

Progress

How did America gain independence from the British Empire?

Golden Threads: Changing Power of the Monarchy, Social Change, Exploration and Trade

Chronology 1700s

Year 5 Spring 1

1. How did the relationship between Britain and its colonies break down during the Seven Years War?



- By 1732, there were 13 British colonies in America.
- The Seven Years War between Britain and France caused Britain's national debt to rise to £140 million.

- In 1760, George III became King of Britain. He decided American colonists should take some responsibility for the debt.
- American colonists became angry and held protests with demands, 'No taxation without representation' as they had no representation by members of parliament in London.
- In 1768, the British army were sent to Boston, Massachusetts to keep the area under control.
- In 1773, British parliament passed the Tea Act making it illegal for the American's to buy tea from anywhere but the East India Company, who charged very high prices for tea.

Chronology

2. Why did the US War of Independence take place and how did it affect the 13 colonies?

- Life before the American Revolution was very difficult economically as they were expected to pay high taxes imposed by the British.
- In 1773, The Boston Tea Party took place.
- The American Revolution waged for almost eight years with the American army led by George Washington.
- In 1778, with the help of the French army and navy, the Americans were able to win the war.
- The American Declaration of Independence was signed on 4th July 1776.
- A peace treaty between Britain and America was signed in 1783.
- The American Constitution came into effect in 1787, giving order of the US Government and the basis for all US laws.



Cause and Consequence

3. Why was the overthrow of French monarchy so significant?

- In 1774, two years before the Declaration of Independence was signed in America, Louis XVI became the King of France.
- The separation of wealth in France between 1774 and 1789 was very drastic.
- King Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette spent a lot of the country's money on a lavish lifestyle, while the poor were struggling to eat.
- Supporting the American War of Independence had left France with a large national debt, so Louis XVI had to raise taxes.
- By 1789, the poor were fed up. After hearing of the success of the American revolution, the French poor decided to take the same action.



Significance

4. How did life change in France after the revolution?

- The 14th July 1789, saw the beginning of the French Revolution as the poor in France wanted to overthrow King Louis XVI and get rid of the privileges that all noblemen and clergymen had.
- The storming of the Bastille occurred on 14th July 1789.
- King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were imprisoned and later executed.
- One of the leaders of the revolution, Maximilien Robespierre, sentenced anyone who opposed the revolution to death.
- During a period called the 'Reign of Terror' many thousands of people were sent to the guillotine to have their heads cut off.
- The French Revolution lasted for 10 years, coming to an end under the leadership of Napoleon.



Continuity and Change

5. Was one revolution more successful than the other?

- The American and French revolution were very similar, and the American revolution impacted upon the start of the French revolution.
- The American revolution began when the colonialists wanted independence from British rule.
- The French revolution began due to an unfair system and the poor were taxed unfairly.
- Both revolutions were fought and won by those who started it.



Similarities and Differences

Assessment task:

Pictures of the American and French Revolutions – Tell us what you have learnt about the revolutions. How are they similar/different? What caused them? What impact did they have?