

Grade 4

Reading History

Title: The American Revolution: A Fight for Freedom

In the late 18th century, a significant event took place that would forever change the course of American history - the American Revolution. This remarkable period marked the birth of the United States of America and the struggle of its people for independence from British rule.

The Colonies and British Rule

Before the American Revolution, the American colonies were under the control of the British Empire. Thirteen colonies along the eastern coast of North America had grown and prospered, but tensions had been building for years due to issues such as taxation without representation and restrictive British policies.

The Spark of Rebellion

One of the most iconic moments leading up to the revolution was the Boston Tea Party in 1773. Colonists, frustrated by the British tea tax, dressed as Native Americans and boarded British ships to dump tea into Boston Harbor. This act of defiance illustrated the growing discontent among the colonists.

Declaration of Independence

In 1776, a historic document called the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress. This document, primarily authored by Thomas Jefferson, declared the colonies' independence from British rule. The famous words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," became the foundation of American principles.

The Revolutionary War

The American Revolution turned into a full-fledged war, with American patriots, known as the Continental Army, facing off against the powerful British army. Key figures such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin played vital roles in the fight for independence.

The Treaty of Paris

After years of struggle and sacrifice, the American Revolution finally came to an end. In 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed, officially recognizing the United States as an

independent nation. This treaty marked the successful conclusion of the revolution and established the boundaries of the new country.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What was the Boston Tea Party?

- a) A celebration of British rule
- b) An act of defiance by colonists against the British tea tax
- c) A tea-drinking contest
- d) A Native American cultural event

2. Who authored the Declaration of Independence?

- a) George Washington
- b) Benjamin Franklin
- c) Thomas Jefferson
- d) John Adams

3. What officially marked the end of the American Revolution?

- a) The signing of the Declaration of Independence
- b) The Treaty of Paris
- c) The Boston Tea Party
- d) The Battle of Lexington and Concord

4. Who led the Continental Army during the American Revolution?

- a) Thomas Jefferson
- b) Benjamin Franklin
- c) George Washington
- d) John Adams

5. What was the main reason for the American Revolution?

- a) The desire for more British rule
- b) The need for more taxes
- c) The struggle for independence from British rule
- d) The desire for stronger British control

Answers and Explanations:

1. b An act of defiance by colonists against the British tea tax
The Boston Tea Party was a protest against British taxation policies.

2. c Thomas Jefferson
Thomas Jefferson is known for primarily writing the Declaration of Independence.

3. b The Treaty of Paris
The Treaty of Paris officially recognized the United States as an independent nation and ended the American Revolution.

4. c George Washington
George Washington was the leader of the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

5. c The struggle for independence from British rule
The American Revolution was primarily a fight for independence from British rule due to various grievances and tensions.