

1754-1776: The Road to the Declaration of Independence – Sample Answers

Background Information: Write a statement summarizing what you learned from the Hey, King: Get Off Our Backs! reading.

The colonists sailed to America from England. In England, there was a king and a Parliament. Parliament made laws and stood up for peoples' rights. In America, the colonists needed some kind of government to deal with everyday problems. Some colonies started to create their own governments, but the king still ruled over all of the colonies. Over time, England spent more time dealing with other issues and the colonies all developed their own governments.

Directions: For each year or set of years, summarize the activities of the English and the colonists in separate, complete sentences. In the third column use a word or phrase to summarize the colonists' concern(s).

Year(s)	Summary of English and Colonial Activities in Complete Sentences	Colonial Concern(s)
1754-1763	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the French and Indian War, the British began restricting the activities of the colonists. Boston lawyer James Otis argued that these actions violated the individual rights of the colonists. 	Individual Rights
1764	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British begin taxing sugar and other imports. They also stop colonists from printing their own money. The colonists decide to boycott the taxed goods. 	Taxation
1765	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Stamp Act is passed and money from this tax goes to the British Parliament. The colonists send a petition to King George asking to repeal the Stamp Act because taxation without representation violates the colonists' rights. 	Representation, Individual Rights, Taxation
1766 & 1767	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British pass more laws taxing the colonists. Some colonists decide to boycott some of the British goods. 	Taxation
1768 & 1769	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colonists begin supporting the idea that taxation without representation is wrong and they also begin boycotting more British goods. The British send troops to Boston to keep order in the Massachusetts colony. 	Taxation and Representation
1770-1773	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British troops kill five colonists and injure six in the Boston Massacre. Parliament gets rid of all taxes on imports except for tea but then they only allow one British company to be import tea to the colonies. In response, a group of colonists board British ships in Boston, and dump hundreds of chests of tea into the harbor. 	Taxation
1774	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British pass a series of acts that closed the port of Boston, put Massachusetts under military rule, made it illegal to bring soldiers to trial in the colonies, ended the colonial government in Massachusetts, allowed soldiers to stay in colonists' homes and gave land to Canada. The colonists convene the First Continental Congress and oppose the acts, begin organizing colony militias and stop importing and exporting with England. 	Rights, Taxation, Representation
1775	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British and the colonists begin fighting in the Revolutionary War. The Second Continental Congress sends a petition to King George to come to an agreement so that the fighting can stop. The King instead orders the troops to end the colonial rebellion. He also ends all trade for the colonies. 	Individual Rights
1776	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The British and colonists continue to battle. Congress agrees to pursue independence. The Declaration of Independence is signed 	Individual Rights