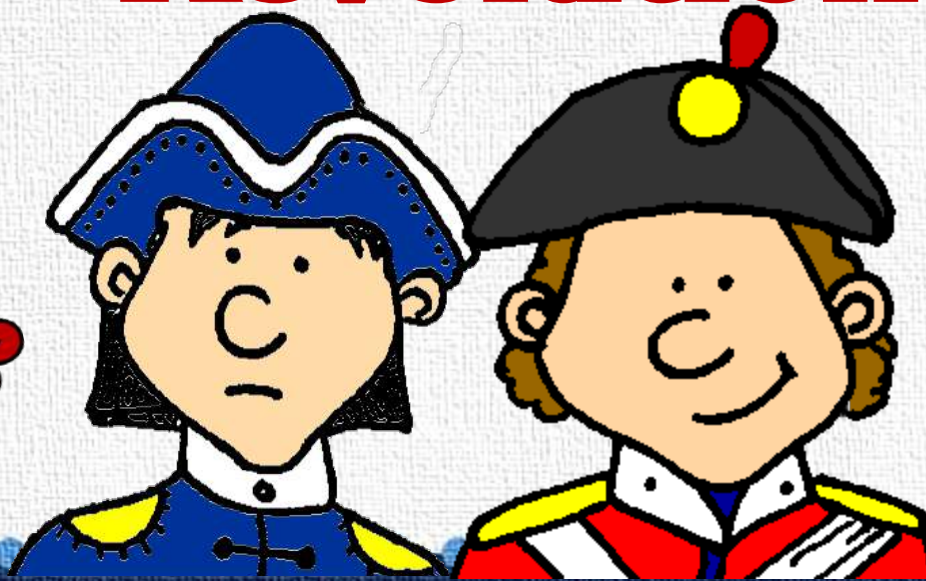


Created to support
Georgia's 4th Grade
Social Studies
Performance
Standard SS4HA

Causes of The American Revolution

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What is a Revolution?

A revolution is when the government of a nation is taken over by force and is replaced with a new one.

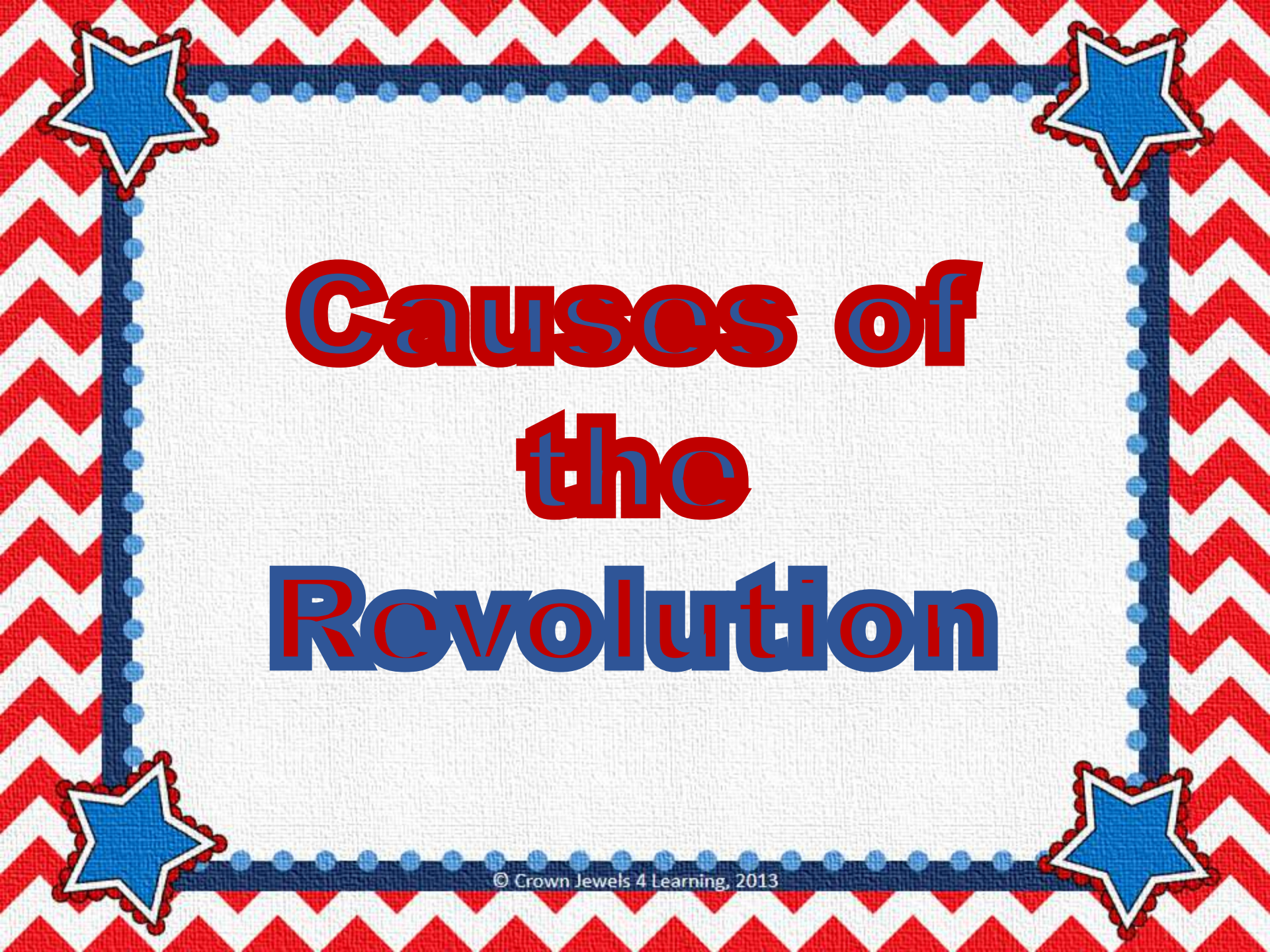


The Problems Begin

England had fought to build an empire and increase its power around the world. They had fought the French and had gained control of the colonies as well! The colonies were being ruled by a King who lived thousands of miles away. The King had established an Imperial Policy to maintain order and control over his empire. The policy made life difficult and the colonists felt it was unfair.

Empire:
territory completely
controlled by one
ruler

Imperial:
related to an
empire



Causes of the Revolution

The French and Indian War

The French and Indian war was fought between the British and the French in order to gain control of the colonies. The Indians helped the French in the fight against England. This is how the war got its name. England won the war and gained control of the colonies. The war cost England a lot of money. The ruler of England, King George III, needed to find a way to pay for it, so he decided to tax the colonies.



The Stamp Act of 1765

The Stamp Act of 1765 was one of the first taxes that King George III forced the colonists to pay. The tax required to them to purchase a stamp for each printed paper item they purchased or used. Legal documents, newspapers, pamphlets, and even playing cards were taxed. Colonists were outraged! They protested causing the Stamp Act to be revoked the very next year. Unfortunately, more new taxes and unfair laws were soon to come. The Stamp Act had accomplished something the King did not expect, it united the colonies against him!

Stamp

Outraged: the feeling of anger or resentment

Revoked: to take back or withdraw

Stamp Act Activity



The King's Gold

The King's Gold Discussion Questions

Take a moment to think about each question. Then share with a partner when directed to do so by your teacher.

- What was unfair about the way you were taxed?
- Taxes are necessary to help the government pay for things that benefit everyone. How could they have been handled more fairly?
- Why do you think tax collectors were hated?
- What would you have done if you had been in the colonist's situation?



No Taxation, Without Representation!

The colonists were not allowed to have anyone to **represent** them in parliament when decisions were made about taxes. They had no voice and no choice about the taxes they were forced to pay. As a result, they came up with this slogan, “**No taxation, without representation!**” Angry colonists began to riot and protest against having no vote in Parliament!

Slogan: a word or phrase used by a group to attract attention.

The Quartering Act

The **Quartering Act** was another tax imposed on the colonists in 1765. King George III needed to find a way to pay for his soldiers to stay in the colonies while they worked to keep things under control. According to this law, the colonists were required to provide food and shelter to soldiers stationed in their town. The colonists didn't like being forced to open their homes and feed soldiers. Some of the colonists were struggling to feed their own families!

Quarters: the place where someone lives

Imposed: to force someone to accept



Sons of Liberty

The Sons of Liberty was a secret organization made of merchants and workers. They protested the unfair taxes. Violent activities were often a part of their demonstrations. The organization grew in each colony as people united against the unfair taxes that England forced them to pay.



Demonstrations:
a public display of
a group's feelings
toward a person
or cause



Tea Tax & The Boston Tea Party

In 1773, England forced another new tax on the colonists. The tax was on tea, and that was one of their favorite drinks. The Tea Tax was another reason for the people to resent the King. The Sons of Liberty came up with a plan to let King George III know exactly how they felt! The members dressed up as Native Americans and raided a ship loaded with tea. They dumped close to 350 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor. This important event became known as the Boston Tea Party. It encouraged more people to join in the fight against the British!



First Continental Congress, 1774

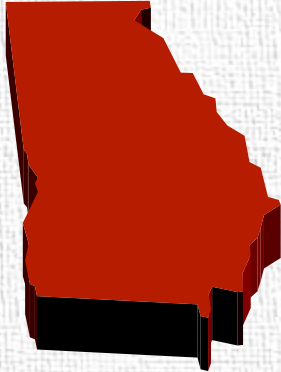
In 1774, representatives from twelve colonies met in Philadelphia to discuss problems they were having with England. Everyone in the meeting agreed that the way they were treated and taxes they were forced to pay were unfair. However, they disagreed about how to handle the problem! In the end, they decided to end or boycott all trade with England until the taxes were repealed.

Congress:
a formal meeting



Repealed:
do away with;
cancel

Interesting Fact...



Georgia did not attend the first Continental Congress, because they did not want to cause trouble with the British. At the time, they needed British soldiers to help defend their borders from the Creek tribe.

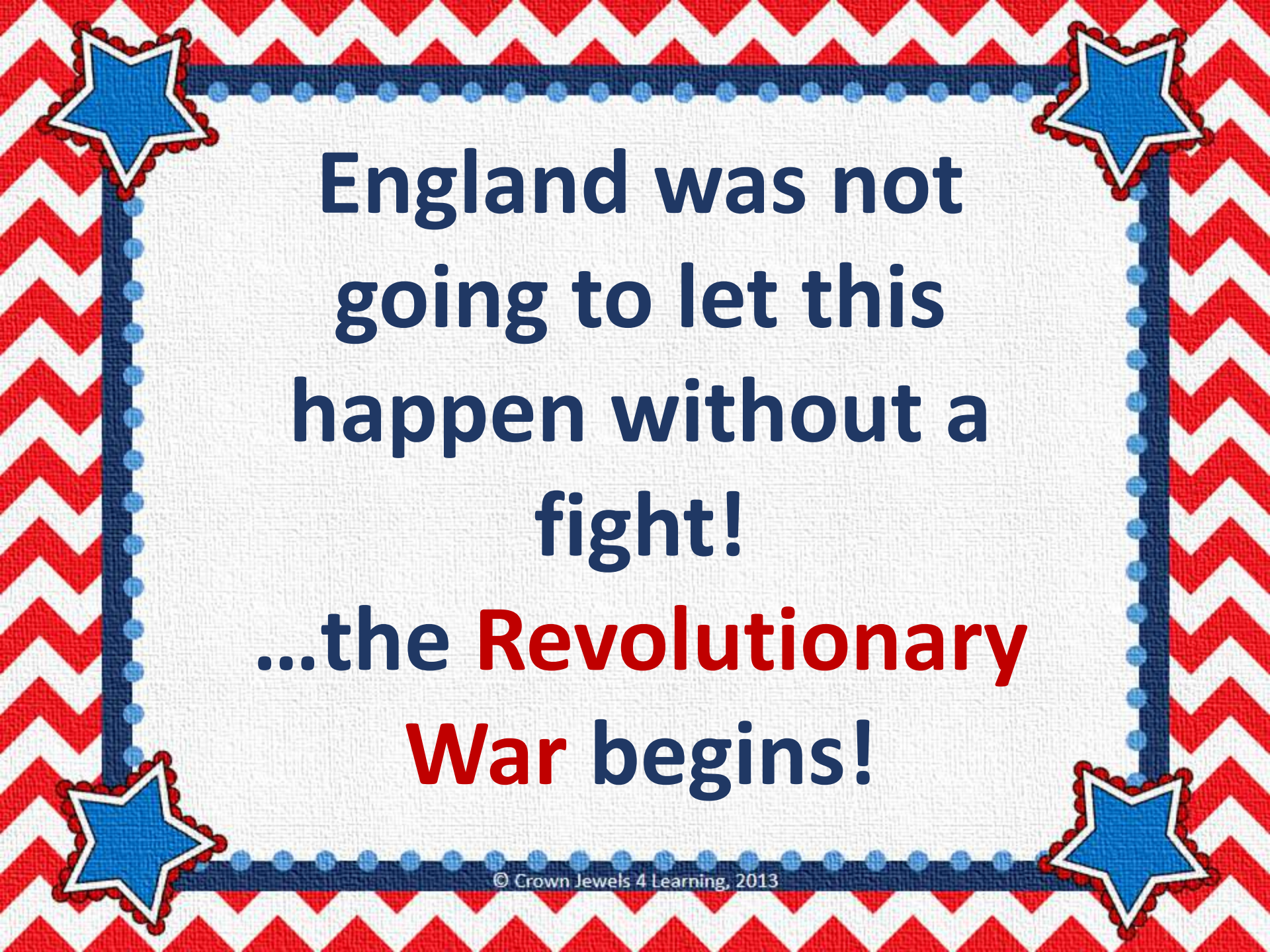


Second Continental Congress, 1775

The second Continental Congress was held in 1775. This time the representatives, or delegates, discussed breaking free from England. They wanted to become an independent nation. Some of the people were afraid of this idea. After months of discussions, the leaders decided to declare the colonies an independent nation. A committee was elected to write this very important document, The Declaration of Independence.

Continental:
relating to the
colonies





England was not
going to let this
happen without a
fight!

...the **Revolutionary**
War begins!