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1820 painting, by John Blake White, depicts Brigadier General Francis Marion meeting for a prisoner exchange with a British officer. The oil painting now hangs in the United States Capitol. Image online, courtesy Smithsonianmag.org.

*Whoever looks upon them as an irregular mob
will find himself much mistaken. They have
men amongst them who know very well what
they are about.*

Lord Hugh Percy
1775

It was 1775. George III, ruler of Great Britain, viewed the thirteen American colonies as "his." Heavy taxes, paid by the colonials, filled the King's treasury. Life was good - for some people. For others, like Thomas Paine,

*These are the times
that try men's souls*

The American Crisis

What was trying "men's souls" was British rule. The time had come for America to be free.

But cutting the ties that bound thirteen colonies to England would not happen without a revolt. No one ever gives up a treasure without a fight—especially not a king.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Patriot-The>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Patriot-The>



George III

Image - By E. Fisher, from painting by Benjamin West; published in 1778.
U.S. National Archives, image 148-GW-473

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/George-III>



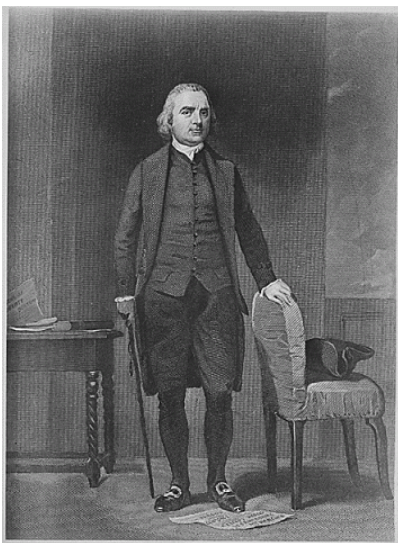
The Thirteen Original Colonies - Map

Image online, courtesy earlyamerican.com website.

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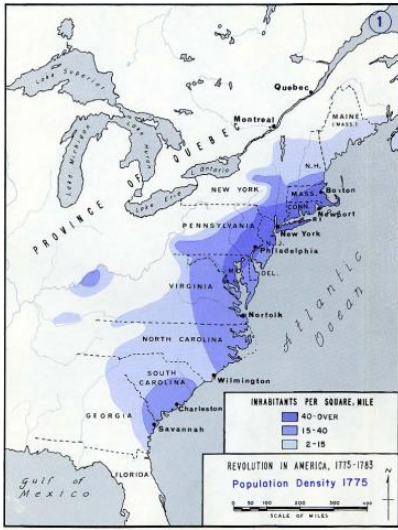


Thomas Paine

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

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Thirteen Colonies - Map

Map image by U.S. Military Academy. Online, courtesy USMA's Map Atlas Collection.

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Patriot, The

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