AMERICA'S FIRST DOLLARS



- 0. AMERICA'S FIRST DOLLARS Story Preface
- 1. TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION
- 2. THE BOSTON MASSACRE
- 3. COLONISTS REBEL
- 4. LET IT BEGIN HERE
- 5. LEXINGTON AND CONCORD
- 6. THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL
- 7. WASHINGTON TAKES COMMAND
- 8. AMERICA ESTABLISHES A NAVY
- 9. DRAFTING THE DECLARATION
- 10. THE VOTE: 13-0

11. AMERICA'S FIRST DOLLARS

- 12. LONDON'S REACTION
- 13. TREASON
- 14. TREASON MOST FOUL
- 15. EXECUTIONS
- 16. MARION'S BRIGADE
- 17. THE TABLES TURN
- 18. SURRENDER AT YORKTOWN
- 19. GENERAL WASHINGTON RESIGNS
- 20. UNANIMOUS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



This image depicts a 12-shilling (12s) note issued by the "Province" of New Jersey a few months before the Thirteen Colonies declared their independence from Britain. (Note the reference to "His Majesty King George the Third.") The original currency is maintained by the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.

As soon as Congress approved the Declaration of Independence, John Hancock wrote a <u>letter to George Washington</u> enclosing a copy of the Declaration. It was important for the Commander-in-Chief to know the American colonies were formally separated from Great Britain.

It was also important for the people to know. The <u>Declaration was read</u> to a crowd, soon after it was approved, and the text was printed immediately. (Follow this link to view one of the <u>earliest printings</u>.)

By the 8th of July, it was the lead story in one of the most influential colonial papers: <u>Dunlap's Pennsylvania</u> <u>Packet</u>. On July 18, 1776 - six years after the Boston Massacre - citizens of Boston heard the Declaration read at the <u>very place</u> where fighting had once caused loss of life.

While George III had prevented the colonies from printing their own money, Congress could now disregard the <u>Currency Act of 1764</u>. The British Parliament no longer governed Americans, and the King was <u>no longer</u> their soverign.

Three weeks after the Declaration of Independence was signed, "The United Colonies" issued the country's first dollars:

- The <u>Three Dollar Bill</u>, issued on July 22, 1776, has an interesting emblem: An eagle fighting a heron with the motto *Exitus in dubio est* ("the outcome is in doubt").
- The emblem on the <u>Seven Dollar Bill</u> is more positive: A storm at sea with the motto <u>Serenabit</u> ("it will clear up").

• The <u>Thirty Dollar Bill</u> hints at ultimate triumph: A wreath on a tomb with the words *Si recte facies* ("if you act righteously").

Of course, as far as George III was concerned, the new dollar bills violated the law while the Declaration was a worthless piece of paper whose signers were guilty of treason. His Majesty would not give in.

The war would drag on for many more years.

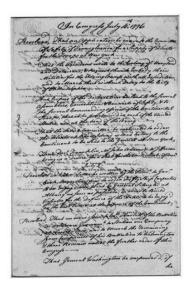
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/AMERICA-S-FIRST-DOLLARS-American-Revolution-Highlights

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/AMERICA-S-FIRST-DOLLARS-American-Revolution-Highlights

Media Stream



Letter - Hancock to Washington re Declaration

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress, Treasures, image 0900001. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Letter-Hancock-to-Washington-re-Declaration



<u>Public Reading of the Declaration</u>

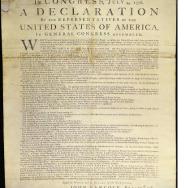
This image, from the Library of Congress' *Broadsides and Other Ephemera Collection*, depicts another public reading.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Public-Reading-of-the-Declaration



Bennivivania



<u>Dunlap Broadside - First Printing, Declaration</u>

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dunlap-Broadside-First-Printing-Declaration

<u>Dunlap's Pennsylvania Packet - July 8, 1776 Article</u>

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dunlap-s-Pennsylvania-Packet-July-8-1776-Article



First Public Readings - Declaration of Independence

This image, from the Library of Congress' Broadsides and Other Ephemera Collection, depicts another public reading.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/First-Public-Readings-Declaration-of-Independence



<u>United Colonies Currency - Three Dollar Bill</u>

Image, U.S. National Archives.

Information, web sites of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and Notre Dame University. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/United-Colonies-Currency-Three-Dollar-Bill



<u>United Colonies Currency - Seven Dollar Bill</u>

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/United-Colonies-Currency-Seven-Dollar-Bill



United Colonies Currency - Thirty Dollar Bill

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

 $\underline{\text{http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/United-Colonies-Currency-Thirty-Dollar-Bill}}$



Destruction of Statue - George III

Image, and quote/information, from the Library of Congress web site *Declaring Independence*. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Destruction-of-Statue-George-III



AMERICA'S FIRST DOLLARS

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/AMERICA-S-FIRST-DOLLARS