

IMPORTANT PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



CA 8th Grade US History Standard 8.1

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

- Printer and writer from Philadelphia
- Member of the committee which wrote the Declaration of Independence
- Oldest member of the Constitutional Convention in 1787
- Ambassador to France



KING GEORGE III

- King of Great Britain during the American Revolution



THOMAS JEFFERSON

- Author of the Declaration of Independence
- Founder of the Anti-Federalists, a political party favoring states rights
- Third President of the United States.
- Purchased the Louisiana Territory from France.



THOMAS PAINE

- Influential writer during the American Revolution
- *Common Sense* attacked the monarchy, supported independence, and outlined a new form of government
- *Crisis* supported the Revolution through propaganda



JOHN PAUL JONES

- Led raids against British vessels during the American Revolution
- Founder of the U.S. Navy
- “I have not yet begun to fight”



GEORGE WASHINGTON

- Virginia resident, surveyor, planter, and soldier during the French and Indian War
- Delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses
- Commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolution
- First President of the United States, serving two terms



SAMUEL ADAMS



- Involved in local politics in Boston
- Believed colonial government was capable of self-rule
- Founder of the Sons of Liberty
- Involved in many events that led to the Revolution, including opposition to the stamp act, the Boston Massacre, and the Boston Tea Party.
- Supported the Constitution, with the addition of the Bill of Rights

CRISPUS ATTUCKS

- Fugitive slave who worked as a merchant seaman for 20 years
- Demonstrated against the British with other seaman and dock workers who were armed with clubs, sticks, and snowballs
- First person to be killed in what is known as the Boston Massacre



NATHAN HALE

- School teacher who joined the local militia
- Volunteered to go behind British lines as a spy
- Captured by the British with information about British troop movements in his shoe
- Hanged by the British
- “I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country



PAUL REVERE

- Silversmith
- Minuteman in Boston
- Gathered intelligence information by watching the movements of British soldiers
- Rode to Lexington and Concord to warn the colonists of the British attack with Dr. Samuel Prescott and William Dawes
- “The British are coming, the British are coming”



LORD CORNWALLIS

- British general and statesman
- Retreated to Yorktown, Virginia after a bloody battle in North Carolina. No help was sent and Cornwallis was forced to surrender to General Washington
- With this surrender, American victory in the Revolution was assured



BENEDICT ARNOLD

- American general who won many victories against the British
- Arnold felt he had not received enough credit for his victories so he began to fight for the British
- He was considered an American traitor



MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

- French nobleman
- Brought money, and men from France to help the Americans
- Fought alongside Washington in the Revolution.

