The Second Continental Congress

The Promise is Kept

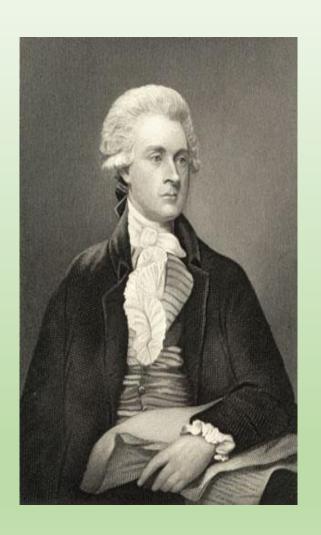
- As the First Continental Congress promised in our last unit, *IF* King George III refused their demands the members would get together again.
- The Second Continental Congress meeting is <u>the</u> meeting that changes the future of our country.
- Can anyone remember the date when "the shot heard round the world" started the American Revolution?

The beginning of the American Revolution

was on April 18, 1775.

Virginia and the Declaration

- On July 4, 1776, members of the Continental Congress from Virginia decided they wanted to create a document to explain their desire for independence.
 - Can anyone guess what this "formal document" would be called?
- The Declaration of Independence



Declaration of Independence

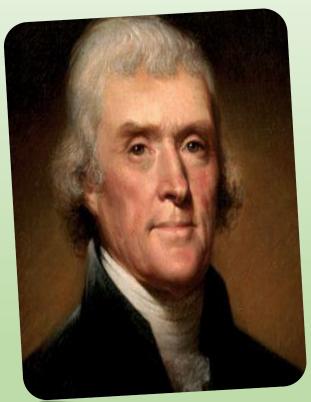


Thomas Jefferson

- Everyone tried to decide whom they wanted to be in charge of writing down everyone's thoughts onto the Declaration of Independence.
- Thomas Jefferson, the <u>youngest</u> member of the Continental Congress (he was 33), was selected to write and put together a draft.
- He was quiet, shy, and rarely spoke at any of the meetings.
 - So <u>why</u> did they pick HIM?

Declaration Writer Acknowledgement

- The Declaration of Independence was drafted by a committee of 5 men including famous Americans, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams.
 - However, the <u>primary author</u> of the <u>Declaration of</u> Independence is Thomas Jefferson.
 - Because Thomas Jefferson and John Adams did not get along with each other, Jefferson often worked independently, revising the declaration.
 - TRIVIA: Jefferson & Adams were not fans of each other. In fact, they had a running bet.....





The Jefferson-Adams Bet

- It was common knowledge that Jefferson and Adams often disliked each other.
 - They had a respect for each other's leadership styles, but personally, they didn't get along.
- They both bet each other on who would outlive the other – who would die first.
 - Through the years they wrote each other to keep in touch, seek advice from one another, etc. --- but no, they were never friends.

Who won the bet?????

- Both men died on the SAME DAY July 4, 1826 exactly 50 years after they wrote the Declaration of Independence. And....
- They died 5 hours apart, but *Jefferson died first*. *Adams*

The Importance of the Declaration

- The two reasons why the Declaration was important to get the right person to write the Declaration of Independence was because they:
- 1. Had to convince the Loyalists and Fence-Sitters to take sides with the Patriots.
- 2. Wanted England to *really understand* why they didn't want to be ruled by a king anymore.

Can anyone tell me the TWO (2) reasons why John Hancock's name is written the largest on the Declaration of

- 1. Everyone was <u>afraid</u> of signing it it was an act of treason (the worst crime against one's country; death was punishment). Hancock signed it *extra large* to show he wasn't afraid, and that he believed in what they were doing.
- 2. Hancock was the president of the Second Continental Congress. He signed it first

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thum with States of Honerica.

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The Declaration of Independence in a Nutshell

- The Declaration of Independence is broken up into four (4) parts:
 - The Preamble (an introduction telling the purpose of the document and why it was written)
 - The Declaration of Human Rights (the basic ideals of American democracy of equality, and independence from England)

- The Grievances Against the King (the list of abuses committed by King George from the first taxes to the passage of the Intolerable Acts).
- The Announcement for Independence from England (notification to the world that the former British colonies are free and independent states and are to be treated as equal nations of the world.