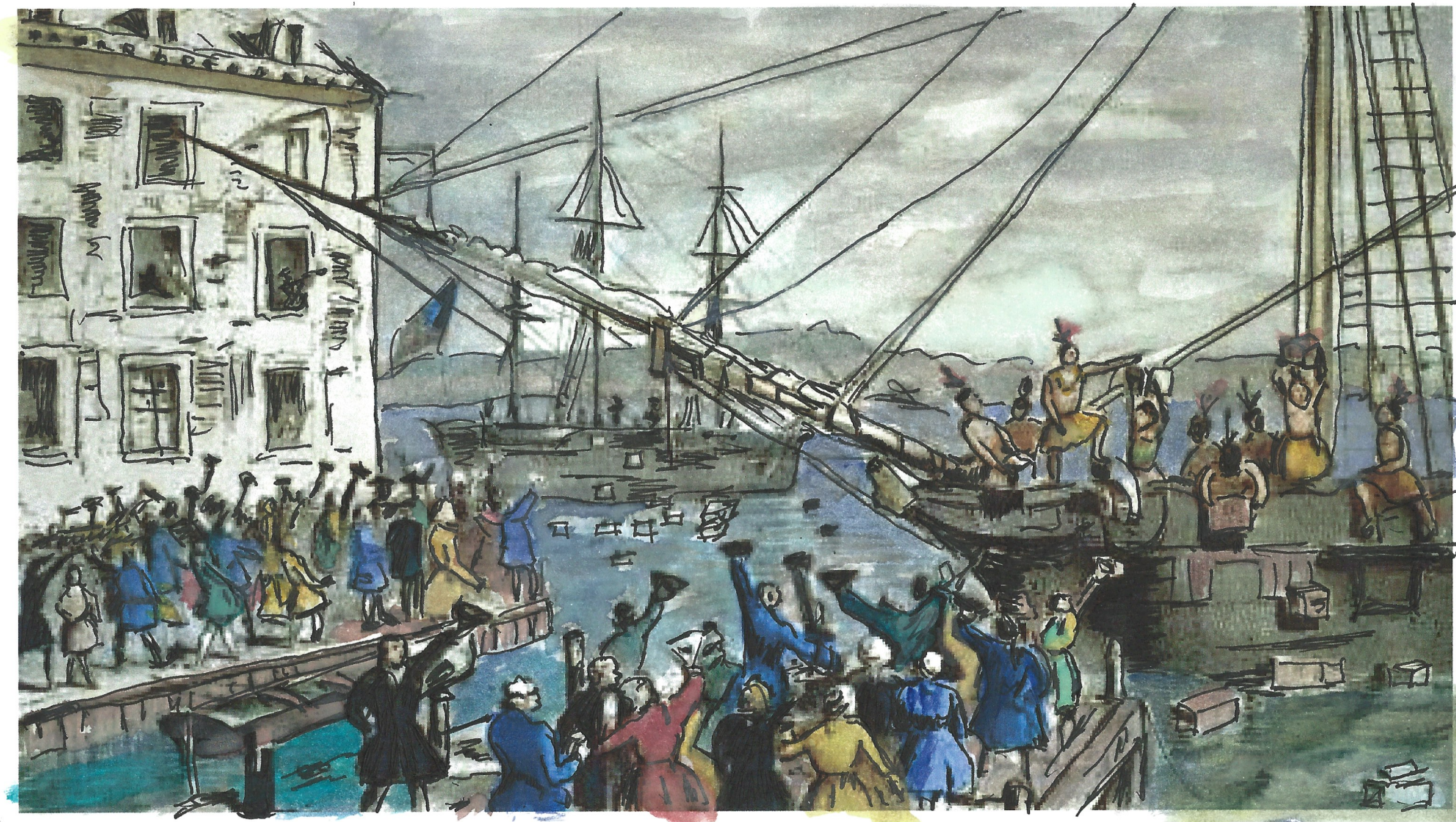
# Boston Massacre March 5, 1770



# One Penny Stamp by the UK Government



# Boston Tea Party - December 16, 1773

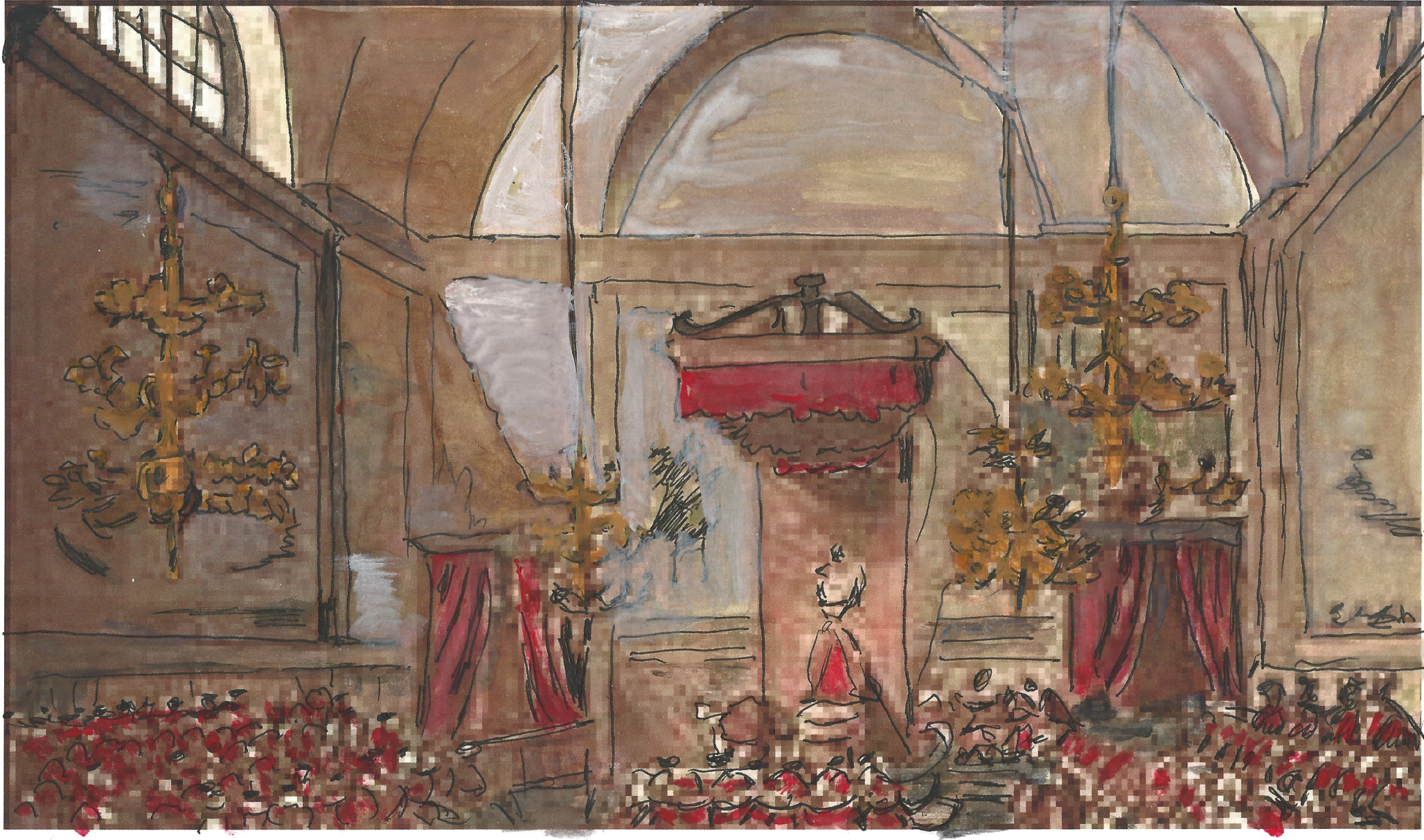


# Boston Blockade 1774

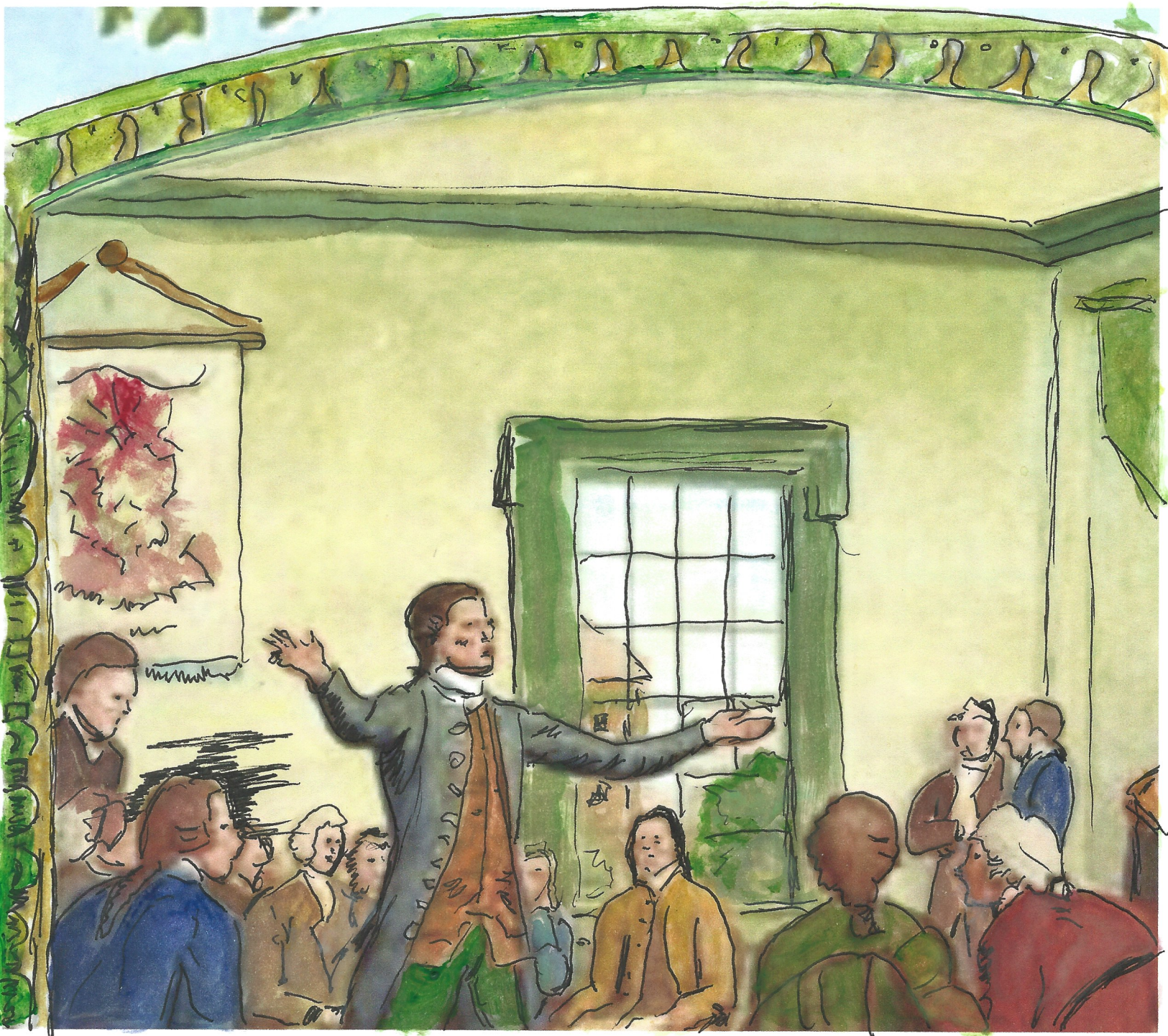




# British Parliament – Intolerable Acts – 1774



# Unity – First Continental Congress – 1774



# Battle of Lexington and Concord

## April 1775



# Battle of Bunker Hill June 1775



# Quebec December 31, 1775



# Trenton 1776



# Battles of Saratoga Sept.-Nov. 1777



# Rhode Island August 1778





# Battle of Charleston

## March 29, 1780



# The Battle of Kings Mountain, October 1780



# Battle of Cowpens 1781



# Surrender of Cornwallis – Oct. 19, 1781 Yorktown, Virginia

