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Curriculum

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About the Author



 **Marilyn Boyer** is the descendant of a Revolutionary War soldier, the daughter of a World War II sailor, and the wife of a Vietnam-era veteran. Her deep patriotism and her passion for America’s Christian heritage were passed on as she homeschooled her fourteen children, sharing with them the inspiring stories of the heroes of our country’s past. Now, she enjoys bringing America’s history to life for her twenty-six grandchildren and the thousands of families who know her through her speaking engagements across the country. She has authored two history textbooks and a series of readers. In *For You They Signed*, the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence declare to a new generation of Americans that it was their faith in Christ that caused them to pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

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Course Description

This study of our Christian heritage is focused on the historical events and people surrounding the Declaration of Independence. The early Founding Fathers of the United States of America were men of principle who debated important points of government, liberty, and the God-given rights of mankind. Their work and sacrifice created an enduring legacy that led to some of the most influential documents in history, like the Constitution of the United States of America. In this study, you will have an opportunity to learn how the American colonists chose to respond to the increasing tyranny of the British Empire and why the course of revolution was one they took after all other efforts at relief had failed.

Once their decision was made, they signed the Declaration of Independence and, in doing so, carved out a remarkable and powerful recitation about the rights of individuals, which come from God Himself. In the accounts of their lives before and following their signing of the Declaration, you will discover the immediate impact of this document on the fledgling nation and the families of those who stood boldly for the cause of freedom. (We encourage students to get copies of their state constitutions and see how the ideas set forth in each may echo the principles and character of these 56 influential men.)

Features

	Target Level	<i>Designed for grades 7–9</i>
	Flexible 180-Day Schedule	<i>Approximately 45 minutes per lesson, five days a week</i>
	Open & Go	<i>Daily Schedule, Answer Keys</i>
	Engaging Application	<i>Source Documents, Related Scriptures, Signer Quotes, Real World Connections</i>
	Assessments	<i>Quizzes, Cumulative Tests</i>

Objectives

- ★ Evaluate the lives and character of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence
- ★ Investigate the Christian principles established by the founders of the United States of America
- ★ Demonstrate an understanding of Christian character and what it means to stand up for God
- ★ Learn why the Declaration of Independence is still a vital document for us today
- ★ Be inspired by the faith and courage of the Founding Fathers to stand strong

Supply List

This course includes a note-taking component as part of each review day. As such, students will need the following materials for the course:

- ★ Highlighter
- ★ Notebook

Optional Resources

- ★ Noah Webster dictionary

Author's Note

It was a question David Barton posed that God used to challenge me to write this book. While showing a picture of the signers the Declaration of Independence, he asked who could identify more than three of the signers. Everyone knows Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. I knew John Hancock, having grown up in Boston (his picture was often in bank logos), but those were all I could identify. The question continued to pull at my soul; I realized that a huge chunk of our history, that which is Christian in nature, has been carved from our public school classrooms (of which I was a product). God used that to challenge me to begin researching the lives of these men, and when I did, I was astounded by what I found. The vast majority of these men were Christians who were looking to their Savior for guidance and daily direction in the events which led to the signing.

What we now call the “American Revolution” was not, in fact, a revolution at all, nor did it occur as a protest of “taxation without representation” as I’d been led to believe. I felt like I was on a treasure hunt, constantly uncovering nuggets of our lost spiritual heritage. It has consumed hundreds of hours of work, but my hope is that what you learn from the study of these men’s lives will inspire you to 1) value your freedom in a new and fresh way, 2) be inspired to actively protect that freedom so that future generations can benefit from it, and 3) catch a vision that God wants to use you and each member of your family to effect a permanent change in our society, a turning back to the godly principles upon which our country was founded, so that God will be able to continue extending His hand of blessing on this great land.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank David Barton of Wallbuilders as the instrument God used to inspire me to write this book, as I shared above. As I listened to him tell the stories of some of the signers, I was struck with my own ignorance of the incredible sacrifice these men made to secure my freedom today, and I couldn’t shake the thought. I want my own kids to know who these men were and what they laid on the line for their posterity — for us! Thanks, Dave, for allowing God to use you to impart vision and inspiration to so many. The Boyers view you as a real American hero!

Without so many faithful helpers, I could never have accomplished this enormous undertaking. I would like to thank my family for allowing me the time for research and writing and for listening to all the exciting bits of information as I discovered them. Specifically, a huge thanks to two of my daughters, Kate and Emily, who spent hours deciphering my handwriting and sitting at the keyboard to transcribe the entire manuscript!

To my wonderful editors, Carol Arnold and Judy Saunders, who spent hours looking for misspelled words, missing periods and commas, indentations, etc. — all the details I don’t even see! I appreciate your time and devoted effort to make this book a work of excellence. Thank you!

Additional editing work was done by my dear friend Kati Grow, who has for many years helped in our ministry in too many ways to list here. Thanks, Kati!

Many thanks are due Ed and Mary Ann Edman. They made a huge contribution through many hours of hard work and an unusually high level of perceptiveness and creativity. Mary Ann was indispensable with her incredible eye for detail and passion for excellence in final preparation of the text for press.

Course Overview

For You They Signed is an all-in-one history course focused on the lives, achievements, and character of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, whose actions nearly 250 years ago concerning the birth of our nation still impact our lives today.

This course follows a cycle of reading, corresponding exercise, and quiz. There are a total of fifteen lessons, thirteen of which cover each colonial state and its corresponding signers. The first and last lessons are an introduction and conclusion, respectively. For each day, students will complete 2–3 pages of reading and a short exercise. The course includes 27 quizzes, each of which cover one to four signers, depending on the amount of information included for each man. There are two cumulative tests as well, one midway through the course and one at the end.

The Signers

The signers of the Declaration of Independence were 56 courageous men who so fervently believed in freedom that they sacrificed whatever was necessary to support the cause — money, property, business, family, health, and more. Little is known about some of the signers, whereas others have a plethora of information available about them. We do know that many of these men were Christian, but even those who weren't highly respected the teachings of the Bible.

We must realize, however, that these men were still human and thus were not perfect. They had flaws and made mistakes just like we do. With this in mind, we need to remember that a couple of these issues included slavery and the colonists' views of Native Americans. Many of the signers owned slaves during this time in history and wrongly regarded Native Americans as "savages." However, we know that God does great things using imperfect people, which is illustrated in every single one of these men's lives. The move toward American independence planted the seeds for discussions and efforts to abolish slavery in America, as well as to amend relations with the Native Americans, as both of these things were incompatible with the rights the founders fought for.

Biblical Components

A Bible verse associated with each signer is included in the quick biography on the first page of their section. Some of the exercises include copywork of the associated verse. Further, each lesson explores the evidence of Christian characteristics and activity in the signers' lives, including charity, church attendance, statements of faith, prayer, Bible reading, reliance on God, and more.

Other Components

A short character quality glossary is included in the back matter of this book. Some of the exercises will have the student look up a term in the glossary, write its definition, and explain how the trait is shown in a signer's life. However, a dictionary, especially a Noah Webster dictionary, would be a helpful resource for any new or unfamiliar words to the student.

Quizzes & Cumulative Tests

There are a total of 27 quizzes that are spread out over the fifteen lessons in the course. Each quiz covers one to four signers, depending on the length of each signer's section. Students will also complete a cumulative test about halfway through the course, and a second cumulative test at the end of the course.

Optional Assignments

There are three optional assignments, given at the end of applicable lessons and have their own day in the schedule. Teachers can choose to assign any number of these to their student and set a due date. Optional assignments are included at the end of Lesson 3, Exercise 1 (John Adams); Lesson 11, Exercise 6 (Thomas Jefferson); and Lesson 14, Exercise 3 (George Walton, the last signer covered).

Grading Options for This Course

It is always the prerogative of an educator to assess student grades however he or she might deem best. The following is only a suggested guideline based on the material presented through this course. To calculate the percentage of the exercises and tests, the educator may use the following guide. Divide total number of questions correct (example: 43) by the total number of questions possible (example: 46) to calculate the percentage out of 100 possible.

$$43/46 = 93 \text{ percent correct}$$

The suggested grade values are noted as follows:

90 to 100 percent = A

80 to 89 percent = B

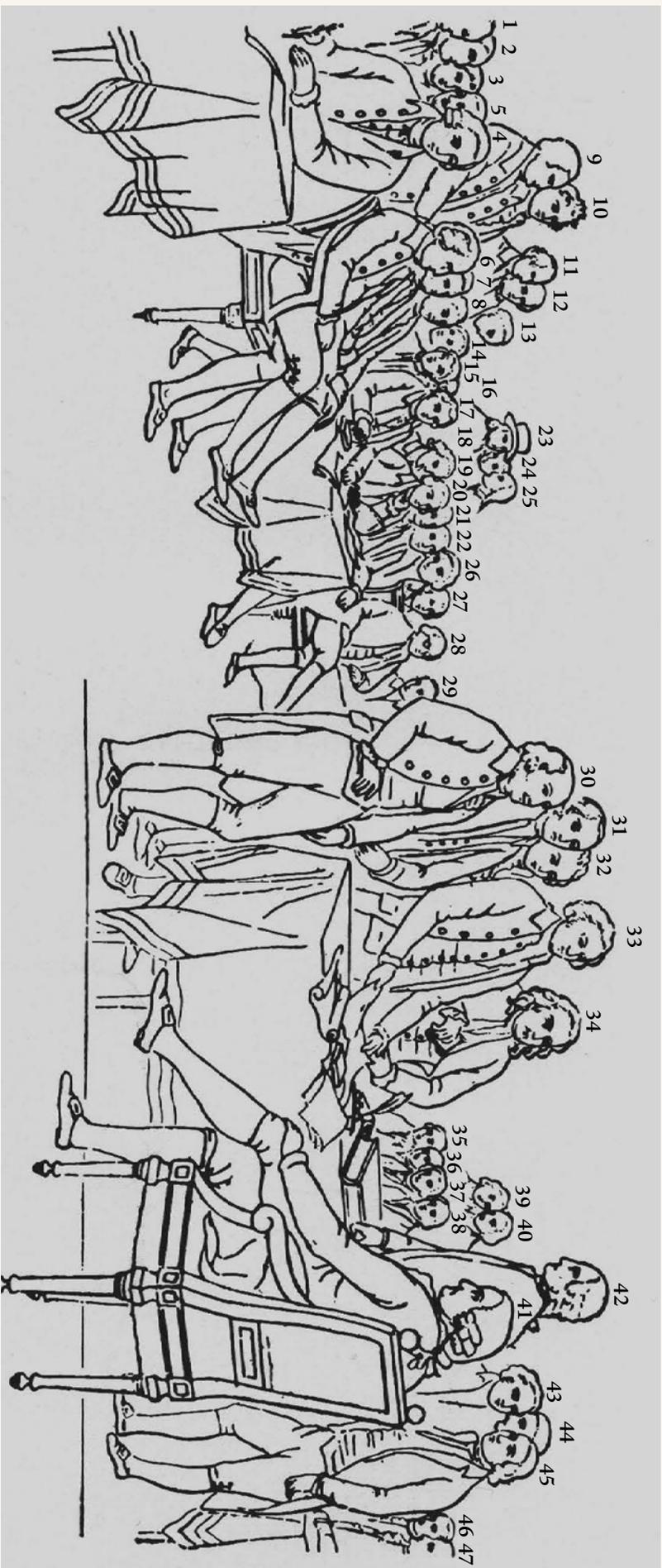
70 to 79 percent = C

60 to 69 percent = D

0 to 59 percent = F



This painting, Declaration of Independence by John Trumbull (1826), shows Thomas Jefferson presenting the first draft of the Declaration of Independence to the president of the Second Continental Congress, John Hancock. Standing behind Jefferson, from left to right, are the other members of the committee that helped draft this important document: John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, and Benjamin Franklin. What's interesting about this painting is that the scene is not fully historically accurate. Some of the delegates of this Congress are not shown, but a few other men are included in the image who were not actually present at the event. The features and furnishings of the room, portraying the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, are also not completely accurate. The painting is shown in the Capitol Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington D.C., as well as on the back of the two-dollar bill.



1. George Wythe, Virginia
2. William Whipple, New Hampshire
3. Josiah Bartlett, New Hampshire
4. Benjamin Harrison, Virginia
5. Thomas Lynch, South Carolina
6. Richard Henry Lee, Virginia
7. Samuel Adams, Massachusetts
- *8. George Clinton, New York
9. William Paca, Maryland
10. Samuel Chase, Maryland
11. Lewis Morris, New York
12. William Floyd, New York
13. Arthur Middleton, South Carolina
14. Thomas Heyward, Jr., South Carolina
15. Charles Carroll, Maryland
16. George Walton, Georgia
17. Robert Morris, Pennsylvania
- *18. Thomas Willing, Pennsylvania
19. Benjamin Rush, Pennsylvania
20. Elbridge Gerry, Massachusetts
21. Robert Treat Paine, Massachusetts
22. Abraham Clark, New Jersey
23. Stephen Hopkins, Rhode Island
24. William Ellery, Rhode Island
25. George Clymer, Pennsylvania
26. William Hooper, North Carolina
27. Joseph Hewes, North Carolina
28. James Wilson, Pennsylvania
29. Francis Hopkinson, New Jersey
30. John Adams, Massachusetts
31. Roger Sherman, Connecticut
- *32. Robert R. Livingston, New York
33. Thomas Jefferson, Virginia
34. Benjamin Franklin, Pennsylvania
35. Richard Stockton, New Jersey
36. Francis Lewis, New York
37. John Witherspoon, New Jersey
38. Samuel Huntington, Connecticut
39. William Williams, Connecticut
40. Oliver Wolcott, Connecticut
41. John Hancock, Massachusetts
- *42. Charles Thomson, Secretary, Pennsylvania
43. George Read, Delaware
- *44. John Dickinson, Pennsylvania
45. Edward Rutledge, South Carolina
46. Thomas McKean, Delaware
47. Philip Livingston, New York

There were 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. The painting portrays only 47. The five men whose names are starred were not signers. The portraits of the following 14 signers do not appear in the painting.

Matthew Thornton, New Hampshire
 John Hart, New Jersey
 John Morton, Pennsylvania
 James Smith, Pennsylvania

George Taylor, Pennsylvania
 George Ross, Pennsylvania
 Caesar Rodney, Delaware
 Thomas Stone, Maryland

Thomas Nelson, Jr., Virginia
 Francis Lightfoot Lee, Virginia
 Carter Braxton, Virginia
 John Penn, North Carolina

Button Gwinnett, Georgia
 Lyman Hall, Georgia

For You They Signed Suggested Daily Schedule

Calendar	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
► First Semester-First Quarter				
Week 1	Day 1	Lesson 1 + Pages 21–24		
	Day 2	Lesson 1 + Pages 25–28		
	Day 3	Lesson 1 + Pages 29–34		
	Day 4	Review Day + See Page 34		
	Day 5	Lesson 2 + Pages 37–40		
Week 2	Day 6	Lesson 2 + Pages 41–44		
	Day 7	Lesson 2 + Pages 45–48		
	Day 8	Lesson 2 + Pages 49–52		
	Day 9	Review Day + See Page 52		
	Day 10	Quiz 1 + Background, Documents, Bartlett, & Thornton Pages 469–470		
Week 3	Day 11	Lesson 2 + Pages 53–56		
	Day 12	Lesson 2 + Pages 57–60		
	Day 13	Review Day + See Page 60		
	Day 14	Lesson 3 + Pages 63–66		
	Day 15	Optional Project + Page 66		
Week 4	Day 16	Lesson 3 + Pages 67–70		
	Day 17	Lesson 3 + Pages 71–74		
	Day 18	Review Day + See Page 74		
	Day 19	Quiz 2 + Whipple & J. Adams + Pages 471–472		
	Day 20	Lesson 3 + Pages 75–78		
Week 5	Day 21	Lesson 3 + Pages 79–82		
	Day 22	Lesson 3 + Pages 83–86		
	Day 23	Review Day + See Page 86		
	Day 24	Quiz 3 + S. Adams + Pages 473–474		
	Day 25	Lesson 3 + Pages 87–90		
Week 6	Day 26	Lesson 3 + Pages 91–94		
	Day 27	Lesson 3 + Pages 95–98		
	Day 28	Review Day + See Page 98		
	Day 29	Quiz 4 + Gerry + Pages 475–476		
	Day 30	Lesson 3 + Pages 99–102		

Calendar		Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 7	Day 31	Lesson 3 • Pages 103–106			
	Day 32	Lesson 3 • Pages 107–110			
	Day 33	Lesson 3 • Pages 111–114			
	Day 34	Review Day • See Page 114			
	Day 35	Quiz 5 • Hancock & Paine • Pages 477–478			
Week 8	Day 36	Lesson 4 • Pages 117–120			
	Day 37	Lesson 4 • Pages 121–124			
	Day 38	Review Day • See Page 124			
	Day 39	Lesson 5 • Pages 127–130			
	Day 40	Lesson 5 • Pages 131–134			
Week 9	Day 41	Lesson 5 • Pages 135–138			
	Day 42	Review Day • See Page 138			
	Day 43	Quiz 6 • Ellery, Hopkins, Huntington, & Sherman • Pages 479–480			
	Day 44	Lesson 5 • Pages 139–142			
	Day 45	Lesson 5 • Pages 143–144			

Calendar	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
► First Semester-Second Quarter				
Week 1	Day 46	Lesson 5 + Pages 145–148		
	Day 47	Review Day + See Page 148		
	Day 48	Quiz 7 + Williams & Wolcott + Pages 481–482		
	Day 49	Lesson 6 + Pages 151–152		
	Day 50	Lesson 6 + Pages 153–156		
Week 2	Day 51	Lesson 6 + Pages 157–160		
	Day 52	Lesson 6 + Pages 161–164		
	Day 53	Review Day + See Page 164		
	Day 54	Quiz 8 + Floyd & Lewis + Pages 483–484		
	Day 55	Lesson 6 + Pages 165–168		
Week 3	Day 56	Lesson 6 + Pages 169–172		
	Day 57	Lesson 6 + Pages 173–176		
	Day 58	Lesson 6 + Pages 177–180		
	Day 59	Review Day + See Page 180		
	Day 60	Quiz 9 + Livingston & L. Morris + Pages 485–486		
Week 4	Day 61	Lesson 7 + Pages 183–186		
	Day 62	Lesson 7 + Pages 187–190		
	Day 63	Lesson 7 + Pages 191–194		
	Day 64	Lesson 7 + Pages 195–198		
	Day 65	Review Day + See Page 198		
Week 5	Day 66	Quiz 10 + Clark & Hart + Pages 487–488		
	Day 67	Lesson 7 + Pages 199–200		
	Day 68	Lesson 7 + Pages 201–204		
	Day 69	Lesson 7 + Pages 205–206		
	Day 70	Lesson 7 + Pages 207–210		
Week 6	Day 71	Lesson 7 + Pages 211–214		
	Day 72	Review Day + See Page 214		
	Day 73	Quiz 11 + Hopkinson & Stockton + Pages 489–490		
	Day 74	Lesson 7 + Pages 215–218		
	Day 75	Lesson 7 + Pages 219–222		
Week 7	Day 76	Lesson 7 + Pages 223–224		
	Day 77	Review Day + See Page 224		
	Day 78	Quiz 12 + Witherspoon + Pages 491–492		
	Day 79	Lesson 8 + Pages 227–230		
	Day 80	Lesson 8 + Pages 231–234		

Calendar		Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 8	Day 81	Review Day • See Page 234			
	Day 82	Quiz 13 • Clymer • Pages 493–494			
	Day 83	Lesson 8 • Pages 235–236			
	Day 84	Lesson 8 • Pages 237–240			
	Day 85	Lesson 8 • Pages 241–244			
Week 9	Day 86	Lesson 8 • Pages 245–248			
	Day 87	Lesson 8 • Pages 249–250			
	Day 88	Review Day • See Page 250			
	Day 89	Quiz 14 • Franklin • Pages 495–496			
	Day 90	Review Day • See Page 250			
		Mid-Term Grade			



Calendar	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
► Second Semester—Third Quarter				
Week 1	Day 91	Review Day • See Page 250		
	Day 92	Cumulative Test 1 • Pages 523–524		
	Day 93	Lesson 8 • Pages 251–254		
	Day 94	Lesson 8 • Pages 255–258		
	Day 95	Lesson 8 • Pages 259–262		
Week 2	Day 96	Review Day • See Page 262		
	Day 97	Lesson 8 • Pages 263–266		
	Day 98	Lesson 8 • Pages 267–270		
	Day 99	Lesson 8 • Pages 271–274		
	Day 100	Review Day • See Page 274		
Week 3	Day 101	Quiz 15 • R. Morris & Morton • Pages 497–498		
	Day 102	Lesson 8 • Pages 275–278		
	Day 103	Lesson 8 • Pages 279–282		
	Day 104	Lesson 8 • Pages 283–286		
	Day 105	Review Day • See Page 286		
Week 4	Day 106	Lesson 8 • Pages 287–288		
	Day 107	Lesson 8 • Page 289–290		
	Day 108	Lesson 8 • Pages 291–292		
	Day 109	Review Day • See Page 292		
	Day 110	Quiz 16 • Ross & Rush • Pages 499–500		
Week 5	Day 111	Lesson 8 • Pages 293–296		
	Day 112	Lesson 8 • Pages 297–298		
	Day 113	Lesson 8 • Pages 299–302		
	Day 114	Lesson 8 • Page 303–304		
	Day 115	Review Day • See Page 304		
Week 6	Day 116	Quiz 17 • Smith, Taylor, & Wilson • Pages 501–502		
	Day 117	Lesson 9 • Pages 307–310		
	Day 118	Lesson 9 • Pages 311–314		
	Day 119	Lesson 9 • Pages 315–318		
	Day 120	Lesson 9 • Pages 319–322		
Week 7	Day 121	Review Day • See Page 322		
	Day 122	Quiz 18 • McKean & Read • Pages 503–504		
	Day 123	Lesson 9 • Pages 323–326		
	Day 124	Lesson 9 • Pages 327–330		
	Day 125	Review Day • See Page 330		

Calendar	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 8	Day 126	Quiz 19 + Rodney + Pages 505–506		
	Day 127	Lesson 10 + Pages 333–336		
	Day 128	Lesson 10 + Pages 337–340		
	Day 129	Lesson 10 + Pages 341–344		
	Day 130	Lesson 10 + Pages 345–348		
Week 9	Day 131	Review Day + See Page 348		
	Day 132	Quiz 20 + Carroll & Chase + Pages 507–508		
	Day 133	Lesson 10 + Pages 349–352		
	Day 134	Lesson 10 + Pages 353–356		
	Day 135	Review Day + See Page 356		

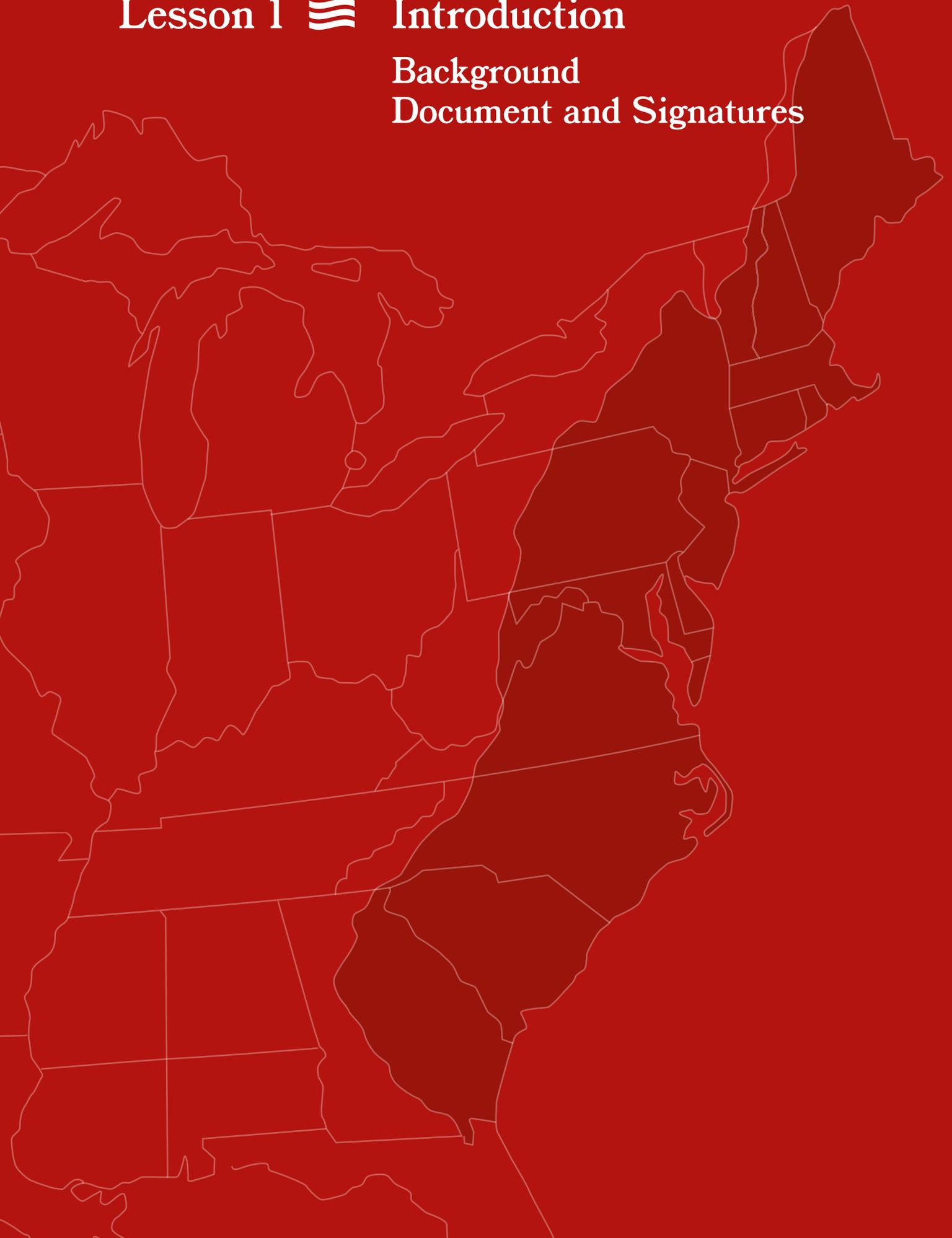
Calendar	Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
► Second Semester—Fourth Quarter				
Week 1	Day 136	Quiz 21 • Paca & Stone • Pages 509–510		
	Day 137	Lesson 11 • Pages 359–362		
	Day 138	Lesson 11 • Pages 363–366		
	Day 139	Lesson 11 • Pages 367–370		
	Day 140	Review Day • See Page 370		
Week 2	Day 141	Lesson 11 • Pages 371–374		
	Day 142	Lesson 11 • Pages 375–378		
	Day 143	Lesson 11 • Pages 379–382		
	Day 144	Optional Project • Page 382		
	Day 145	Lesson 11 • Pages 383–386		
Week 3	Day 146	Review Day • See Page 386		
	Day 147	Quiz 22 • Braxton, Harrison, Jefferson, & F. L. Lee • Pages 511–512		
	Day 148	Lesson 11 • Pages 387–390		
	Day 149	Lesson 11 • Pages 391–394		
	Day 150	Lesson 11 • Pages 395–398		
Week 4	Day 151	Review Day • See Page 398		
	Day 152	Quiz 23 • R. H. Lee • Pages 513–514		
	Day 153	Lesson 11 • Pages 399–402		
	Day 154	Lesson 11 • Pages 403–406		
	Day 155	Lesson 11 • Pages 407–410		
Week 5	Day 156	Lesson 11 • Pages 411–414		
	Day 157	Lesson 11 • Pages 415–416		
	Day 158	Review Day • See Page 416		
	Day 159	Quiz 24 • Nelson & Wythe • Pages 515–516		
	Day 160	Lesson 12 • Pages 419–422		
Week 6	Day 161	Lesson 12 • Pages 423–426		
	Day 162	Lesson 12 • Pages 427–428		
	Day 163	Review Day • See Page 428		
	Day 164	Quiz 25 • Hewes, Hooper, & Penn • Pages 517–518		
	Day 165	Lesson 13 • Pages 431–434		
Week 7	Day 166	Lesson 13 • Pages 435–438		
	Day 167	Lesson 13 • Pages 439–442		
	Day 168	Lesson 13 • Pages 443–446		
	Day 169	Review Day • See Page 446		
	Day 170	Quiz 26 • Heyward, Lynch, Middleton, & Rutledge • Pages 519–520		

Calendar		Assignment	Due Date	✓	Grade
Week 8	Day 171	Lesson 14 • Pages 449–452			
	Day 172	Lesson 14 • Pages 453–456			
	Day 173	Lesson 14 • Pages 457–460			
	Day 174	Optional Project • Page 460			
	Day 175	Lesson 15 • Pages 463–464			
Week 9	Day 176	Review Day • See Page 464			
	Day 177	Quiz 27 • Gwinnett, Hall, Walton, & A Parting Charge Pages 521–522			
	Day 178	Review Day • See Page 464			
	Day 179	Review Day • See Page 464			
	Day 180	Cumulative Test 2 • Pages 525–526			
		Final Grade			

Lesson 1 ≡ Introduction

Background

Document and Signatures



Lesson 1 Sources

- 1 David Barton, *The Role of Pastors & Christians in Civil Government* (Aledo, TX: Wallbuilder Press, 2003), quoting *The Works of John Adams, Second President of the United States* by John Adams; Charles Francis Adams, editor (Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co., 1856), Vol. X, p. 284 to Hezekiah Niles on Feb. 13, 1818), p. 8.
- 2 Barton, *The Role of Pastors & Christians*, quoting *John Adams, Works* (1856) Vol. X, p. 45, to Thomas Jefferson on June 28, 1813, p. 18.
- 3 Barton, *The Role of Pastors & Christians*, quoting *Reports of Committees of the House of Representatives Made During the First Session of the Thirty-Third Congress* (Washington, DC: A.O.P. Nicholson, 1854), p. 6, 8–9), p. 21.
- 4 Darlene Stoker and B. Elaine Clegg, *Our Heritage of Freedom* (Idaho Falls, ID: GCS Distribution, 1998), p. 84.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 David Barton, *The Spirit of the American Revolution* (Aledo, TX: Wallbuilder Press, 1994), p. 7.
- 7 Barton, *The Spirit of the American Revolution*, quoting Hezekiah Niles, *Principles & Acts of the Revolution in America* (Baltimore, MD: William Ogden Niles, 1822), p. 189; debate in the House of Commons, April 26, 1774), p. 12.
- 8 Charles A. Goodrich, *Lives of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence* (New York: Thomas Mather), p. 381.
- 9 Barton, *The Spirit of the American Revolution*, p. 6.
- 10 Jared Sparks, editor, *The Writings of George Washington* (Boston, MA: American Stationers' Co., 1838), Vol. VI, p. 36, to Brigadier Gen. Nelson on August 20, 1778.
- 11 Donald E. Cooke, *Our Nation's Great Heritage: The Story of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution* (Maplewood, NJ: Hammond Incorporated, 1972), p. 55.
- 12 Barton, *The Spirit of the American Revolution*, p. 9, quoting George Washington, *The Writings of George Washington*, John C. Fitzpatrick, editor (Washington DC: US Government Printing Office, 1932), Vol. V, p. 245, from his General Orders of July 9, 1776.
- 13 Barton, *The Spirit of the American Revolution*, p. 9, quoting George Washington, *Writings*, Vol. XI, p. 343, from his General Orders of May 2, 1778.
- 14 Barton, *The Spirit of the American Revolution*, p. 9, quoting *Journals of Each Provincial Congress of Massachusetts in 1774 and 1775*, William Lincoln, editor (Boston, MA: Dutton & Wentworth, 1838), p. 70, Dec. 10, 1774.
- 15 Barton, *The Spirit of the American Revolution*, quoting *Journals of the American Congress from 1774 to 1778* (Washington: Way & Gideon, 1823), Vol. II, p. 107–111.
- 16 Barton, *The Spirit of the American Revolution*, quoting de Tocqueville, *The Republic of the United States of America and Its Political Institutions. Reviewed and Examined*, Henry Reeves, translator (New York: A.S. Barnes & Co., 1851), Vol. I, p. 337.
- 17 Barton, *The Role of Pastors & Christians in Civil Government*, quoting John M. Taylor, *Garfield of Ohio: The Available Man* (New York: W. W. & Co., Inc., 1970), p. 180, quoting "A Century of Congress" by James A. Garfield, *Atlantic*, July 1877, p. 35.
- 18 Meldrim Thomson Jr., *One Hundred Famous Founders* (Oxford, NH, Mt. Cube Farm, 1994), p. 12.

Background

“A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we have come from, or what we have been about. — Woodrow Wilson

As President Woodrow Wilson so forcefully reminded us, we must understand where our country has come from in order to accurately attend to our duties as citizens today. Our country was, at the time of the American Revolution, a Christian nation. That means Christian principles governed the way people lived their lives. They had been trained to have a proper respect for God’s principles and ways, though we need to remember that these values were not conducted perfectly, as slavery was an accepted practice during this era, as well as a lesser regard of Native Americans.

The Church was influential in shaping the beliefs of the founders. John Adams stated that Rev. Dr. Jonathan Mayhew and Rev. Dr. Samuel Cooper were two of the individuals “most conspicuous, the most ardent, and influential [in the] awakening and revival of American principles and feelings that led to our independence.”¹

The pulpits of America helped to shape what Americans thought about issues of the day. Current events were preached about, and the Bible was revered as having the answers to every dilemma in life. Even those who did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (a Christian) had a respect for Scripture and godly principles. John Adams declared, “The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were ... the general principles of Christianity ... now I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.”²

In a court case in 1854, the U.S. Congress stated:

“Had the people, during the Revolution, a suspicion of any attempt to war against Christianity, that Revolution would have been strangled in its cradle. At the time of the adoption

of the Constitution and the amendments, the universal sentiment was that Christianity should be encouraged, but not any one [denomination]. In this age there can be no substitute for Christianity. That was the religion of the founders of the Republic, and they expected it to remain the religion of their descendants.”³

When the 56 men signed their names to the Declaration of Independence, King George ordered his soldiers to find and execute them all, putting an end to the “foolish” rebellion. The British soldiers were just miles away from some of the homes of the New York signers on the day they placed their signatures on that document. They all knew, if captured, they would die the death of a traitor. John Adams, on the eve of the signing, wrote to his wife, Abigail, “I am well aware of the toil, and blood, and treasure, that it will cost to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these states; yet, through all the gloom I can see the rays of light and glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means.”⁴

They were laying their lives, fortune, and sacred honor on the line for you and me — their posterity.

“Posterity — “You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it.”⁵
— John Quincy Adams

This statement pierced me deeply. We have forgotten. As a nation, we have forgotten; we never learned what sacrifices were made on our behalf. Declaring independence was not a decision lightly made.

The first Congress, held in Philadelphia on September 5, 1774, opened with prayer that lasted for hours. They read Psalm 35 and felt God used it to speak direction into their lives.

Psalm 35

Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.

Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help.

Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.

Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt.

Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them.

Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them.

For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul.

Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall.

And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

All my bones shall say, LORD, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?

False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.

They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul.

But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.

I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.

But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yea, the objects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not:

With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth.

Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions.

I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.

Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.

For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land.

Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it.

This thou hast seen, O LORD: keep not silence: O Lord, be not far from me.

Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord.

Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me.

Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up.

Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

Multiple Choice: Circle the best answer from the choices.

1. What kind of nation was our country at the time of the American Revolution?
 - a. Atheistic
 - b. Pantheistic
 - c. Agnostic
 - d. Christian

2. Who did John Adams state were the “most ... influential [in the] awakening and revival of American principles and feelings that led to our independence”? (There is more than one answer.)
 - a. Samuel Cooper
 - b. Jonathan Mayhew
 - c. George Washington
 - d. Samuel Adams

3. How many men signed their names to the Declaration of Independence?
 - a. 22
 - b. 45
 - c. 56
 - d. 73

4. What book and chapter of the Bible were used for prayer in Congress on September 5, 1774?
 - a. Psalm 140
 - b. 1 Samuel 17
 - c. Psalm 35
 - d. Joshua 6

Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

5. Former President Woodrow Wilson said, “We are trying to do a _____ thing if we do not _____ where we have come from, or _____ we have been about.”

6. At the time of the American Revolution, even those who did not have a personal _____ with Jesus Christ had a _____ for Scripture and godly _____.

7. The signers all knew, if captured by the British, they would _____ the death of a _____.

8. As a nation, we have _____; we never _____ what _____ were made on our _____.

Short Answer: Write the answer to each question.

9. Why must we understand where our country has come from?

10. In a court case in 1854, what did Congress state would have “strangled [that Revolution] in its cradle”?

11. What did John Quincy Adams say of posterity?

Activity: Complete the activity below. Write your thoughts and/or experience on the lines provided.

12. The Founding Fathers used Psalm 35 to open the first Congress with prayer on September 5, 1774, which lasted for hours. Write your own short prayer based on Psalm 35.

The following was recorded of that day:

“Washington was kneeling there, and Henry, and Randolph and Rutledge, and Lee and Jay; and by their side there stood, bowed down in deference, the Puritan patriots of New England, who at that moment had reason to believe that an armed soldiery was wasting their humble households... They prayed fervently for America, for the Congress, for the province of Massachusetts Bay, and especially the town of Boston. ... ‘‘It was enough,’’ said Mr. Adams, ‘‘to melt a heart of stone. I saw the tears gush into the eyes of the old pacific Quakers of Philadelphia.’’

John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail, ‘‘We have appointed a continental fast. Millions will be upon their knees at once before their great Creator, imploring His forgiveness and blessing; His smiles on American councils and arms.’’⁶

Minutemen were often groups of laymen from local churches, led by their pastor or deacon. It wasn't unusual following militia drills for the men to then attend their church service for preaching of the Word and prayer. The spiritual nature of the American troops was reported by a Crown-appointed British governor, writing to Great Britain, ‘‘If you ask an American, who is his master, he'll tell you he has none, nor any governor but Jesus Christ.’’⁷

One of their early biographies made this declaration:

‘‘It was fortunate for the cause of America, and for the cause of freedom, that there was a class of men at that day, who were adequate to the high and mighty enterprise of sundering the ties which bound the colonies. For this they were doubtless specially raised up by the God of heaven; for this they were prepared by the lofty energies of their minds, and by that boldness and intrepidity of character, which, perhaps, never so signally marked another generation of man.’’⁸

God clearly showed His providence in mighty ways during the Revolution. ‘‘It was truly a miracle that the American Navy would attempt a battle with

the British warships. They fought with rowboats, furnished with a cannon at each end. They had taken out two British warships, one loaded with sixty-four guns and the other with twenty guns. As Adams later told his wife of the victory at Fort Mifflin, ‘‘It appears to me the eternal Son of God is operating powerfully against the British Nation.’’⁹

Even George Washington wrote: ‘‘The Hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this, that he must be worse an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked, that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge His obligations.’’¹⁰

In his first inaugural address, Washington stated:

‘‘No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of Providential agency. ... We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of heaven cannot be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which heaven itself has ordained.’’¹¹

Even the standards to which Washington held his troops reflect the Christian nature of our country at the time.

Washington wrote that ‘‘every officer and man will endeavor so as to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier, defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.’’¹²

He charged his troops, ‘‘To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian.’’¹³ The Massachusetts Legislature gave the following orders to the Minutemen on December 10, 1774:

‘‘You are placed by Providence in [the] post of honor because it is the post of danger. And while struggling for the noblest objects — the liberties of your country, the happiness of posterity, and the rights of human nature — the eyes not only of North America and the whole British Empire, but of all Europe are upon you. Let us be therefore, altogether

solicitous that no disorderly behavior, nothing unbecoming our characters as Americans, as citizens and Christians, be justly chargeable to us.¹⁴

Congress officially recognized the hand of God in the victory at Saratoga and issued a proclamation on November 1, 1777:

“Forasmuch as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God, to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to Him for benefits received and to implore such further blessings as they stand in need of; and it having pleased Him ... to crown our arms with most signal success: It [a day] is therefore recommended ... for solemn thanksgiving and praise; that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and consecrate themselves to the service of their Divine Benefactor; and that together with their sincere acknowledgments and offerings, they may join the penitent confession of their manifold sins... and their humble and earnest supplication that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot out of remembrance [and] ... to take schools and seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true liberty, virtue and piety, under His nurturing hand, and to prosper the means of religion for the promotion and enlargement of that kingdom which consisteth “in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” [Romans 14:17].¹⁵

Alexis de Tocqueville, a French observer, came to America in the 1830s seeking to find what made her great. This was his conclusion:

“Upon my arrival in the United States, the religious aspect of the country was the first thing that struck my attention. And the longer I stayed there the more I perceived the great political consequences resulting from this state of things to which I was unaccustomed. In France, I had almost always seen the spirit of religion and the spirit of freedom pursuing courses diametrically opposed to each other. But in America, I found that they were intimately united, that they reigned in common over the same country.¹⁶

As you study the lives and character of these men who birthed our great country, consider the words of President James Garfield, spoken over a century ago.

“Now, more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature ... [I]f the next centennial does not find us a great nation ... it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.¹⁷

Let what you learn guide you as you and your family strive to be salt and light where you live today. Let us, with a clear conscience, be able to echo the words spoken by John Adams after his long years of service in Congress: “Whatever becomes of me, my friends shall never suffer by my negligence.”¹⁸



French author and traveler Alexis de Tocqueville

Multiple Choice: Circle the best answer from the choices.

1. What did Mr. Adams say the congressional prayer was enough to do?
 - a. Melt a heart of stone
 - b. Make the men cry
 - c. Solve all their problems
2. What did the American Navy use to fight the British warships?
 - a. Sailboats
 - b. Rowboats
 - c. Warships
3. What did Alexis de Tocqueville say was the first thing that struck his attention upon arriving in the United States?
 - a. The patriotic aspect of the country
 - b. The educational aspect of the country
 - c. The cultural aspect of the country
 - d. The religious aspect of the country
4. What did Tocqueville say were almost always “pursuing courses diametrically opposed to each other” in France but were “intimately united” in America?
 - a. Freedom and patriotism
 - b. Freedom and religion
 - c. Religion and culture

True or False: For the statement, circle true or false. If false, change the underlined word or phrase to make it true.

5. True False It wasn't unusual following militia drills for the men to then attend their community service.

Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

6. Washington wrote that “every officer and man will _____ so as to live and act as becomes a _____ soldier, defending the dearest _____ and _____ of his country.”
7. Congress issued a proclamation after the victory at Saratoga, saying, “[A day] is therefore recommended ... for solemn _____ and _____; that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts, and _____ themselves to the service of their Divine _____ ...”

Short Answer: Write the answer to each question.

8. What four things did the men of Congress pray for?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

9. Who did George Washington write must be “more than wicked”?

10. What did former President James Garfield say would be the reason “if the next centennial does not find us a great nation”?

Activity: Complete the activity below. Write your thoughts and/or experience on the lines provided.

11. Think about President James Garfield’s words from over a century ago. Write a list of specific things you think our nation needs prayer for, then spend some time in prayer over those things. You can write down your prayer if you’d like.

Document and Signatures

The Declaration of Independence

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. — But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and pernicious to tyrants only. — He has called together legislative Bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the People. — He has refused for a long time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise, the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of Invasion from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Strangers; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has created a multitude of new Offices, and sent swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. — He has kept among us, in times of Peace, standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislature. — He has endeavoured to bring the Military dependent of and superior to the Civil power. — He has combined with us to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and an acknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: — For obstructing them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our People. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic Injuries among us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. — In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People. — Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. — We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Doxton Ginneth
Lyman Hall
Geo. Walton.

John Hancock
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

Edward Rutledge

John Jay
Thomas Lynch
Arthur Middleton

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Th. Jefferson
Percy Harrison
Th. Nelson Jr.
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carroll Braxton

Samuel Chase
Wm. Paca
Thos. Stone
Caro. Carroll of Carrollton

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Th. Jefferson
Percy Harrison
Th. Nelson Jr.
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carroll Braxton

John Morison
John Norton
Geo. Taylor
John Smith
Geo. Taylor
James Wilson
Gt. Mops
Casar Rodney
Wm. Smith
Thos. Mifflin

Rich. Stockton
John Witherspoon
Sam. Johnston
John Hart
Abra. Clark

John Jay
John Adams
Lewis Morris

Rich. Stockton
John Witherspoon
Sam. Johnston
John Hart
Abra. Clark

Josiah Bartlett
Wm. Whipple
Sam. Adams
John Adams
Robt. Treat Paine
Wm. Hooper

Wm. Hooper
Stephen Hopkins
William Ellery
Roger Sherman
Sam. Huntington
Math. Williams
Oliver Wolcott
Nathan Dane

The following is a transcript of the Declaration from the previous page.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. —

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. —

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. — He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. — He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither

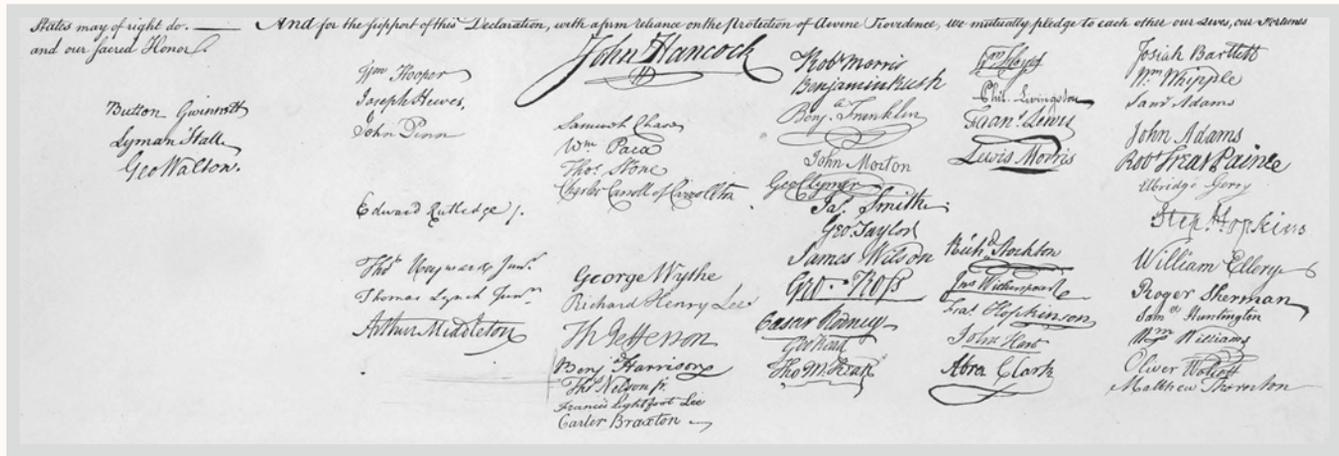
swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance. — He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. —

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Signatures

The actual signing of the document did not take place until August 2, 1776. An engrossed copy (hand-copied with calligraphy) was prepared. The custom of the day was to sign beginning on the right side of the paper, under the text. They signed in groups of states geographically from north to south, starting with the State of New Hampshire.



President of Continental Congress

John Hancock

Georgia Button Gwinnett Lyman Hall George Walton	N. Carolina Wm Hooper Joseph Hewes John Penn Edward Rutledge	Maryland Samuel Chase Wm Paca Thos Stone Charles Carroll of Carrollton	Pennsylvania Rob Morris Benjamin Rush Benj Franklin John Morton George Clymer Ja Smith Geo Taylor James Wilson George Ross	New York Wm Floyd Philip Livingston Francis Lewis Lewis Morris New Jersey Rich Stockman Jon Witherspoon Fra Hopkinson John Hart Abra Clark	New Hampshire Josiah Bartlett Wm Whipple Massachusetts Sam Adams John Adams Rob Treat Paine Elbridge Gerry Rhode Island Step Hopkins William Ellery Connecticut Roger Sherman Sam Huntington Wm Williams Oliver Wolcott New Hampshire Matthew Thornton
	S. Carolina Thos Heyward Jr. Thomas Lynch Jr. Arthur Middleton	Virginia George Wythe Richard Henry Lee Th Jefferson Benj Harrison Th Nelson Jr. Francis Lightfoot Lee Carter Braxton	Delaware Caesar Rodney Geo Read Tho McKean		

Multiple Choice: Circle the best answer from the choices.

- When did the actual signing of the Declaration of Independence take place?
 - July 4, 1776
 - August 2, 1776
 - August 4, 1776
- Which state started the signing?
 - New York
 - New Jersey
 - New Hampshire
- How many states were there at the time when the Declaration of Independence was written and signed?
 - 12
 - 13
 - 14
 - 15

True or False: For each statement, circle true or false. If false, change the underlined word or phrase to make it true.

- True False The men signed in groups of states geographically from north to south.
- True False The Declaration states, “We have Petitioned for Redress in the most assertive terms.”

Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

- “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created _____, that they are endowed by their _____ with certain unalienable _____, that among these are _____, _____ and the pursuit of _____.”
- “But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute _____, it is their _____, it is their _____, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future _____.”
- “That these united _____ are, and of Right ought to be _____ and _____ States.”
- “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of _____ Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our _____, our _____, and our sacred _____.”

Short Answer: Write the answer to each question.

10. What is meant by an engrossed copy of the document?

11. What was the custom of the day pertaining to signing a document?

12. The Declaration provides a long list of injuries and usurpations by King George III. List five of them.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

Activity: Complete the activity below. Write your thoughts and/or experience on the lines provided.

13. The language of the Declaration of Independence can be difficult to understand. Read through the document again, circling any words or phrases that are unfamiliar to you. Discuss these with your teacher and look them up together if you need help. You can write some of the words/phrases and their meanings below.

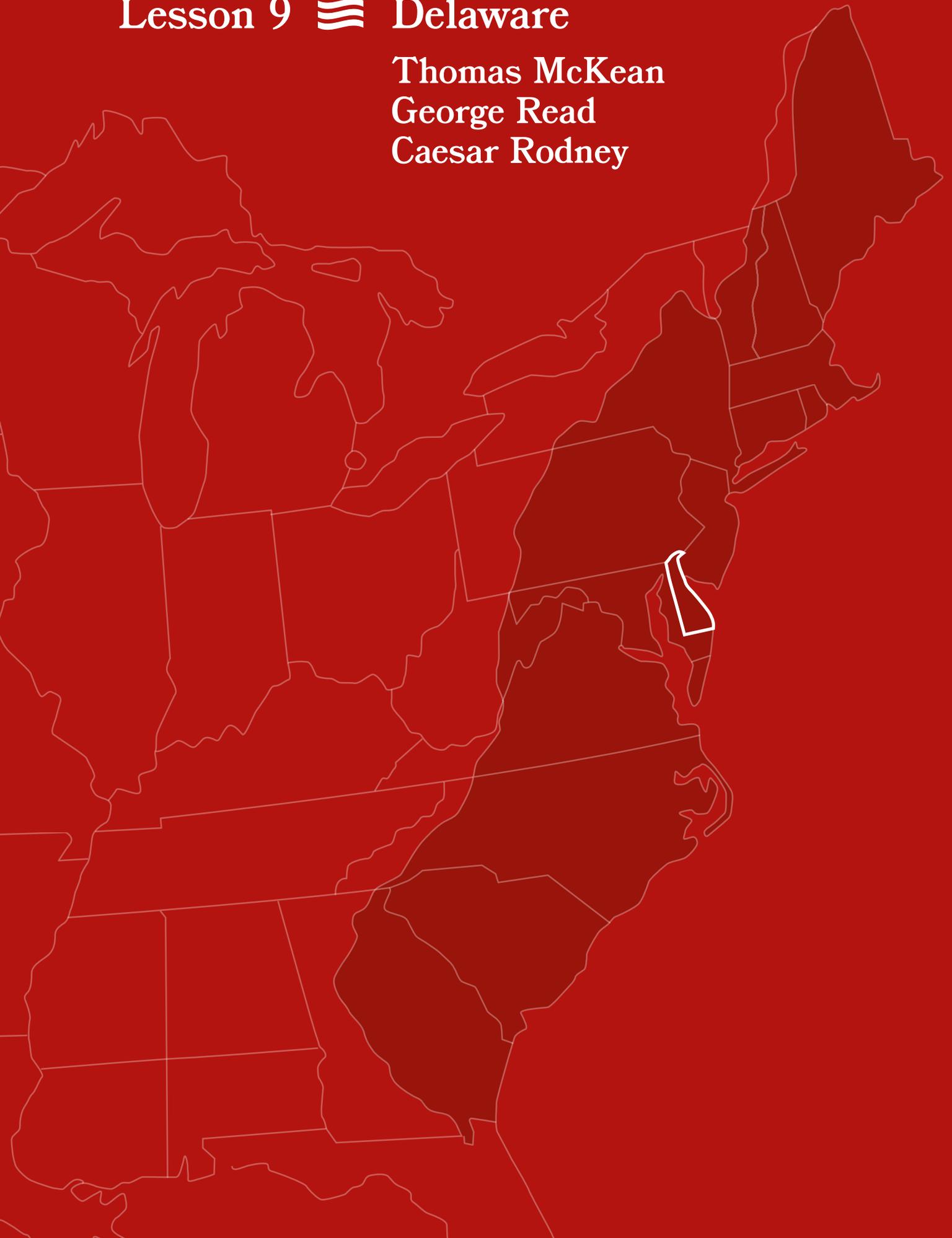
Review Day



For Day 4, use a highlighter to highlight important information from the Background section and Document and Signatures section. In a separate notebook, take notes on the information you highlighted. These notes will help you review for the quizzes and tests throughout the course.

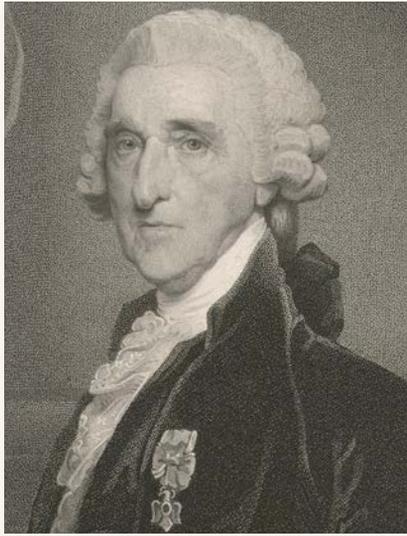
Lesson 9 ≡ Delaware

Thomas McKean
George Read
Caesar Rodney



Lesson 9 Sources

- 525 Sanderson, *Biography of the Signers*, Vol. VI, p. 337.
- 526 Ferris and Morris, *The Signers of the Declaration of Independence*, p. 101.
- 527 McGee, *Famous Signers*, p. 193.
- 528 *Ibid.*, p. 193–194.
- 529 Ferris and Morris, *The Signers of the Declaration of Independence*, p. 100.
- 530 McGee, *Famous Signers*, p. 287–289.
- 531 Whitney, *Founders of Freedom in America*, p. 156–157.
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- 533 McGee, *Famous Signers*, p. 200.
- 534 Whitney, *Founders of Freedom in America*, p. 157.
- 535 *Ibid.*, p. 159.
- 536 *Ibid.*
- 537 *Ibid.*
- 538 Sanderson, *Biography of the Signers*, Vol. VI, p. 321–322.
- 539 Whitney, *Founders of Freedom in America*, p. 159.
- 540 *Ibid.*
- 541 *Ibid.*
- 542 Bakeless, *Signers of the Declaration*, p. 186.
- 543 Fradin, *The Signers*, p. 74.
- 544 David Barton, *Keys to Good Government* (Aledo, TX: Wallbuilders Press, 1994), p. 5, quoting *The Constitutions of the Several Independent States of America, Published by Order of Congress* (Boston, MA: Norman and Bowen, 1785), p. 99–100.
- 545 Whitney, *Founders of Freedom in America*, p. 187.
- 546 Goodrich, *Lives of the Signers*, p. 323.
- 547 Sanderson, *Biography of the Signers*, Vol. IV, p. 74–75.
- 548 *Ibid.*, p. 81.
- 549 *Ibid.*, p. 82.
- 550 Goodrich, *Lives of the Signers*, p. 321.
- 551 Whitney, *Founders of Freedom in America*, p. 186–187. (Description of George Read by John Meredith Read Jr., one of his great-grandsons.)
- 552 Whitney, *Founders of Freedom in America*, p. 190.
- 553 Sanderson, *Biography of the Signers*, Vol. VIII, p. 119–120.
- 554 Goodrich, *Lives of the Signers*, p. 315.
- 555 *Ibid.*, p. 316–317.
- 556 Goodrich, *Lives of the Signers*, p. 319.
- 557 McGee, *Famous Signers*, p. 191–192.
- 558 Whitney, *Founders of Freedom in America*, p. 19.
- 559 Sinclair and MacArthur, *They Signed for Us*, p. 19.
- 560 McGee, *Famous Signers*, p. 194.
- 561 Cooke, *Our Nation's Great Heritage*, p. 58.
- 562 Sanderson, *Biography of the Signers*, Vol. VIII, p. 105.
- 563 McGee, *Famous Signers*, p. 196.



Tho^o M^o McKean

Man of many offices

Thomas McKean was born in New London Township, Pennsylvania, in 1734. By age eight, Thomas was learning Latin and Greek in school. After the usual elementary education, he studied for seven years under Reverend Francis Alison, during which time George Read (later to be a fellow signer) was also a pupil. He then studied law with his cousin David Finney at New Castle, Delaware. In 1754, at the age of 20, he was admitted to the Delaware bar and permitted to practice in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. In 1763, he married Mary Borden, sister of Francis Hopkinson's wife, Ann. They had six children.

During the next two and a half decades, McKean occupied an array of appointive and elective offices in Delaware, some simultaneously: high sheriff of Kent County; militia captain; trustee of the loan office of New Castle County; customs collector and judge at New Castle; deputy attorney general of Sussex County; chief notary officer for the province; and clerk (1757–1759) and member (1762–1779) of the legislature, including the speakership of the lower house (1772–1773). In 1762, he had also helped compile the colony's laws.⁵²⁶

Mr. McKean was a delegate to the Stamp Act Congress in 1765 and was chosen along with Caesar Rodney to prepare an address to the British House of Commons. McKean zealously opposed the encroachments of British power upon American freedom and was elected as a member of the Continental Congress.

Thomas McKean

Patriot of Integrity

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1–3

Born	March 19, 1734
Birthplace	New London Township, Pennsylvania
Education	Philadelphia Academy
Occupation	Lawyer, judge
Married	Mary Borden, 1763 Sarah Armitage, 1774
Children	11
Age at Signing	42
Died	June 24, 1817; age 83

No act of my public life was ever done from a corrupt motive; nor without a deliberate opinion that the act was lawful and proper in itself.⁵²⁵

Thomas McKean was instrumental in assuring that Delaware voted for independence. The Delaware Assembly met on June 10th at New Castle, and on June 13th, McKean wrote to Congress in Philadelphia:

“The Assembly here have information this moment by express that there are a thousand Tories under arms in Sussex country ... but we expect soon to give a good Account of these misguided people. That same day, at seven in the evening, he reported that the Insurgents in Sussex country have dispersed. ...”⁵²⁷

On July 1st, as indicated in Jefferson’s notes, the Lee independence motion was about to be voted on. Delaware was divided. McKean was for it and Read against. Caesar Rodney was involved in military duties.

“Thomas McKean described what followed in a letter that he wrote to a nephew of Rodney in 1813: “Whereupon, without delay I sent an Express (at my private expence) for your honored Uncle Caesar Rodney Esquire, the remaining member for Delaware, whom I met at the State-house door in his boots and spurs, as the members were assembling; after a friendly salutation (without a word on the business) we went into the Hall of Congress together, and found we were among the latest: proceedings immediately commenced, and after a few minutes the great question was put; when the vote for Delaware was called, your uncle arose and said: ‘As I believe the voice of my constituents and of all sensible and honest men is in favor of Independence and my own judgment concurs with them, I vote for Independence,’ or in words to the same effect.”⁵²⁸

✍️ He was the last to pen his signature to the Declaration, sometime after January 18, 1777 ... and he figured prominently in not one but two States, Delaware and Pennsylvania. He was also the only signer to be the chief executive of and concurrent officeholder in two States. Furthermore, he numbered among those who also subscribed to the Articles of Confederation, and he served a long tour in Congress.⁵²⁹

Delaware’s vote for independence made it unanimous. A few days after the Declaration of Independence had been adopted, McKean led his battalion of militia to Perth Amboy, New Jersey, to support General George Washington’s army.

“He was sometimes exposed to considerable danger, in the skirmishes, or rather cannonading, which occurred. An instance of this nature is related by himself. ... The lines of the enemy were about six hundred yards distant. Several shallops were spied sailing along the opposite shore towards the enemy’s men-of-war. Colonel M’Kean had received orders to hold his battalion in readiness to march into town at a minute’s warning, and the men were immediately under arms. “I left them,” he remarks, “under lieutenant-colonel Dean, to be marched to town, whilst I mounted my horse, and waited on



Portrait of Mrs. Thomas McKean (Sarah Armitage) and Her Daughter, Maria Louisa (1787) and Portrait of Chief Justice Thomas McKean and His Son, Thomas McKean, Jr. (1787), both by Charles Willson Peale

the ground for orders. On the road, which is a straight and wide lane, (something like Market Street,) all the way from the camp to the Sound, and in a line with the enemy's batteries, about twenty cannon balls flew close to me, sometimes just on one side, sometimes on the other, and some just over my head. I confess, I was not a little alarmed, being the first time that I had ever heard a cannon ball, but clapped spurs to my horse, and rode on amidst the balls for the general's, where orders had just been issued to halt the battalion: I was going to execute them, when, on turning round, I saw a horse shot through the neck with a four-pounder, within much less distance than the width of Market Street, from me.



Battery of cannons set up at historic Revolutionary encampment in Fort Lee, New Jersey

The fire was so incessant, and so direct on the street that I had to return, that some gentlemen entreated me to wait a short time; but, as the troops under my care were in full march, and colonel Miles's battalion close behind them, I thought it my duty to stop them, as some of them otherwise would probably be killed, without a chance of effecting any beneficial service. On my return, I found the fire hotter than before, the enemy then playing from three batteries of three or four guns each; but, through God's favor, I escaped unhurt, and marched the troops to the camp."⁵³⁰



Multiple Choice: Circle the best answer from the choices.

1. Under whom did both Thomas McKean and George Read study?
 - a. Rev. Francis Alison
 - b. Patrick Henry
 - c. Rev. John Witherspoon
2. McKean married the sister of:
 - a. Francis Hopkinson
 - b. Francis Hopkinson's wife
 - c. John Hancock

True or False: For the statement, circle true or false. If false, change the underlined word or phrase to make it true.

3. True False Thomas McKean was unnecessary in assuring that Delaware voted for independence.

Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

4. McKean said, "No act of my _____ life was ever done from a _____ motive; nor without a _____ opinion that the act was _____ and _____ in itself."
5. McKean zealously _____ the encroachments of British _____ upon American _____.
6. A few days after the Declaration of Independence had been _____, McKean led his battalion of _____ to Perth Amboy, New _____, to support General George Washington's army.

Short Answer: Write the answer to each question.

7. List five offices McKean held in service to his country, some concurrently.
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
8. What was McKean the only signer to be?
- _____
- _____
- _____
9. To what did McKean attribute his protection in marching his troops to the camp?
- _____

Thomas McKean *Continued*

Immediately after this tour of duty, he was called to Dover, Delaware, as a member of the convention to adopt a constitution for Delaware. Upon his arrival, a committee called upon McKean and asked him to write the constitution. He agreed, stayed up all night writing the document, and presented it at ten o'clock the next morning. He became speaker of the Delaware House of Representatives under the new constitution.

McKean was not present on August 2, 1776, when most of the other delegates signed the Declaration of Independence, as he was leading troops in New Jersey. He later returned to Congress, where he signed the Declaration, probably sometime in 1777.

During his lifetime, some raised the question as to whether he had actually signed the document. In September of 1796, he wrote this reply:

*“Modesty should not rob any man of his just honour, when by that honour, his modesty cannot be offended. My name is not in the printed journals of congress, as a party to the Declaration of Independence, and this, like an error in the first concoction, has vitiated most of the subsequent publications, and yet the fact is, that I was then a member of congress for the state of Delaware, was personally present in congress, and voted in favour of independence on the fourth of July, 1776, and signed the Declaration after it had been engrossed on parchment, where my name, in my own handwriting, still appears.”*⁵³¹

McKean held so many positions both before and after the war that at times it seemed impossible that he was one man. In July of 1777, the executive council of Pennsylvania appointed McKean as chief justice of that state, a position he held for the next 22 years. He was, however, still heavily occupied with duties in Delaware. One of the cases over which he presided was *Republican v. John Roberts*. In that case, John Roberts was sentenced to death after a jury found him guilty of treason. Chief Justice McKean then delivered a gospel message to John Roberts in the courtroom, admonishing him to accept Christ before his death so that he could spend eternity in heaven rather than in hell.⁵³²

*“A letter from John Adams (his friend of many years) to McKean’s son also concerned in the charges, ends with this tribute: ‘I, Your father and Caesar Rodney, were among the Patrick Henrys, the Christopher Gadsdens, the Thomas Jeffersons, the Samuel Adamses, the Roger Shermans — the best tried, firmest pillars of the revolution.’”*⁵³³

On September 13, 1777, Britain’s troops captured John McKinley, president of Delaware, and McKean was made acting president for the next several months. Later, McKean wrote to John Adams about this period of his life:

*“I have had my full share of the anxieties, cares and troubles of the present war. For some time, I was obliged to act as president of the Delaware state, and as chief justice of this: General Howe had just landed, at the head of the Elk river, when I undertook to discharge these two important trusts. The consequence was, to be hunted like a fox by the enemy, and envied by those who ought to have been my friends. I was compelled to remove my family five times in a few months, and, at last, fixed them in a little log-house on the banks of the Susquehanna, more than a hundred miles from this place: but safety was not to be found there, for they were soon obliged to remove again, on account of the incursions of the Indians.”*⁵³⁴

McKean had been on the committee that drafted the Articles of Confederation. He was the first man to be elected president of the Congress under the Articles of Confederation, on June 10, 1781.

While serving as president, he had the honor of receiving from General Washington the news of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown:

*“The dispatch was delivered to him about three o’clock in the morning of October 22, 1781, and the night-watchman who had guided Washington’s messenger to McKean’s residence began crying through the streets: ‘Past three o’clock and Cornwallis is taken!’”*⁵³⁵

Public Service

1754

Began practicing law in Delaware and Pennsylvania

1756–1757

Deputy attorney general in Sussex County, Delaware

1757–1758

Clerk of the lower house of the Delaware Legislature

1762–1779

Member of the Delaware Legislature

1765–1773

Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Delaware Legislature

1774–1783

Delegate from Delaware to the Continental Congress; signed the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation

1776

Chairman of the Committee of Safety for Pennsylvania

1777

Acting president of Delaware

1777–1799

Chief justice of the State of Pennsylvania

1781

President of the Congress of the Confederation

1799–1808

Governor of Pennsylvania

While serving as chief justice of Pennsylvania, he had many difficult decisions to make. He presided at the trial of Loyalists and upheld their death sentences.

“... the justice of the supreme court of Pennsylvania who served after McKean had retired from the bench said of him: ‘Chief Justice McKean was a great man: his merit in the profession of the law, and as a judge, has never been sufficiently appreciated. It is only since I have been upon the bench, that I have been able to conceive a just idea of the greatness of his merit. His legal learning was profound and accurate. . . .’⁵³⁶

McKean was elected to the Pennsylvania state ratification convention and approved the U.S. Constitution. He told the convention:

“I have gone through the circle of office, in the Legislature, Executive, and Judicial departments of government; and from all my study, observation, and experience, I must declare, that from a full examination and due consideration of this system, it appears to me the best the world has yet seen. I congratulate you on the fair prospect of its being adopted, and am happy in the expectation of seeing accomplished what has long been my ardent wish, that you will hereafter have a salutary permanency in magistracy and stability in the laws.”⁵³⁷

McKean’s first wife, Mary, died in 1773, leaving two sons and four daughters, the baby only two weeks old. On September 3, 1774, he married Sarah Armitage of New Castle, with whom he had five more children.

At the age of 65, McKean was elected governor of Pennsylvania and resigned as chief justice. He received considerable criticism for removing from appointed offices everyone who was not a member of his political party.

 On the occasion of being elected governor of Pennsylvania, he said to the people, that “he trusted, that under his administration, their happy system of government, raised on the sole authority of the people, would, by the favour of God, be continued inviolate; and that neither foreign nor domestic enemies, neither intrigue, menace, nor seductions, should prevail against it. The constitution of the United States, and of Pennsylvania,” said he, “shall be the rule of my government; the security of persons, property, liberty, and reputation, my chiefest care; and my best endeavours shall be exerted to fulfill all your reasonable and just expectations.”⁵³⁸



An artist's rendering of the bombardment at Fort M'Henry during the Battle of Baltimore. Watching the bombardment from a truce ship, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the four-stanza poem that later became "The Star-Spangled Banner."

“ He mentioned this in a letter to Thomas Jefferson, saying, “It is, at least, imprudent to foster spies continually about oneself. I am only sorry that I did not displace ten or eleven more; for it is not right to put a dagger in the hands of an assassin.”⁵³⁹

Some tried to convince him to run for vice president in 1803, but he declined.

“ At the age of seventy-four, McKean retired to private life in 1808. In a letter to John Adams a few years later he described his retirement: “Three years ago I shook hands with the world, and we said farewell to each other: the toys and rattles of childhood, would, in a few years more, be, probably, as suitably to me, as office, honour, or wealth; but (thank God,) the faculties of my mind are, as yet, little, if any thing impaired, and my affections and friendships remain unshaken. Since my exemption

from official and professional duties, I have enjoyed a tranquility, never (during a long, protracted life,) heretofore experienced; and my health and comforts are sufficient for a moderate man.”⁵⁴⁰

He made one more public appearance at a meeting in Philadelphia, called to discuss preparations for a defense against a possible invasion of the city by the British in the War of 1812.

“ McKean called upon the citizens to lay aside personal differences warning them “that there were then but two parties, our country and its invaders.”⁵⁴¹

McKean died at 83 years old in Philadelphia, on June 24, 1817. He was buried in the cemetery of Philadelphia's Presbyterian Church.

True or False: For each statement, circle true or false. If false, change the underlined word or phrase to make it true.

1. True False Caesar Rodney said that Thomas McKean was one of “the best tried, firmest pillars of the revolution.”
2. True False McKean’s successor in the supreme court of Pennsylvania said of him: “Chief Justice McKean was a great man: his merit in the profession of the law, and as a judge, has never been under appreciated.”

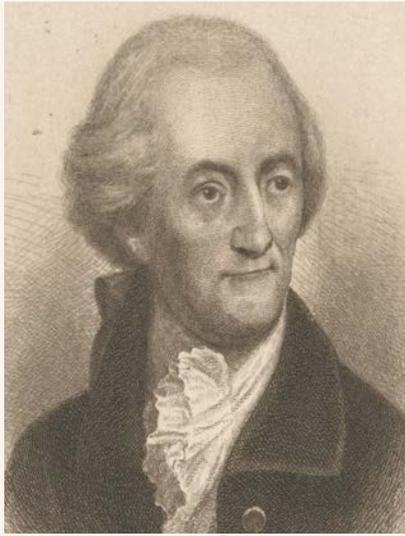
Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

3. McKean wrote to John Adams, “I was compelled to remove my family _____ times in a few _____, and, at last, fixed them in a little _____-house on the banks of the _____.”

Short Answer: Write the answer to each question.

4. Why wasn’t McKean present on August 2 at the actual signing of the Declaration of Independence?

5. Name a quality McKean demonstrated while writing the Constitution of Delaware.



Geo Read

“First and foremost, he wanted what was best for Delaware.”

George Read, one of only six men who signed both the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, was born in Cecil County, Maryland, on September 18, 1733. His father was born into a wealthy Irish family. As a young boy, his family moved to New Castle County, Delaware, and he later was educated at a school at Chester, Pennsylvania. He then went to New London, Pennsylvania, to be educated under the Reverend Francis Alison, who also instructed several others who would be future signers of the Declaration and Constitution.



John Dickinson

At age 17, Read went to Philadelphia to study law under John Moland and there developed a close friendship with John Dickinson, who was later called “the Penman of the Revolution.”

At age 19, Read was admitted to the bar to practice law. He established his practice in New Castle, Delaware, and built up an excellent practice, where he became known as an “honest lawyer.”

In 1763, he married Mrs. Gertrude Ross Till, a widow and daughter of the pastor of the Anglican church in New Castle. His wife’s brother, John Ross, arranged for Read to replace him as Delaware’s attorney general. Also by this



George Read

An Honest Lawyer

And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

1 THESSALONIANS

4:11–12

Born	September 18, 1733
Birthplace	Cecil County, Maryland
Education	Philadelphia Academy
Occupation	Lawyer
Married	Gertrude Ross Till, 1763
Children	5
Age at Signing	42
Died	September 21, 1798; age 65

As a lawyer, a patriot, a senator, and a judge, he was alike unpretending, consistent, dignified, and impartial. His other peculiar characteristics were an inflexible integrity of motive; a cool determination of purpose; and an invincible perseverance in the conclusions of his judgment.⁵⁴²



marriage, he became brother-in-law of George Ross, who was to become a fellow signer of the Declaration of Independence. George and Gertrude Read had five children.

In 1765, Read was elected a representative from New Castle County to the General Assembly of Delaware, a position he occupied for 12 years.

On August 1, 1774, Mr. Read was chosen a member of the Continental Congress and served there until 1777.

“First and foremost, he wanted what was best for Delaware. Convinced that most Delawareans weren’t ready to separate from England, he voted against independence on July 2, 1776. Yet once independence was declared, Read thought it best for Delaware to unite with the rest of the country, so he shifted gears and signed the Declaration.”⁵⁴³

The following September, the British captured Wilmington, Delaware, seizing the first governor of the state, John McKinley. Delaware asked George Read to replace him as governor until McKinley’s release.

In attempting to move his family safely across the Delaware River, he looked for a safe place to cross, as the shore was almost covered with ships of the enemy. The tide was low and their boat became grounded. The British dispatched an armed barge in their pursuit. Mr. Read presented himself as a country gentleman returning to his home. The presence of

his wife, mother, and infant children gave probability to his story, and the Royal Navy, with good humor, actually assisted him. The sailors offered to carry their baggage and his wife, mother, and children up the bank. It wasn’t until months later they discovered they had let one of the most hunted Americans in the Middle Colonies slip through their fingers.

His exhausting duties affected his health, and in August 1779, he resigned his seat in the Assembly of Delaware. He was reelected the following year, however. In 1782, he was appointed judge of the Court of Appeals. In 1785, he was appointed judge of a special court by Congress to handle a dispute about land between Massachusetts and New York. He was a member of the Convention of 1786 to work on changes in the Articles of Confederation. The following year, he was elected a member of the Senate of Delaware under the new Constitution, of which he was a signer.

George Read and Thomas McKean, both responsible for writing Delaware’s constitution and wanting to maintain integrity in the office, placed in it,

“Every person who shall be chosen a member of either house, or appointed to any office or place of trust ... shall ... make and subscribe the following declaration, to wit: “I do profess faith in God the father and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed forever more, and I do acknowledge the Holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration.”⁵⁴⁴



Autumn on the Delaware River. Destination Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in Pennsylvania

In 1793, Read was elevated to the position of chief justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware, where he remained until a sudden illness caused his death in 1798, at 65 years of age.

For five years Read presided over the highest court in Delaware. His experience and ability were respected by the lawyers of the state, and his decisions were regarded as landmarks in the development of law and order in the post-revolutionary period.⁵⁴⁵



Mansion of the Honourable George Read, New Castle, Delaware

In all the offices which Mr. Read was entrusted by his fellow citizens, he appeared with distinguished ability; but it was as a judge that he stood pre-eminent. For this station he was peculiarly fitted, not only by his unusual legal attainments, but by his singular patience in hearing all that the council might deem important to bring forward, and by a cool and dispassionate deliberation of every circumstance which would bear upon the point in question. To this day his decisions are much respected in Delaware, and are often referred to, as precedents of no doubtful authority.

In private life, the character of Mr. Read was not less estimable and respectable. He was consistent in all the relations of life, strict in the observance of his moral duties, and characterized by an expanded benevolence towards all around him.⁵⁴⁶

Multiple Choice: Circle the best answer from the choices.

- How many men signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution?
 - 10
 - 3
 - 6
- For what character trait did Read become known?
 - Honesty
 - Punctuality
 - Thoroughness

True or False: For each statement, circle true or false. If false, change the underlined word or phrase to make it true.

3. True False While “presid[ing] over the highest court in Delaware ... [Read’s] decisions were regarded as landmarks in the development of law and order in the post-revolutionary period.”
4. True False Read helped write the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Short Answer: Write the answer to each question.

5. What are we told were four of Read’s characteristics as a lawyer, patriot, senator, and judge?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

6. What caused Read to vote against independence but then change his mind in support of it?

7. Tell of the narrow escape of Read and his family while crossing the Delaware River to escape the British.

George Read *Continued*

His children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were prominent in the service of the United States.

On the fifth of December, 1782, Read was appointed one of the judges of the court of appeals in admiralty cases. This appointment was announced to him in the most flattering manner by Mr. Boudinot, then president of Congress, and afterwards the venerable president of the Bible Society:

Sir, It gives me very particular satisfaction to have the honour of presenting you the commission of the United States in congress assembled, whereby you are constituted one of the judges of the court of appeals in all cases of capture on the water.

Your established character as a gentleman, lawyer, and man of integrity, leave me no room to doubt but this appointment will do honour to congress, produce the happiest consequences to the good citizens of these states, and, I hope, real satisfaction to yourself, from the consciousness of serving your country with fidelity.

I have the honour to be, with every sentiment of esteem and respect,

*Sir, your obedient,
And very humble
servant,
Elias Boudinot.
Hon. George
Read.⁵⁴⁷*



Elias Boudinot

Read's acceptance of this appointment was conveyed to Mr. Boudinot in the following letter:

Newcastle December 10th, 1782

Sir, I had the honour to receive your excellency's letter of the sixth instant, enclosing under its cover a commission to me from the United States of America in congress assembled, for a judge's place of their court of appeals. This unlooked for mark of confidence from that honourable body, impresses me with the strongest sense of gratitude, and I can only say that under this impression, I accept of this appointment with the fullest intention to discharge the duties thereof to the best of my poor abilities, and I hope with an integrity that may become the station. I am persuaded that in doing so, I shall make the best return in my power, for the honour conferred, and the trust reposed in me by the great council of America.

I beg leave to return your excellency my particular thanks for the very flattering and polite manner in which you have been pleased to communicate to me this appointment.

*I have the honour to be, with great respect, Your excellency's most obedient And very humble servant,
GEORGE READ*

His Excellency, Elias Boudinot, President of Congress.⁵⁴⁸

 A description of George Read by John Meredith Read Jr., one of his great-grandsons: His manners were dignified, and his dignity may sometimes have bordered upon austerity. He avoided trifling occupations, disliked familiarity, and could not tolerate the slightest violation of good manners, for which he was himself distinguished. A strict and consistent moralist, he granted no indulgence to laxity of principle in others; and he was remarkably adverse to that qualified dependence which an obligation necessarily produces. Notwithstanding an exact attention to his expenditure, which he never permitted to exceed his income, his pecuniary liberality was very extensive. Mr. Read was above the middle size, erect, and dignified in his demeanour; and he was remarkable for attention to personal arrangements. He was an excellent husband, a good father ... and upright judge, a just man, and a fearless patriot.⁵⁵¹



John Meredith Read Jr.

Public Service

1753

Admitted to the bar to practice law

1763–1744

Attorney general for the crown for Delaware

1765–1780

Member of the Delaware Legislature

1774–1779

Delegate from Delaware to the Continental Congress; signed the Declaration of Independence

1776

President of the Delaware state constitutional convention

1777–1778

Acting president of Delaware

1782–1789

Judge of the court of appeals in admiralty cases

1786

Delegate from Delaware to the Annapolis Convention

1787

Member of the Constitutional Convention; signed the United States Constitution

1789–1793

United States senator from Delaware

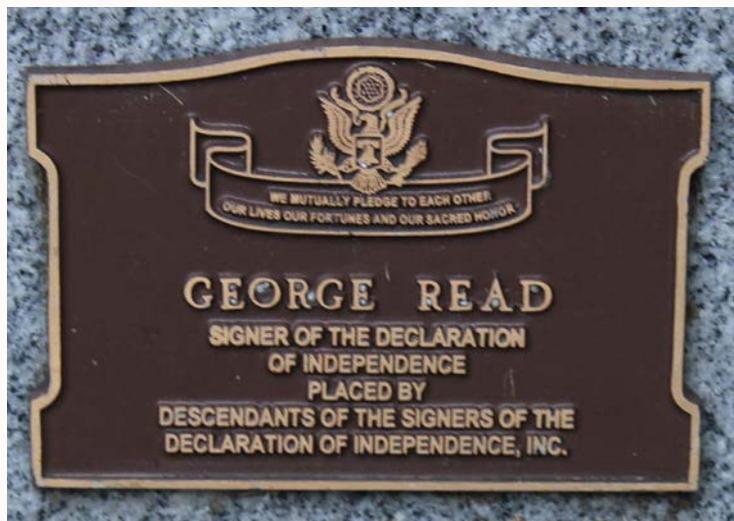
1793–1798

Chief justice of Delaware



Historical courtroom

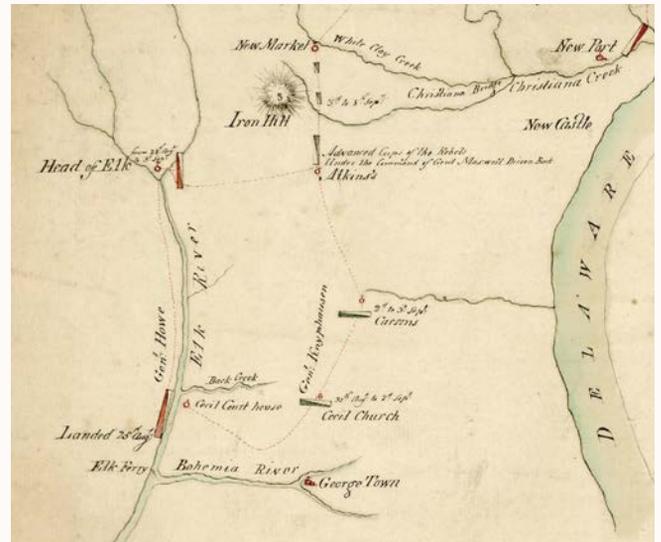
“We have now seen this eminent individual distinguishing himself at the bar as a lawyer, — animating his fellow-citizens against oppression as a patriot, — taking his seat on the national council as a sage, — and presiding on the bench, as one of the judges of the land. In all these lofty stations, exposed to that strict and merciless scrutiny, to which, we trust, republicans will ever subject men in office, no blemish was discovered in his conduct. Applause at the bar did not, in him, generate vanity; success in political life, ambition; nor the dignity of the bench, dogmatism. As a lawyer, a patriot, a senator, and a judge, he was alike unpretending, consistent, dignified, and impartial. His other peculiar characteristics, were an inflexible integrity of motive, a slow and calm deliberation of his subject, a cool determination of purpose; and an invincible perseverance in the conclusions of his judgment.”⁵⁴⁹



George Read plaque at Immanuel Episcopal Church in New Castle, DE

 By an adherence to the royal cause, he had reason to anticipate office, honour, and wealth. But his patriotism and integrity were of too pure a character to be influenced by worldly preferment, or pecuniary reward. The question with him was, not what a worldly policy might dictate, but what reason and justice and religion would approve.⁵⁵⁰

Map showing preliminary British movements in the 1777 Philadelphia campaign in Maryland and Delaware, including the site of the Battle of Cooch's Bridge, which was the only Revolutionary battle fought on Delaware's soil, George Read's home state.



Multiple Choice: Circle the best answer from the choices.

- Tell what character quality Elias Boudinot, president of Congress, and later president of the Bible Society, saw in George Read's life.
 - Integrity
 - Discretion
 - Determination

True or False: For the statement, circle true or false. If false, change the underlined word or phrase to make it true.

- True False Read rejected the appointment by Elias Boudinot as one of the judges of the court of appeals in admiralty cases.

Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

- Read's decision of whether to side with the royal cause or the patriots was governed by "what _____ and _____ and _____ would approve."
- "By an adherence to the _____ cause, [Read] had reason to anticipate _____, _____, and _____."
- Read "could not _____ the slightest _____ of _____, for which he was himself _____."

6. Read “was an _____ husband, a _____ father ... and _____ judge, a _____ man, and a _____ patriot.”

Short Answer: Write the answer to the question.

7. List four character qualities of Read as related by his great-grandson John Meredith Read Jr.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

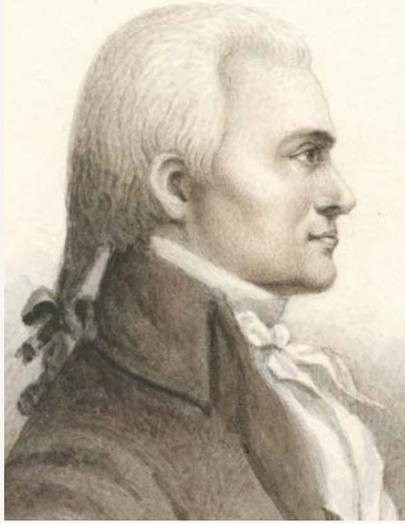
Activity: Complete the activity below. Write your thoughts and/or experience on the lines provided.

8. Write the definition of “honesty” from the character qualities in the back of this book. Set a specific step of action to apply honesty in every area of your life.

Review Day



For Day 121, highlight important information from the lives of Thomas McKean and George Read and take notes on the information. Then review for Quiz 18.



Caesar Rodney

“I vote for Independence!”

Caesar Rodney, one of eight children, was born near Dover, Delaware, on October 7, 1728. He was taught at home by his mother. When Caesar was 17, his father died, at which time he took over the 800-acre family farm and helped his mother raise his six younger brothers and sisters. It was when he was in his late twenties that he completed his child-raising responsibilities and entered public service.

In 1775, he was chosen sheriff of Kent County. Following his term as sheriff, he was made a justice of the peace and judge of the lower courts. In 1762, he represented Delaware in the provincial legislature.

Of the personal character of Mr. Rodney, we have few opportunities of obtaining information, beyond the materials which have formed the subject of this notice. As a politician, he displayed at all times great integrity and high-mindedness, never yielding his deliberate opinions to the prevailing sentiments of the day, and sacrificing his present interest to his sense of honour and justice. This course in a few instances, was for a time injurious to his political aims, but it eventually gained for him, what an honourable course always gains for a statesman in the end, the unbounded confidence and esteem of his countrymen.⁵⁵³

In 1765, the first general congress assembled to decide what to do about the Stamp Act. When King George later repealed it, Rodney, along with Thomas McKean and George

Caesar Rodney

The Sacrificial Patriot

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

JOHN 15:13

Born	October 7, 1728
Birthplace	Dover, Delaware
Education	Home-taught
Occupation	Landowner
Married	Bachelor
Children	None
Age at Signing	47
Died	June 28, 1784; age 55

John Adams wrote this description after meeting him: “Caesar Rodney is the oddest-looking man in the world; he is tall, thin and slender as a reed, pale; his face is not bigger than a large apple, yet there is some sense and fire, spirit, wit, and a humour in his countenance.”⁵⁵²

Read, were chosen to express thanks to the king. They drafted the following letter:

“We cannot help but glorying in being the subjects of a king, that has made the preservation of the civil and religious foundation and constant rule of his government, and the safety, ease, and prosperity of his people, his chiefest care; of a king, whose mild and equal administration is sensibly felt and enjoyed in the remotest parts of his dominion. The clouds which lately hung over America are dissipated. Our complaints have been heard, and our grievances redressed; trade and commerce again flourish. Our hearts are animated with the warmest wishes for the prosperity of the mother country, for which our affection is unbounded, and your faithful subjects here are transported with joy and gratitude. Such are the blessings we may justly expect will ever attend the measures of your majesty, pursuing steadily throughout your wide extended empire, assisted with the advice and support of a British parliament, and a virtuous and wise ministry. We most humbly beseech your majesty, graciously to accept the strongest assurances, that having the justest sense of the many favours we have received from your royal benevolence, during the course of your majesty’s reign, and how much our present happiness is owing to your paternal love and care for your people; we will at all times most cheerfully contribute to your majesty’s service, to the utmost of our abilities, when your royal requisitions, as heretofore, shall be made known; that your majesty will always find such returns of duty and gratitude from us, as the best of kings may expect from the most loyal subjects, and that you will demonstrate to all the world, that the support of your majesty’s government, and the honour and interests of the British nation, are our chief care and concern, desiring nothing more than the continuance of our wise and excellent constitution, in the same happy, firm, and envied situation, in which it was delivered down to us from our ancestors, and your majesty’s predecessors.”⁵⁴

It was reported that the letter delighted King George, who read it over twice. Unfortunately, the Stamp Act was followed by other oppressive measures. The citizens of Delaware wanted reconciliation with



King George III in coronation robes

the mother country but also had a high regard for their inalienable rights. These same three men drafted another letter in an effort to appeal to King George.

“If our fellow-subjects of Great Britain, who derive no authority from us, who cannot in our humble opinion represent us, and to whom we will not yield in loyalty and affection to your majesty, can at their will and pleasure, of right, give and grant away our property; if they enforce an implicit obedience to every order or act of theirs for that purpose, and deprive all, or any of the assemblies on this continent, of the power of legislation, for differing with them in opinion in matters which intimately affect their rights and interests, and every thing that is dear and valuable to Englishmen, we cannot imagine a case more miserable; we cannot think that we shall have even the shadow of liberty

left. We conceive it to be an inherent right in your majesty's subjects, derived to them from God and nature, handed down from their ancestors, and confirmed by your royal predecessors and the constitution, in person, or by their representatives, to give and grant to their own cares have acquired and saved, and in such proportions and at such times, as the national honour and interest may require. Your majesty's faithful subjects of this government have enjoyed this inestimable privilege uninterrupted from its first existence, till of late. They have at all times cheerfully contributed to the utmost of their abilities for your majesty's service, as often as your royal requisitions were made known and they cannot now, but with the greatest uneasiness and distress of mind, part with the power of demonstrating their loyalty and affection to their beloved king.⁵⁵⁵

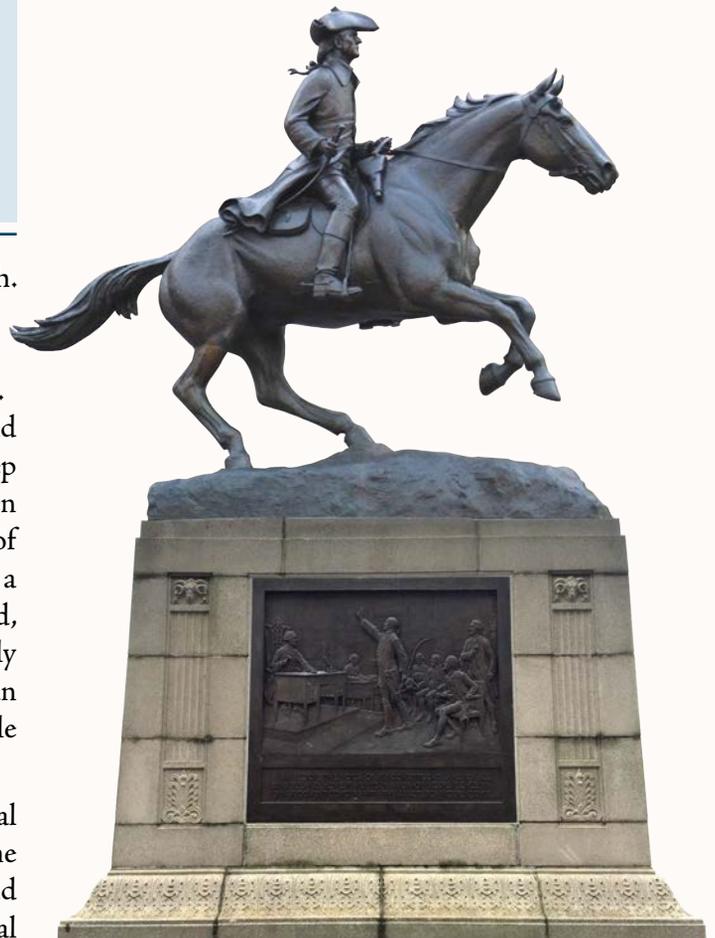
 He was, as our biographical notice of him clearly indicates, a man of great integrity, and of pure patriotic feeling. He delighted, when necessary, to sacrifice his private interests for the public good. He was remarkably distinguished for a degree of good humour and vivacity; and in generosity of character was an ornament to human nature.⁵⁵⁶

Caesar Rodney suffered from poor health. Asthma often made breathing difficult, and gout sometimes left him unable to walk, but worse yet was a skin cancer that plagued him from his youth. It began to spread, covering one side of his face, and in 1768, part of a tumor was removed, leaving a deep gash across his cheek that he kept covered with a green scarf. Unfortunately, the operation did not rid him of the cancer. It was strongly recommended to him by a Philadelphia physician to seek treatment in England, as that was his best chance. Although his family entreated him to go, his dedication to the American cause prevented him from seeking the only possible cure for his disease.

Mr. Rodney was elected speaker of the Provincial Assembly in 1769. He later became chairman of the Committee of Correspondence. Rodney, McKean, and Read were sent as delegates to the First Continental Congress in 1774. John Adams said this upon meeting Rodney:

 In 1774 I became acquainted with McKean, Rodney, and [Patrick] Henry. Those three appeared to me to see more clearly to the end of the business than any others of the whole body. At least they were more candid and explicit with me than any others....⁵⁵⁷

While attending to his duties in Congress, he was appointed brigadier general of his province in 1775. Because of this appointment, he alternated between duties in Congress and duties in his military appointment. After being absent from Congress in an effort to squelch a Loyalist uprising that threatened his home territory, he returned home tired and feeling quite ill. He received an urgent request from Thomas McKean asking him to be present at the State House in the morning to break a deadlock vote for independence. The state house was 80 miles away, and a violent rainstorm was brewing.



A statue of Rodney in Wilmington commemorating his ride 80 miles through a thunderstorm on the night of July 1, 1776, arriving in Philadelphia "in his boots and spurs" on July 2, just as the voting for independence had begun.

Multiple Choice: Circle the best answer from the choices.

1. Why was Rodney not present to hear Richard Henry Lee’s proposal for independence?
 - a. He was attending to his sick wife
 - b. He was on a business trip
 - c. He was attempting to squelch a Loyalist uprising
2. In what position did Rodney serve his country, though sick himself?
 - a. Brigadier general
 - b. Postmaster
 - c. Captain of the militia

True or False: For each statement, circle true or false. If false, change the underlined word or phrase to make it true.

3. True False Rodney was taught at home by his father.
4. True False Rodney, along with Thomas McKean and George Read, were chosen to express thanks to the king.
5. True False These same three men drafted another letter in an effort to apologize to King George.

Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

6. John Adams said, “Caesar Rodney is the _____ - _____ man in the world; he is tall, thin and slender as a _____, _____; his face is not bigger than a large apple, yet there is some _____ and fire, spirit, _____ and a humour in his countenance.”
7. “As a politician, he displayed at all times great _____ and high- _____, never yielding his deliberate _____ to the prevailing sentiments of the day, and sacrificing his present interest to his sense of _____ and _____.”
8. In 1775, he was chosen _____ of Kent County.

Short Answer: Write the answer to the question.

9. What circumstances helped teach Rodney responsibility at an early age?

Caesar Rodney *Continued*

On June 7, Richard Henry Lee, delegate from Virginia, had introduced the following resolution in Congress:

*“That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.”*⁵⁵⁸

It had become clear that a unanimous vote was imperative. Each colony had only one vote, determined by the majority in its delegation. Delaware had three representatives, Rodney, McKean, and Read. Read felt the move was premature. Many delegates faced anguish over which way to vote, but on the morning of the vote — July 2 — it looked like the fate of the resolution fell on Delaware. A chain of events had helped sway some delegates. General Washington had just reported that British vessels were gathering in New Jersey harbor by the threes and fours, and an attack looked imminent.

Delegates began arriving at the State House, whose tall steeple bore this inscription from Leviticus 25:10, “Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.”

The air was humid that morning after the previous night’s tumultuous rains, and heavy clouds threatened to break loose again. Thomas McKean paced the hall, peering anxiously from one of the tall windows. Proceedings would start in just a few minutes. To him, it seemed that the fate of the resolution rested on one sick man — his friend and colleague, Caesar Rodney.

John Hancock, the president of Congress, began taking his seat, as did his secretary. Suddenly, the pounding of horse’s hooves sounded on the cobblestone streets. Here came Caesar Rodney in his three-cornered hat up Chestnut Street. He was mud-splattered and bedraggled, a picture of fatigue and suffering. McKean greeted him with grateful fervor. Rodney had departed from Dover within ten minutes of receiving McKean’s message the previous evening. He hadn’t even stopped to change clothing, but mounted his horse and rode through a swift



Old State House, Philadelphia

Public Service

1758

Elected high sheriff of Kent County, Delaware

1761–1776

Member of the Delaware Colonial Legislature; speaker of the house for several years

1765

Delegate to the Stamp Act Congress

1774

Chairman of Delaware's first patriotic convention of delegates

1774–1776

Delegate from Delaware to the Continental Congress; signed the Declaration of Independence

1775–1777

Brigadier general in command of Delaware's militia

1778–1781

President of Delaware

1782–1783

Elected to Congress but did not serve because of ill health



The monument to Caesar Rodney erected at Dover, DE, by the Rodney Club

thunderstorm. He stopped along the way only to change horses and continued through the night. As he strode into the Assembly Chamber with McKean, President Hancock called the assembly to order.

“When Delaware was called, Caesar Rodney pulled himself to his feet. He said, “As I believe the voice of my constituents and of all sensible and honest men is in favor of Independence, and my own judgment concurs, I vote for Independence!” Then he sank exhausted into his seat.⁵⁵⁹

“The twelve colonies participating had voted unanimously for Freedom! Each man present fully realized what his vote meant in terms of personal danger should this rebellion fail. King George III had declared every rebel in the land a traitor. The penalty for treason was death by hanging. Caesar Rodney, who had ridden from Dover all through a stormy night to turn the vote of Delaware to independence, selflessly relinquished any chance left to him of going to England for treatment of the ailment said to have eventually caused his death.⁵⁶⁰

Rodney signed his name to the Declaration of Independence on August 2 with most of the other delegates. William Ellery of Rhode Island sat where he could observe each signer.

“William Ellery, his chin on his hand, was studying the countenance of the next signer. Caesar Rodney, the first of the Delaware delegation to come to the table, had won the eternal admiration of his Congressional associates with his wild ride from Dover, Delaware, on the night of July 1. Ellery found this man's appearance fascinating. Rodney was tall and thin. His small, wrinkled face seemed even smaller because of the green scarf he used to cover the left cheek that was afflicted by an advanced case of skin cancer. Despite his ill health, his eyes blazed with an indomitable spirit and a keen sense of humor.⁵⁶¹

In September, when the British advanced into Delaware, Rodney collected troops and, by the direction of General Washington,

“placed his forces south of the main army to observe the movements of the British at the head of Elk River, Maryland, and, if possible, to cut the enemy off from their fleet. He wrote to General Washington, telling of his difficulties in getting the militia to turn out, and saying that, “As soon as I can set forward I shall advise you. God send you a complete victory.” Mr. Rodney remained with the army for nearly two months, and during a great part of the time entered into the most active and laborious services, which his station as brigadier general required. Even after the period for which the troops under him had enlisted was expired, he offered to remain with the army, and perform the duties of a soldier, wherever the commander in chief might think he could be useful. Sensible of the patriotic spirit by which this

officer was dictated, general Washington wrote him the following highly flattering letter, the original of which now lies before us, dated at Morris-Town, on the eighteenth of February, 1777.

Sir — Lord Stirling did me the favour of sending to me your letter of the eighth instant to him, mentioning your cheerfulness to continue in service, (though your brigade had returned home,) and waiting my determination on that head. The readiness with which you took the field at the period most critical to our affairs — the industry you used in bringing the militia of the Delaware state — and the alertness observed by you in forwarding on the troops from Trenton — reflect the highest honour on your character, and place your attachment to the cause in the most distinguished point of view. They claim my sincerest thanks, and I am happy in this opportunity of giving them to you. Circumstanced as you are, I see no necessity in detaining you longer from your family and affairs, which no doubt demand your presence and attention. You have therefore my leave to return.⁵⁶²

“As president of the state, Caesar Rodney received alarming appeals from General Washington for relief of the army’s desperate need for supplies. In the spring of 1780 the General informed him that, “... the army is again reduced to an extremity of distress, for want of provision ... we have this day but one day’s supply [of flour] in the camp.” Rodney worked constantly to help. In a letter to John Dickinson (elected a Delaware delegate in November, 1776), he asked his colleagues to assure the committee appointed to procure flour that he would do everything in his power, but he feared the flour would “come high;” as those termed speculators are as thick and as industrious as bees, and as active and wicked as the devil himself.⁵⁶³

Loved by the people of Delaware, who wanted to reelect him, Rodney declined in 1782 because of his failing health. They still elected him to Congress, but he was never able to take his seat. His cancer continued to spread and eventually took his life on June 28, 1784.

Multiple Choice: Circle the best answer from the choices.

1. How was Rodney signing his own death warrant by voting for independence?
 - a. King George was after him
 - b. He gave up the chance to attempt to get a cure for his skin cancer in England
 - c. The Tories tried to kill him

True or False: For the statement, circle true or false. If false, change the underlined word or phrase to make it true.

2. True False Rodney rode his horse through a thunderstorm.

Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

3. “The penalty for treason was _____ by _____.”
4. During the signing of the Declaration, William Ellery observed Rodney’s eyes “blaz[ing] with an _____ spirit and a keen sense of _____.”

5. George Washington appealed to Rodney for provisions, saying that “the army is again _____ to an extremity of _____, for want of provision ... we have this day but _____ day’s supply [of _____] in the camp.”

Short Answer: Write the answer to each question.

6. Why did it seem to Thomas McKean that the fate of the resolution rested on one sick man?

7. Describe Rodney’s famous horseback ride.

8. Name two things Rodney’s horseback ride reveals about his character and sacrifice.

a. _____

b. _____

Activity: Complete the activity below. Write your thoughts and/or experience on the lines provided.

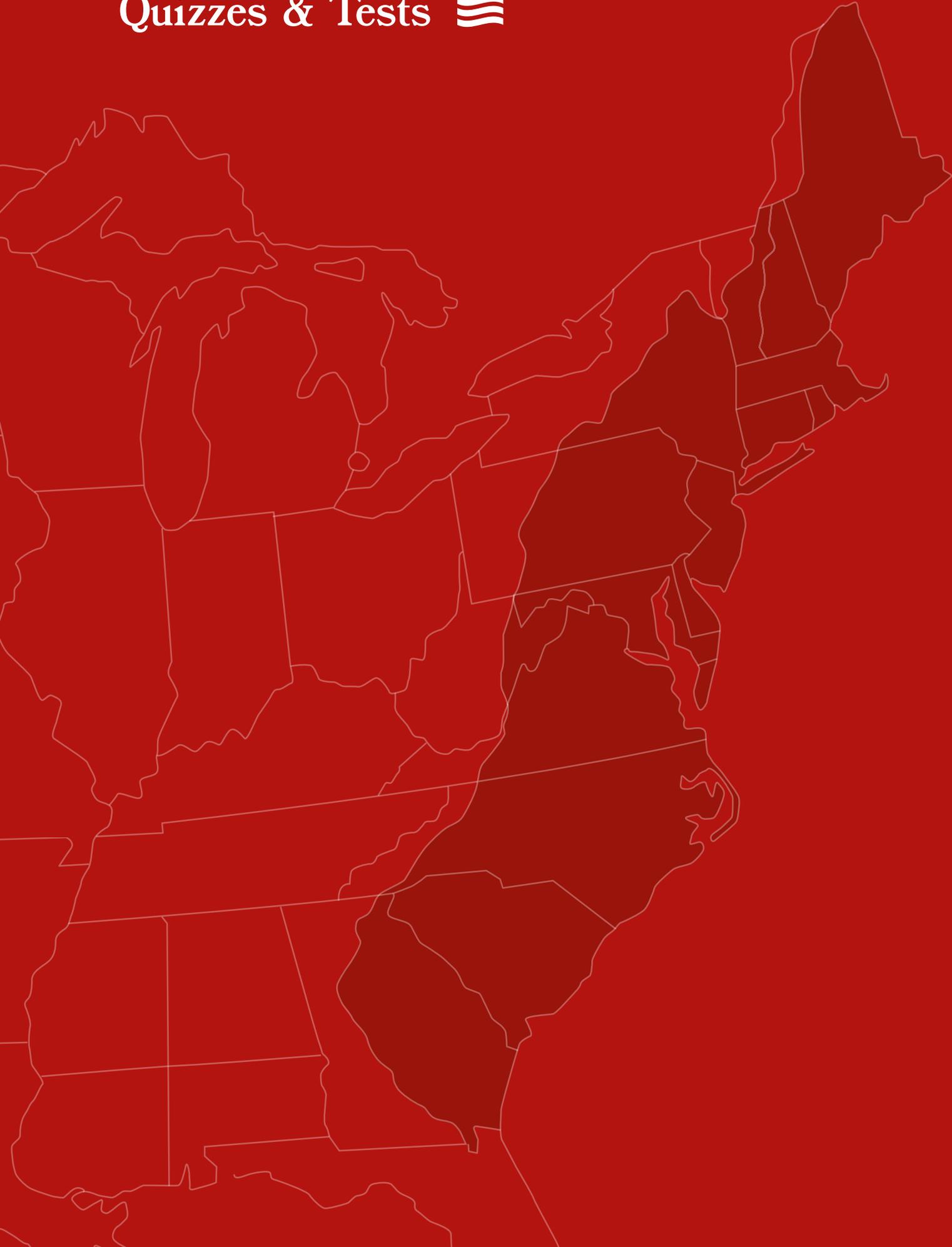
9. Ask God if there is something you can sacrifice (time, money, service, etc.) to have influence in leading this country back to its godly roots.

Review Day



For Day 125, highlight important information from the life of Caesar Rodney and take notes on the information. Then review for Quiz 19.

Quizzes & Tests





Multiple Choice: Circle the best answer from the choices.

1. What kind of nation was our country at the time of the American Revolution?
 - a. Atheistic
 - b. Pantheistic
 - c. Agnostic
 - d. Christian
2. How many men signed their names to the Declaration of Independence?
 - a. 22
 - b. 45
 - c. 56
 - d. 73
3. When did the actual signing of the Declaration of Independence take place?
 - a. July 4, 1776
 - b. August 2, 1776
 - c. August 4, 1776
4. What event precipitated the formation of the Committee of Safety?
 - a. The burning of Bartlett's house
 - b. A command from General Washington
 - c. The Royal Governor ordering the dissolution of the legislature
5. What does Thornton site as the primary reason for taking up arms?
 - a. Duty to God
 - b. To drive the British from the land
 - c. To exercise freedom
6. Which colony became the first to create their own government?
 - a. Massachusetts
 - b. New Hampshire
 - c. Connecticut

Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

7. At the time of the American Revolution, even those who did not have a personal _____ with Jesus Christ had a _____ for Scripture and godly _____.

8. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created _____, that they are endowed by their _____ with certain unalienable _____, that among these are _____, _____ and the pursuit of _____.”
9. _____, a pamphlet written by Thomas Paine, advocated independence from Great Britain to the people in the _____.

Short Answer: Write the answer to each question.

10. Why must we understand where our country has come from?

11. What did former President James Garfield say would be the reason “if the next centennial does not find us a great nation”?

12. Were the patriots at first supporting a break from Great Britain or reconciliation?

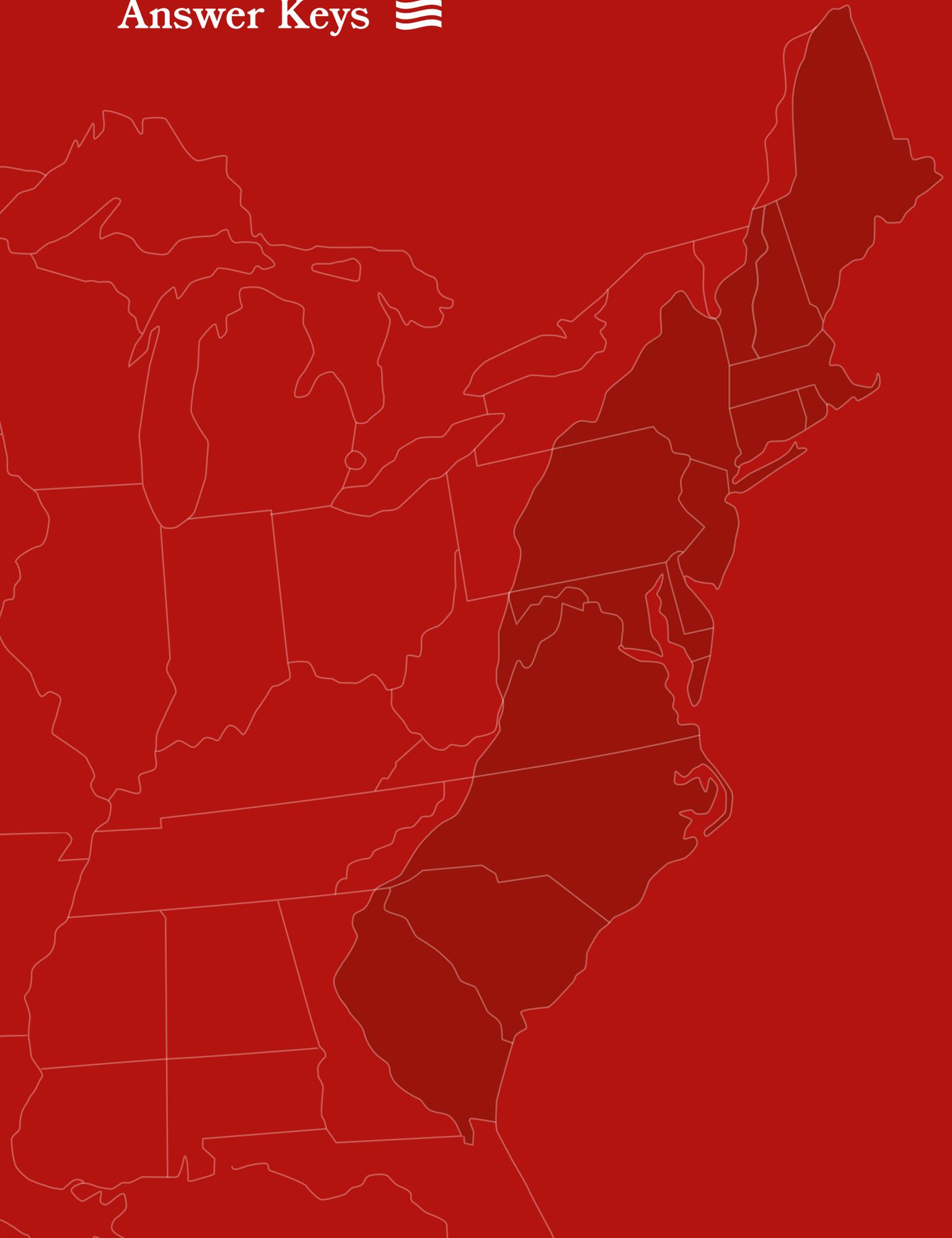
13. List three of Bartlett’s many duties during the war and after the Revolution.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

14. What three character qualities does Thornton demonstrate in his appeal to the people as to their behavior?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Answer Keys



Grading Options for This Course

It is always the prerogative of an educator to assess student grades however he or she might deem best. The following is only a suggested guideline based on the material presented through this course. To calculate the percentage of the exercises and tests, the educator may use the following guide. Divide total number of questions correct (example: 43) by the total number of questions possible (example: 46) to calculate the percentage out of 100 possible.

$$43/46 = 93 \text{ percent correct}$$

The suggested grade values are noted as follows:

90 to 100 percent = A

80 to 89 percent = B

70 to 79 percent = C

60 to 69 percent = D

0 to 59 percent = F

Exercise Answer Keys

Lesson 1 + Exercise 1

1. d
2. a and b
3. c
4. c
5. futile, know, what
6. relationship, respect, principles
7. die, traitor
8. forgotten, learned, sacrifices, behalf
9. In order to accurately attend to our duties as citizens today.
10. "Had the people, during the Revolution, a suspicion of any attempt to war against Christianity"
11. "You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."
12. Answers will vary, but students should write their own prayer based on Psalm 35.

Lesson 1 + Exercise 2

1. a
2. b
3. d
4. b
5. False, church
6. endeavor, Christian, rights, liberties
7. thanksgiving, praise, consecrate, Benefactor
8. America, the Congress, the province of Massachusetts Bay, and the town of Boston
9. He "that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge His [God's] obligations."
10. "[I]t will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces."
11. Answers will vary, but students should list specific things they think our nation needs prayer for. Optionally, they may write a prayer over those things.

Lesson 1 + Exercise 3

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. True
5. False, humble
6. equal, Creator, Rights, Life, Liberty, Happiness
7. Despotism, right, duty, security
8. Colonies, Free, Independent
9. Divine, Lives, Fortunes, Honor

10. It is hand-copied with calligraphy.
11. To sign beginning on the right side of the paper, under the text.
12. Students should list five of the injuries/usurpations listed in the third paragraph of the Declaration on pages 30–31.
13. Students should circle words or phrases from the Declaration that are unfamiliar to them. Discuss these with your student and look them up together if you need help. Students should write some of the words/phrases and their meanings.

Lesson 2 + Exercise 1

1. b
2. a, c, e, and g
3. c
4. c
5. False, doctor
6. False, dismissal from
7. Correspondence, network
8. *Common Sense*, Thirteen Colonies
9. not, harmony, independency
10. He learned to mix medicines, deliver babies, and treat patients.
11. With a rising fever, Josiah prevailed upon his friends to bring him a jug of cider, which he drank in small quantities throughout the night. In the morning, the cider he had drunk enabled him to perspire heavily; the fever broke, and his life was saved.
12. Reconciliation
13. Wording of the verse may vary according to the Bible version used but should be similar to the following: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23).

Lesson 2 + Exercise 2

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. True
5. navy, treated
6. firmer, liberty, death
7. Answer should include six of the following: member of Continental Congress, built the American navy, chief justice of the common pleas, muster-master of the troops, justice of the superior court, chief justice.
8. Answers will vary, but students should write a prayer asking God to help them be more enthusiastic about a particular aspect of their life.

Lesson 8 + Exercise 17

1. b
2. religion, Jesus Christ, reality
3. Stereotyped printing

Lesson 8 + Exercise 18

1. b
2. True
3. Christianity, impressions, wear away, understanding
4. means, Bible
5. That of the New Testament
6. Mothers and schoolmasters
7. To teach children to read and write and to instruct them in the principles and obligations of the Christian religion.

Lesson 8 + Exercise 19

1. a
2. family, public, American, Bible
3. Man, world, destroy, save

Lesson 8 + Exercise 20

1. False, Francis Alison
2. He was a professor of religion, and he attended public worship often.
3. He was described as “social, jocular, and friendly ... the life of all conviviality ... with a store of rich and diverting anecdote that was inexhaustible and unequalled.”
4. Delegate to the Continental Congress, signer of the Declaration of Independence, a judge of Pennsylvania high court, brigadier general of Pennsylvania volunteers, in charge of collecting testimonies concerning the barbarous treatment of prisoners by the enemy
5. Answers will vary but should include some variation of the following: “The prisoners, instead of that humane treatment which those taken by the United States experienced, were in general treated with the greatest barbarity.”
6. Cheerfulness means having good spirits, uplifting to others. Applications will vary as to how this characterized Smith’s life.
7. Answers will vary, but students should provide a specific way they can be a cheerful influence in someone’s life.

Lesson 8 + Exercise 21

1. c
2. iron, increased, good
3. Hard work
4. Member of Pennsylvania colonial legislature, member of Pennsylvania Provincial Congress, delegate from Pennsylvania to the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence, member of Pennsylvania’s first Supreme Executive Council
5. His fortune greatly suffered.

Lesson 8 + Exercise 22

1. b
2. often, eloquence, commanding
3. best, government, world
4. reasoned, persuaded, blaze, light, from, added
5. He “was one of eight Pennsylvania delegates to the Philadelphia convention to adopt a constitution for the United States.”
6. Because Franklin was aged and feeble.

Lesson 8 + Exercise 23

1. True
2. judicial, public, worth, character, talent
3. Answers will vary but may include loyalty, persistence, commitment, compassion, perseverance, etc.
4. Member of Pennsylvania Provincial Congress, delegate to the Second Continental Congress, advocate general of France in the U.S., delegate from Pennsylvania to the Constitutional Convention, member of Pennsylvania state ratification convention, associate justice of Supreme Court
5. Bushrod Washington, nephew of George Washington. He filled Wilson’s seat as circuit judge after he died.
6. Answers will vary, but students should write about how they can become a person of fitly spoken words, list some ways their words need improvement, and set specific goals.

Lesson 9 + Exercise 1

1. a
2. b
3. False, instrumental
4. public, corrupt, deliberate, lawful, proper
5. opposed, power, freedom
6. adopted, militia, Jersey
7. Answer should include five of the following: high sheriff of Kent County, militia captain, trustee of the loan office of New Castle County, customs collector and judge at New Castle, deputy attorney general of Sussex County, chief notary officer for the province, clerk and member of the legislature, speaker of the lower house.
8. He was “the only signer to be the chief executive of and concurrent officeholder in two States.”
9. God’s favor

Lesson 9 + Exercise 2

1. False, John Adams
2. False, sufficiently
3. five, months, log, Susquehanna
4. Because he was leading troops in New Jersey.
5. Answer may include any of the following: persistence, accuracy, faith, perseverance.

Quiz Answer Keys

Quiz 1

1. d
2. c
3. b
4. c
5. a
6. b
7. relationship, respect, principles
8. equal, Creator, Rights, Life, Liberty, Happiness
9. *Common Sense*, Thirteen Colonies
10. In order to accurately attend to our duties as citizens today.
11. “[I]t will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.”
12. Reconciliation
13. Answer should include six of the following: member of Continental Congress, built the American navy, chief justice of the common pleas, muster-master of the troops, justice of the superior court, chief justice.
14. Temperance, sobriety, righteousness

Quiz 2

1. a and c
2. b
3. b
4. b
5. a
6. c
7. True
8. True
9. False, 10 p.m.
10. True
11. fight, heart, faint
12. Christianity, Christianity, immutable, attributes
13. Honesty and responsibility
14. He felt anything less would be a breach of trust and offensive in the eyes of God.

Quiz 3

1. b
2. a and d
3. b
4. False, enraged
5. False, conviction
6. wedge, knot
7. King, insult, feelings
8. unborn

9. At a public meeting that protested Parliament’s right of taxation, Samuel Adams noted that if Parliament could tax their trade, there could be future taxes on land, possessions, or other things.
10. Answer should include one of the following: He outmaneuvered Governor Gage, his suggestion of a pastor to lead a prayer in Congress, his resolute courage when things seemed to be going badly for the Americans in their struggle for freedom.

Quiz 4

1. b
2. c
3. b, c, d, and e
4. True
5. Liberties, America
6. duty, devote, country
7. That “Americans should resist the British Stamp Act.”
8. Answers will vary, but students should provide an example of how prudence on the part of Gerry helped to save the lives of others.
9. He supported better pay and equipment for the troops.
10. “The term ‘gerrymander’ ... grew out of a redistricting bill Gerry supported which obviously benefited his own party. One district was so oddly shaped that it resembled a salamander, and angry Federalists coined the word gerrymander to describe it.”

Quiz 5

1. a
2. b
3. c
4. c
5. b
6. peace, liberty, safety
7. Hundreds of families received their daily bread from his private benevolence.
8. The printed version of the Declaration that was sent to all the colonies to be read on July 5 carried only the signature of John Hancock, as the official document wasn’t drawn up and ready for all to sign until August 2.
9. He was in command of approximately 6,000 New England troops on a mission to free Rhode Island from British occupancy.
10. He served as chaplain with New England troops in the French and Indian war in 1755. He also preached in pulpits in and around Boston.
11. Numerous quotes reveal his belief in God and having a hope through Jesus Christ for eternity.