

## The American Revolution

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

The American Revolution is a pivotal moment in our history and a massive topic to explore. So often we read about the same events; in this Internet Challenge<sup>TM</sup> (and in ones to come) we're going to learn about some lesser-known aspects of the American Revolutionary War.

What was life in the American colonies like for ordinary people in 1763? Let's step back in time to the mid-1700s where we'll meet a real family in northeastern Connecticut and see how they lived. Are you ready to explore colonial life before the American Revolution?

Our first site is called [The American Revolution](http://webpages.homestead.com/revwar/files/index2.htm) at <http://webpages.homestead.com/revwar/files/index2.htm>.

Scroll down the page and click the first link, [Prelude to War](#).

1. How were the colonists similar to people in Britain?

2. Name the thirteen colonies in alphabetical order.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

h.

i.

k.

l.

m.

n.

3. Each colony had merged with one another and shared governmental duties.

a. True

b. False

4. How did the colonists view the British government and the British way of life?

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5. Which cities in the colonies became known as “cities in the wilderness?”
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
6. What role did newspapers play during this time period?
7. Which group of people was not free in the colonies?
8. How did the colonists refer to themselves?
  - A. Americans
  - B. British or English
  - C. Virginians or Pennsylvanians (or whichever colony they lived in)
  - D. B or C
9. The life and institutions of the *parent state* continued to provide the central focus of colonial culture. What does the term “parent state” refer to?
  - a. U.S. Congress
  - b. Great Britain
  - c. The state of New York
10. How did the colonists demonstrate their national pride?
11. After 1763, what did Great Britain fear about the colonists?
12. Why weren’t the British pleased with the colonists’ help during the French and Indian War?
13. How was the French and Indian War known in Europe?

14. Which word in the ninth paragraph describes the financial situation of the colonists?

15. British rulers regarded their kingdom as . . .

- a. a superpower of Europe in 1763,
- b. a second-rate power of Europe in 1763, or
- c. a substandard power of Europe in 1763.

16. How did the colonists assist the British in the French and Indian War?

17. Why didn't Britain need the goodwill of the colonists after the end of the French and Indian War?

18. In the last paragraph, find the term that means a document that British officials were granted that allowed them to break into homes and stores.

**Good!**

Let's learn more about writs in [Writ of Assistance](http://school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/worldbook/atozhistory/w/611220.html) at Discovery School.com. The URL for this page is <http://school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/worldbook/atozhistory/w/611220.html>

19. Describe a writ of assistance.

20. Who was James Otis?

**Good thinking!**

Ready to meet our colonial family? Let's go back in time and investigate the daily lives of ordinary people like the Daggetts.

Our site is [Meet the Daggetts – a Colonial Family and Community](http://www.hfmgv.org/education/smartfun/colonial/intro/), which you can find online at [www.hfmgv.org/education/smartfun/colonial/intro/](http://www.hfmgv.org/education/smartfun/colonial/intro/).

Read the information about the town of Coventry, Connecticut (look at the maps) and its people. After you click on "northeastern Connecticut" or "Coventry, Connecticut, be sure to click your browser's "Back" button to return to this page.

21. Look at the map of Connecticut in 1765. Where is Coventry located?

- a. near the sea
- b. much further inland

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22. Which two towns are nearby to Coventry?

- a.
- b.

23. Where did most of the people who lived in this area come from?

24. How was Coventry different from other New England towns?

25. What played an important role in many New England colonial communities?

**Scroll down the page to “Be a History Detective.” Read and follow the directions. When you’re ready to start, click “begin the investigation.” Be sure to answer all seven questions. After you’re done, click on the pictures “What’s wrong with this picture?” and find the inaccuracies.**

26. What was Samuel Daggett’s main occupation?

27. Why did he work at other jobs?

28. The Daggett children rarely helped their parents around their farm.

- a. True
- b. False

29. Did everyone in this community have great opportunities to establish farms and businesses? Explain your answer.

**Excellent!**

**Extension Activity**

Create your own colonial newspaper! How would it look? What would you name it? What kinds of news articles would you include in it? Be creative and have fun in designing your publication. Once you’re done, share your creation with your teacher and classmates.

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**Congratulations!** You’ve done an excellent job completing this Internet Challenge™. How would you have enjoyed living in the 1700’s? Seeing how the early colonists lived deepens our appreciation for the sacrifices they made to help bring our country into being.

## Answers to October's Internet Challenge

1. The colonists were for the most part British in origin, English-speaking, Protestant, rural, and agrarian in their principal characteristics.
2. Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia.
3. (b) Each colony was a separate entity with its own government
4. They considered the British political system the best in Europe, noted for its equilibrium between King, Lords, and Commons assembled in Parliament.
5. The names of the cities are Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Charleston, and Newport.
6. Newspapers and colleges in the cities and towns circulated the ideas and culture among the townspeople.
7. The African slaves in the colonies were not free.
8. (d)
9. (b)
10. There wasn't any meaningful American nationalism and inter-colonial cooperation. The colonists had their own rivalries and jealousies over boundaries, western land claims, and military contributions in the imperial wars.
11. The British government was afraid that it had lost control of its transatlantic dominions, and that the colonists were fast heading down the road to full autonomy or absolute independence.
12. The British complained that Americans cooperated poorly in raising men and supplies and in providing quarters for British troops. They also felt that the colonists traded illegally with the enemy and generated friction with western Indians over land and trade goods.
13. It was known as the Seven Years' War in Europe.
14. The word is prosperous.
15. (a)
16. The colonists helped the British beat the French in 1763.
17. France was not a threat anymore so England didn't need the colonists' help anymore.
18. The term is writ of assistance.
19. A writ of assistance was a general search warrant that permitted customs officers to enter premises in the daytime, using force if necessary, to search for goods imported illegally. The writs did not specify the place to be searched and were good for an unlimited time. But they expired six months after the death of a king. The colonists strongly criticized the writs in the years before the Revolutionary War in America.
20. In 1761, James Otis of Boston tried to persuade the Superior Court of Massachusetts that writs of assistance violated "the fundamental principles of law." He failed.
21. (b)
22. The neighboring towns were Hebron and Lebanon.
23. Many people in this community were from families who had come from Massachusetts. They wanted to establish farms in an area where most of the land had not already been settled by earlier generations of colonists.
24. Unlike other New England towns, it did not have a town center or village green, but was made up of farms scattered across the countryside. Mills, craft shops and taverns were located on people's farms.
25. Religion played an important role in many New England colonial communities.
26. He was a "housewright"--meaning that he built houses.
27. He did so in order to provide for (or be able to take care of) his family.
28. (b)
29. No, although some people had the opportunity to establish their own farms and businesses, others, such as enslaved African-Americans and low-paying Native Americans, found their freedoms and opportunities very limited.

Extension Activity: Students' own ideas.