John Adams: Part One “Join or Die”- Boston Massacre

**Timeline of the Revolutionary War**

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| **1754-1763** |
|  | [**The French and Indian War**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/frin.htm) |
| **1754** |
| **June 19-July 11** | [**The Albany Congress**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/albcon.htm) |
| **1763** |
| **Oct. 7** | [**Proclamation of 1763**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/proc63.htm) |
| **1764** |
| **April 5** | [**The Sugar Act**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/sugaract.htm) |
| **September 1** | [**The Currency Act**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/currencyact.htm) |
| **1765** |
| **March 22** | [**The Stamp Act**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/stampact.htm) |
| **March 24** | [**The Quartering Act of 1765**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/quartering.htm) |
| **May 29** | [**Patrick Henry**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/henry.htm)'s "If this be treason, make the most of it!" speech |
| **May 30** | [**The Virginia Stamp Act Resolutions**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/vsa65.htm) |
| **Oct. 7-25** | [**The Stamp Act Congress**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/sac65.htm) |
| **1766** |
| **March 18** | [**The Declaratory Act**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/declaratory.htm) |
| **1767** |
| **June 29** | [**The Townshend Revenue Act**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/townshend.htm) |
| **1768** |
| **August 1** | [**Boston Non-Importation Agreement**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/bna.htm) |
| **1770** |
| **March 5** | [**The Boston Massacre**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/massacre.htm) |

The Boston Massacre was a street fight that occurred on March 5, 1770, between a "patriot" mob, throwing snowballs, stones, and sticks, and a squad of British soldiers. Several colonists were killed and this led to a campaign by speech-writers to rouse the ire of the citizenry.

The presence of British troops in the city of Boston was increasingly unwelcome. The riot began when about 50 citizens attacked a British sentinel. A British officer, Captain Thomas Preston, called in additional soldiers, and these too were attacked, so the soldiers fired into the mob, killing 3 on the spot (a black sailor named Crispus Attucks, ropemaker Samuel Gray, and a mariner named James Caldwell), and wounding 8 others, two of whom died later (Samuel Maverick and Patrick Carr).

1. What is John Adam’s justification for representing the British soldiers responsible for the Boston Massacre?
2. What is the importance of the first African American’s testimony?
3. According to Richard Palm, where was Captain Preston standing when the first shot was fired? Why is this significant?
4. Who critiques John’s closing statements?
5. What are some of the key arguments made by John Adams in his closing statement?
6. What is the verdict of the trial at the Boston Massacre? Why is this shocking (makeup of the jury)?
7. After the verdict, John Adams’ fame explodes in Boston. Why does Thomas Paine and Samuel Adams try to convince John to represent Massachusetts?
8. What happens to the British diplomat when he confronts John Hancock for smuggling illegal tea?
9. The scene after, what are some of the points made by the British representative (who offered John Adams the job to work for the governor) regarding the situation in Boston?
10. Does John Adams accept the position to serve for the governor?

Timeline continued…

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| **1772** |
| **June 9** | [**The Gaspee Affair**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/gaspee.htm) |
| **1773** |
| **May 10** | [**The Tea Act**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/teaact.htm) |
| **Dec. 16** | [**The Boston Tea Party**](http://www.ushistory.org/us/9f.asp) |
| **1774** |
| **March 31** | [**Boston Port Act**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/bpb.htm), one of the "[**Intolerable Acts**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/intolerable.htm)" |
| **May 20** | [**Administration of Justice Act**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/aja.htm), one of the "[**Intolerable Acts**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/intolerable.htm)" |
| **May 20** | [**Massachusetts Government Act**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/mga.htm), one of the "[**Intolerable Acts**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/intolerable.htm)" |
| **June 2** | [**Quartering Act of 1774**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/q74.htm), one of the "[**Intolerable Acts**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/intolerable.htm)" |
| **June 22** | [**Quebec Act**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/cqa.htm), one of the "[**Intolerable Acts**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/intolerable.htm)" |
| **Sept. 5-Oct. 26** | [**The First Continental Congress**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/congress.htm) meets in Philadelphia and issues [**Declaration and Resolves**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/decres.htm) (first scene) |
| **Oct. 10** | Battle of Point Pleasant, Virginia (disputed as to whether it was a battle of the American Revolution or the culmination of Lord Dunmore's War) |
| **Oct. 20** | [**The Association**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/assoc74.htm) (prohibition of trade with Great Britain) |
| **Oct. 24** | [**Galloway's Plan**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/planforunion.htm) rejected |
| **1775** |
| **March 23** | [**Patrick Henry**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/henry.htm)'s [**"Give me liberty or give me death"**](http://www.ushistory.org/documents/libertydeath.htm) speech |
| **Apr. 18** | **The Rides of**[**Paul Revere**](http://www.ushistory.org/us/9c.asp)**and William Dawes** |
| **Apr. 19** | [**Minutemen**](http://www.ushistory.org/people/minutemen.htm)**and redcoats clash at**[**Lexington and Concord**](http://www.ushistory.org/us/11c.asp)**"The shot heard 'round the world."** |
| **May 10** | Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys seize Fort Ticonderoga |
| **May 10** | [**The Second Continental Congress**](http://www.ushistory.org/us/10e.asp)**meets in Philadelphia** |
| **June 15** | [**George Washington**](http://www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/washington/george2.html)**named Commander in Chief** |
| **June 17** | [**Battle of Bunker Hill**](http://www.ushistory.org/us/11d.asp)**: The British drive the Americans from Breed's Hill** |
| **July 3** | Washington assumes command of the Continental Army |
| **Nov. 10-21** | Ninety Six, SC, Patriots sieged |
| **Nov. 13** | The patriots under Montgomery occupy Montreal in Canada |
| **Dec. 11** | Virginia and NC patriots rout Loyalist troops and burn Norfolk |
| **Dec. 22** | Col. Thomson with 1,500 rangers and militia capture Loyalists at Great Canebrake, SC |
| **Dec. 23-30** | Snow Campaign, in SC, so-called because patriots are impeded by 15" of snow |
| **Dec. 30-31** | American forces under [**Benedict Arnold**](http://www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/served/arnold.html) fail to seize Quebec |
| **1776** |
| **Jan. 1** | Daniel Morgan taken prisoner in attempt to take Quebec City |
| **Jan. 15** | Paine's [**"Common Sense"**](http://www.ushistory.org/paine/commonsense/index.htm) published |
| **Feb. 27** | The patriots drive the Loyalists from Moore's Creek Bridge, North Carolina |
| **March 3** | The Continental fleet captures New Providence Island in the Bahamas |
| **March 17** | The British evacuate Boston; British Navy moves to Halifax, Canada |
| **June 8** | Patriots fail to take Three Rivers, Quebec |
| **June 12** | [**The Virginia Declaration of Rights**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/vabor.htm) |
| **June 28** | Sullivan's Island, SC, failed British naval attack |
| **June 29** | [**The First Virginia Constitution**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/vaconst.htm) |
| **June 28** | Patriots decisively defeat the British Navy at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina |
| **July 1** | At the instigation of British agents, the Cherokee attack along the entire southern frontier |
| **July 1-4** | Congress debates and revises the Declaration of Independence. See [**Chronology of the Declaration**](http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/timeline.htm) |
| **July 4** | Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence; it's sent to the printer |
| **July 8** | The Declaration of Independence is read publicly |

How did they get here?

Episode TWO: Declaration of Independence…

1. What are the different viewpoints of the delegates at the Second Continental Congress? You can measure this with how every colony votes towards the OLIVE BRANCH petition:
	1. New Hampshire (YES/NO)
	2. Massachusetts (YES/NO)
	3. Rhode Island (YES/NO)
	4. New York (YES/NO)
	5. Connecticut (YES/NO)
	6. New Jersey (YES/NO)
	7. Delaware (YES/NO)
	8. Pennsylvania (YES/NO)
	9. Virginia (YES/NO)
	10. Maryland (YES/NO)
	11. South Carolina (YES/NO)
	12. Georgia (YES/NO)
	13. North Carolina (not mentioned in video for this vote
2. Who are the two main delegates from Virginia? Why is it important to get Virginia on the side of Massachusetts?
3. Who is nominated to lead the new Continental Army?
4. What are some of the problems the Continental Army faced at Cambridge?
5. What did the proclamation from King George III state?
6. What did Ben Franklin mean when he said, “We shall all hang together, or we shall all hang separately”?
7. Why are delegates from PA, SC, and NY so hesitant to sign a declaration of independence?
8. What takes place during the recess of the Second Continental Congress?
9. Why is Jefferson chosen to write the first draft of the Declaration of Independence?
10. Why is slavery taken out of the first draft of the Declaration of Independence?
11. What gamble does Abigail Adams take?
12. What are Dickenson’s arguments to not vote for independence?
13. What does NY need to vote for Independence? How do they actually vote?