

American Revolution

Click on each chapter to access its online resources. Page numbers refer to pages in the Teacher Guide. Some links provide access to files created by the Core Knowledge Foundation, including PDF documents that you can download and view with the appropriate software (such as [Adobe Reader](#)).

[Introduction](#)

[Chapter 1](#)

[Chapter 2](#)

[Chapter 5](#)

[Chapter 6](#)

[Chapter 8](#)

[Chapter 10](#)

[Chapter 11](#)

[Chapter 12](#)

[Chapter 13](#)

[Chapter 14](#)

[Chapter 15](#)

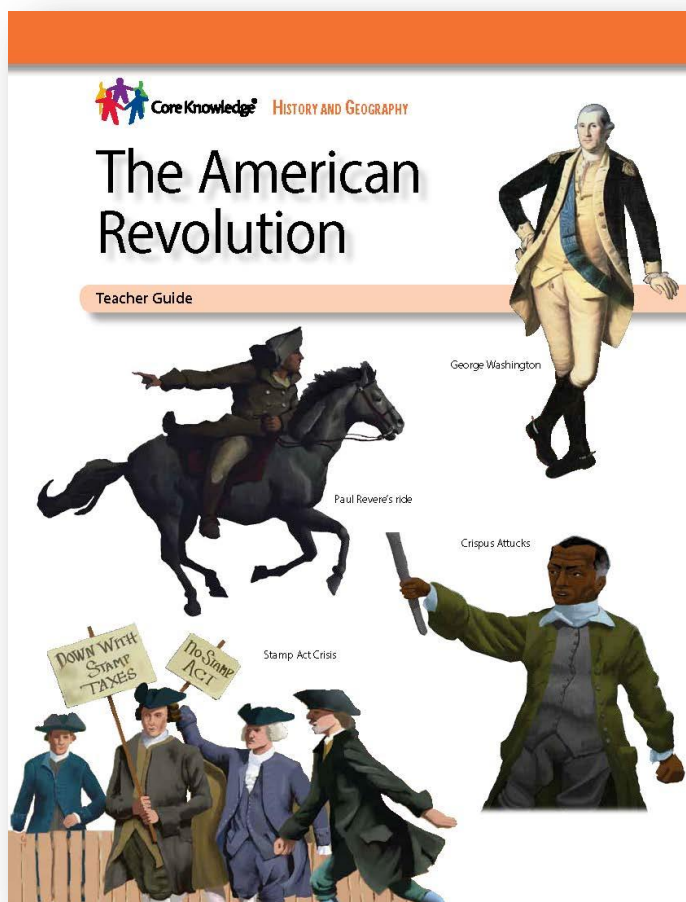
[Chapter 16](#)

[Chapter 17](#)

[Chapter 18](#)

[Chapter 19](#)

[Chapter 20](#)



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Introduction

Page	Resource Links
8	Background: About the American Revolution
9	Grade 4 Art Resources Packet
15	Fiction Excerpt 1(FE1): “Paul Revere’s Ride” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
	Fiction Excerpt 2(FE2): “Concord Hymn” by Ralph Waldo Emerson
	Fiction Excerpt 3(FE3): “Rip Van Winkle” by Washington Irving
	Fiction Excerpt 4(FE4): “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” by Washington Irving
	Nonfiction Excerpt 1(NFE1): “The Boston Massacre” as told by John Tudor
	Nonfiction Excerpt 2(NFE2): “The Boston Tea Party” as told by John Andreus
	Nonfiction Excerpt 3(NFE3): Patrick Henry: Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death
	Nonfiction Excerpt (NFE4): “The Battle of Lexington” as told by Jonas Clark
	Nonfiction Excerpt 5(FE5): Selections from the Declaration of Independence
	Nonfiction Excerpt 6(NFE6): “John Paul Jones Refuses to Surrender” as told by Lieutenant Richard Dale
16	USCIS Citizenship Resource Center
17	Jim Weiss Audio Recordings —classic stories narrated by a master storyteller

← [Table of Contents](#) [Next chapter](#) →

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Chapter 1

Page	Resource Links
22	Background: About the Thirteen Colonies

← [Table of Contents](#) [Next chapter](#) →

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Chapter 2

Page	Resource Links
30	Background: About the Thirteen Colonies

← [Table of Contents](#) [Next chapter](#) →

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Chapter 5

Page	Resource Links
45	Background: About the French and Indian War

[← Table of Contents](#)

[Next chapter →](#)

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Chapter 6

Page	Resource Links
51	Background: About British Taxes

← [Table of Contents](#) [Next chapter](#) →

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Chapter 8

Page	Resource Links
61	Background: About the Boston Massacre
65	Paul Revere's Engraving of Boston Massacre
66	NFE 1: "The Boston Massacre" as told by Jon Tudor

[← Table of Contents](#)

[Next chapter →](#)

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Chapter 10

Page	Resource Links
71	Background: About the Boston Tea Party
75	NFE 2: “The Boston Tea Party” as told by John Andreus

[← Table of Contents](#)

[Next chapter →](#)

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Chapter 11

Page	Resource Links
76	Background: About the First Continental Congress

← [Table of Contents](#) [Next chapter](#) →

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Chapter 12

Page	Resource Links
81	Background: About the Revolution
86	NFE 3: Patrick Henry: “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” .
87	John Singleton Copley’s Paul Revere
88	FE 1: “Paul Revere’s Ride” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
	FE 2: “Concord Hymn” by Ralph Waldo Emerson
	NFE 4: “The Battle of Lexington” as told by Jonas Clark

[← Table of Contents](#) [Next chapter →](#)

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Chapter 13

Page	Resource Links
89	Background: About Second Continental Congress/Bunker Hill
93	Landsdowne Portrait of George Washington
93	FE3: “Rip Van Winkle” by Washington Irving*
	FE4: “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” by Washington Irving*

***Note for use of Washington Irving Fiction Excerpts:** Distribute copies of the two stories by Washington Irving and read one or both aloud as time permits.

Washington Irving (1783 -1859) was born in New York City. The first American author to earn a living as a writer, Irving wrote stories, essays, biographies, travel books, and *A History of New York* (1809), a humorous guidebook. These two stories are centered in New York’s Hudson Valley around the time of the American Revolution, and reflect the culture and literature of the time.

Use the following questions for discussion when reading "Rip Van Winkle": Why does Rip Van Winkle go hunting in the mountains? Whom does he meet? What happens when Rip shares a drink with the men? What strange things happen after Rip wakes up? How do you know that a great deal of time has passed? What event in history does this story explain?

Use the following questions for discussion when reading "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow": What is the setting of the story? Who is Ichabod Crane? How does he make a living? Whom does he hope to marry? Which suitors must he compete with? What happens at the Van Tassel party? What happens after the party? Do you think the headless horseman was real? Why or why not?

← [Table of Contents](#) [Next chapter](#) →

Chapter 14

Page	Resource Links
94	Background: About Thomas Paine/Declaration of Independence
98	NFE 5: Selections from the Declaration of Independence
99	July 4 Article and Video

[← Table of Contents](#)

[Next chapter →](#)

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Chapter 15

Page	Resource Links
100	Background: About Women/Loyalists/Patriot Allies

← [Table of Contents](#)

[Next chapter](#) →

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Chapter 16

Page	Resource Links
108	<i>Leutze's Washington Crossing the Delaware</i>

← [Table of Contents](#) [Next chapter](#) →

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Chapter 17

Page	Resource Links
109	Background: About Saratoga and France

← [Table of Contents](#) [Next chapter](#) →

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Chapter 18

Page	Resource Links
114	Background: About Valley Forge
118	Valley Forge National Park Photo Gallery

← [Table of Contents](#)

[Next chapter](#) →

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Chapter 19

Page	Resource Links
120	Background: About Benedict Arnold and John Paul Jones
124	NFE 6: “John Paul Jones Refuses to Surrender” as told by Lieutenant Richard Dale

[← Table of Contents](#)

[Next chapter →](#)

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Chapter 20

Page	Resource Links
125	Background: About Cornwallis

← [Table of Contents](#)

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