II. The American Revolution

Summary
The American Revolution

a) Material basis for the revolution: imperial wars and taxes

The financial problems from the high costs of the French and Indian Wars (1754-1763), made the British government increase control over the 13 colonies and taxes:
1. The Sugar Act
2. The Stamp Act (1765)
3. The Townsend Act (1767)
4. The Tea Act (1773)

Americans had no representative in Parliament: they wanted a government of their own.

b) The Declaration of Independence and the war

- In 1773 the Boston Tea Party.
- In 1774 Continental Congress of Philadelphia.
- 4 July 1776 the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

The rebels had no professional army, but Washington used guerrilla tactics:
- Saratoga (1777), defeated the redcoats.
- Yorktown (1781), British troops surrendered.

c) The Peace and the creation of a new State

- Peace of Paris of 1783: British government recognized American independence
- Philadelphia 1787, Representatives of the 13 States signed a federal Constitution with:
  - division of powers,
  - popular sovereignty,
  - list of rights.
- The federal structure guarantees the autonomy of the States.
- Foreign affairs, armed forces, exclusive field of the federal government.
- George Washington was voted as the first ruler.

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Activities

**In groups of 4/5 students check and discuss these aspects.
You might be expected to explain your point of view to the rest of the class.**

- Explain the different imperial taxes orally
- Explain the Boston Tea Party orally
- Explain two points from the Declaration of Independence
- Mark the battles of Saratoga and Yorktown on a map
- Explain orally three rights from the American constitution

Vocabulary. Explain/define the following concepts/persons/ institutions

- Thirteen Colonies
- The Boston Tea Party
- George Washington
- Yorktown
- Constitution of 1787

- Seven Years' War
- Continental Congress of Philadelphia
- Saratoga
- Peace of Paris

Maps. Write the names of the thirteen States of North America

ATLANTIC OCEAN