

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

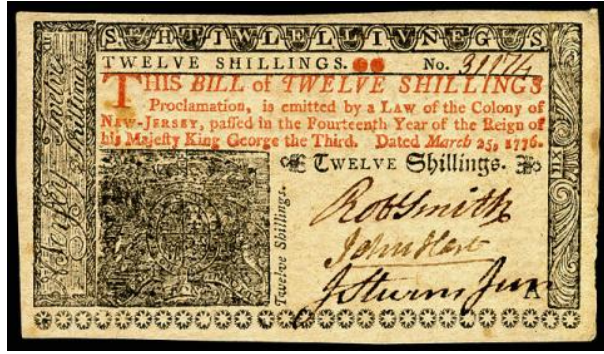
16. MARION'S BRIGADE

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 [letter to George Washington](#) 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 [Declaration was read](#) to a crowd, soon after it was approved, and the text was printed immediately. (Follow this link to view one of the [earliest printings](#).)

By the 8th of July, it was the lead story in one of the most influential colonial papers: [Dunlap's Pennsylvania Packet](#). On July 18, 1776 - six years after the Boston Massacre - citizens of Boston heard the Declaration read at the [very place](#) 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 [Currency Act of 1764](#). The British Parliament no longer governed Americans, and the King was [no longer](#) their sovereign.

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

- The [Three Dollar Bill](#), 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 [Seven Dollar Bill](#) is more positive: A storm at sea with the motto *Serenabit* ("it will clear up").

- The Thirty Dollar Bill 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.

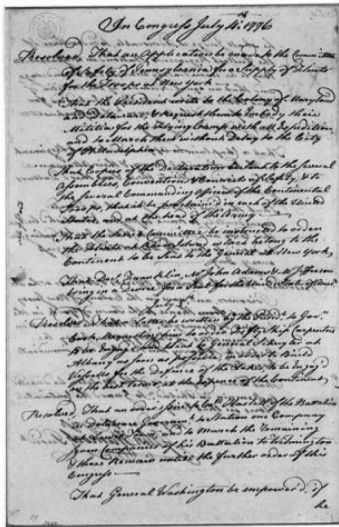
See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/AMERICA-S-FIRST-DOLLARS-American-Revolution-Highlights)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/AMERICA-S-FIRST-DOLLARS-American-Revolution-Highlights)

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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>

Engraving for BARNARD's New Complete Historical HISTORY of ENGLAND



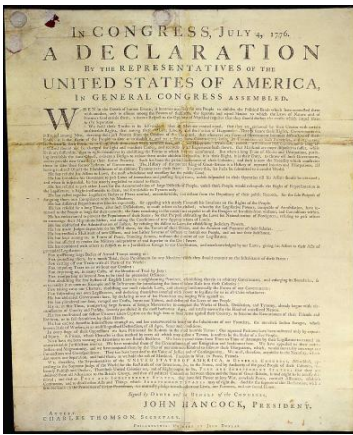
The Manner in which the American Colonies Declared themselves INDEPENDANT of the King of ENGLAND, through an Act of Provinces on July 4 1776.

Public Reading of the Declaration

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>



Dunlap Broadside - First Printing, Declaration

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

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



Dunlap's Pennsylvania Packet - July 8, 1776 Article

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' *Broadside and Other Ephemera Collection*, depicts another public reading.

View this asset at:

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



United Colonies Currency - Three Dollar Bill

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>



United Colonies Currency - Seven Dollar Bill

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:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/United-Colonies-Currency-Thirty-Dollar-Bill>

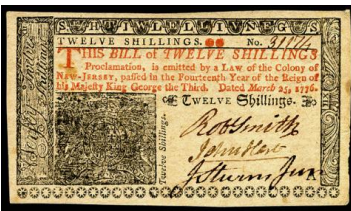


Destruction of Statue - George III

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

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