**Revolutionary War**

**Directions:** To use this timeline, we suggest first printing out this PDF. Notice that the event sheets do not have dates on them. Shuffle the event sheets and hand out them out, one per student, to the class. (It is important not to hand them out in the order in which they printed because they are already organized chronologically!) Once everyone has an event, allow the students to move around the classroom, discussing their event with fellow students, with the aim of arranging themselves in a line sequentially based on their event. After several minutes, the students should be organized in one line across the classroom with their event pages displayed from earliest to most recent. Once the students have completed this task, allow each student to read their event, and then guess the date at which it occurred. Use the following answer key to assess the accuracy of the dates and to confirm the correct order of the timeline. There may be more events than there are students in your class. If this is the case, please feel free to pick and choose the events you use in order to customize our timeline to your classroom’s needs. If you prefer, you may also give each student two events to sort.
The French and Indian War, also called the Seven Years’ War, is fought between the British and the French in North America. Paying for this war causes Great Britain to go into debt.

The Sugar Act goes into effect taxing sugar, coffee, wines, and other goods, as well as strictly enforcing the payment on molasses that had previously been passed.

The Currency Act goes into effect taking control of all money in the colonies. This act does not allow the colonists to print or reissue money, or paper bills.

The Stamp Act goes into effect issuing a mandate requiring many types of documents, such as legal papers and newspapers, to have a stamp on it for which a tax has to be paid. This is the first significant attempt made by Great Britain to raise revenue, earned through taxation on the colonies, in order to help lower the British debt.

The Quartering Act of 1765 goes into effect requiring that colonial authorities provide shelter, food, and transportation to the British soldiers in their area.

The Townshend Revenue Act goes into effect taxing glass, lead, oil, paint, paper, and tea. The act acquires its colonial name from Charles Townshend, an official of the British government who sponsors the act.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 5, 1770</td>
<td>The Boston Massacre takes place in Boston, Massachusetts. The conflict, between colonists and British troops in the city of Boston, occurs when British troops respond to colonists, throwing snowballs, sticks, and stones at them, by firing their muskets into the angry mob. 5 colonists are killed.</td>
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<td>May 10, 1773</td>
<td>The Tea Act goes into effect in an attempt to assist the East India Company by creating a monopoly on the tea market in the colonies for the company through trade regulations.</td>
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<td>Dec. 16, 1773</td>
<td>The Boston Tea Party takes place in Boston Harbor in Massachusetts when a group of colonists, disguised as Native Americans, board ships carrying tea from Britain and dump the chests of tea into the water. The actions serve to voice the colonists’ unhappiness about the Tea Act.</td>
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<td>March 31, 1774</td>
<td>The Boston Port Act, one of the Intolerable Acts, goes into effect closing Boston harbor.</td>
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<td>May 20, 1774</td>
<td>Two of the Intolerable Acts go into effect. The first one, the Administration of Justice Act, allows British officials charged with a crime in the colonies to have their trial in Great Britain or a different colony than the one in which they are charged. The second one, the Massachusetts Government Act, substitutes Massachusetts’ elected officials for appointed council selected by Great Britain.</td>
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<td>June 2, 1774</td>
<td>The Quartering Act of 1774, one of the Intolerable Acts, goes into effect. This act is similar to the Quartering Act of 1765.</td>
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<td>June 22, 1774</td>
<td>The Quebec Act, one of the Intolerable Acts, goes into effect in an attempt to establish a provisionary government in Quebec, Canada under British rule.</td>
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<td>March 23, 1775</td>
<td>Patrick Henry’s famous &quot;Give me liberty or give me death&quot; speech is given.</td>
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<td>April 18, 1775</td>
<td>The rides of Paul Revere and William Dawes take place warning of the British expedition to Concord, Massachusetts. The British were looking to seize and destroy military stores and equipment known to be stockpiled in the town.</td>
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<td>April 19, 1775</td>
<td>Colonists and British meet at Lexington and Concord where the first shots of the Revolutionary War are fired.</td>
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<td>George Washington is appointed as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.</td>
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<td>The Battle of Bunker Hill occurs. During the fight, British force Americans to retreat from Breed’s Hill.</td>
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<td>July 3, 1775</td>
<td>George Washington takes command of the Continental Army.</td>
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<td>Dec. 30-31, 1775</td>
<td>The Americans, led by Benedict Arnold, fall short of capturing Quebec, Canada.</td>
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<td>Thomas Paine’s &quot;Common Sense&quot; pamphlet is first published.</td>
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March 17, 1776  The British vacate Boston, Massachusetts. Their Navy repositions itself in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

July 4, 1776  After a July 2nd vote to approve it, Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence.

July 8, 1776  The Declaration of Independence is read publicly for the first time.

Aug. 2, 1776  Delegates of Congress begin to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Aug. 27, 1776  The British Army defeats the Continental Army in the Battle of Long Island.

Sept. 15, 1776  British forces take over New York City.

Sept. 16, 1776  General George Washington, along with Generals Israel Putnam, and Nathanael Greene, remain steadfast during the Battle of Harlem Heights. This is Washington’s first military success of the war.

Dec. 25-26, 1776  General George Washington leads his troops in crossing the Delaware River to take Trenton, New Jersey from the Hessians.

Jan. 3, 1777  The Continental Army is successful at the Battle of Princeton.

June 14, 1777  The United States passes the Flag Resolution, endorsing the design for the American flag. This is remembered as Flag Day.


Dec. 19, 1777  The Continental Army retreats to take winter at Valley Forge.
Feb. 6, 1778  The United States and France sign the French Alliance, or the Treaty of Alliance, assuring the United States of French assistance, in the form of supplies and ships as well as troops, against Great Britain.
May 20, 1778  The Battle of Barren Hill, Pennsylvania occurs. During this battle, 500 Americans and around 50 Oneida Native Americans, led by Marquis de Lafayette, avoid a British attack.
June 18, 1778  The British abandon Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and retreat to New York City.
June 19, 1778  The Continental Army leaves Valley Forge.
June 21, 1779  Spain declares war on Great Britain.
Nov 1779 -June ‘80  General George Washington and his troops take winter at Morristown, New Jersey.
May 12, 1780  The British occupy Charleston, South Carolina.
July 11, 1780  A number of French troops arrive at Newport, Rhode Island to assist the Americans.
Sept. 23, 1780  John André, chief intelligence officer to British General Sir Henry Clinton is arrested. This leads to the revelation of Benedict Arnold’s treason—his plan to forfeit West Point to the British.

Jan. 1, 1781  Unpaid Pennsylvania soldiers rise up over the issue of pay.

March 1, 1781  The Articles of Confederation are adopted. Under this document, the creators establish a confederation of sovereign states with limited central authority.

Sept. 15, 1781  The French fleet forces the British Navy from Chesapeake Bay.

Oct. 19, 1781  British General Lord Cornwallis, surrounded by American and French forces, surrenders at Yorktown, Virginia during the final campaign of the Revolutionary War.

July 11, 1782  The British vacate Savannah, Georgia.

Nov. 30, 1782  The Americans and British sign a preliminary Articles of Peace.

Dec. 14, 1782  The British vacate Charleston, South Carolina.

April 19, 1783  Congress approves a preliminary peace treaty.

Sept. 3, 1783  The Treaty of Paris is signed by Great Britain, the United States, France, and Spain ending the Revolutionary War.

Nov. 25, 1783  British troops vacate New York City.

Dec. 23, 1783  General George Washington resigns as Commander in Chief of the Army.

Sept. 17, 1787  The United States Constitution is signed.

June 21, 1788  The United States Constitution is adopted.
May 1789  George Washington is unanimously elected as the first president of the United States by the electoral college.

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