## Primary Source Collection

**MAKING THE REVOLUTION:**

American, 1763-1791

[americainclass.org/sources/makingrevolution/](http://americainclass.org/sources/makingrevolution/)

A collection of primary resources—historical documents, literary texts, and works of art—thematicaly organized with notes and discussion questions.

### Primary Resources by Genre

**DECLARATIONS, PETITIONS, FORMATION DOCUMENTS**

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† Most texts in this collection are excerpted. Full-text documents are so noted in section reading guides.

* Included in a compilation of brief selections in Theme I: CRISIS, which presents ten such compilations, each with introductory notes, timeline, and table of contents. Shorter collections in Themes II-V are listed individually.
Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis* #1, 1776

Esther De Berdt Reed, *Sentiments of an American Woman*, 1780

Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis*, #13, 1783


Noah Webster, essays on fostering American identity, character, and education, 1783, 1787

Pamphlet debate on the postwar treatment of Loyalists in New York, 1784


Benjamin Franklin, *Advice to Those Who Would Emigrate to America*, 1782

Benjamin Rush, *Information to Europeans Who Are Disposed to Migrate to the United States of America*, 1790

James Madison, “Vices of the Political System of the United States of America,” memorandum, 1787


“Philadelphiensis” (Benjamin Workman), Anti-Federalist essays, 1787-1788

**NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, ARTICLES, LETTERS to the EDITOR**

*CRISIS 1* Account of the celebration in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, of the British victory at Quebec, Canada, 1759

*CRISIS 2* Accounts of the Patriot attack on H.M.S. St. John and of the British seizure of the schooner Polly, 1764, 1765

*CRISIS 3* Announcement from the editor of the *Pennsylvania Journal* on its suspension due to the Stamp Act, 1765

*CRISIS 3* Accounts of public protests against the Stamp Act in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, North Carolina, 1765-1766

*CRISIS 3* Accounts of public celebrations of the repeal of the Stamp Act in Boston, New York, and Antigua, 1766

*CRISIS 4* Account of the Boston “Liberty riot” against the Townshend Acts, 1768

*CRISIS 4* Accounts of the arrival of British troops in Boston, 1768

*CRISIS 4* Letter from “A. F.” to the *Boston Gazette* on the threatened suspension of the New York assembly, 1767

*CRISIS 5* Accounts of the violent confrontations of early 1770: the “Battle of Golden Hill,” New York City; the shooting of Christopher Seider, Boston; and the Boston Massacre

*CRISIS 6* Accounts of public protests in Boston against the Tea Act, including the Boston Tea Party, 1773

*CRISIS 6* Newspaper debate on the nature of patriotic opposition to the Tea Act, 1773

*CRISIS 6* Letter from “Fabius” (Benjamin Franklin) to a London newspaper, 1774, on Parliament’s deliberations on appropriate punishment for the Boston Tea Party

*CRISIS 7* Accounts of public protests against the Coercive Acts in Mass., Conn., Virginia, and North Carolina, 1774

*CRISIS 8* Newspaper debate between a Patriot (John Adams) and a Loyalist on the colonists’ rebellion, 1775

*CRISIS 8* Accounts of the first military confrontations of the Revolutionary War, 1774-1775

*REBELLION 7* Letters and news accounts expressing praise for Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense*, 1776

*REBELLION 8* Accounts of celebrations of the Declaration of Independence, 1776

*CONSTITUTION 4* Letters of Anti-Federalists on the proposed Constitution, 1787-1788

*CONSTITUTION 4* Letters appealing for calm during the ratification debates, 1787-1788

*CONSTITUTION 7* Letters and tributes on the death of Benjamin Franklin, 1790

**JOURNALS, NARRATIVES, MEMOIRS, AUTOBIOGRAPHIES**

*CRISIS 3* John Adams, diary entry on the Stamp Act, 1765

*CRISIS 5* John Adams, diary entry, 1770, and autobiography comment (early 1800s) on the violence of early 1770

*CRISIS 6* John Adams, diary entry on the Boston Tea Party, 1773

*CRISIS 6* Matthew Patten, New Hampshire, diary entries, 1775-1776

*REBELLION 3* Nicholas Cresswell, travel journal on the treatment of Loyalists in Virginia, 1774-1775

*REBELLION 3* Janet Schaw, travel letters on the treatment of Loyalists in North Carolina, 1775

*REBELLION 7* John Adams, autobiography, early 1800s, selection on Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense*

*WAR 8* Boston King, fugitive slave in the British army, narrative selections, publ. 1798

*WAR 8* Boyrereau Brinch, enslaved African American in the Continental Army, narrative selections, publ. 1810

*WAR 8* Revolutionary War veterans, pension application narratives, 1830s

*WAR 7* Margaret Hill Morris, Quaker widow in New Jersey, journal selections, 1776-1777

*WAR 7* Mary Jemison (Dehgewanewus), white Seneca adoptee in New York, narrative selections, 1779-1780

*WAR 7* Anna Rawle, Loyalist’s daughter in Philadelphia, journal selections, 1781
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- **CRISIS 3** George Washington, letter to Frances Dandridge, 1765, selection on the Stamp Act
- **CRISIS 4** Benjamin Franklin, letter to Lord Kames, 1767, selection on the Quartering Act
- **CRISIS 5** Benjamin Franklin & Samuel Cooper, letters on the easing of British-American tensions, 1770-1771
- **CRISIS 7** John Adams, letters to Abigail Adams before and during the First Continental Congress, 1774
- **CRISIS 7** Benjamin Franklin & George Washington, letters on the Coercive Acts, 1774
- **CRISIS 8** John Adams, Samuel Adams, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin (delegates to the Second Continental Congress), letters to their wives or, for Franklin, to friends in London, 1775, on the outbreak of war
- **CRISIS 9** John Adams, letter to Hezekiah Niles, 1818, selection on the American Revolution

#### Military Orders & Correspondence, Governors' Appeals, etc. (also see Broadsides)

- **WAR 1** Benjamin Franklin, letters on the prospects for reconciliation and the beginning of war, 1775-1776
- **WAR 4** Benjamin Franklin and U.S. negotiators in France, letters on Britain's response to the alliance with France, 1778
- **WAR 7** Eliza Yonge Wilkinson, planter's daughter in South Carolina, letters, 1782
- **WAR 9** Benjamin Franklin, letters from Paris on the peace process, 1781-1784

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- **INDEPENDENCE 8** Delegates to the Continental Congress, letters on the Declaration of Independence, July 1776, June 1826

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- **CONSTITUTION 1** Founders' correspondence on the defects of the Articles of Confederation, 1780-1787
- **CONSTITUTION 2** Founders' correspondence/commentary on the Constitutional Convention, 1787
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- **CONSTITUTION 6** Founders' and others' correspondence/commentary on the new federal government, 1788-1795

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- **WAR 9** Governors' appeals urging citizen rededication to the war effort, 1780-1781

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- **REBELLION 1** Loyalists at the outbreak of the Revolution: commentary from Loyalists, Patriots, and Britons, 1775-1777
- **REBELLION 5** Pacifists' appeals for tolerance: selections from addresses, letters, and records, 1775-1779
- **REBELLION 6** Commentary on the incongruity of slavery and the Patriots' ideals of liberty, 1773-1783
- **WAR 8** Loyalists and the defeat of Britain: selections from letters, narratives, petitions, and poetry, 1782-1786

#### Broadsides

- **CRISIS 8** Virginia Committee of Correspondence, announcement of the Battle of Lexington & Concord, 1775
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- **WAR 9** Satirical epitaph for King George III, Philadelphia, 1782

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- **CRISIS 3** Sermons on the repeal of the Stamp Act, 1776
- **CRISIS 6** Rev. John Allen, sermon on the Gaspé incident, 1772
- **CRISIS 7** Rev. Simeon Howard, sermon on justifiable war to defend liberty, 1773
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- **WAR 1** Edmund Burke (M.P.), speech to Parliament on reconciliation with America, 1775

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- **INDEPENDENCE 8** Francis Hopkinson, *A Pretty Story Written in the Year of Our Lord 2774*, political allegory, 1774
- **INDEPENDENCE 8** John Barlow, *The Vision of Columbus*, allegorical poem, 1787, selections
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*CRISS 3* Paul Revere, A View of the Obelisk Erected under Liberty-Tree in Boston on the Rejoicings for the Repeal of the Stamp Act, engraving with poem, 1766
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*CRISS 8* Poem by Philip Freneau and song on the outbreak of war, 1775
REBELLION 1 Rev. Myles Cooper (Loyalist), The Patriots of North America: A Sketch, 1775
REBELLION 7 Hannah Griffitts, “Upon Reading a Book Entitled Common Sense,” 1776
WAR 7 Molly Gutridge, A New Touch of the Times, 1779
INDEPENDENCE 1 New year’s greeting poems distributed as broadsides by news carriers, 1784-1790
CONSTITUTION 3 Francis Hopkinson, “The New Roof,” Federalist poem, 1788

PORTRAITS, ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS, etc. (as texts; images used to illustrate historical documents not included)

CRISIS 1 Benjamin West, The Death of General Wolfe (1759), 1770
CRISIS 4 Paul Revere & Christian Remick, depictions of the arrival of British troops in Boston in 1768
CRISIS 3 Paul Revere, A View of the Obelisk Erected under Liberty-Tree in Boston on the Rejoicings for the Repeal of the Stamp Act, engraving with poem, 1766
CRISIS 4 Paul Revere, The Bloody Massacre, engraving with poem, 1770
CRISIS 6 Liberty Triumphant, or the Downfall of Oppression, engraving, 1774
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WAR 8 British satirical rebus on the U.S. alliance with France, 1778
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CONSTITUTION 7 Portraits of five Founders (Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, Franklin), 1780-early 1790s

CONTEMPORARY HISTORIES

David Ramsay (Patriot), The History of the American Revolution, 1789
– On the colonists’ response to:
  *CRISIS 1* – British victory in the French and Indian War, 1763
  *CRISIS 2* – the Sugar Act, 1764
  *CRISIS 3* – the Stamp Act, 1765, and the repeal of the Stamp Act, 1766
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Peter Oliver (Loyalist), Origin & Progress of the American Rebellion, 1781
– On the Boston protests against the Stamp Act, 1765
– On the non-importation agreements opposing the Townshend Acts, 1767-1770
– On the colonists’ opposition to the Coercive Acts, 1774
– On anti-Loyalist violence, 1774-1775

INDEPENDENCE 2 Mercy Otis Warren, “A Survey of the Situation of America on the Conclusion of the War with Britain,” Ch. 30 of History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution, 1805