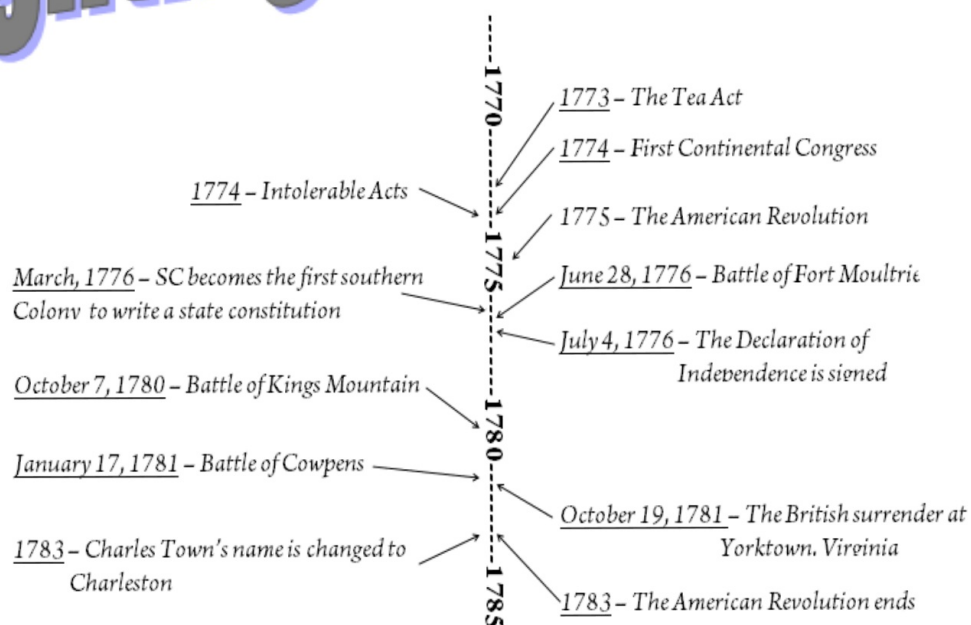


# Section G - Colonial South Carolina Fighting for Independence and Government

## Fighting for Freedom



## Fighting for Freedom

What do you think **freedom** means? Does it mean you can do what you want and make choices? We have many freedoms, but people in our country did not always have the freedoms we have now. A long time ago, people fought for freedom during the American Revolution. **A revolution is when people fight to replace one government with a different government.**

**A government makes decisions for a group of people.** Governments decide what people should not do, like steal from each other, and will make a **law**, or a rule for the whole group. The government will make sure people obey the laws or those people will be taken to court. If a person breaks a law, he or she can be put in jail. Courts can also help people settle problems. Governments also provide things the whole group needs, like new roads. These services and things cost money, though, and people have to pay taxes. **A tax is money the government collects from people.**

At first, most people in South Carolina were happy to be an English colony. Charles Town was one of the richest cities in all of the 13 colonies. Then things began to change. The British needed money to pay for wars they had fought and for soldiers sent to America to protect the colonists. England decided to tax the colonists to raise the money.

## The Stamp Act

The **Stamp Act** said colonists had to pay to have a stamp put on all paper items like playing cards, legal papers, books, and newspapers. Christopher Gadsden, a man from Charles Town, was a leader of the Sons of Liberty. He led the fight against the Stamp Act with a **boycott**, which is when people stop buying a product. People in Charles Town would not even sell the stamps. People in the 13 colonies stopped buying the stamped



paper. Colonists rebelled by saying **"No taxation without representation."** This was in response to the colonists having no voice in **British Parliament** (England's government). **Then, the British closed the government in the colonies. All the courts were closed. The port of Charles Town was closed too, and no ships could enter or leave without stamped papers.** This caused trade to stop. **The Commons House and the Stamp Act Congress** wrote protests to the king. The British finally listened and ended the Stamp Act when they saw that it wasn't going to work.

## The Stamp Act

- Why did Great Britain tax the colonists? the King needed money to pay for previous wars
- What was the name of the first tax placed on the colonists? Stamp Act
- What items did the Stamp Act place taxes on? playing cards, legal papers, books, newspapers
- What does the phrase "no taxation without representation" mean? don't tax us when had no voice (vote) in the decision

## The Tea Act

Many colonists were upset when the British decided to tax tea because tea was a favorite drink. The Tea Act made the colonists buy tea from the East India Tea Company. This tea had a small tax on it. Since colonists could only purchase from this company, it was considered a monopoly.



A monopoly is exclusive control by a single group. The price of this tea was very low and colonial leaders feared that colonists would purchase the tea and break the boycott. This led colonial leaders such as the Sons of Liberty to take drastic measures. So

when the tea arrived in Charles Town, people would not sell it. In Boston, Massachusetts, some men decided to show England how unhappy they were with the tea tax. They dressed as Native Americans so that people couldn't see who they were and went on a ship loaded with tea. Then they dumped all the tea into the harbor.





This was called the Boston Tea Party. People in Charles Town heard about what happened in Boston, so they dumped a load of tea into the Cooper River. They stored the rest of the tea in the Exchange Building. They sold the tea after the Revolutionary War started to help pay for the war.

### The Tea Act –

- What was the Tea Act? the King said that colonists could only buy tea from the East India Tea Company so he could control the price
- Why were colonists boycotting the tea? again the King was taxing the colonists without giving them a voice in Parliament
- What happened during the Boston Tea Party? about 50 colonists dressed as Indians, boarded the ships, and dumped all crates of tea into the harbor

### The Intolerable Acts (Coercive Acts)

The British were very upset about the Boston Tea Party so they decided they would punish Boston. First, they closed Boston Harbor and stopped all ships from bringing in goods or taking them out. Then, they took power away from leaders in Massachusetts. They replaced the governor and the representatives. They also closed Boston's city council. South Carolinians sent rice and money to help Boston. The British thought all the colonists would learn from this and follow England's laws. Instead, the colonists became very upset and called these two actions the Intolerable Acts (Coercive Acts), which is when something is unfair and should not be allowed. South Carolinians were scared these things would happen to them, too. They thought the British might close the port of Charles Town again. They were also afraid the British would take over South Carolina's government.

## The Intolerable Acts (Coercive Acts) –

- How did the English government punish the colonists of Boston after the Boston Tea Party? the English put in place a set of rules/laws called the Coercive Acts (Intolerable Acts)
- What were the Intolerable Acts? group of rules and taxes forced upon the colonists by Great Britain
- How did the colonies like South Carolina help the colonists of Boston during the Intolerable Acts? Carolinians and people from other colonies sent rice, money and other crops to help

## The American Revolution

The colonists wrote letters to each other about what was happening in their own colonies. Then the colonies' leaders met in Philadelphia to talk about their problems with England. This meeting was called the First Continental Congress. A congress is a group of representatives who meet to work out a problem. The First Continental Congress advised the colonies to establish militias and arm themselves. They also started another boycott of trade with Great Britain. Even though the Continental Congress and the British government could not agree, there were several points of view within the Continental Congress as well.

Some colonists wanted the colonies to be free from British rule. They felt war was the answer. They were called Patriots. Other colonists wanted to stay under British rule. They were called Tories. Some people didn't care about this problem. They just wanted to go on with their lives.

The leaders wrote a letter to the king of England stating all their problems. In it they pledge their loyalty but stated that they were opposed to what the British had done. They said they would meet again and take stronger action if England didn't treat the colonies better.

## The American Revolution –

- What was formed as a direct result of the Intolerable Acts being passed?

First Continental Congress (group of leaders from the colonies)

- Where did they meet? Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- What was the role of the First Continental Congress? they advised a plan to include 1. instruct colonists to form militias and defend themselves 2. continue boycotting British goods

<b>Patriots</b> <i>Rebels</i>	<b>Tories</b> <i>Loyalists</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wanted the colonies to be a free and independent country</li><li>• Called themselves "Patriots"</li><li>• Were called "Rebels" by the "Tories" since they were rebelling against the king</li><li>• Some people called them "Bluecoats"</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wanted the colonies to stay under British rule</li><li>• Called themselves "Loyalists" because they were loyal to England</li><li>• Were called "Tories" by the "Patriots"</li></ul>

*~ Why would a colonist choose to be a Patriot instead of a Tory? Explain why using information from above.*

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## Problems in the Backcountry

Settlers in the backcountry did not get upset about the tea tax because they had problems that were more important to them.

- ☹ **Trouble Over Land** – Settlers in the backcountry lived on farms settled on Cherokee and Catawba land. The Native Americans wanted to protect their land and many settlers and Native Americans were killed in fights over the land. The settlers wanted the colony to help protect their homes.
- ☹ **Thieves** – There were many people who stole cattle and horses, burned down homes, and hurt people. There were no policemen or courts to stop them.
- ☹ **No Leaders** – Most of the leaders from the **Commons House of Assembly** were from the low country and didn't think it was very important to help the backcountry settlers. The leaders from the backcountry told the Commons House they wanted roads and schools built. They wanted to protect their settlements with sheriffs and have jails. It was many years before these things happened in the backcountry.

### Problems in the Backcountry –

- Explain three problems the people of the backcountry were dealing with
  - a. fighting over land with Native Americans
  - b. thieves - people stealing from each other
  - c. no leaders to represent them in the CHofA

## Beginnings of the War in South Carolina

War in South Carolina began with the **First Siege of Ninety Six in 1775**. Patriot and Tory **militias**, or armies of volunteer citizens, fought there. (There will occur later on in the war a second Siege of Ninety Six.)

### The Battle of Sullivan's Island (Fort Moultrie)

The British were not happy that South Carolina's leaders had written a **state constitution**. They decided to attack, so they sent ships with hundreds of British soldiers to Charles Town. The British soldiers were called **Redcoats**. The soldiers saw the colonists were building a fort on Sullivan's Island, and they wanted to bring down the fort.



### Beginnings of the War in South Carolina –

- Where did the war in Sc begin? When? settlement called Ninety Six in 1775

### The Battle of Fort Sullivan (Fort Moultrie) –

- What made the Redcoats decide to attack Fort Sullivan? they were not happy with SC leaders writing a new constitution and building a fort

## The Palmetto Fort

Black slaves and white soldiers were quickly cutting down palmetto trees and placing them in the soft sand to make walls for the fort. Unfortunately, the Patriots were unable to complete the fort leaving the backside open for British attack. Soldiers were bringing cannons, or big guns that can shoot large shells and balls across long distances, to the fort. These guns were needed to fire at the British ships. William Moultrie commanded the fort. His men had never fought before, but believed in what they were fighting for – freedom from the British. Their bravery is the reason the fort was named Fort Moultrie.

### The Palmetto Fort –

- How was this fort constructed? (materials, shape, location) made from trunks of Palmetto trees, only had 3 walls (not enough time to finish the 4th), on Sullivan's Island
- What was William Moultrie's role at this fort? William Moultrie was in command of the men at this fort (showed bravery)

## The Battle

The British had a plan for attack. The Redcoats were going to land on a nearby island and then wade across the water to sneak up to the back of the fort on Sullivan's Island.

The British soldiers began crossing the water but soon had to stop because the water was too deep.

Their ships started firing cannonballs at the fort, but the fort didn't fall.

The cannonballs either landed in the sand or bounced off or got stuck in the palmetto wood walls. They did not explode or hurt the fort. Due to the fact that the palmetto trees saved the fort, our state decided to name the palmetto tree as our state tree. The British then decided to attack the open side of the fort. However, they were unable to attack because their ship became stranded on a sand bar.

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In a corner of the fort there was a special flag flying from a large pole. The flag was blue (like the soldiers' uniforms) with a crescent shape (like the crescent on the soldiers' hats) and had the word "Liberty" written inside the crescent. During the battle, a cannonball hit the pole, and the flag fell outside the fort. A soldier named **William Jasper** jumped over the wall, picked up the flag, and placed it over the fort. As long as the flag was flying, the British and people watching from Charles Town knew the men at the palmetto fort were still fighting and had not surrendered, or given up.

The British had no choice but to finally give up and they sailed away. Charles Town had been saved!



Draw a picture of the Battle of Sullivan's Island. Remember to show:

- Patriots (in blue)
- Fort of palmetto logs
- British (in red) firing cannonballs from ships
- William Jasper

## The Battle –

- Explain the Redcoats plan of attack. Plan A: land on a nearby island, cross water and attack from behind Plan B: sail ships up river and shoot into the fort from behind
- Did their plan work? YES **NO** Explain what happened. Plan A: water was too deep to cross so on to Plan B Plan B: their ship got stuck on a sandbar
- Why is William Jasper important to the Battle of Fort Moultrie? He is known for jumping over the front wall of the fort to pick up the flag (a flag down means defeated or surrendered)
- Why did that flag become so important? that flag became our state flag (a palmetto tree was added)

## The Declaration of Independence



Colonial leaders met again at the **Second Continental Congress** in Philadelphia because more and more colonists wanted **independence**, or to be free and independent of England. The leaders decided to send a letter to the whole world and tell everyone they were going to break away from England and start their own country. This letter was called a **declaration**, or an announcement. This announcement was called the **Declaration of**

**Independence**. The colonists explained the reasons they wanted to be free:

- 👉 People have rights that can't be taken away, "among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."
- 👉 A government should protect these rights.
- 👉 If the government doesn't protect them, the people can start a new government.
- 👉 Governments got their power from the people.
- 👉 The colonists had a right to go to war. They had the right because the British had hurt them instead of protecting them.

## The Declaration of Independence –

- What happened following the Battle of Fort Moultrie? the leaders meet for a 2nd time (Second Continental Congress) and wrote a letter to the world telling everyone of the plan to break away from England
- What message were the leaders of the Second Continental Convention trying to send to the world? that every person had rights and these rights should be protected by the government
- The colonists explained the reasons they wanted to be free from England. These include:
  - 👉 People have rights that can't be taken away, "among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."
  - 👉 A government should protect these rights.
  - 👉 If the government doesn't protect them, the people can start a new government.
  - 👉 Governments got their power from the people.
  - 👉 The colonists had a right to go to war. They had the right because the British had hurt them instead of protecting them.

## Spreading the News



What do we celebrate on July 4<sup>th</sup>? Why do you think we celebrate on this day?

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress. Congress printed copies of it and riders on horseback carried the copies to all the states.

The Declaration was ready to be signed about a month later. It was copied onto special paper and all the leaders signed it one at a time. Edward Rutledge, Thomas Lynch, Jr., Thomas Heyward, and Arthur Middleton were four men from South Carolina who signed it.

There was a big celebration in Charles Town when the people there found out about the Declaration. Leaders read the Declaration out loud at the Exchange Building (which is now the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon). You can check out this building at [www.knowitall.org](http://www.knowitall.org).

The words of the declaration sounded good, but fighting continued for six more years before the words were true.



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Our leaders began drafting the Articles of Confederation which would not only create a new government but a new set of rules for us to follow. These rules were not ratified until 1781.

The foregoing information being determined upon by the Congress was ordered to be fulfilled by the several Members thereof and thereupon we have hereunto set our respective names accordingly.

In Congress Philadelphia October 26<sup>th</sup> 1776.

<p>Gov. Mass John Hancock</p> <p>Massachusetts Samuel Adams John Adams John Hancock Samuel Adams John Adams</p> <p>Gov. Penn John Dickinson</p> <p>Gov. Va Richard Henry Lee</p> <p>Gov. N.C. Richard Caswell</p> <p>Gov. S.C. Arthur Middleton Thomas Heyward Thomas Lynch Edward Rutledge</p>	<p>Gov. N.Y. John Jay</p> <p>Gov. Del. George Read</p> <p>Gov. Md. Dorcas Mifflin</p> <p>Gov. Pa. Robert Morris</p> <p>Gov. N.J. Richard Stockton</p> <p>Gov. N.C. Richard Caswell</p> <p>Gov. S.C. Arthur Middleton Thomas Heyward Thomas Lynch Edward Rutledge</p>	<p>Gov. N.Y. John Jay</p> <p>Gov. Del. George Read</p> <p>Gov. Md. Dorcas Mifflin</p> <p>Gov. Pa. Robert Morris</p> <p>Gov. N.J. Richard Stockton</p> <p>Gov. N.C. Richard Caswell</p> <p>Gov. S.C. Arthur Middleton Thomas Heyward Thomas Lynch Edward Rutledge</p>
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## Spreading the News –

- Why is July 4, 1776 such an important day in our history? It was the day that the Declaration of Independence was approved.
- The people of Charleston were celebrating the news of this declaration. Where did they go to hear it read aloud? Old Exchange Building in Charles Town

~ List some of the causes of the American Revolution.

- Intolerable Acts (Coercive Acts)
- colonists had no voice in Parliament
- \_\_\_\_\_
- rebellion of colonists
- Declaration of Independence