

AMERICAN REVOLUTION TIMELINE

Key Events Leading to Independence

October 7, 1763 Proclamation of 1763

King George III prohibits colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains.

March 22, 1765 The Stamp Act

First direct British tax on American colonists, requiring revenue stamps on printed materials.

March 5, 1770 The Boston Massacre

British soldiers fire into a crowd, killing five colonists and escalating tensions.

December 16, 1773 The Boston Tea Party

Sons of Liberty dump British tea into the harbor to protest the Tea Act.

April 19, 1775 Lexington and Concord

The "Shot Heard 'Round the World"-the first military engagements of the war.

July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence

The Continental Congress adopts the formal statement asserting independence from Britain.

October 17, 1777 Battle of Saratoga

A major turning point that secures French military support for the Americans.

October 19, 1781 Surrender at Yorktown

General Cornwallis surrenders to George Washington, effectively ending the fighting.

September 3, 1783 Treaty of Paris

Great Britain formally recognizes American independence and sovereignty.