

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 the meeting that changes the future of our country.**
- *Can anyone remember the date when “the shot heard round the world” started the American Revolution?*

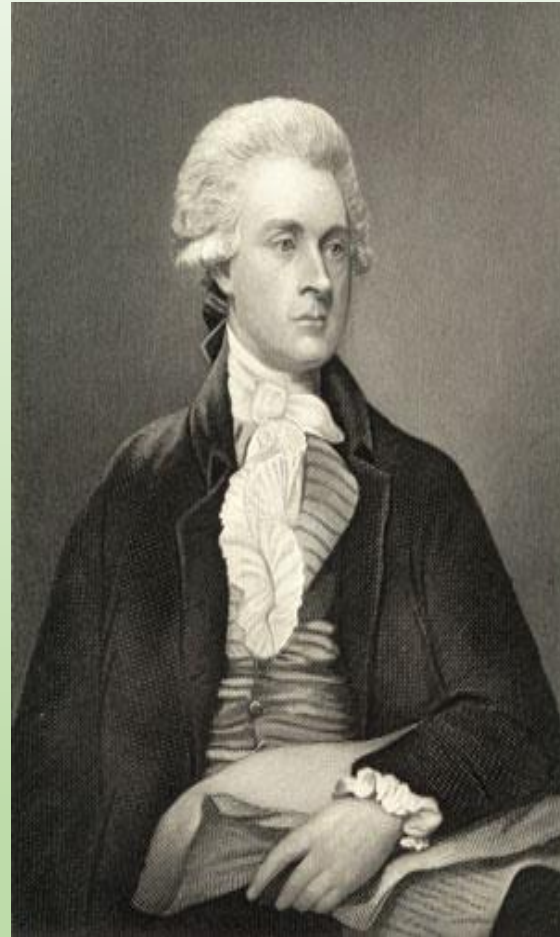
The beginning of the American Revolution

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

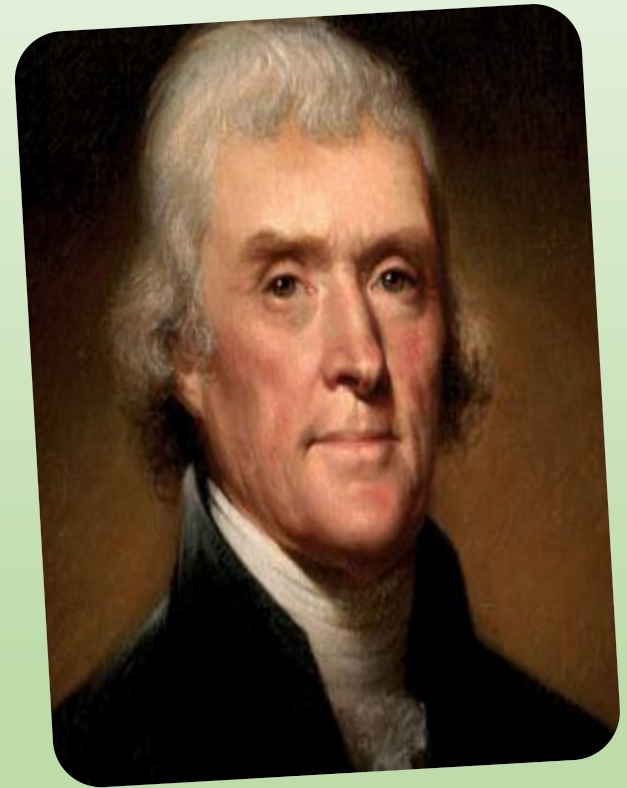


Thomas Jefferson

- 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 youngest 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 why 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 primary author of the Declaration of 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 won the bet.* 😊

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.

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.