

## 3.3

# The Colonies Declare Independence



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- **Explain why fighting broke out to begin the American Revolution and the response of the Second Continental Congress.**
- **Describe the Loyalists' view of the Patriots.**
- **Analyze the impact of Thomas Paine's Common Sense.**
- **Assess why Congress declared independence and the ideas underlying the Declaration of Independence.**

# First Shots Are Fired!

The colonies, fearing the worst, began to stockpile arms & ammunition

Britain sends soldiers to Lexington to arrest Patriots & to Concord to seize weapons

**Paul Revere** rides across the country-side to warn of approaching British & Patriot **militias** are formed

Patriots & Redcoats meet in Lexington, war begins with **The Shot Heard Round The World**

# Set up for War

Patriot soldiers became **Minutemen**, & those who supported Britain became **loyalists**

The colonies join to create **The Second Continental Congress** to create government for the colonies

Congress gives control of the new **Continental Army** to George Washington

Congress argues about independence but send out the **Olive Branch Petition**, which the King rejects



# Colonists Disagree

**Most colonists supported new Congress, but preferred British Rule.**

**Loyalists believed resistance would lead to deadly & destructive war that Britain would win**

**Loyalists also disliked taxes, oath of allegiance, & militia drafts by the Patriots**

**American Indians & Enslaved People also applied to Loyalism & preferred British**

# The Decision for Independence

Colonists are inspired by *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine

The idea for independence from Britain, republican state governments, & union of new states

**Republic-** Form of government where officials are elected by the people

American model that common people reject kings & aristocrats



# The Declaration of Independence

**Approved on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776. Declared that America is not longer under British rule**

**Written by [Thomas Jefferson](#), denounced the King as a tyrant & promoted idea that “all men are created equal.”**

**Congress believed that all men are born with natural rights that cannot be taken away by government**