



# Third Grade Social Studies

**3rd Grade Social Studies**  
**Activity 4**

\*There will be a short video lesson of a Knox County teacher to accompany this task available on the KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.

**Topic:** Key People in the American Revolution

**Goal:** To identify some important people in the American Revolution and the role they played, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and Benjamin Franklin

**Tasks for Students to Complete:**

- Watch the video that accompanies this task to learn about key people during the American Revolution.
- Read the paragraphs about each person and fill in the background and contributions of each in the chart.
- Answer the Think and Write question below the paragraphs.
- Examine the pictures of important scenes related to the key people. Identify who is in each picture as well as what the picture shows. Use the videos, text, and your completed chart to help you.

**Extension Activities:**

- Create a comic strip that includes 1-2 of the key figures and their major contributions to the American Revolution.
- Design a postage stamp to honor one or more key figures. Be sure to include pictures, drawings, symbols, and a few words.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Social Studies Activity 4:  
Key Figures of the American Revolution**

<b>Key Figure</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>Contribution to the American Revolution</b>
George Washington		
Thomas Jefferson		
Patrick Henry		
Benjamin Franklin		

**Part 1 Directions:** First, read each paragraph, and highlight important information. Next, use the texts to fill in the chart. Finally, answer the written question.

**George Washington**

George Washington first worked as a land surveyor in Virginia. He joined the militia and fought in the French and Indian War, where he gained a reputation for being a strong leader. After the first battles of the American Revolution, colonies needed a united army under one main leader. They appointed George Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the American Continental Army. He accepted the position, but he knew that it would be a huge challenge. He organized how the troops would be trained, clothed, and fed. Later, Washington was elected as the new nation's first President. Again, he was reluctant to be the leader, but agreed as a duty to his country. He served two terms as president, and had to make many decisions about how the new U.S. government would meet the needs of its citizens.

## Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was born into a wealthy Virginia family. He became a lawyer and a member of the Virginia legislature. He became a strong supporter of independence for the American colonies. He used his skills as a writer to support the Patriots. At the Second Continental Congress, committee members wrote down reasons why they thought the colonies should be independent. Thomas Jefferson took those reasons and wrote the Declaration of Independence. He wrote day and night for 17 days, because he wanted it to be just right.

## Patrick Henry

Patrick Henry began as a farmer and a store owner in Virginia. He realized he liked to talk and argue politics, so he studied to become a lawyer in 1760. He handled hundreds of cases, including the famous Parson's Case, where he went up against the King of England. He was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, and became known as a great orator, or speaker. He also argued against the Stamp Act. He was elected to the First Continental Congress in 1774, and gave a famous speech in 1775. A famous line from the speech was "Give me liberty, or give me death!" He strongly believed the colonies should separate from England.

## Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was one of the most important and influential Founding Fathers of the United States of America. As a boy, he worked as an apprentice in his brother's print shop. Eventually he moved to Philadelphia and wrote his own newspaper. He also wrote the yearly *Poor Richard's Almanac* that contained information about the weather, astronomy, and poetry. He was elected to the Pennsylvania Assembly, and was responsible for getting the Stamp Act repealed. He was also elected to the Second Continental Congress, and believed that the American colonies should separate from England. He was part of the committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence. Franklin was a multitalented "Renaissance Man" who excelled in any areas including science, politics, writing, music, and invention.

**Think and Write:** What did all of these key figures have in common? What was their common goal and how did they work to achieve it?

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**Part 2 Directions:** Each picture shows an important scene related to the Key Figures of the American Revolution. Closely examine each picture. First, identify *who* is in the picture. Then, write 2-3 sentences describing the event the picture shows. Use the videos, texts, and your chart to help you!



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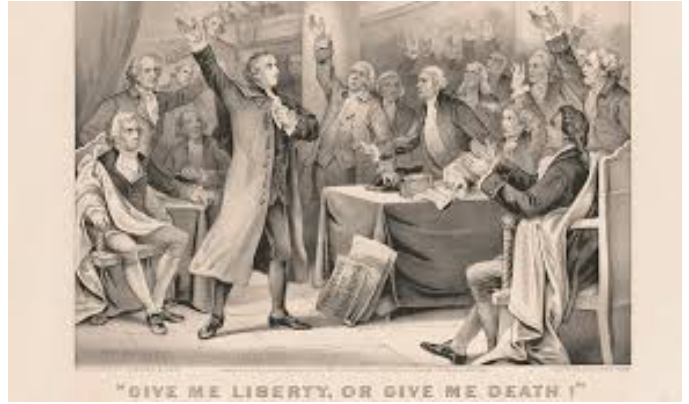
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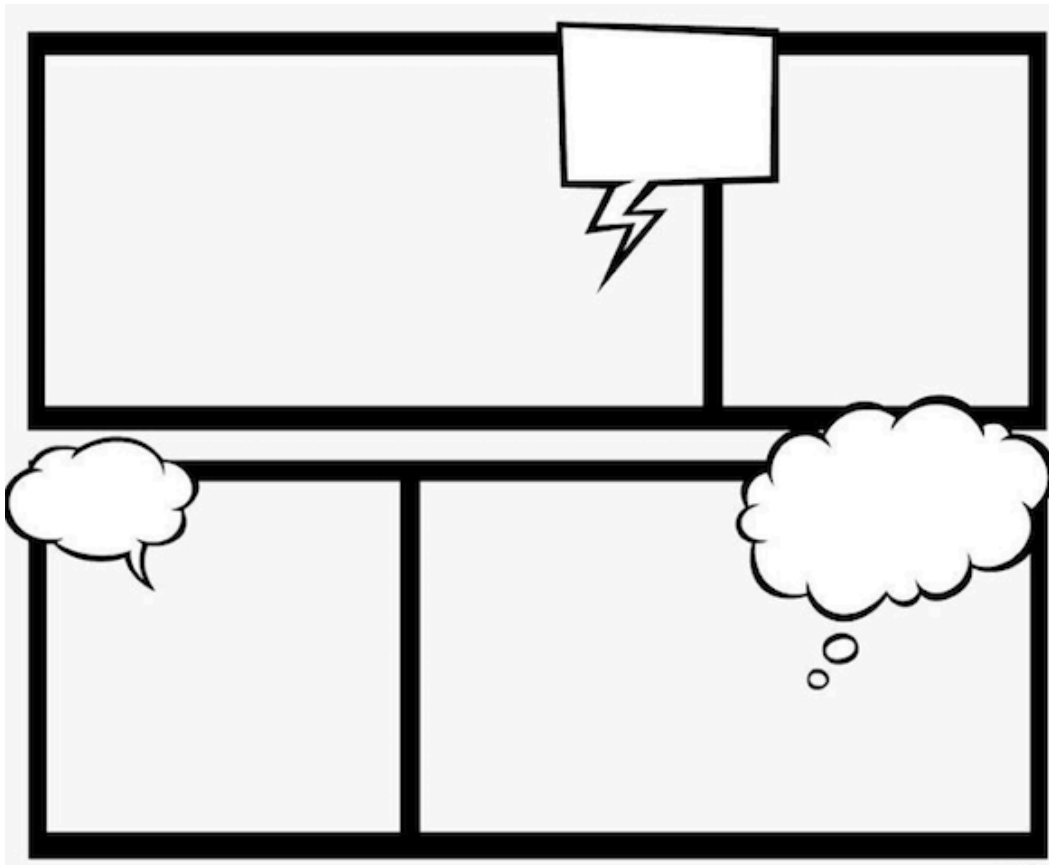
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### Extension Activity Options:

1. Create a comic strip that includes 1-2 of the key figures and their major contributions to the American Revolution.



2. Design a postage stamp to honor one or more of the key figures. Be sure to include pictures, drawings, symbols, and a few words.

