

0. THE COLONIES STRUGGLE - Story Preface

1. GEORGE III GOES TOO FAR

2. VIOLENCE IN BOSTON

3. ...NOT TO BE OBEYED...

4. REVERE RIDES

5. THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

6. BUNKER HILL: A COSTLY REDCOAT VICTORY

7. THE COLONIES STRUGGLE

8. STEPS TOWARD INDEPENDENCE

9. SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

10. THE VOTE for INDEPENDENCE

11. EVIDENCE OF FREEDOM

12. THE LOWS AND HIGHS OF '76

13. SPIES AND TREASON

14. DEATH BY HANGING

15. BENJAMIN MARTIN and BANASTRE TARLETON

16. THE REDCOATS RETREAT

17. CORNWALLIS SURRENDERS

18. WASHINGTON RESIGNS

19. THE NEW COUNTRY



People in Britain, of course, were following what was happening in their American colonies during the Revolutionary War. Thomas Hyde Page (1746–1821) created this map, depicting British defenses in and around Boston while the “Redcoats” maintained a long (nearly 11 months) siege in 1775.

Published, circa 1777, the map has this caption: “A plan of the town of Boston with the intrenchments &ca. of His Majesty's forces in 1775, from the observations of Lieut. Page of His Majesty's Corps of Engineers, and from those of other gentlemen.” This link, to the [Library's version of the map](#), allows for very-close viewing of the image. Otherwise, click on this image for a larger view.

When Washington took command of the American army at Cambridge in 1775, his troops were mostly untrained men who—ostensibly—were no match for British professional soldiers. Even Washington himself did not have the training of his counterpart, General William Howe.

On the other hand, the patriots were filled with determination. Longing to be free, they would fight the war their way, not the British way. Guerilla tactics, ambushes, and refusal to fight in straight lines (like the British), helped the colonists to hold ground.

Not all Americans agreed with the fight for independence, however, especially at the beginning of the revolt. For many people, England and the Crown represented a stable way of life. Why should that authority be challenged? As military leader, Washington had an extraordinarily difficult job ahead of him.

A meticulous man, the General kept records as carefully during the war as he had kept them during his school years. However, he had one constant, personal hardship: bad teeth. (He ended up with false teeth, made of hippopotamus tusk—not wood—which were too big for his mouth. A set is displayed at the National Museum of Dentistry.) Even during the war, he wrote letters to his dentist. (Follow the link to one such letter which was intercepted by the British.)

As Boston remained under siege in 1775, the Americans desperately needed more arms. The British had plenty at Fort Ticonderoga (near Lake Champlain and the Canadian frontier).

Perhaps a seizure-of-arms was in order?

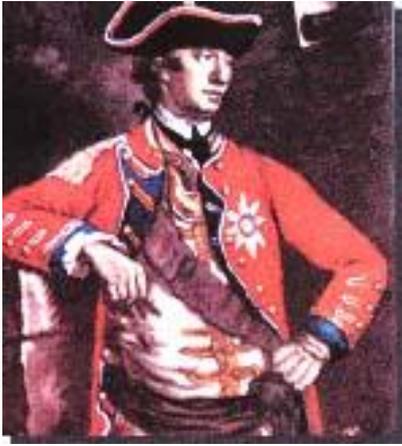
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

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

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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

Media Stream



General William Howe

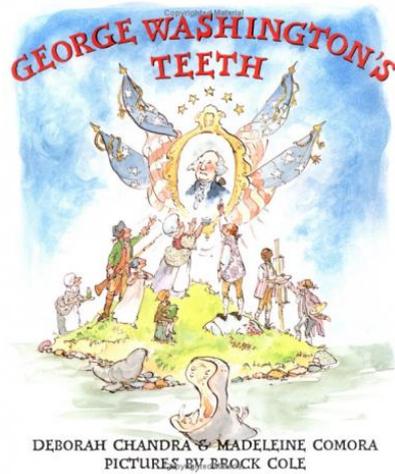
Mezzotint, likely by Richard Purcell. Published by John Morris, London, Rathbone Place, November 10, 1777.

Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/General-William-Howe0>



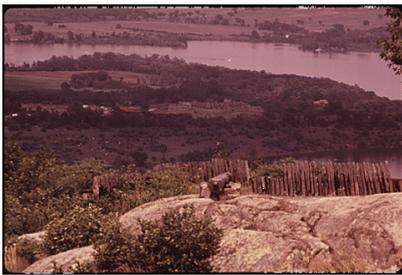
George Washington's Teeth

Cover of *George Washington's Teeth* by Deborah Chandra (Author), Madeleine Comora (Author) and Brock Cole (Illustrator).

Image, courtesy Amazon.com.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/George-Washington-s-Teeth0>



Fort Ticonderoga

U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Fort-Ticonderoga>