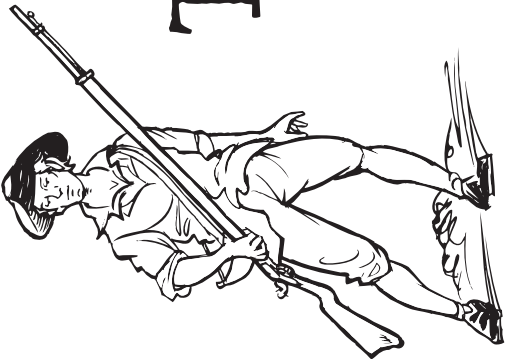


## INTRODUCTION TO

# THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

### FAST FACTS

- The American Revolution, which lasted from 1775 to 1783, was also called the Revolutionary War and the War of Independence.
- During the American Revolution, only four American cities had over ten thousand people: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston.
- Great Britain and the American colonies were separated by over three thousand miles.
- At the time of the American Revolution, Britain was the most powerful nation in the world.
- Over eighty percent of American colonists were British. They had been loyal to Great Britain for over one hundred years.
- Five Patriots of the war later became presidents of the United States: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe.
- In 1776, the Continental Congress officially declared the name of the new nation the United States of North America. Two years later, the congress decided to shorten the name to the United States of America.



## ABOUT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

### **The Beginning of Discontent**

The thirteen colonies had been under British rule since the 1600s. Each colony elected its own law-making assembly and had its own governor. As long as the colonies dealt only with Great Britain, they were left alone to manage their own affairs.

In the 1760s, the British Parliament placed a series of new taxes on the colonies. The colonists resisted these taxes, claiming they should not be taxed because they had no representation in Parliament.

### **Patriots and Loyalists**

Many colonists began to think they should be independent of Great Britain. These colonists became known as Patriots. Some Patriots came from wealthy families. Others were ordinary farmers. All Patriots had one major goal. They wanted to end British rule and form their own independent country.

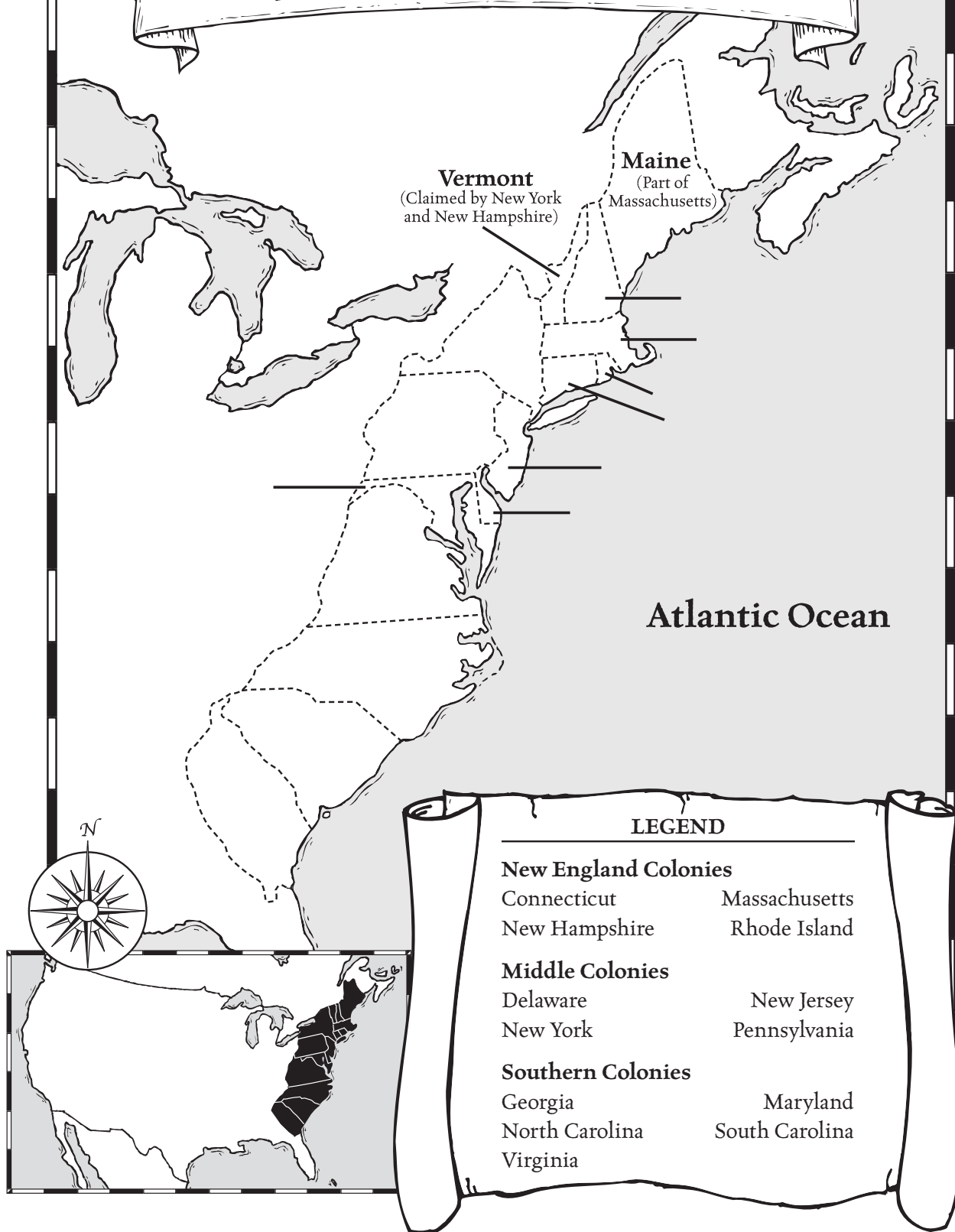
Not all colonists wanted to break away from Great Britain. These colonists were called Loyalists. To Loyalists, a country without a king was unrealistic. Loyalists included people from all economic levels, too. Some Loyalists were wealthy merchants who wanted to continue their business connections with Great Britain. Other Loyalists had family and friends still living in Britain. About one-third of the population supported the British Crown.

### **Conflict Begins**

As the colonies' disobedience toward the British laws and taxes increased, so did the anger of the British government. In 1775, British troops were ordered into Boston to take action against the rebellious colonists. On April 19, fighting broke out between British soldiers and colonial militia, known as minutemen, in Lexington and Concord, small settlements near Boston, Massachusetts.

A small Continental army fought against the larger and better equipped British forces for eight years. On September 3, 1783, Great Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, ending the war. The colonies became an independent nation.

# Map of the Thirteen Colonies



## CHOOSING SIDES

The name the colonists gave to a British soldier because of the color of his uniform. \_\_\_\_\_

A colonist who provided the British with military information. \_\_\_\_\_

A colonist who was on the side of England. \_\_\_\_\_

*The colonies should remain British*

A colonist who wanted the American colonies to be independent of Britain.  
\_\_\_\_\_

A well-trained volunteer soldier who was ready to fight against the British at a minute's notice.  
\_\_\_\_\_

A paid soldier in the Continental army who fought the British army.  
\_\_\_\_\_

The highest leader of the Continental army; George Washington was chosen to fill this post by the Second Continental Congress.  
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*The colonies should be independent of Britain*

