



**A National Historic Landmark
2401 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23223
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Dear Student,

We are so excited that you're visiting to see a reenactment of the Second Virginia Convention! In March of 1775, Patrick Henry gave his famous "Give me liberty or give me death!" speech inside St. John's Church. During your visit, his immortal words will once again be heard in the church, but this time you are the delegates! As representatives, you'll sit next to important colonial leaders such as Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Nelson, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson, and vote on all matters which come before the house.

During the reenactment, you'll hear a lot of words and phrases which may be unfamiliar to you. People in the 18th century spoke very differently from us. For example, they may use the word *halcyon* instead of *peaceful*, as seen below:

"...a speedy return to those halcyon days when we lived a free and happy people..."

This activity book is to help prepare you for your trip. We've put together a list of words that you'll hear during the Convention. Each word is followed by one or more *synonyms*. A *synonym* is a word that has the same meaning as another word. For example, *glad* is a synonym of *happy*.

Your teacher may assign some of these activities to prepare for your trip. Some of the activities are designed to help you learn the unusual 18th century words, so you'll better understand the proceedings of the Convention. We can't wait for your visit!

We'll see you soon,

Your friends at St. John's Church

Reenactment Glossary

aye – *adv.* yes, I agree

bane – *n.* ruin, trouble, misery

pursuant to – *p.* according to

petition – 1) *n.* request, usually written 2) *v.*

to beg or ask

halcyon – *adj.* calm, peaceful, happy

obviate – *v.* to prevent, to stop, to remove

pretext – *n.* disguise

remissness – *n.* neglect, failure

inestimable – *adj.* valuable, precious

provocation – *n.* abuse, annoyance

deplore – *v.* to be against or oppose

tyranny – *n.* oppression, cruelty

sinew – *n.* support, strength

abundance – *n.* plenty, wealth

formidable – *adj.* powerful, challenging,

terrifying

fortitude – *n.* courage, determination, bravery

scruple – *v.* to doubt, to hesitate

mercenary – *adj.* receiving payment

timid – *adj.* unsure, frightened

covenant – *n.* promise, agreement

treason – *n.* disloyalty, crime

indulge – *v.* to enjoy

apt – *adj.* prepared, ready, have a tendency
to

solace – *v.* to cheer or comfort

insidious – *adj.* dangerous, dishonest

comport – *v.* to agree, to fit

reconciliation – *n.* harmony, friendship

submission – *n.* acceptance, obedience,
surrender

in vain – *p.* hopeless, pointless

supplication – *n.* request, plea

remonstrance – *n.* complaint

spurn – *v.* to turn away or ignore

contempt – *n.* hatred, disrespect

martial – *adv.* military, war-like

inevitable – *adj.* unavoidable, necessary

gale – *n.* strong wind

brethren – *n.* brothers, family

disadvantage – *n.* weakness, difficulty

indignation – *n.* anger, danger

hastily – *adv.* quickly, suddenly

Key

n. – noun

p. – preposition

v. – verb

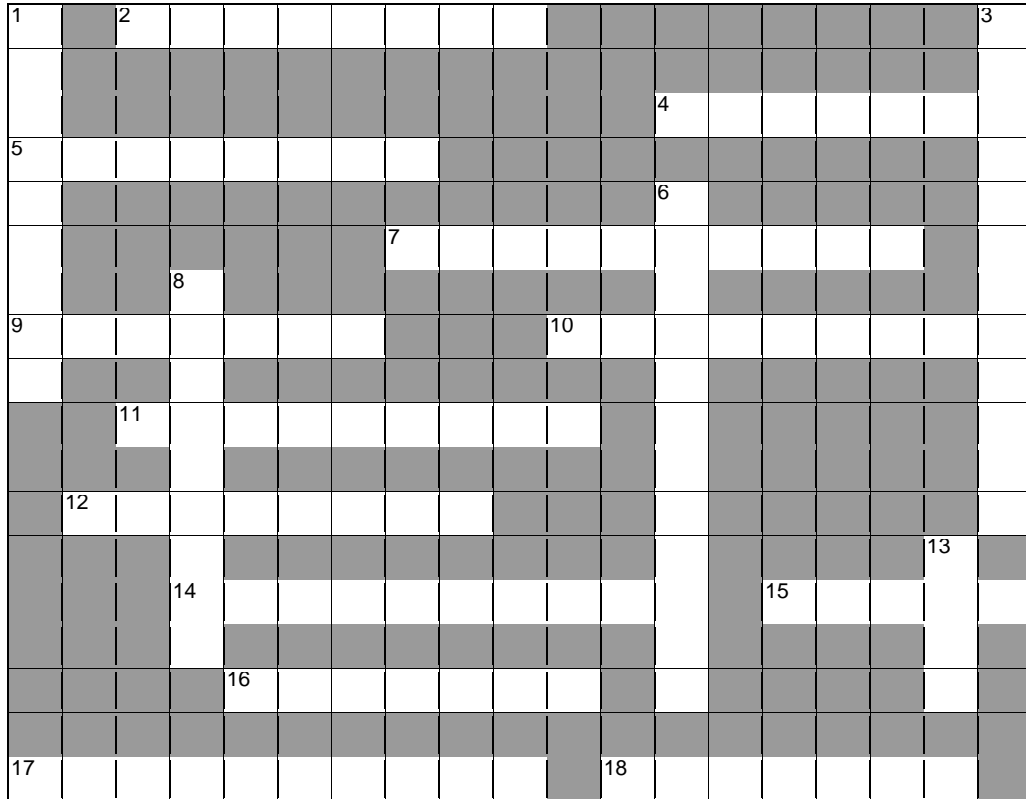
adj. – adjective

adv. – adverb

American Revolution Crossword Puzzle

SOLs: VS.1a-g, VS.2f, VS.3c-e, VS.4a, VS.4c-d, VS.5a-b; English 4.4c; Reading 5.4e

DIRECTIONS: Use the Word Bank below to answer the clues. Answers that are more than one word do NOT have a space.



ACROSS

- 2. This third capital was more centrally located
- 4. This word describes people who did not take sides in the Revolution
- 5. These people arrived in 1619 against their will
- 7. This British governing body believed it had legal authority in the colonies
- 9. This very profitable cash crop was sold in England
- 10. The title for elected representatives that served in the colonial General Assembly
- 11. Wrote the Declaration of Independence
- 12. These people fought in the Continental Army for American independence
- 14. The Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army

- 15. These people took on more responsibility to support the war effort
- 16. A group of people prepared to defend their land against attack
- 17. A decision a group votes on
- 18. An official document that explains, promises, or demands certain things

DOWN

- 1. A name for people who remained loyal to Great Britain during the Revolution
- 3. The capital moved here due to unhealthy living conditions at Jamestown
- 6. Inspired patriots by saying "give me liberty or give me death!"
- 8. First permanent English settlement in North America
- 13. A good or service owed to another

<u>WORD BANK</u>	TOBACCO	NEUTRAL	PATRICK HENRY	DEBT
BURGESSES	RESOLUTION	LOYALISTS	WILLIAMSBURG	AFRICANS
RICHMOND	WASHINGTON	MILITIA	JAMESTOWN	PATRIOTS
JEFFERSON	CHARTER	WOMEN	PARLIAMENT	

American Revolution Matching Activity

SOLs: VS.1a-b, VS.1d, VS.1g, VS.3c-d, VS.4c-d, VS.5a-b; English 4.4a-c; English 5.4a-c, English 5.4e-f

DIRECTIONS: Write the letter of the description on the right that best describes the name of the event, person, or act on the left.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| _____ St. John's Church | A. A group of people prepared to defend their land from attack |
| _____ Debt | B. The second capital of Virginia |
| _____ Parliament | C. Wrote the Declaration of Independence |
| _____ Charter | D. Where Patrick Henry gave his famous "Give me liberty or give me death" speech |
| _____ Williamsburg | E. These people remained loyal to Great Britain in the Revolutionary War |
| _____ George Washington | F. Virginia's colonial legislative body made up of elected representatives |
| _____ Thomas Jefferson | G. These people agreed to work without pay for a certain amount of time to pay for their passage to Virginia |
| _____ Loyalists | H. A good or service owed to another |
| _____ House of Burgesses | I. This document extended English rights to the Virginia settlers |
| _____ Patrick Henry | J. An enslaved African American who served in the Continental Army and successfully requested his freedom after the war |
| _____ Militia | K. Commander-in-Chief of Continental Army |
| _____ James Lafayette | L. The representative government in Great Britain which believed it had the right to tax the colonists |
| _____ Representative | M. Elected first governor of Virginia |
| _____ Indentured Servants | N. Someone who is chosen, or elected, by the people in their area to vote for them in government |

Describing Revolutionary Virginians

SOLs: VS.1d, VS.1g-h, VS.5a-b, VS.6a
English 4.1-4.2 (opt.), English 4.7-4.8; English 5.1-5.2 (opt.), English 5.7-5.8

DIRECTIONS: Using complete sentences, use the words and phrases in the Word Bank below to describe each person. You can use some of the choices more than once.

Choose two of these figures and answer the following questions on the back of this sheet: How are they alike and different? How were their roles in the Revolution alike and different? Why do you think it's important to have people with different strengths, knowledge, and opinions fighting for an important cause?

Patrick Henry



James Lafayette



George Washington



Thomas Jefferson



WORD BANK	Declaration of Independence	Revolutionary War Spy
Liberty or Death	Courageous	First President
Commander-in-Chief	Determined	Intelligent
		Patriot
		Brave
		Freedom
		Hero

Fill-in-the-Blank Synonym Activity

SOLs: VS.5a-b; Reading 4.3

DIRECTIONS: Review the words from the reenactment glossary, then read each sentence. The word after each sentence is a *synonym* of the reenactment word that correctly completes the sentence. Use the words from the Word Bank to complete each sentence. See how many you can answer before checking the glossary!

EXAMPLE: Great Britain often hired _____ mercenary _____ soldiers. (*paid*)

1. Parliament believed patriotic colonists were guilty of _____. (*crime*)
2. The colonists sent many _____ to King George III and his ministry in Great Britain. (*written pleas*)
3. Patrick Henry and other patriots believed that Great Britain's recent actions were deliberate _____. (*abuses*)
4. The Declaration of Independence states that people have a _____ with their government – obedience in exchange for protection. (*promise*)
5. As Commander-in-Chief, George Washington led the Continental Army with great _____. (*courage*)
6. After Lord Dunmore's _____ to bring the House of Burgesses into session, the representatives decided to meet anyway. (*failure*)
7. Loyalists believed that King George III would listen to their _____, and that their troubles would be over. (*pleas*)
8. The burgesses held new elections for the Virginia Conventions _____ the Virginia law. (*according to*)
9. Jefferson, Washington, and other patriots did not _____ to defend their rights and liberties. (*hesitate*)
10. Many believed that the actions of the British ministry did not _____ with their words. (*agree*)
11. Those who agreed with Henry's resolution voted _____. (*yes*)
12. Many who opposed Henry believed he was acting _____. (*quickly*)
13. Patriots _____ the actions of Parliament. (*opposed*)
14. Patrick Henry didn't believe there was any reason to hope for _____ with Great Britain. (*friendship*)

<u>WORD BANK</u>	Provocations	Hastily	Petitions	Deplored
Supplications	Pursuant to	Scruple	Fortitude	Aye
Covenant	Remissness	Comport	Treason	Reconciliation

Examining Patrick Henry’s “Liberty or Death” Speech (pages 14-17)

SOLs: VS.1a-b, VS.1d, VS.5a-b
English 4.1-4.2 (opt.), English 4.4-4.8; English 5.1-5.2 (opt.), English 5.4-5.8

CONTEXT

Patrick Henry made his famous speech during a meeting called the Second Virginia Convention. This meeting was held in March of 1775 at St. John’s Church in Richmond. Henry was trying to convince his fellow delegates, such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, to vote for his resolution to arm the colonial militia.

His resolution stated: “Resolved therefore that this Colony be immediately put into a posture of Defence,” and that there be “a Plan for embodying, arming, and disciplining such a Number of Men as may be sufficient for that purpose.”

Patrick Henry’s speech lists the reasons why he thinks Great Britain has no plans to make peace with the colonies.

DIRECTIONS: Read Henry’s speech and circle the correct reasons listed below that list why he thinks Great Britain is preparing for war against the colonists.

Reasons:

Great Britain wants more corn.

Great Britain has ships and armies nearby, with no other enemy around.

Colonies have tried for ten years to come to agreement over troubles, but Great Britain will not compromise.

Parliament has sent representatives to work out a solution.

The colonies have a representative in Parliament.

Patrick Henry thinks the war has begun in Boston already.

Would *you* have voted for Patrick Henry’s resolution? Why or why not? Remember to use complete sentences, and use the back of this sheet if necessary!

“Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death!” (pages 7-10)
**Speech by Patrick Henry to the Second Virginia Revolutionary Convention
meeting at St. John's Church, Richmond, on March 23, 1775**

No man thinks more highly than I do of the patriotism, as well as abilities, of the very worthy gentlemen who have just addressed the House. But different men often see the same subject in different lights; and, therefore, I hope it will not be thought disrespectful to those gentlemen if, entertaining as I do opinions of a character very opposite to theirs, I shall speak forth my sentiments freely and without reserve.

This is no time for ceremony. The question before the House is one of awful moment to this country. For my own part, I consider it as nothing less than a question of freedom or slavery; and in proportion to the magnitude of the subject ought to be the freedom of the debate. It is only in this way that we can hope to arrive at truth, and fulfill the great responsibility which we hold to God and our country. Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason towards my country, and of an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven, which I revere above all earthly kings.

Mr. President, it is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth, and listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it.

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past. And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry for the last ten years to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace themselves and the House. Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately received?

Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet. Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss.

Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition comports with those warlike preparations which cover our waters and darken our land. Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled that force must be called in to win back our love? Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements of war and subjugation; the last arguments to which kings resort. I ask gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array, if its purpose be not to force us to submission? Can gentlemen assign any other possible motive for it? Has Great Britain any enemy, in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are meant for us: they can be meant for no other. They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging.

And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer upon the subject? Nothing. We have held the subject up in every light of which it is capable; but it has been all in vain. Shall we resort to entreaty and humble supplication? What terms shall we find which have not been already exhausted? Let us not, I beseech you, sir, deceive ourselves. Sir, we have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne!

In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free -- if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending -- if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long

engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained -- we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left us!

They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot?

Sir, we are not weak if we make a proper use of those means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations, and who will raise up friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable -- and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.

It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace -- but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!