“First Continental Congress”

* September 5, 1774-Oct 26, 1774
  + Upset about having the intolerable acts enforced on them so they decide to meet to discuss the matter
  + Attended by all the colonies except for Georgia
  + Georgia was caught up fighting with the Indians
* Originally did not want to break up with British
  + Payton Randolph was the president of the convention
* Joseph Galloway’s plan was rejected it was similar to the Albany Plan of the Union which was also rejected
  + Rejected by 1 vote
  + Denied by 6 and passed by 5
  + Continental Association: committees created in towns   
    • Held boycotts
* Declaration of Rights and Grievances
  + Requested British to change policies back to salutary neglect
  + Sent to the king not parliament because the colonies were still loyal to the king
* Meet in the spring of 1775 if the demands were not met

“Declaration of Independence”

* Colonies had previously asked the British crown for redress and change, but were met by opposition.
  + At this point, many colonists viewed it as the only way to protect their rights from Great Britain.
  + It was used to justify the reasoning for the American Revolution to the world.
* Accuses the crown of intentionally impeding those rights, to establish “absolute Tyranny” over the colonies.
  + Most of the people, but not all, that supported and helped to write the Declaration, signed it.
* On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution, (Lee Resolution), to the first continental congress, which declared the 13 colonies “free and independent states”
  + Thomas Jefferson was among the 5 delegates in the committee chosen to write a statement in support of Lee’s Resolution
* Benjamin Franklin and John Adams were also a part of the committee that was to write the Declaration of Independence.
* All people in the committee agreed that Jefferson was the best writer, so they advised him, instead of writing it themselves.
* The Declaration of Independence created a large divide between the patriots and loyalists. The Loyalists were labeled as traitors. Many were jailed
* The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 2nd, and was approved July 4th.
* There were four sections of the Declaration of Independence.
  + It opened with a preamble, which explained the necessity of breaking from Great Britain, to form a nation which can “levy war, make peace, make alliances with foreign nations, and conduct trade”
  + There were 27 “specific abuses” of the King listed in the third section, the List of Grievances.
  + The second section stressed the importance of natural rights that all men are entitled to.
  + Natural rights include the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
* The Conclusion includes the separation from Great Britain and the formation of a new nation with all of the rights of other nations.

“Bunker Hill”

* First true battle of the revolution
  + Bloodiest battle of the war
* After the war, King George gave up on all hopes of reconciliation
  + It was the opening phase of the siege of Boston
* The battle was supposed to be fought at Bunker Hill, but the colonists fortified Breeds Hill instead, by accident
* Thomas Gage tried to show force but not actually use force
  + Thomas Gage got reinforcements including 3 generals: William Howe, Henry Clinton and John Burgoyne
* Committee of Public Safety was the beginning of the Continental Army, and it was created to protect and serve
* Bunker Hill was on higher ground then Breed’s Hill
* June 17,1775 Gage and the Navy begins bombarding the colonists
  + British were confident of victory
  + Colonists successfully defended the first 2 waves
  + It wasn’t until the third wave when the British got to the colonists, and they were only able to do so because the colonists ran out of ammunition
  + Many British soldiers died
* British colonists gained militaristic confidence

Patrick Henry – “Give me liberty or give me death”

* Acts of disorder breaking out (1775) occurring in New England, more specifically in Boston
* General Thomas Gage
  + Used any force ( “license to hell”) to abate the rebellion
  + Proceeds with caution due to the fact he was outnumbered
  + Gets word that there were stolen cannons and artillery that may have been also smuggled in from France
* Colonists get a warning that Gage was coming from a spy
  + Move all their weaponry to Concord in an attempt to delude the British
* Gage, who was thoroughly irritated, shut down the meeting hall, thus ending the Virginia House of Burgess
  + Meeting places become taverns, churches,
  + Colonists met in large numbers without any suspicion
* St. John’s Church
  + March of 1775
  + The Virginians discuss whether the need to arm themselves or not
  + Patrick Henry spoke in the room for the use of weapons. With his emotional speech, Henry swayed all of the people in the room.
    - “I know not what course to take, …….”

“Paul Revere’s Midnight Ride”

* Committess of Correspondence ( 1775)
* April 18th, 1775
  + Revere rode into Lexington to warn that the British were coming.
  + He was joined in the ride with John and Hancock
* Revere rode across the St. Charles River with a horse
  + Lanterns were hung across the river to alert how the British were coming in
* The tallest structures were steeples, so people were able to see these lanterns
* Met with other riders, Dawes and Prescott
* All 3 were arrested
  + Dr. Prescott and Dawes easily were let out. Revere was too drunk to actually do anything and blabbered away the plan. Luckily, he was drunk so no one believed him.
* Paul Revere is only famous because his name was easy to rhyme with.

“Yankee Doodle”

* The term was coined before the Revolutionary War
* It was used as a derogatory term to describe the Americans
* Doodle = food/simple person
* Feather was used to mock American uniforms during the Albany Union
* Penned by Rich Shuckberg
* Origins of the phrase are unknown, but it was first heard after the British were beat
* The first verse is the most famous, despite different iterations of the song.

“Fort Ticonderoga”

* Colonies were independent
  + No collective group effort at this point
  + Armies would create their own army, militias, small factions
  + Green Mountain Boys was one such group that existed at the time.
* British plan was to control the Hudson River, which would essentially end the rebellion
  + They attempted to fortify it.
* British realized that there was a small narrow gap in order to get into the Hudson River
  + Fort Ticonderoga was located
* Colonists stole/ smuggled all their goods
  + Attacked at sunrise and won without any hassle from the British

“Second Continental Congress”

* Second was used as the term for later, not an actual new congress enacted
* May 10th 1775, there was discussion of what was to happen.
  + Fight? Peace?
* Olive Branch Petition
  + Pleading loyalty to Britain
  + They wanted protection, as well as major self-autonomy
* Declaration of Cause and Necessity
  + Troops of arms ( gain ammunition supplies to basically fight back)
* George Washington was appointed as commander
* An invasion for Quebec was also called
* There were 4 violent and 1 peaceful attempt made to reconcile with Britain, all pointing to war.
  + FIGHT OR BE SUBSERVIENT
* New delegate, Peyton Randolph
  + Centralized government
  + Asked to the president of the United States, but steps down.
* Henry Middelton appointed as president
  + Also steps down
* John Hanckock wants to be be president but is doing too much already.
* 12 colonies sent representatives
  + Eventually Georgia finally concedes. The highest number of reps. are present in NY, NJ, and GA
* Note: Georgia is a central location and a base is set up
* Articles of Confederation
  + Laws governing how to rule the people
* An army, rights to take loans, has generals, and allocated money for paper money.
* Session remains
  + Disbanded March 181

“Thomas Paine”

* Thomas Paine is an English Activist, revolutionary figure, author, and political theorists
* He inspired the American people to fight for their independence
  + Lived in France and was very interested with the French Revolution
* In 1776, he published the book “Common Sense”
  + Advocated for independence from British.
* Promoted topics present in American system
  + Anti-slavery
  + First to ask creation of social security for elder
* Writings included
  + Case of officers, common sense, the American crisis, the rights of man, age official.
* Common Sense
  + Printed anonymously to avoid imprisonment
  + Largest sales of a book
* His book was written for the people
  + Used common language so people can understand
  + Used biblical references in the book
  + Deemed monarchy as “inherited monarch insane”
  + 1/20 people had his book in the colony
  + He also advocated for rebellion against the church saying that the role of a Pope imitated that of the King.

Siege of Boston

* The opening phase is fought vociferously
  + Bunker Hill was just a sub phase
* Goal is to make life hell for the soldiers
* Thomas Gage, John Burgoine, William Howe, Henry Clinton
  + All redcoat leaders who are in the colonies
* April 1775- March 1776
  + Parts of Boston are controlled
  + Controls over ships and take the British canons
  + Congrol from Fort Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights
* Continental Army is officially formed and all the minute men and smaller militia are compiled.
* March 17th, 1776
  + Written agreement was signed that British will be leaving Boston
* General Gage was fired after Bunker Hill with William Howe taking his place

“Battle of Trenton”

* Victory at Saratoga is a changing point for the colonists
* Battle of Trenton is known as the “Battle that saved the revolution”
* Dec 25th, 1776 George Washington and his men cross the Delaware River
  + Battle in the early hours of the 26th
* Moral was awful going into the winter of 1776 for the colonists
  + British view as if the battle is over and colonists lack the proper supplies
* Hessians were wintering in Trenton
  + Hessians- German mercenaries who were hired by the British. These men were effective at their task
* Washington knew some information about Germanic descent
  + Germans would be drunk celebrating Christmas
* Washington launches a surprise attack against the Hessians
  + Johann Rall, the kernel, expected no attack and even withdrew all the centries for the celebration.
  + Not battle death due to war.
  + 900 Hessians captured, 100 dead
  + Washington takes all of their supplies.

“Betsy Ross”

* The existence of Betsy Ross is validated, but whether or not she actually created it or not is doubted
* June 17th, 1777 was the day the flag was created/passed
* Story was told when Betsy Ross’ children tried to sell the house.
* It was known that that the Ross’ and Washingtons’ were well acquainted with one another.
  + Had common pew proving her existence.

“Battle of Saratoga”

* Battle of Saratoga
  + Defining turning point for the Americans
* French gained more confidence in America seeing the zeal that which the fought with
* The British wanted to the Hudson River Valley
  + The rebellion would essentially be contained
* The plan was as follows
  + Col. Barry St. Leger and Gen. John Burgoye were going to do the Pincer movement with Howe on the bottom.
  + Barry defers from plan and goes to Canada when attacked. Howe goes to Philadelphia to overtake. Burgoyne is left fighting the rest of the colonists and is annihilated.
* British basically foul up the attack.
* Americans destroy British with
  + Horatio Gates, Benedict Arnold, Morgan Freeman
* Col Barry grows his force by adding Native Americans
  + Native Americans realize they’re being exploited and counter attack and desert him.
* Sept 11th 1776- British in command now of Phillielphia.
* Two Battles
  + Freeman’s Farm, Bemus Heights
  + October 17th, 1777 John surrenders 6000 troops
* France sees American strength
  + Despite failure at Philideplhia at the Battle of GermanTown
    - October 2nd – 4th 1777, costly battle

“Treaty of Alliance w/France”

* Treaty was signed Feb. 6th, 1778
  + Negotiated by Ben Franklin, Silas Deane, Arthur Lee
* Franklin recruited key men to fight for the cause
  + Marquis de Lafayette invested a lot of money, only 19
  + Friedrich Van Stuven
    - Prussian Army officer who became a general
* In 1774, Vergeness ( a French foreign minister) and spies were sent to check American’s commitment to the independence
  + Conducted with full assiduousness
* Vergeness was in full support until Washington lost a few battles, support undulated
* In 1776, Continental sent Silas to France to ask to buy weapons on credit. He also begged for economic help.
  + Following Saratoga, British offered America peace
  + Vergeness was scared that this treaty would end relation, so they offered all their resources.
    - Allies joined in subsequently: Spain, Dutch, etc.
* Treaty of Alliance would say France would fight side by side with America
  + Articles 1-4: Terms of defensive alliance
  + Articles 5-9: Terms and conditions of peace treaty with England
  + Article10 : Invitation to other nations
  + Article 11: Honor claim to land
  + Article 12-13: Dates, ratification, signing of delegates
* Treaty of Amity
  + Friendship and Trade
    - France would export weaposn, soldiers, etc. to America
    - Extra support bolsters strategy + weapons
  + France experiences its own “Revolution"

“Benjamin Franklin”

* One of greatest Americans of all time who never became president
  + Great example that leaders of the revolution didn't have to fight
* Played great role in treaty with France
* Known widely around the world for being prestigious
* When the American Revolution breaks out, he is 70 years old
* Was in Europe during first continental congress
* Franklin does get involved in Second Continental Congress
  + Franklin was always a radical for independence
  + Supported the idea of unifying the colonies

“Nathanael Green”

* The greatest American you never heard of: Nathanael Greene
  + The George Washington of the south
  + " The Fighting Quaker"
* George Washington liked and trusted Nathanael Greene
* Would have been in charge of the army had George Washington if anything happened to Washington
* Nathanael Greene was Quarter Master General at Valley Forge
* Green was a smart man and realized that needed supplies.
  + Fullfilled the quota and made sure enough supplies around
  + Even used his own money.
  + Brought structure
* Greene resigned because of politics played in Congress.
  + He didn’t appreciate the sporadic decision of Congress to reallocated money at will.
* Greene used the strategies of delay to wear down the British
  + America always had the home field advantage, and played into defensive position
  + He realized that they needed to wear British down on supplies and resources
    - When all gone, he would attack them as a surprise.

  “Battle of Yorktown”

* Yorktown, the battle that the British will never recover from
  + By 1778, military after valley forge is much better
* The British are very successful on the coast
  + Not doing every well inland
* British general Charles Cornwallis runs from the Patriots in fear.
* Realizes that if he goes to Yorktown,  he could have the might of the British navy because Yorktown has water at three sides
  + Wanted to regroup his forces at Yorktown ( Power of Navy would help them make the Patriots retreat)
* October 6, 1781, American has Cornwallis is penned in at Yorktown
* George Washington and Comte de Rochambeau arrive at Yorktown to fight.
* Cornwallis waiting for Clinton with the British navy
  + British Navy comes but is surrounded by the British navy.
  + British are thoroughly annihilated.
* By Oct 17, 1781, Cornwallis realizes he cannot win
  + Treaty of surrender signed on Oct 19, 1781

“Treaty of Paris”

* September 3, 1783
* Under treaty of alliance with France, French didn't wanted Americans to sign treaty with Britain without them
  + Took so long because French and Spain were fighting with Britain at Gibraltar
  + Fight over Gibraltar weaken the British
* John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay signed for the Americans
* David Hartley signed for the British
* Articles of the treaty
  + Treaty gave formal recongnition to the United States as an independent nation
  + Establish boundaries of the United States, Great Lakes to Spanish Florida, Atlantic Ocean to Mississippi River.
  + Establish fishing in Canadian waters
  + Any money American owned Britain and vise versa had to be paid them back
    - Congress RECOMMENDED that loyalist property must be given back
    - Can not persecute any loyalists after the war
  + Opened up the Mississippi River to both US and British citizens
  + All prisoners of war must be released
  + Gave back areas captures after the treaty
  + Provided evacuation for British forces
  + Allowed the people who left the US to return
* Treaty would go into effect 6 months after **signing**

“Valley Forge”

* Dual Victories at Saratoga coupled with loss at Germantown encourages French to join the war
* Valley Forge is known as a time of a really harsh winter, although it was not that bad  
  1777-1778 winter
  + 10,000 soldiers go into Valley Forge
  + Americans are very good at creating propaganda for their cause
* Washington always bartered for goods for his troops, by exaggerating things even worse than they were
* The Valley Forge winter was actually a more mild winter
  + Check in in December, and check out in June
* Schuylkill River borders Philadelphia
* Valley forge is 20 miles upriver from Philadelphia
* When Washington and his 10,000 men arrive at Valley Forge, there was nothing there
  + This means that they had to build from scratch
  + They have to build shelter, and there is a lack of food, clothing, and supplies
* The British have a lot of money, and they use this to obtain supplies that would otherwise have gone to the Americans
  + George Washington's advisor is Nathaniel Greene
  + Americans did not have a network system to deliver supplies to their people
  + Greene does his job very well, and he singlehandedly changes the way on how armies get their supplies
* Frederick Van Steuben is a Prussian that trains the American forces at Valley Forge
  + The army that goes into Valley forge was very weak, but after training they become a very strong fighting force
  + The army that emerges from Valley Forge is highly motivated to fight
* Greene trained his men by picking 100 men, training them, and then telling them to train others