
MISSION US
“For Crown or Colony?”
Epilogue: Chronology Activity
“Countdown to Independence: A MISSION U.S. Timeline Challenge”

NOTE TO THE EDUCATOR

At the conclusion of “For Crown or Colony?” gameplay, a brief cinematic is shown, presenting an overview of the events that occurred after the Boston Massacre. Unlike the other sections of the game, the Epilogue is not as interactive; players watch the animation and then are given the opportunity to select one of a few paths that determine Nat’s fate; some options may be “locked” due to the player’s prior choices in the game.

This activity is intended to give students a deeper understanding of the events that unfold during the Epilogue – why they happened, when they happened, and how they affected the colonists – and then piece together how subsequent events led to the American Revolution.

This activity is best used after students have completed their gameplay, viewed the Epilogue cinematic, and already learned about key events not covered directly in the game leading up to the American Revolution.

Materials (following the activity description in this file)

Events signs: one 8 ½ x 11" sign for each event listed in the table below

Description signs: one 8 ½ x 11" sign for each description listed in the table below

Consequences signs: one 8 ½ x 11" sign for each consequence listed in the table below

Steps for the Activity

1. Draw a line along the top of a blackboard or whiteboard and mark it with annual dates from 1770 to 1776.
2. Divide the class into eight groups and randomly give each group a piece of paper printed with one of the eight "Events" listed below. Explain that each piece of paper corresponds with one of the events mentioned in the epilogue to *MISSION US*. Tell the groups to tape the events in what they believe to be chronological order along the line.
3. Randomly give each group a piece of paper with one of the eight "Descriptions" listed below, which they must tape below the event which they think it describes.
4. Randomly give each group a piece of paper with one of the eight "Consequences" listed below, which they must tape below the event and description which they think it relates to.
5. With the class, check to see if the events are in the correct order, and that the descriptions and consequences placed below each event are accurate. Make corrections as necessary until the timeline corresponds to the chart below, checking for student comprehension as you go.
6. Going in chronological order, add the specific date of each event to the timeline and encourage class discussion in response to the discussion questions.

Event	Description	Consequence	Discussion Questions	Date
Publication of a print depicting what becomes known as "The Boston Massacre"	Paul Revere's inflammatory engraving of the incident was actually based on another artist's portrayal.	This massively popular print brings sympathy to the patriot cause throughout the American colonies.	In what ways is this print historically inaccurate? What were the Patriots' reasons for depicting the event in this way?	April 1770

Event	Description	Consequence	Discussion Questions	Date
The Boston Massacre Trial	John Adams defends British soldiers in a colonial Boston court.	Although highly controversial among his patriot peers, Adams's successful legal defense of the soldiers preserves the integrity and legitimacy of colonial law.	Is it fair to put soldiers on trial for actions they committed under orders?	September-December 1770
The "Tea Act"	A British law that actually lowers the price of tea in the colonies, but mandates it must be bought exclusively from the British East India Company and carry a British tax.	Colonists already suspicious of Great Britain's maneuvers to extract "taxation without representation" object to the tax and boycott British tea, leaving it sitting aboard ships in Boston and other American harbors.	Why was the principle of taxation without representation so offensive to many colonists? Is there a case to be made that British taxation of the colonies was fair?	May 10, 1773
"The Boston Tea Party."	Colonists dressed as Mohawk Indians board British merchant vessels docked in Boston and throw their cargoes of taxed tea into the harbor.	Great Britain imposes a series of laws intended to punish Boston by closing the port to commerce, quartering British troops in private buildings, and changing certain legislative and judicial policies to be more favorable to Great Britain and its official representatives throughout the colonies. These laws come to be known by the colonists as the "Intolerable Acts" or "The Coercive Acts."	The Boston Tea Party has come to be seen as a heroic moment in American history, but how was it actually received by colonists at the time? What were some objections made by prominent patriots?	December 16 th , 1773

Event	Description	Consequence	Discussion Questions	Date
The First Continental Congress	Delegates from twelve of the thirteen colonies convene secretly in Philadelphia to discuss their poor treatment by Great Britain and their rights as colonists.	The Congress agrees to boycott British imports, petition King George III to redress of colonists' grievances, and plan a second meeting. Many future Founding Fathers meet for the first time.	Which colony abstained from sending any delegates to the Congress, and why?	September 5, 1774
Battle of Lexington and Concord	The first military engagement of the American Revolution, fought by a colonial militia of "minute men" against British soldiers outside Boston.	"The Shot Heard 'Round The World" marks the point of no return for the American colonists in their struggle against what they perceive as the excesses of British rule. The issue must now be decided by war.	Which side fired first at Lexington? How and why has the answer varied at different points in American history? Is it important? Why?	April 19 th , 1775
Publication of <i>Common Sense</i>	Thomas Paine's anonymously written pamphlet calling for complete independence from Great Britain.	By writing in passionate but plain language, Paine makes a powerfully compelling argument for independence from British rule at a time when many ordinary colonists are undecided on the matter.	Why might an American colonist have wished to remain a British subject even after the outbreak of the Revolutionary War?	January 10, 1776
The Declaration of Independence	Representatives from all thirteen colonies ratify a formal document declaring independence from Great Britain.	Although it will be many more years before the laws and structure of the United States are established in the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence marks the birth of the nation.	On what principles did the Founding Fathers base this declaration? Did the freedom they outlined include all Americans? What people were left out? Why?	July 4, 1776

Event

Publication of a print depicting
what becomes known as
“The Boston Massacre”

Event

The Boston Massacre Trial

Event

The Tea Act

Event

The Boston Tea Party

Event

The First Continental Congress

Event

Battle of Lexington and Concord

Event

Publication of *Common Sense*

Event

The Declaration of Independence

Description

Paul Revere's highly sensationalized and inflammatory engraving of the incident was actually based on another artist's portrayal.

Description

John Adams defends British soldiers in a colonial Boston court.

Description

A British law which actually lowers the price of tea in the colonies but mandates that it must be bought exclusively from the British East India Company and carry a British tax.

Description

Colonists dressed as Mohawk Indians board British merchant vessels docked in Boston and throw their cargoes of taxed tea into the harbor.

Description

Delegates from twelve of the thirteen colonies convene secretly in Philadelphia to discuss their poor treatment by Great Britain and their rights as colonists.

Description

The first military engagement of the American Revolution, fought by a colonial militia of “minute men” against British soldiers outside Boston.

Description

Thomas Paine's anonymously written pamphlet calling for complete independence from Great Britain.

Description

Representatives from all thirteen colonies ratify a formal document declaring independence from Great Britain.

Consequence

This massively popular print brings sympathy to the patriot cause throughout the American colonies.

Consequence

Although highly controversial among his patriot peers, Adams's successful legal defense of the soldiers preserves the integrity and legitimacy of colonial law.

Consequence

Colonists already suspicious of Great Britain's maneuvers to extract "taxation without representation" object to the tax and boycott British tea, leaving it sitting aboard ships in Boston and other American harbors.

Consequence

Great Britain imposes a series of laws intended to punish Boston by closing the port to commerce, quartering British troops in private buildings, and changing certain legislative and judicial policies to be more favorable to Great Britain and its official representatives throughout the colonies. These laws come to be known by the colonists as the “Intolerable Acts” or “The Coercive Acts.”

Consequence

The Congress agrees to boycott British imports, petition King George III to redress of colonists' grievances, and plan a second meeting. Many future Founding Fathers make their first acquaintance of each other.

Consequence

“The Shot Heard ‘Round the World” marks the point of no return for the American colonists in their struggle against what they perceive as the excesses of British rule. The issue must now be decided by war.

Consequence

By writing in passionate but plain language, Paine makes a powerfully compelling argument for independence from British rule at a time when many ordinary colonists are undecided on the matter.

Consequence

Although it will be many more years before the laws and structure of the United States are established in the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence marks the birth of the nation.