

The Revolutionary John Adams
Book by Cheryl Harness
Unit study prepared by Peggy
Printables created by Wende

Bible / Character

Integrity – We discover in the book that John Adams believed in doing what was right, regardless of the cost to himself or his reputation.

The definition of integrity is: 1) A firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values, 2) an unimpaired condition, 3) The quality or state of being undivided. (Merriam-Webster Online)

The Bible speaks often of integrity:

Genesis 39:1-23 – Joseph is given responsibility over the house of Potiphar – God blesses the house of Potiphar because of Joseph. Though Joseph is tempted – he resists the temptation – even though it means he will go to jail. Once in jail Joseph’s integrity again becomes apparent. Joseph is again blessed – he is released from jail and the Pharaoh is so impressed by him that he is put in charge of Egypt. How hard is it to keep doing the right thing when it seems – for a time – to make things worse?

Daniel – Daniel’s integrity lands him in a lion’s den. How easy would it have been for Daniel to lie about praying to God? How easy would it have been for Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego to bow before the graven image the King had set up? How did God reward them for their integrity?

Would it have been easier for John Adams to not defend the British Soldiers? After all he was in opposition to many things the British Government was doing. Why do you think he volunteered to represent them? Do you think this made him popular among the other patriots?

Forgiveness - We see that John Adams was a forgiving man. Though he and Thomas Jefferson had a nasty election contest in 1800, John Adams wrote to

Thomas Jefferson, saying *"You and I ought not to die before We have explained ourselves to each other."*

The Bible is very clear on forgiveness. Jesus told Peter we are to forgive someone as many times as they ask for forgiveness – (Luke 17:3-4)

Paul says in Ephesians 4:32 to "...forgive one another as God in Christ forgave you."

Find other examples of forgiveness in the Bible. Discuss some of the things that Thomas Jefferson had said that John Adams would have felt he needed to forgive him for and things that Thomas Jefferson might have felt he needed to forgive John Adams.

Courage - The book shows us many examples of the courage of John Adams and his family. Though war was ready to break out at any moment – John Adams attended the 2nd Continental Congress and left Abigail to run the farm. Later, John Adams, along with John Quincy, was sent to France on a diplomatic mission. Talk about the danger and risks they encountered on their journey across the ocean. Find Biblical examples of courage: Joshua at Jericho, Moses and the freeing of the Hebrews from Egypt, the story of Esther, Jesus in front of Pilate, etc.

History - John Adams

John Adams was the 2nd President and the 1st Vice President of the United States of America. Along with President George H.W. Bush, he is one of only two men to have a son, John Quincy Adams – the 6th President and George W. Bush – the 43rd President, to also hold the office of the President of the United States.

There is much more to the story of John Adams and how important he was to the founding of the United States of America. He served this country in many ways – as a Representative, a member of the Continental Congress, the writer of the Massachusetts Constitution, an important member of the committee that wrote the Declaration of Independence and later, the Treaty of Paris – the peace treaty with England after the war, Ambassador to Capitals of Europe, Vice President and President. Though he defended the British Soldiers involved in the infamous British Massacre, John Adams wrote many essays against what he saw as unjust British tyranny. His impassioned and well-reasoned arguments were part of the reasons

the colonies agreed that they needed to make a Declaration of Independence from Great Britain.

John Adams was a teacher, a lawyer, a diplomat, a writer, a farmer and a reader. Though he graduated from Harvard much of his education came from the endless books he read. He sacrificed much to help lead the Founding Fathers to shape the 13 colonies into the United States of America. As President, he sacrificed the chance at a second term in office because he felt America was too young of a country to enter into the war between France and England. His beloved family and he suffered from his long absences, and his law practice was ruined after his defense of the British. He spent much of his time away from his farm in Braintree, Massachusetts. He was a man of character, who stood up for what he believed in. And one of the things he believed in most was that freedom was a right given to us by God and no man had the right to take it from us.

John Adams returned to his family farm after losing his bid for re-election to Thomas Jefferson. There he spent his remaining years, content among his family, his books and his farm. Towards the very end of his life he slept in his library, though he could scarcely see well enough to read his books. His vast library was left to the state of Massachusetts on his death. There were books on many subjects and it numbered approximately 2,700 volumes.

Complete John Adams Notebook Page

History - Timeline

(This can be used for your student to make their own timeline or as the basis for subjects for further study.)

October 19th, 1735 (later changed to 30th due to calendar change) – John Adams born in Braintree – later Quincy, Massachusetts.

1755 – John Adams graduates from Harvard University

1759 – John Adams admitted to the bar in Boston and becomes a lawyer. Around this time, he meets Abigail Smith. The two exchange many letters and become close friends.

1761 – John Adams' father dies, leaving John Adams the family farm.

1763 – The French – Indian War ends. King George III leaves troops in the colonies to protect them from the Indians.

1764 – John Adams marries Abigail Smith. They settle on his family farm in Braintree.

1764 – To finance the British Army, British Parliament puts a 3 cent tax on every gallon of molasses. Colonists are not happy as they are already providing many things for the soldiers.

1765 – Abigail ‘Nabby’ Adams, the first child of John and Abigail Adams is born.

The British enact the infamous Stamp Act. All official papers – even cards must be stamped and taxed. John Adams writes about ‘taxation without representation’ in an essay read in the Colonies and in England.

1767 – John Quincy Adams is born. More taxes are enacted by Britain. The Colonist refuse to buy anything that will be taxed. British Tax collectors are tarred, feathered and hung by outraged patriots. Sam Adams – cousin of John – organizes the ‘Sons of Liberty’ to protest the deployment of more soldiers (‘Lobsterbacks’) to patrol Boston.

1770 – The Boston Massacre starts when angry patriots throw things at a British Sentry outside Boston’s State House. An alarm bell sounds, more soldiers and colonists join the mob and five colonists are shot and killed. John Adams, believing that the British soldiers deserved to be defended just like everyone else and to show that colonists respected British law, defended the British soldiers. At the end of the trial they were found not guilty.

1773 – The Boston Tea Party – enraged by the tax on tea, the colonists dump the tea they refuse to let into their stores into the Boston Harbor in protest.

1774 – The 1st Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 12 colonies send representatives and Georgia, the 13th agrees with the decision not to trade with Britain.

1775 – Paul Revere makes his famous ride to warn the other patriots that more British troops are on the move to capture the colonists’ guns and ammunition. Shots are fired in Lexington and Concord – The Revolutionary War has begun.

The 2nd Continental Congress meets in response. They establish a Navy, an Army and a common currency. They appoint George Washington the Commander of the Army.

Abigail and the Adams children, including John Quincy, watch the Battle of Bunker Hill from a hilltop in Braintree. (This is detailed in *Young John Quincy*)

1776 - The Declaration of Independence is written through the combined efforts of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Robert R. Livingston, Roger Sherman, and Benjamin Franklin. John Adams speaks before the delegates on the need to pass the resolution of Mr. Lee of Virginia that the 13 colonies should be free, independent states.

1777 – The British capture Philadelphia. The Continental Army wins the Battle of Saratoga.

1778 - John Adams is asked by Congress to sail to France to help Ben Franklin secure aid from the French. He takes John Quincy with him. (Detailed in the book, *Dangerous Crossing*.)

1779 – John and John Quincy sail home. John Adams writes the Massachusetts Constitution. He is then sent to Britain to negotiate a peace treaty. He takes sons John Quincy and Charles with him.

1781 – British troops surrender in Virginia. John Quincy goes to Russia as an interpreter for the US minister.

1783 – The peace treaties are signed between America and Britain. Charles Adams returns to the States and John Quincy comes back from Russia. Nabby and Abigail join John and John Quincy in London. John Adams serves as the Ambassador to England.

1788 – Abigail, John and Nabby return to the States. The United States Constitution goes into effect – partially based on the Massachusetts Constitution Adams wrote.

1789 – George Washington is made the 1st President of the United States. John Adams serves as the 1st Vice President of the United States.

1796 – Washington retires after two terms as President. After a heated race, John Adams is elected the 2nd President of the United States and Thomas Jefferson is the 2nd Vice President.

1797 – Son John Quincy Adams marries Louisa Catherine Johnson.

1800 – The Capitol of the United States Government is moved from Philadelphia to Washington, DC and the ‘White House’. That December Adams learns he has lost his bid for re-election.

1801- John Adams returns home to Braintree. His son Charles Adams dies.

1812- John Adams writes to Thomas Jefferson in an attempt to repair their long friendship.

1813 – daughter Nabby Adams dies of cancer.

1818 – wife Abigail Adams dies.

1825 – Son John Quincy Adams is elected the 6th President of the United States. John Adams is not well enough to attend the inauguration.

1826 – On July 4th, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson die within hours of each other.

Complete Timeline Strips and Pocket

Geography - Massachusetts

The student could do a state study on Massachusetts. The Adams family was from this state and many events in the book that lead up to the Revolutionary War occurred here. Have your student locate Braintree – now Quincy on a map of the state. Also locate Lexington, Boston, Concord, Bunker Hill.

Social Studies - United States Government

Discuss the duties of the various offices John Adams held during his political career.

The President: Approves the laws Congress creates – can veto the law also. Congress can override the Presidential Veto with a 2/3's vote. Is the American Head of State, meets with leaders of other nations and makes treaties with them – all treaties must be approved by the Senate. Chief of government – he is the boss of every government employee. He is also the Commander in Chief – in charge of all the armed forces. He can deploy troops overseas but a declaration of war requires the approval of Congress.

The Vice President: The President of the Senate – the head of the Senate. Can only vote in the Senate in case of a tie. Presides over the joint session of Congress when the Electoral College votes are counted. Is the first in the line of succession if the President is unable to serve.

Originally this was not an elected office. The runner up of the Presidential Election was automatically the Vice President. The 12th Amendment in 1804 established that the electors would use separate ballots to vote for each office.

These are the only official duties of this office as set forth by the Constitution.

Complete Executive Branch Flap Book

Ambassador: A person who is sent to another country to represent their country and their interests. Usually this person lives in the country during their appointment to the position. When John Adams was sent to France to secure the aid of the French in the Revolutionary War, he lived there. Later on he went to England and lived there for a time.

History - Things to Know from the time period of John Adams

The Thirteen Colonies: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and Georgia

Complete Thirteen Colonies Notebook Page

Samuel Adams: Cousin of John Adams, member of the Sons of Liberty. His contributions to the American Revolution were quite different than his cousin. One of the Founding Fathers, he helped establish committees of correspondence which

the 13 colonies used to communicate. He attended the 1st Continental Congress with his cousin John Adams as a representative of Massachusetts. Sam Adams was considered more vocal of the two Adams and led many protests. He and Patrick Henry were among the first to call for American independence from Britain. Samuel was 13 years older than his cousin John and much more wealthy.

Complete Samuel Adams Notebook Page

Sons of Liberty: There were many groups of 'Sons of Liberty' in the 13 colonies. Samuel Adams and Paul Revere led the Massachusetts group. They demonstrated against the British government, enforced boycotts and occasionally grew violent in their demonstrations of opposition to British rule. Originally started in response to the Stamp Act, their members were usually upper class and they met in secret.

Continental Congress: There were two sessions of the Continental Congress and after the war a Confederation Congress was held to ratify the Articles of Confederation – which lays out the design of our government. The 1st Congress was made up of 56 delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies. It was in response to the Acts passed by the British Parliament in 1774. The Congress voted for an economic boycott of Great Britain and petitioned King George III for a hearing of their concerns.

The 2nd Continental Congress began on May 10, 1775 in response to the British Troops actions at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. This was when the delegates voted to establish the Continental Army and appointed George Washington as the Commander in Chief of the Army. Later the Declaration of Independence was issued (July 1776) and the new government designed.

Lobsterbacks: The colonists' term for British Soldiers.

Tarred and Feathered: This harsh punishment started in England around 1191. The victim was stripped, doused with hot tar and covered in feathers. In Colonial times it was used as a form of vigilante justice – mostly between the years of 1767 through 1775 – or punishment by British troops.

Committees of Correspondence: Started by Samuel Adams for the purpose of communication between the 13 Colonies.

The Boston Massacre: The resentment of the colonists over the taxes and occupation by British troops spilled over into violence on March 5, 1770. The incident started over a dispute over taxes that were actually paid. A mob eventually gathered and began to throw things at the British soldiers. One was struck in the head by a club and a musket was fired. It is in dispute if an order was given to fire or if the crowd was daring the troops to fire on them. Five men died and six were injured. The British soldiers were jailed on murder charges and no one would represent them but John Adams.

Complete Boston Massacre Notebook Page

Tory or Loyalist: A term used to describe those in the 13 colonies that were loyal to Britain in the Revolutionary War.

Complete Tories and Patriots Shutterfold Book

The Stamp Act: A tax imposed on the colonies by the British Parliament. All paper goods were to have a tax stamp on them. The revenue from this tax would be used to support the British troops in the colonies. The colonists were outraged, as Englishmen could only be taxed by their consent and the colonists had not given theirs. After the repeated resistance on the part of the colonists and merchants this was repealed on March 18, 1766.

Complete Stamp Act Notebook Page

Language Arts

Letter writing: In the time of John Adams there were no telephones, no cell phones, no text messages or internet. Most communication was in written form – mostly through letters. Mail delivery was not reliable. Many times it would take weeks or months or even years for letters to travel from place to place.

The Adams Family wrote many letters, most of which have been preserved. We get a very good picture of who they were and the times that they lived in from reading them. Have the student write a friendly letter following proper rules of grammar, punctuation and form.

Language Arts - Essays: The word Essay comes from the French verb – *Essayer* – meaning ‘to try’ and an *essai* is an attempt. An essay is written to try and figure something out. Writing down your thoughts is a great way to form them.

In colonial times, many political essays were published in newspapers and in the form of tracts. Many political essays were written around the time of the Revolutionary War and were published both here and in England. John Adams liked writing essays and letters and keeping a journal almost as much as he liked books.

Have the student write an essay about the Revolutionary War period. Examples of topics: Why the British should not have taxed the colonists, Why the 13 colonies should have voted to free themselves of Britain, etc.

Books: John Adams loved books. He loved to read. He collected over 2,700 books in his lifetime. These books were left to the town of Quincy upon his death. It is one of the biggest early American libraries that is intact. It includes classics, literature, history, politics, government, philosophy, religion, law, science, math, medicine, agriculture, language and linguistics, economics and travel.

Discuss why it was important to John Adams to read a variety of books. As a statesman and a diplomat what kinds of books would be helpful in his job?

Suggestions for Copywork:

John Adams is one of the most quoted and quotable Presidents in history. This book is full of various quotes that would make an excellent assignment.

One of the most famous is inscribed on the mantle of the White House Dining Room:

“I pray Heaven to bestow the best Blessings on this House and on All that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise Men ever rule under this Roof.”

Others:

“Honesty, Sincerity and openness, I esteem essential marks of a good mind.”

“Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present Generation to preserve your Freedom! I hope you will make good Use of it. If you do not, I shall repent in Heaven that I ever took half the Pains to preserve it.”

Science

Colds: When John Adams and Benjamin Franklin go to meet with Admiral Howe of the British Army to discuss the Declaration of Independence, they were forced to share a room. A battle over the window ensued. Franklin shared his ‘theory of colds’. Adams was convinced that leaving the window open would cause him to catch cold. Franklin was among the first to believe that colds are not caught through exposure to air or dampness. He believed that most colds were caused by impure air, lack of exercise or over eating.

What does cause a cold? Was Franklin or Adams closer to the truth of how one catches a cold? According to Web MD, most colds are caused by a virus not by becoming too hot or too cold. So both Adams and Franklin were wrong. Adams felt he could catch cold with an open window but Franklin felt the open window would provide fresh air and keep them from getting a cold.

Complete Benjamin Franklin Notebook Page

When John Adams is sent to France on a diplomatic mission he takes along John Quincy. They left on a cold winter day in February. Mid-winter was considered a dangerous time to cross the ocean. Why would that be? Are storms worse on the ocean in the winter? What could the weather do that would harm a ship?

In the book ***Dangerous Crossing***, the author records the various dangers that the Adams went through on their journey to France. They survive storms, the mast being struck by lightning and broken, an attempted attack by a British warship.

Applied Math

At dawn on April 19, 1775, the British fired the first shots in the Revolutionary War. The Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783. How long did the Revolutionary War last - from the first shot fired to the signing of the Treaty of

Paris? (answer- eight years and approx. 4 1/2 months)

Compare the length of The Revolutionary War to other wars America has fought on American soil. The War of 1812 - (June 18, 1812 to March 23, 1815), The Civil War - (April 12, 1861 to April 9, 1865) for example. Discuss why The Revolutionary War was the longest. (Possible reasons - The British were better armed and had a trained army, The Colonies had to put together an army and train it, etc.).

Miscellaneous

Optional Library List –

Young John Quincy, Cheryl Harness

Dangerous Crossing, Stephen Krensky

Websites to Explore

[Coloring page for President John Adams](#)

For more information on John Adams I highly recommend David McCullough's *John Adams*. It is written for adults and perhaps older teens. Also the HBO miniseries based on the book is excellent for parental research and perhaps high school aged teens. It is not for younger kids – the smallpox epidemic, Nabby Adams' cancer surgery, the Adams trip to France would be too much for younger kids.

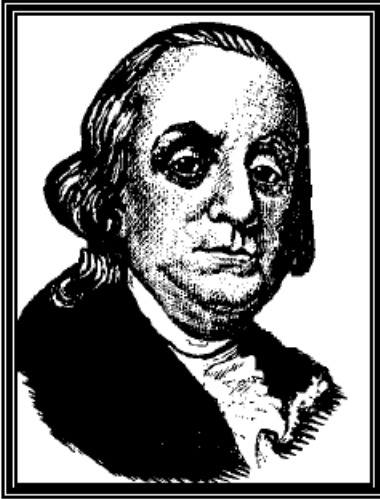
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Occupation: _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Benjamin Franklin

Born: _____

Died: _____

Nationality: _____

Occupation: _____

What is he famous for?

[illegible]



King George the 3rd

Born: _____

Died: _____

Nationality: _____

Occupation: _____

What is he famous for?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



The Stamp Act

When? _____

Where? _____

Who? _____

What (happened)? _____

Why (did it take place)? _____

How (did it turn out)? _____



Boston Massacre

When? _____

Where? _____

Who? _____

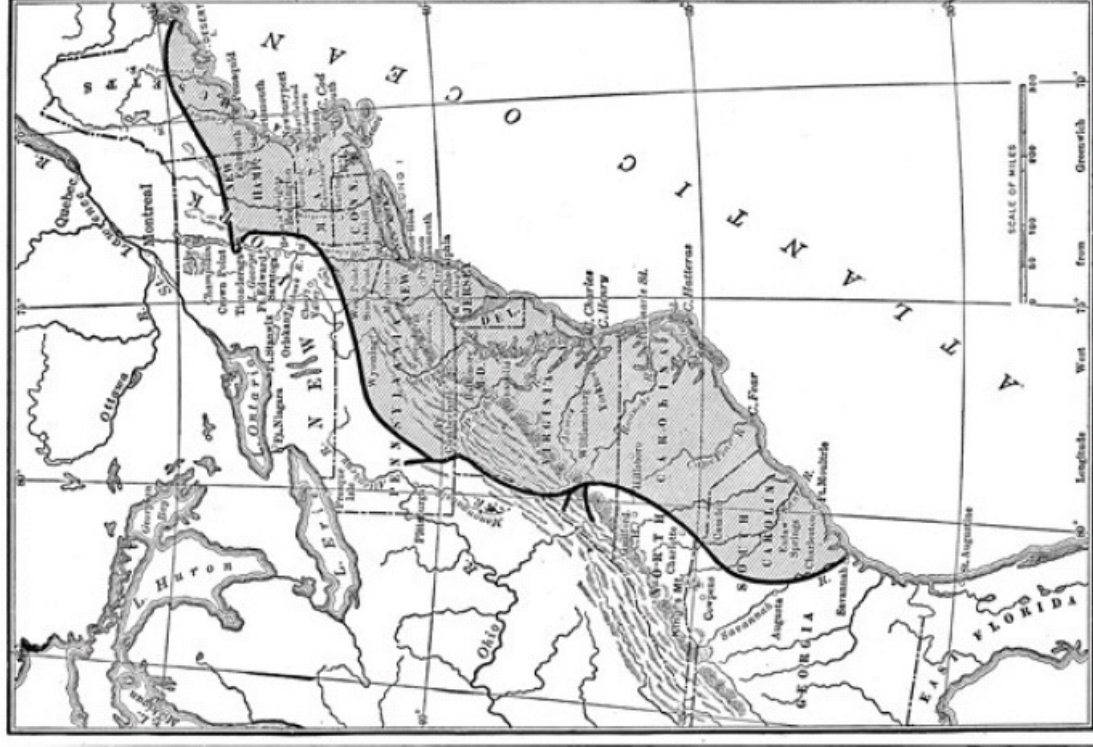
What (happened)? _____

Why (did it take place)? _____

How (did it turn out)? _____

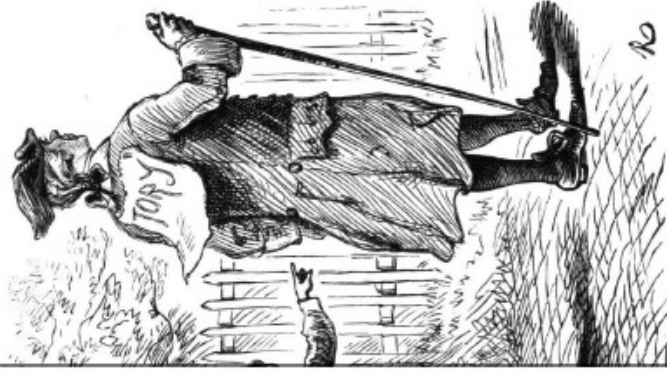
Thirteen Original Colonies

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____



Cut out rectangle as one piece. Fold on solid lines. You should have a book that opens like the "shutters" on a window.

Tories

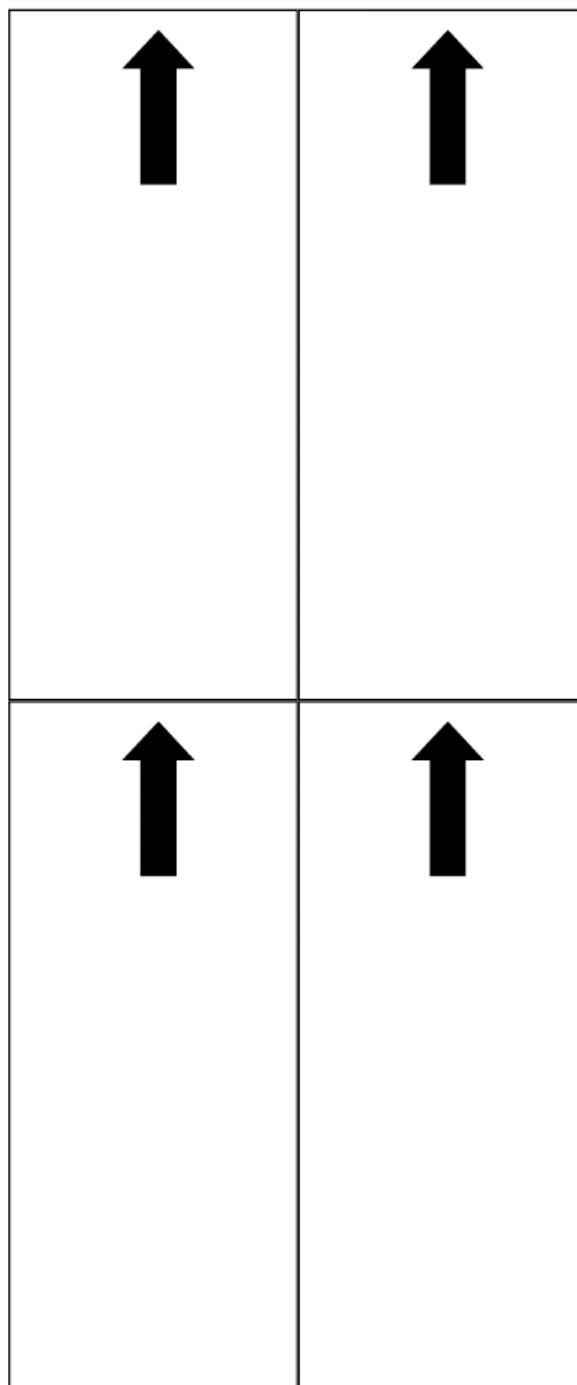









Patriots



Cut pocket out as one piece. Fold back flap up and wrap side flaps around the back and glue down. Glue the back of your pocket into your lapbook. Cut out strips. Write one event from the Revolutionary War on each strip. Store strips in pocket. Take them out from time to time and review the Revolutionary War by putting the strips in order.

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President

Vice-President



Clipart © <http://government.mrdonn.org/>

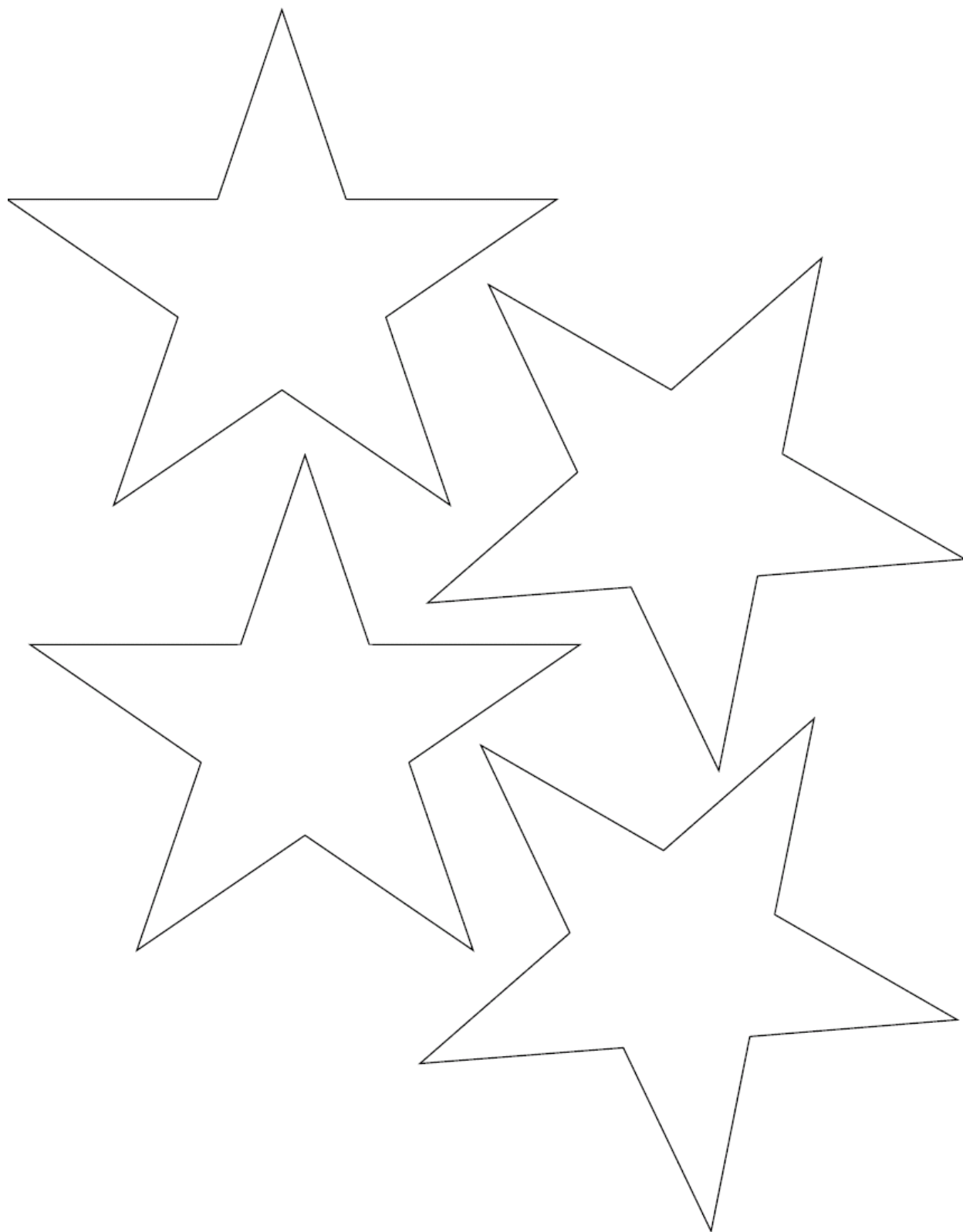
Cut on solid lines. Mountain fold on dotted lines.

Under each flap, write the job description of each position.

Cut pocket out as one piece. Fold back up. Wrap flaps around the back and glue down.
Cut out stars. Write vocabulary words on one side and definitions on the other. Store stars in pocket.

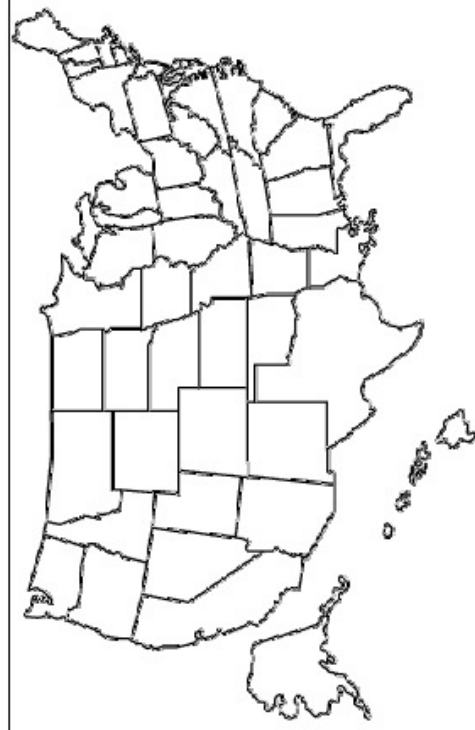
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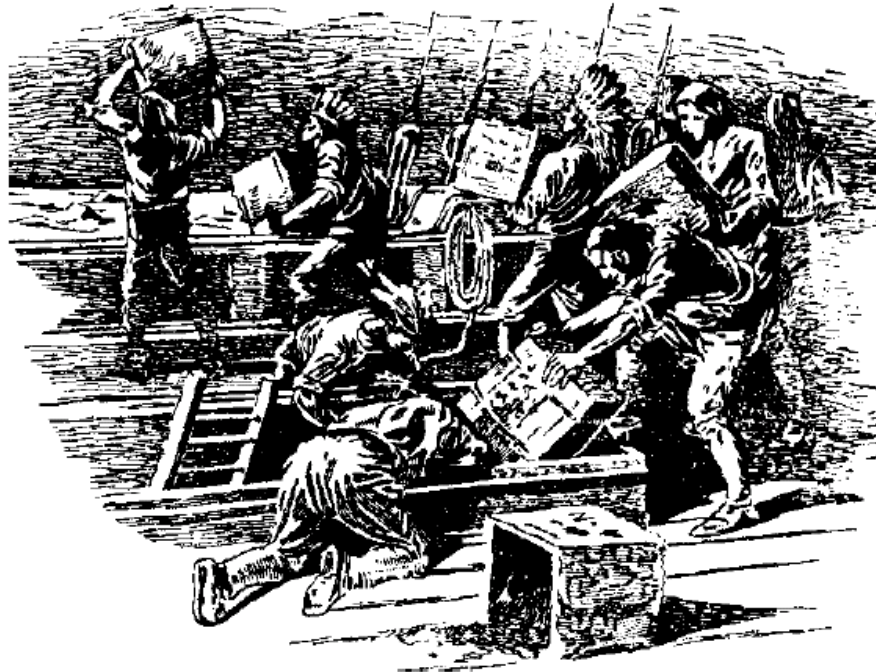
Massachusetts

**Where in the
United States
is...**



Locate and color in the state.

Cut out book as one piece on solid lines. Fold on dotted lines.
Cut out map on solid lines and glue under shutters.



Five Facts about the Boston Tea Party:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

[illegible][illegible]