



Revolutionary War Figures



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| King George III | King George III was a British ruler who worked with the Parliament to impose taxes and issue laws and order, called <u>imperial policies</u> . These actions led to the colonists wanting their freedom. |
| Patrick Henry | Patrick Henry was a delegate of the House of Burgesses. He gave speeches to influence the colonists to fight for their freedom, with famous words like, "Give me liberty or give me death!" |
| Paul Revere | Paul Revere is remembered for being a messenger, warning the colonists that the Redcoats were coming before the <u>Battles of Lexington and Concord</u> . |
| Minutemen | Minutemen were members of the colonial army who were ready to fight at a minute's notice. They fought in the first battles of the Revolution, at <u>Lexington and Concord</u> . |
| Thomas Paine | Thomas Paine, a friend of <u>Benjamin Franklin</u> , wrote and published the pamphlet <i>Common Sense</i> which demanded complete independence from Great Britain. |
| George Washington | George Washington became an experienced soldier fighting in the French and Indian War on the British side. This experience led the <u>Second Continental Congress</u> to choose him as the <u>Commander in Chief</u> of the Continental Army. |

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| Benjamin Franklin | Benjamin Franklin was a diplomat in <u>France</u> and convinced them to help the Americans in the war. He wrote about the war in his newspaper, <i>The Pennsylvania Gazette</i> . |
| Thomas Jefferson | Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the <u>Declaration of Independence</u> . The Declaration of Independence stated the complaints, or <u>grievances</u> , that the colonists had against <u>King George III</u> and Parliament. |
| Samuel Adams | Samuel Adams was a Patriot and the founder of the <u>Sons of Liberty</u> . He participated in the <u>Boston Tea Party</u> . He was a delegate from Boston in the first <u>Continental Congress</u> . |
| John Adams | John Adams suggested that <u>George Washington</u> become the <u>Commander in Chief</u> of the Continental Army. He also helped write the <u>Treaty of Paris of 1783</u> with Benjamin Franklin. This document officially ended the war. John was the cousin of <u>Samuel Adams</u> . |
| Marquis de Lafayette | Marquis de Lafayette was a French nobleman, but believed in liberty and America's independence. Many thought of him as the "soldier's friend" because he kept their spirits up. He worked for <u>General Washington</u> . He helped force the surrender at <u>Yorktown</u> . |
| Benedict Arnold | Benedict Arnold was a Continental officer that helped lead the Patriots to victory at <u>Saratoga</u> . Later, he secretly helped the British in exchange for money, betraying his country, making him a <u>traitor</u> . |
| Lord Cornwallis | Lord Cornwallis was the Commander of the British army. He was forced to surrender to <u>General Washington</u> and his troops at the last battle of the war, in <u>Yorktown</u> . |