Events Leading To The Revolution
What differences existed among Americans concerning separation from Great Britain?
The ideas of the Enlightenment and the perceived unfairness of British policies provoked debate and resistance by the American colonists!
British and French competed for colonial interests which led to WAR!

- **The French and Indian War**: the French were driven out of Canada and their territories west of the Appalachian Mountains.
- George Washington gained military experience...
- Colonists were happy UNTIL:
Steps taken to upset Colonists:

• End of salutary neglect of mercantilist laws.

• New taxes were imposed on colonies to help pay for the war (Stamp Tax, Tea Tax, Sugar Tax) and to pay for protection.

• Proclamation of 1763 stated that colonists could not move west of Appalachian Mountains!

The Sons of Liberty, a patriot group, formed to protest British rule in the colonies.
Resistance to British rule in the colonies mounted:

Colonists openly resisted paying taxes, like tarring and feathering!

The Boston Massacre took place when British troops fired on anti-British demonstrators! (March 5, 1770)

The Boston Tea Party expressed opposition to Tea Tax! Sons of Liberty stormed East India Tea ships in 1773.
The Colonists Responded:

- Parliament passed to “Intolerable Acts” to punish the colonies for their insurrection at the Boston Tea Party.
- The First Continental Congress was called, which asked for rights to be respected, but they did not want independence... YET.

All thirteen colonies (except Georgia) sent representatives, the first time the colonies had acted together.
LEXINGTON AND CONCORD

• War began when the “Minutemen” in Massachusetts fought a brief skirmish with British troops looking for munitions (1775).
• This is sometimes called the “Shot heard ‘round the world”
The colonists were divided into three main camps during the Revolution:

The PATRIOTS supported Independence and supplied the troops for the Continental Army – inspired by Patrick Henry (“Give me liberty, or give me death) -

The NEUTRALS tried to stay out of the controversy, wanting to be in good position after the war regardless of the outcome!

The LOYALISTS (or Tories) remained loyal to Britain, enjoying economic ties and protection from the empire – taxes were justified!