

Leaders During the American Revolution

These men (and woman) were among the most influential persons in the years of and around the American Revolution.

John and Abigail Adams

- As a delegate to the 1st and 2nd Continental Congresses, John Adams led the movement for independence, highlighted by the composition of the *Declaration of Independence*.
- John wrote the Massachusetts state constitution
- John also served as the first Vice President and then as the 2nd President of the United States.
- Abigail (his wife) was an early champion of women's rights



Samuel Adams

- Cousin of John Adams and Boston native, Adams was a charismatic proponent of American independence
- Organized the Sons of Liberty, and anti-British protest group
- Leader of the Boston Tea Party
- Delegate to the 1st Continental Congress



Benjamin Franklin

- Leader of the American Enlightenment, Franklin succeeded as a journalist, inventor, scientist and political ambassador
- Franklin helped negotiate favorable terms for America in the Treaty of Paris, ending the American Revolution
- Was a delegate to the 1787 Constitutional Convention



Thomas Jefferson

- Jefferson, as a delegate to the 2nd Continental Congress, wrote the *Declaration of Independence*
- Was the Governor of Virginia
- Founded the University of Virginia
- Was the 3rd President of the United States
- Owned a plantation in Virginia called Monticello
- Was a party *animal!*



Thomas Paine

- Anti-slavery and an advocate for peace and the collective care of the elderly and infirm, Paine wrote many inspired pieces, most notably **Common Sense** which inspired many colonist to support the rebellion.
- Wrote *American Crisis* inspire many to re-enlist in the Continental Army ("These are the times that try men's soul's")
- Authored *The Rights of Man*.



Marquis De Lafayette

- French Noblemen who was instrumental in gaining French support for the American Revolution and would become a General in the Continental Army.
- Like a son to George Washington.
- Leader of the French Revolution in the 1790's. (gave Washington a key to the Bastille).
- Made a "grand tour" of the U.S. later in life and would be treated as a hero.



King George III

- British King who lost American Colonies
- Took throne in 1760 at age 22



George Washington

- Officer in French and Indian War
- Commander I Chief of Continental Army
- First President of the United States
- Known as “the Father of our Country”
- Owned Virginia plantation named Mount Vernon

