Seeds of Revolution

A Reading A–Z Level Z2 Leveled Book
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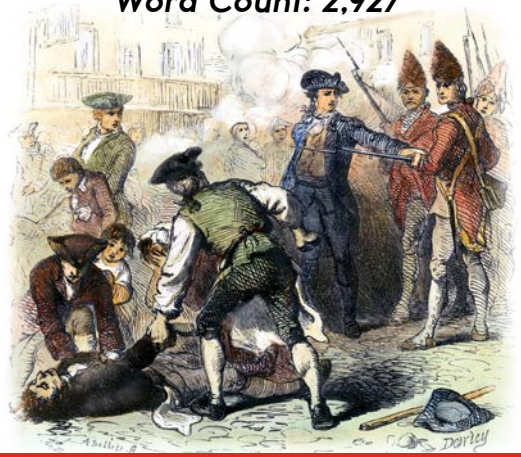

Connections

Writing

If you lived in the colonies, would you have been a Loyalist or a Patriot? Why? Write a paper explaining your position.

Social Studies

Make a timeline of the events leading up to the Revolutionary War. Write an essay analyzing how the events interacted to start a war.

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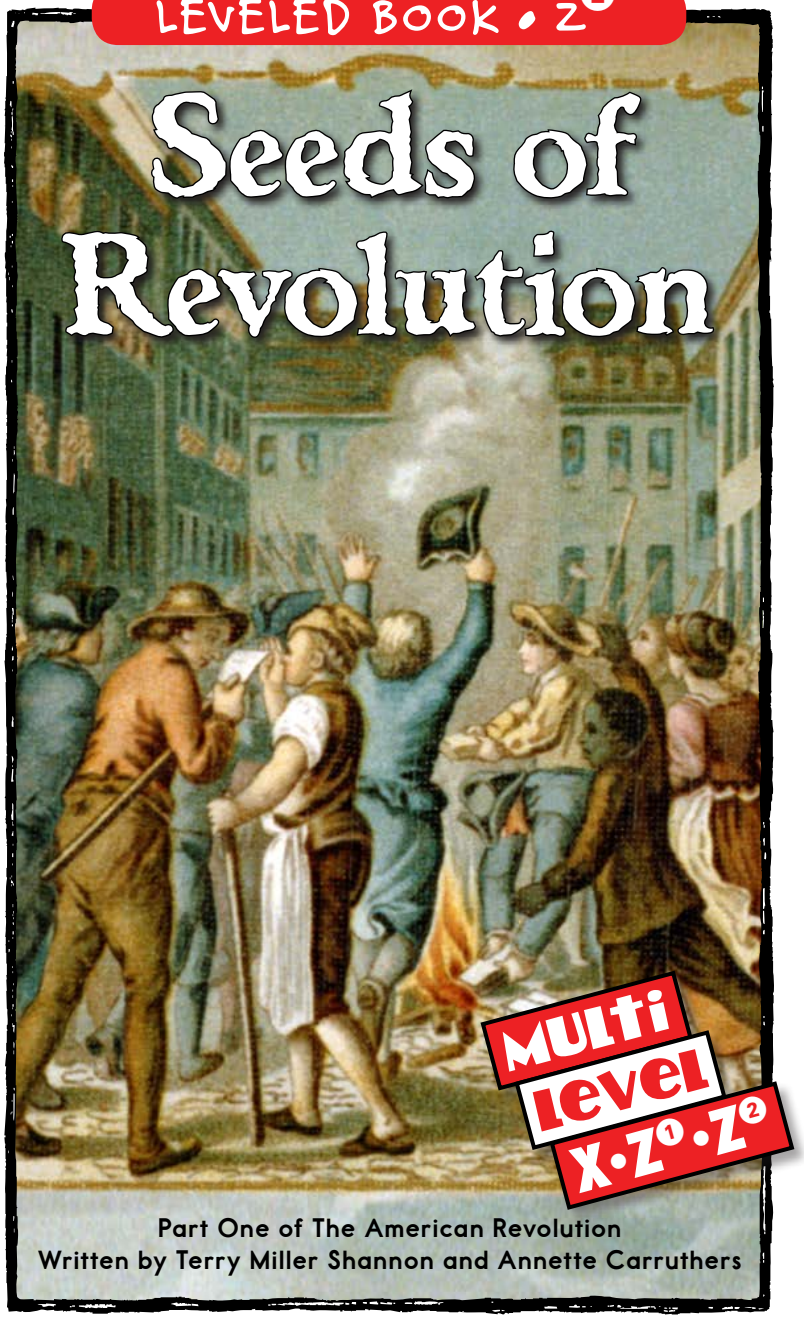

Part One of The American Revolution
Written by Terry Miller Shannon and Annette Carruthers

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Focus Question

What events led to the start of the Revolutionary War?

Words to Know

allies
colonists
delegates
economy
export
founded
guerrilla warfare
imposed
legislature
levied
migrated
Parliament
raw materials
regulated
reimbursed
station
stockpile
trade routes

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Part One of The American Revolution
Seeds of Revolution tells about the events leading up to the American Revolutionary War. Read *Battling for Independence* to learn about the Revolutionary War itself. Then read *Building a Nation* to find out about the efforts to build a strong nation.

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Correlation

LEVEL Z2	
Fountas & Pinnell	Y–Z
Reading Recovery	N/A
DRA	70+

Table of Contents

Britain's Colonies

More than 200 years ago, a ragtag group of **colonists** fought a war against an empire—and emerged victorious! Those colonists lived in what is now the United States, and they fought against Great Britain. Britain was a well-established and powerful country in the Old World that was attempting to secure land in the New World. The New World comprised North, Central, and South America. Many Old World countries in Europe, such as Spain and France, wanted land in the

New World, too. The New World was a new source of **raw materials** and offered more land to support growing European populations. In the 1400s, Spain claimed land that would become Mexico and many of the countries in South America, as well as what would become the western United States, including California. France claimed lands that would eventually become the central United States and much of eastern Canada. Over time, Britain had established 13 colonies in eastern North America.

The people who **migrated** to the British colonies across the Atlantic Ocean were called *colonists*. The distance allowed the colonists to develop their own ideas and ways of doing things. Each colony had its own charter with the British king and a colonial **legislature** that was elected by property owners in the colony. It was this independent spirit that fueled the Revolutionary War, even though the colonists and Great Britain had once been **allies**. In the 1700s, France and England fought several wars over land in North America. The colonists worked with Britain to defeat their common enemy—France. The final war over land and **trade routes** was the French and Indian War.

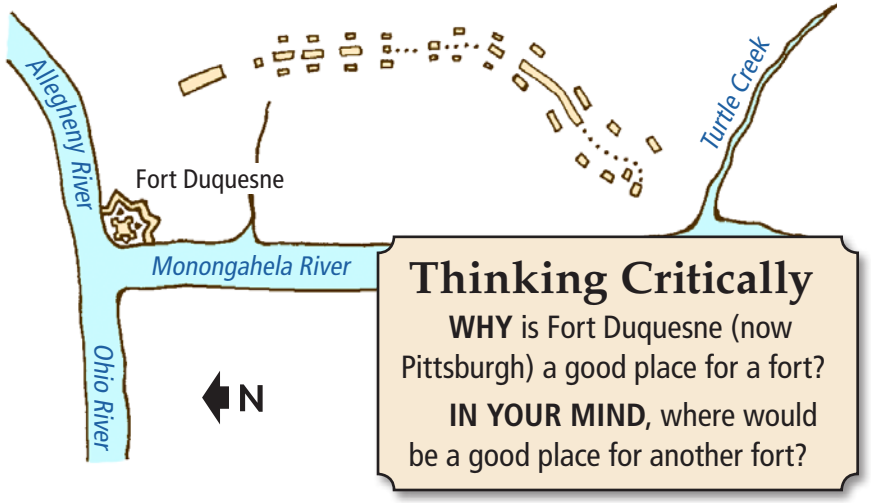
The French and Indian War

In the 1750s, both France and England desired the same land in North America. The two countries had competed for hundreds of years to gain power and territory in the Old World, and that rivalry continued in the New World. The French had explored areas from Newfoundland down the St. Lawrence River to the Great Lakes and the Ohio River Valley. French fur trappers had established trading posts in those areas, while England claimed ownership of the same areas and encouraged colonists to settle there.

Native Americans had lived there long before either the French or the British. The French traders and trappers had established good relations with many of the Native American tribes of the region, especially the Algonquins (al-GAHN-kins) and the Iroquois (IR-ah-kwah). The French were seen as traders, while the British were seen as settlers and conquerors. As British settlers migrated west from the East Coast, Native Americans lost much of the land they had used for centuries for living and hunting. The British signed treaties with the Native American tribes to purchase their land. The tribes did not have the same concept of land ownership as the Europeans and often didn't realize the rights or quantity of land they were

giving up. Many of the tribes were angry and willing to use force to regain the right to use their traditional lands.

As France and Britain prepared for war in the New World, some Native American tribes (including the Cherokee and the Seneca) sided with Britain, and others (including the Delaware and the Shawnee) sided with France. Both sides began constructing forts in the Ohio River Valley to protect their rights to the land. In early 1754, the French built Fort Duquesne (doo-KAYN) where the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is today. The British began building the fort in a location that was key to the control of the entire Ohio River Valley but were driven away by French forces who completed the construction.



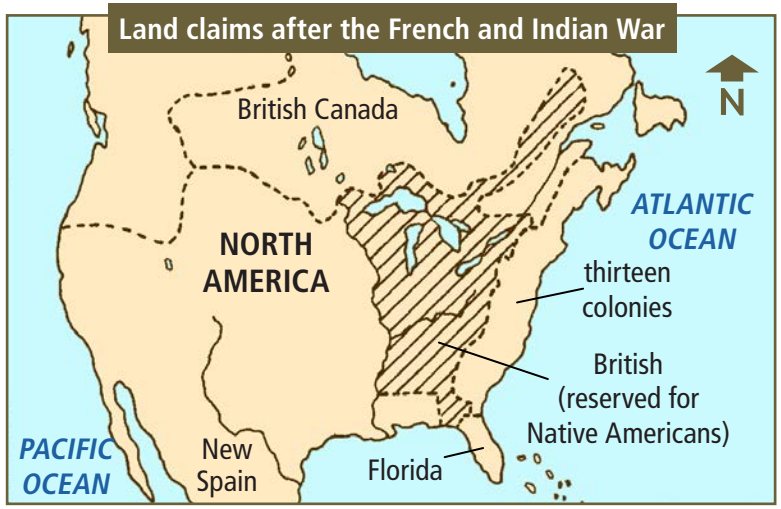
Thinking Critically

WHY is Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh) a good place for a fort?

IN YOUR MIND, where would be a good place for another fort?

The British sent a young surveyor named George Washington and eight other men to the fort to persuade the French to leave. When the French refused, Washington and his men attacked a group of French scouts, killing 13 men and injuring 21 others. Washington's men then built Fort Necessity about 60 miles (96.5 km) from Fort Duquesne. The French captured Fort Necessity in the summer of 1764, but Washington and his men surrendered and then escaped.

Working as a volunteer aide, Washington then went to serve alongside Britain's General Edward Braddock, whose goal was to banish the French from the Ohio River Valley, beginning with Fort Duquesne. However, the French hid soldiers and their Native American allies in the woods alongside the columns of British soldiers marching on the fort. The French sprang an ambush, killing General Braddock and more than half of his men and causing the British survivors to panic and run. This battle is considered by many to be the first real battle of the French and Indian War, also known as the Seven Years' War. The colonists would later use this type of **guerrilla warfare** against the British soldiers in the American Revolution.



In 1756, Britain declared war on France. The official fighting began that year, although many battles had been fought in the preceding couple of years in both the New and Old Worlds. Britain sent more troops to the colonies, as did France. At first it seemed France would win the war because of their Native American allies and the fact that the French understood frontier warfare better than the British and the colonists. However, by 1758, the British had amassed almost 42,000 troops in North America and attacked the critical points of Fort Niagara, Lake Champlain, and Quebec. The French were cut off from the Ohio River Valley, the Mississippi River, and the port at New Orleans—all land that was claimed by France. The French depended on supplies coming out of these areas, because they were crucial to survival in the New World.

Britain won the war. The Treaty of Paris, signed in 1763, cut off all French claims to North America east of the Mississippi River. British colonists could now move freely into the areas once controlled by France, from Florida all the way to Canada.

Colonists were pleased to be part of Britain for a short while after the French defeat. Many had fought alongside British troops in the French and Indian War against a common enemy, and the colonists were grateful that Britain fought for their rights to move west. However, their gratitude did not last long. With the French defeated, many colonists felt they no longer needed British protection or oversight. Just a decade later, gratitude and friendship turned to distrust and revolution.

The distrust began soon after the French and Indian War. Britain had decided to **station** 10,000 soldiers in the New World to defend its expanded empire. The soldiers needed places to live and food to eat, and Britain needed money to pay off the massive war debts it incurred fighting the French. King George III and Britain's **Parliament** had an idea: let the colonists pay for the soldiers' housing and food, and pay extra taxes to reduce Britain's war debts. Taxes were not new to the

colonists, but the British government was changing how the taxes were applied and enforced.

Taxation Without Representation

In 1764, just a year after the Treaty of Paris, Britain's Parliament passed the Sugar Act, which was an expansion of the Sugar and Molasses Act of 1733. It taxed Spanish and French molasses and sugar bought by colonists. It also added taxes to coffee and some textiles, further **regulated** the **export** of lumber and iron from the colonies, and restricted the markets where the colonists could sell their products. The cheap Spanish and French sugar that colonists had been buying was now so expensive that they had to buy British sugar. This tax, which increased the income to the British government so it could pay off its war debts, disrupted the colonial **economy**.

In 1765, Britain's Parliament passed the Quartering Act, which called for colonists to house the 10,000 British troops still in America after the French and Indian War in their private homes. The British soldiers lived with colonists and were not required to pay rent or help the family in any way. All of the colonies except for Pennsylvania refused to comply with the act. When New York refused to supply billeting—food and places to stay—for the

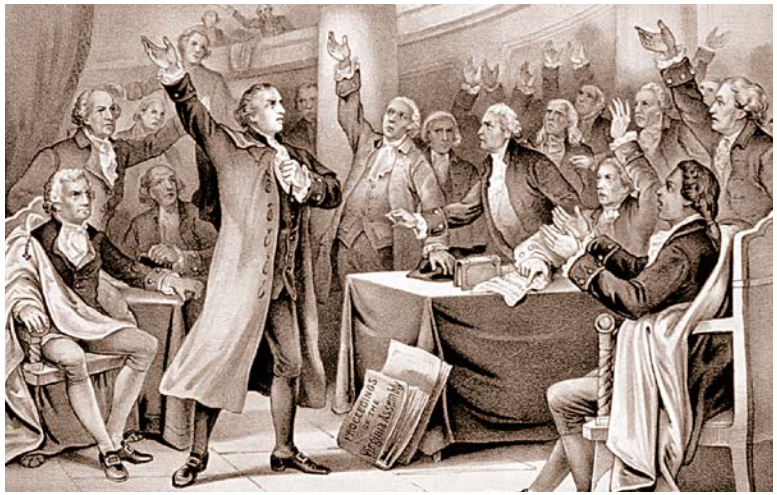
British soldiers, Parliament suspended the governor and the legislative body of the colony as punishment.

Of all the taxes **levied** against the colonies, it was the Stamp Act, passed that same year, that really enraged the colonists. It was the first serious attempt by the British government to assert authority and power over the colonies in North America. The act required colonists to buy a British stamp for any printed paper they used, which meant they would pay taxes on books, newspapers, calendars, playing cards, and other paper items. Also buried in the fine print of the Stamp Act was an income tax—the first tax **imposed** specifically upon the American colonies.

The colonists were not happy about being taxed by an outside entity. The British government felt that it had supported the colonies for too long and that the colonists needed to support the government that had protected them and fought with them against France. The colonists complained most loudly about the fact that they had no voice in the government that taxed them.

Colonists' fury led to cries of "No taxation without representation." They wanted someone in Parliament to speak for them as other English subjects were represented, but King George did

not like colonists telling him what he should do. He believed the colonies in America should financially support his empire. While he was thinking of how to retaliate against the rebellious colonists, the colonists began working together to fight the taxes.



Virginia Assembly

Over the years, colonists had developed ways of ruling themselves. In Virginia, an elected assembly, called the House of Burgesses, set laws for the colony. Originally **founded** in 1619, it was the first elected assembly in the New World, and the other colonies looked to it as an example. When its members argued over the Stamp Act's fairness in 1765, Patrick Henry, a young lawyer, stood and announced that no one except Virginians had the right to tax Virginians.

Colonists burn paper to protest the Stamp Act.

The assembly accepted Henry's position, even though some called Henry a traitor for arguing against the Crown.

Newspapers reported Henry's position, and soon people throughout the 13 colonies were protesting the Stamp Act. James Otis, a lawyer from Massachusetts, and Samuel Adams, a tax collector and politician from Massachusetts, joined Henry as just a few of the leaders speaking out against the tax. Colonists like Adams, Henry, and Otis were called Patriots because they supported their colonies against King George. Colonists who supported King George were called Loyalists because they were loyal to the Crown. Some of the Patriots formed groups called the Sons of Liberty and the Daughters of Liberty and urged colonists to refuse to trade with or buy British goods. Some British stamp agents were

even attacked by colonists. More acts from Britain's Parliament were to come, as were more attacks.

In October 1765, nine colonies out of thirteen sent representatives to New York to take part in the Stamp Act Congress, which was suggested by Otis. The congress asked Britain's Parliament to repeal, or cancel, the Stamp Act. In 1766, King George agreed to repeal the Stamp Act. But, in 1767, the Townshend Acts were passed. The Townshend Acts put taxes on glass, paint, lead, paper, and tea to raise the money to cover the costs of the administration of the colonies. Colonists raged against the new taxes just as they had against the others. They boycotted, or refused to buy, British goods. In 1770, Britain repealed all but one of the Townshend Acts because its merchants were losing money. The tax on tea was the only part that was not repealed.

Tension between the Patriots and Britain was building. British soldiers spread across the colonies to enforce the taxes. More taxes brought more resentment. One night in Boston, the tension and resentment brought more violence.

Acts of Frustration and Retaliation

Large numbers of British soldiers had lived fairly peacefully in Boston after the French and

Indian War. Colonists resented the soldiers being in their homes, but for years they managed to live side by side. On the night of March 5, 1770, a group of rowdy Boston colonists picked a fight with some British soldiers, who then fired into the crowd. The soldiers killed five colonists who had been armed solely with snowballs, sticks, and stones. Patriot Samuel Adams saw the event as a way to get more colonists on the side of independence. He asked his friend Paul Revere, a silversmith, to engrave a picture of what happened in Boston. Revere printed and sold the picture as a poster.

Adams called the fight started by colonists the Boston Massacre. The engraved image, which showed British soldiers firing into a group of elegantly dressed, peaceful colonists, was also printed in newspapers. The picture was not a true account of events, but it gave Adams the result he wanted—it enraged many colonists.

Revere's engraving as it appeared in print

Crispus Attucks

Do You Know?

Crispus Attucks, a former slave, is believed to be the first person killed in the Boston Massacre. He lived in Boston and worked as a whaler on ships in Boston Harbor. He believed strongly in freedom from Great Britain. At his memorial service, many speeches were given about his bravery.

The last remnant of the Townshend Acts was the tax on tea. Though not a new tax, the Tea Act was revised in 1773 and required colonists to buy tea only from Britain's East India Company, which was failing financially. The colonists were still not represented in Parliament, and they were angry that not all of the taxes were repealed. In December 1773, a group of frustrated colonists showed their dislike for the tea tax. They climbed aboard a British ship and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor. They disguised themselves as Native Americans so they could not be blamed for the trouble they caused. However, the British were neither fooled nor amused, and they decided that the time for any goodwill was past. The act became known as the Boston Tea Party.

In the summer of 1774, King George and Parliament retaliated with the Coercive Acts, which the colonists renamed the Intolerable Acts.

These acts were written to punish the rebellious colonists at least until the British were **reimbursed** for the tea. One of the acts closed Boston Harbor to all ship traffic. That put many Boston colonists out of work and made them worry that they would starve. Colonists in other areas felt sorry for Boston and were furious with Britain. The colonial assemblies voiced their support for Boston, often against the wishes of the British governors of each colony. In the meantime, Britain appointed General Thomas Gage as governor of Massachusetts and sent him to Boston to take control of the city. Gage brought 4,000 troops, which the colonists then had to house and feed.

Like the Stamp Act that came before it, the Intolerable Acts united colonists against Britain. In September 1774, 12 colonies sent **delegates**, or representatives, to Philadelphia to meet in the First Continental Congress. Georgia was the only colony that did not participate.

The Boston Tea Party took place under the cover of darkness to keep the participants from being caught.

The delegates insisted that the Intolerable Acts be repealed. They also insisted that colonists have a say in all tax laws. Britain's Parliament refused the demands of the First Continental Congress and declared the colonies to be in a state of mutiny. The delegates declared more boycotts on all British goods.

Thinking Critically

HOW did human nature fuel the outcry against Britain?

IN YOUR MIND, if the same situation occurred today, how would it be different?

The delegates of the Continental Congress understood that their actions made war with Britain a possibility and agreed to meet again in 1775. Meanwhile, they urged colonists in Massachusetts to **stockpile** weapons. Massachusetts seemed the best place to begin since General Gage and his men were in Boston. The Continental Congress started to train soldiers, known as militiamen or minutemen, for the fight ahead. American colonists were preparing to fight for independence from a country that many no longer believed or trusted.

Patriot soldiers often did not have uniforms.

The War Begins

In Boston, General Gage became alarmed when he heard reports of colonists' weapons stored at Concord, about 20 miles (32 km) west of Boston. He sent 700 British soldiers on a secret mission to seize the weapons on the night of April 18, 1775. Gage also planned to arrest the leaders of the rebellion, Samuel Adams and John Hancock, who were in Lexington, a town not far from Concord.

General Thomas Gage

A Patriot doctor, Samuel Prescott, discovered Gage's plans and warned the militia that the British were coming. On the way to Concord, the British soldiers encountered a group of 70 militiamen waiting for them on the village green in Lexington. The British soldiers tried to walk past the militiamen, but an unordered shot rang out. No one is sure which side fired the first shot, but that shot started the Revolutionary War. It would later become known as "the shot heard 'round the world" as noted in a poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson called "Concord Hymn." In the fighting that followed, eight militiamen died and ten were wounded, while the British suffered extensive losses and then continued on to Concord.

The Truth About Paul Revere's Ride

Bostonian Paul Revere is famous for warning the troops at Lexington and Concord that the British were coming—but that's a tall tale. It is true that he sent a spy to watch the British soldiers. The spy was to signal which direction the British were marching by hanging one lantern or two lanterns in a church tower. If the British soldiers traveled by land, one lantern would be hung. If they were to cross the Charles River, two lanterns would be hung. Revere saw two lanterns in the church tower that night. Revere traveled by horseback with William Dawes from Boston toward Concord to warn of the advancing British soldiers. Samuel Prescott joined the two men. British officers stopped Revere and Dawes, but Prescott escaped, and he was the one who carried the warning to the militiamen.

The British destroyed some supplies in Concord, but the Americans had moved most of their weapons, hiding them before the British arrived. Patriot leaders Hancock and Adams escaped arrest. The Massachusetts militia arrived at Concord with nearly 500 men. They attacked the exhausted British soldiers at Concord's North Bridge and continued the attack the next day as the British soldiers began to march back to Boston. The militiamen hid behind trees and stone walls to fire upon the lines of British soldiers, just as the French and Native Americans had during the Seven Years' War. The professional British soldiers were humiliated by their defeat at the hands of a ragtag group of quickly trained colonists. At Lexington and Concord, 273 British soldiers and 93 militiamen died.

The Revolutionary War had begun.

Patriot troops face British soldiers on Lexington's village green.

Glossary

allies *(n.)* people or groups that join with others for a common cause (p. 5)

colonists *(n.)* people who live in a colony or are the founders of a new colony (p. 4)

delegates *(n.)* chosen or elected people who represent and act on behalf of others (p. 18)

economy *(n.)* the circulation of money in industry, trade, and finance in a country or area (p. 11)

export *(n.)* the act of sending materials or products from one country or region to be sold in another (p. 11)

founded *(v.)* created or set up a group or organization (p. 13)

guerrilla warfare *(n.)* irregular fighting, often by surprise attack, performed by small, independent groups of soldiers (p. 8)

imposed *(v.)* required by force or authority (p. 12)

legislature *(n.)* a group of elected government officials whose job is to make or change laws (p. 5)

levied *(v.)* collected something, such as a tax, by government authority (p. 12)

migrated *(v.)* purposefully moved from one region into another to live or work (p. 5)

Parliament *(n.)* the lawmaking body of the government of the United Kingdom, consisting of the House of Commons and the House of Lords (p. 10)

raw materials *(n.)* basic substances from which other things are created or made (p. 5)

regulated *(v.)* controlled or maintained the amount, rate, speed, or behavior of something so it worked right or obeyed laws or rules (p. 11)

reimbursed *(v.)* compensated someone for money spent; repaid (p. 18)

station *(v.)* assign to a place (p. 10)

stockpile *(n.)* a substantial supply of something kept for a future use or need (p. 19)

trade routes *(n.)* sea and land routes regularly used by traders (p. 5)

Index