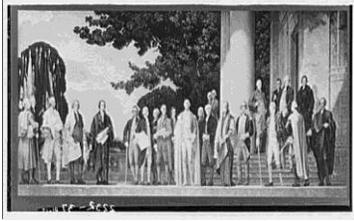


## Important Events that Led to the Constitution



Signing of the Constitution

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Throughout this lesson, students revisit how ideas about government, colonial experiences with self-government, and interactions with Great Britain influenced the decision to declare independence.

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<b>Overview</b>		<a href="#">Back to Navigation Bar</a>
Objectives	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examine the growing tension between the colonies and Britain by reviewing the Stamp Act, and the Townshend Act.</li> <li>• examine different perspectives relating to the issues of liberty, taxation, representative government, and trade.</li> <li>• review information regarding different colonial reactions to the laws as well as significant people of the time period in exploring why the colonists wanted to limit the power of government.</li> </ul>	
Recommended time frame	2 class periods (50 minutes)	
Grade level	5 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	
Curriculum fit	Social Studies	
Materials	Power Point Presentation “Road to the Constitution” Notebook Paper or Journal Internet and Historic Resources (LOC website) Pencil or Pen Matching Activity Handout	
<b>Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations</b>		<a href="#">Back to Navigation Bar</a>
	<b>Social Studies</b> <b>5 – U3.1.2</b> Describe the causes and effects of events such as the Stamp Act, Boston Tea Party, the Intolerable Acts, and the Boston Massacre. <b>5 – U3.1.3</b> Using an event from the Revolutionary era (e.g., Boston Tea Party, quartering of soldiers, writs of	

	<p>assistance, closing of colonial legislatures), explain how British and colonial views on authority and the use of power without authority differed (views on representative government).</p> <p><b>6 – C1.1.1</b> Analyze competing ideas about the purposes government should serve in a democracy and in a dictatorship (e.g., protecting individual rights, promoting the common good, providing economic security, molding the character of citizens, or promoting a particular religion).</p> <p><b>English Language Arts</b></p> <p><b>W.PR.06.01</b> set a purpose, consider audience, and replicate authors’ styles and patterns when writing a narrative or informational piece.</p> <p><b>W.PR.06.04</b> draft focused ideas for a specific purpose using multiple paragraphs, sentence variety, and voice to meet the needs of an audience (e.g., word choice, level of formality, and use of example) when writing compositions.</p> <p><b>W.PR.06.05</b> proofread and edit writing using grade-level checklists and other appropriate resources both individually and in groups.</p>
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<b>Procedures</b>	<a href="#">Back to Navigation Bar</a>
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	<p><b>Day One:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show the power point presentation to the class while discussing the important events shown and the different perspectives from the stakeholders (colonists in favor of separation, Loyalists, citizens in Britain, and British soldiers). Use an example to “talk through” the different perspectives.</li> <li>• After the presentation, have students work on the matching activity. (See Handouts)</li> <li>• As a homework assignment, have students pick one of the events discussed today and write a journal or diary entry from one of the perspectives of the stakeholders. Their entry should include the effect the event has on them, their reaction to it,</li> </ul> <p><b>Day Two</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correct and discuss the matching activity. (For this, I make one master set on tagboard so it is easier for students to see)</li> <li>• Students will share their diary or journal entry</li> </ul>
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<b>Evaluation</b>	<a href="#">Back to Navigation Bar</a>
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	The matching activity can be taken as a grade (see handout and answer key)
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	The rubric for the diary entry can be found below
<b>Extension</b>	<a href="#">Back to Navigation Bar</a>
	<p>Students can take an issue from current events and discuss the different perspectives of the different stakeholders involved.</p> <p>Students can continue to revisit the idea of perspective when discussing current events of the Western Hemisphere throughout the year.</p>

# Historical Background

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As a way to raise money, the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act. This act taxed the colonists. Many colonists objected to these acts because they had no representatives in Parliament. They felt only their representatives could tax them. Although the Stamp Act was repealed, Britain continued to anger many colonists by passing new acts such as the Townshend Acts.

Britain also passed the Quartering Act as a way to save money in the colonies. This act required colonists to give British soldiers shelter and supplies.

Colonists protested these acts in many ways including boycotts of British goods, demonstrations, violent protest, and petitions to the King and Parliament. The colonists communicated through Committees of Correspondence and Circular Letters.

In an attempt to show its authority over the colonies Britain sent more soldiers to the colonies. Conflicts increased between colonists and British soldiers. This led to the Boston Massacre in 1770. Viewpoints of this event differed between the British and the patriots. Britain passed a Tea Act in 1773. The Boston Tea Party occurred as a protest of this act. Britain passed the Intolerable Acts to punish Boston for the Tea Party.

As a reaction to the Intolerable Acts, the representatives from the colonies met together in 1774. This was important because it helped unify the colonies.

They wrote a Declaration of Rights at this meeting and planned a boycott of British goods.

In Massachusetts, militia members stored arms and ammunition at the town of Concord. A British general ordered his troops to go after these supplies. British troops were also sent to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock who were hiding in the town of Lexington.

These events led to the Battles of Lexington and Concord, which became the first battles of the American Revolution. In response to the Intolerable Acts, representatives from the colonies met together in 1774. This was important because it helped unify the colonies.

Colonial leaders such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Samuel Adams made important contributions to the struggle for Independence.

Women like Phillis Wheatley, Mercy Otis Warren, and Abigail Adams also made important contributions. Many of these people showed civic virtue, which means they put the common good above their personal interests.

Not all colonists, however, believed the colonies should be independent. These people were called Loyalists because they stayed loyal to the King.

# Primary Resources from the Library of Congress

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Image	Description	Citation	Permanent URL
	<p>"Boston tea-party." Three cargoes of tea destroyed. Dec. 16, 1773</p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-USZC4-1582 (color film copy transparency)</p> <p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p>	<p><a href="http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3b53084">http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3b53084</a> <a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002719851/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2002719851/</a></p>
	<p>The Stamp Act denounced</p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-51563 (b&amp;w film copy neg.)</p> <p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p>	<p><a href="http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3a51603">http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3a51603</a></p>
	<p>The Boston Massacre</p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-51562 (b&amp;w film copy neg.)</p> <p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006679819/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2006679819/</a></p>
	<p>Minute Man, Concord</p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-D4-11876 (b&amp;w glass neg.)</p> <p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/det1994007438/PP/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/det1994007438/PP/</a></p>
	<p>Painting of the Signing of the Constitution</p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-H814-T-P01-012 (interpositive)</p> <p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p>	<p><a href="http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/thc.5a44143">http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/thc.5a44143</a></p>
	<p>Battle of Bunker Hill</p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-USZC4-4970 (color film copy transparency)</p> <p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/96516282/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/96516282/</a></p>
	<p>Scene at signing of the Constitution of the United States</p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-USA7-34630 (b&amp;w film copy neg.) LC-USA7-575 (b&amp;w film copy neg.)</p> <p>Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98501334/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/98501334/</a></p>

	<p><b>Glorious News. Constitutional liberty revives! New-Haven, Monday-morning, May 19, 1766</b></p>	<p>Washington, D.C. 20540 USA Stamp act.; Imprint 3.  Printed Ephemera Collection; Portfolio 3, Folder 19.  Housed in the Library of Congress</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/britref/news.html">http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/britref/news.html</a></p>
	<p><b>This is where to affix the stamp. Stamp Act of 1766</b></p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-242 (b&amp;w film copy neg.)  Repository: Library of Congress Microform Reading Room Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004672606/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004672606/</a></p>
	<p><b>"The Repeal or Funeral of Miss Ame- Stamp." [1766].</b></p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ppmsca-31157 (digital file from original print)  Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA <a href="http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print">http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/93504548/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/93504548/</a></p>
	<p>Carpenter's Hall Philadelphia  Meeting place of the first continental congress</p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-D4-12943 (b&amp;w glass neg.)  Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p>	<p><a href="http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a08438">http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a08438</a></p>
	<p>The Battle of Lexington</p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-pga-00995 (digital file from original print) LC-DIG-ppmsca-05478 (digital file from original print) LC-USZ62-8623 (b&amp;w film copy neg.)  Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p>	<p><a href="http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pga.00995">http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pga.00995</a></p>
	<p>Handbill asking "that the Sons and Daughters of Liberty...not buy any one thing of...William Jackson, an importer; at the Brazen Head, north side of the Town-House, and opposite the town-pump, in Corn-Hill, Boston" Jan. 1770? or 1773?</p>	<p>Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-43568 (b&amp;w film copy neg.)  Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2007678733/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2007678733/</a></p>

# Rubric

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## Important Events Leading to the Constitution Diary Entry Rubric

Diary entry is written from stakeholder's point of view (1<sup>st</sup> person) \_\_\_\_\_/2

Diary entry is at least 10 sentences \_\_\_\_\_/2

Diary entry highlights the key events surrounding the individual \_\_\_\_\_/8

Diary entry focuses on the individual's feelings regarding the events they are involved in \_\_\_\_\_/8

Diary entry is descriptive and detailed \_\_\_\_\_/5

Diary entry is free of grammatical and spelling errors \_\_\_\_\_/5

Primary source is referenced in the diary entry \_\_\_\_\_/5

Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_/35 Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

# Handouts

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Important Events Leading to the Constitution** **Diary Entry Guidelines**

While reviewing the events that led to the constitution, we talked about various Acts imposed on the American Colonies by King George, and some events that happened hereafter. I would like you to choose a perspective of one of the stakeholders and write a diary entry from their point of view.

Use the attached rubric and the guidelines below for a successful diary entry log.

1. Choose an event from the following list: (circle one)
  - The Stamp Act
  - The Townshend Acts
  - The Boston Massacre
  - The Boston Tea Party
  - The Battles of Lexington and Concord
  - The Battle of Bunker Hill
2. Choose the perspective from which to write your diary entry(circle one). The stakeholders are:
  - Colonist who favor separation from England
  - Loyalists
  - British Soldiers
3. Write a diary entry about a person's life from that stakeholder group in descriptive detail. Remember that you are an individual and all of your ideas need to be written in 1<sup>st</sup> person point of view. You need to include the following pieces of information:
  - Events surrounding the individual
  - Feelings the individual has surrounding the situation
  - Reactions the individual has towards other stakeholders involved
  - Include a primary source in your diary entry
4. The diary entry must be at least 10 sentences.
5. Be thorough with your work and make sure it is free of grammatical and spelling errors.
6. Be creative and have fun!

Please attach this sheet to your diary or journal entry, indicating the event and perspective you have chosen to write about. Be prepared to share your entry in class tomorrow.

## Important Events that Lead to the Constitution Matching Activity

Cut and paste the pictures, event titles and descriptions. Match the name of the Act or event with its picture and the correct description.

### Pictures



## **Event Titles**

The Stamp Act

The Boston Massacre

The Boston Tea Party

The 1<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress

The Battle of Concord

The Battle of Lexington

The Battle of Bunker Hill

## **Event Descriptions**

This Act was imposed by Britain and stated that all paper (1/2 sheet or larger) will require a stamp. This tax was supposed to help Britain recoup some of its financial losses from the French and Indian War.

This battle was fought to gain control of the Charlestown peninsula. Though most of the battle took place on Breed's Hill, it is known by a different name. It is important because it overlooks both the Boston Harbor and the city itself. Britain eventually won, but lost many soldiers in the battle.

This event took place in Boston Harbor. Men dressed as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships and unloaded their cargo overboard in protest. When finished, they cleaned up their mess and debarked from the ship.

This battle started after the British soldiers arrived in town to destroy the minutemen's weapons. The Redcoats build a bonfire to dispose of some military equipment and the local liberty pole. The American militia saw smoke billowing from their town and assumed that their houses had been destroyed. They confronted the Redcoats by sniper attack after two Americans were killed.

Late in the afternoon, on March 5, a crowd of jeering Bostonians slinging snowballs gathered around a small group of British soldiers guarding the Boston Customs House. The soldiers became enraged after one of them had been hit, and they fired into the crowd, even though they were under orders not to fire. Five colonists were shot and killed.

In this battle, 77 Minutemen were instructed by Captain Parker: "Stand your ground; don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here." When the smoke cleared, eight Americans lay dead and 10 were wounded. One British soldier was slightly wounded. The outmatched Minutemen retreated into the nearby woods.

This group met in Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia, from September 5, to October 26, 1774. All of the colonies except Georgia sent delegates. These were elected by the people, by the colonial legislatures, or by the committees of correspondence of the respective colonies. The colonies presented there were united in a determination to show a combined authority to Great Britain.

**Important Events that Lead to the Constitution**  
**Matching Activity – Answer Key**



**The Battle of  
Concord**

This battle started after the British soldiers arrived in town to destroy the minutemen's weapons. The Redcoats build a bonfire to dispose of some military equipment and the local liberty pole.



**The Boston  
Tea Party**

This event took place in Boston Harbor. Men dressed as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships and unloaded their cargo overboard in protest. When finished, they cleaned up their mess and debarked from the ship.



**The Boston  
Massacre**

Late in the afternoon, on March 5, a crowd of jeering Bostonians slinging snowballs gathered around a small group of British soldiers guarding the Boston Customs House. The soldiers became enraged after one of them had been hit, and they fired into the crowd, even though they were under orders not to fire. Five colonists were shot and killed.



## The Battle of Bunker Hill

Late in the afternoon, on March 5, a crowd of jeering Bostonians slinging snowballs gathered around a small group of British soldiers guarding the Boston Customs House. The soldiers became enraged after one of them had been hit, and they fired into the crowd, even though they were under orders not to fire. Five colonists were shot and killed.



## The Stamp Act

This Act was imposed by Britain and stated that all paper (1/2 sheet or larger) will require a stamp. This tax was supposed to help Britain recoup some of its financial losses from the French and Indian War.



## The Battle of Lexington

In this battle, 77 Minutemen were instructed by Captain Parker: "Stand your ground; don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here." When the smoke cleared, eight Americans lay dead and 10 were wounded. One British soldier was slightly wounded. The outmatched Minutemen retreated into the nearby woods.



## The 1<sup>st</sup> Continental Congress

This group met in Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia, from September 5, to October 26, 1774. All of the colonies except Georgia sent delegates. These were elected by the people, by the colonial legislatures, or by the committees of correspondence of the respective colonies. The colonies presented there were united in a determination to show a combined authority to Great Britain.