



WELCOME!

On behalf of Splash! Publications, we would like to welcome you to *The Continental Congress*, one of nine lessons in our *Early American Government Unit*. This lesson was designed by teachers with you and your students in mind.

THE FORMAT

Our goal is a lesson that you can use immediately. No comprehension questions to write, activities to create, or vocabulary words to define. Simply make copies of the lesson for your students and start teaching.

THE VOCABULARY

Our lessons feature words in bold type. We have included a Glossary to help students pronounce and define the words. Unlike a dictionary, the definitions in the Glossary are concise and written in context. Remember, we're teachers! Students will be exposed to these vocabulary words in the comprehension activities. They will also be tested on the vocabulary words at the end of the lesson.

Students will be responsible for filling out and studying their vocabulary cards. You may want to have students bring in a small box for storing their vocabulary cards. We don't have to tell you that incorporating these words into your Reading and Spelling programs will save time and make the words more meaningful for students.

THE LESSON PLAN

Before reading *The Continental Congress*, students will:

- complete Vocabulary Cards for **abolish**, **architects**, **Continental Army**, **defeating**, **delegates**, **harbor**, **Intolerable Acts**, **loyalty**, **military**, **militia**, **minuteman**, **Patriots**, **Proclamation Line**, **repealed**, **Revolutionary War**.

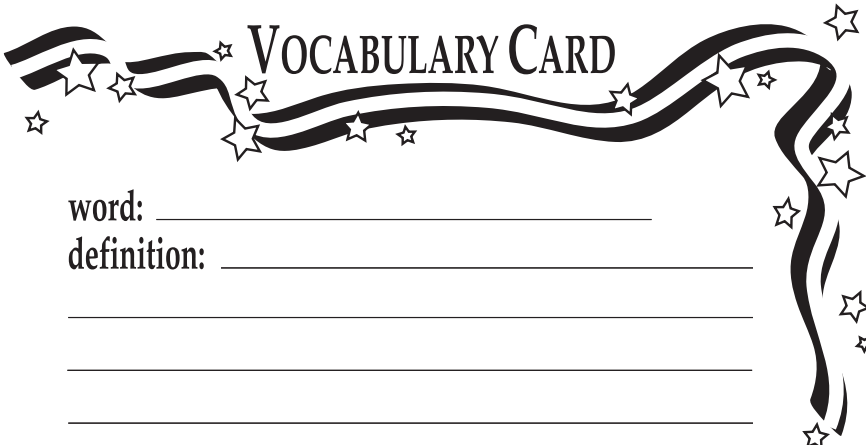
After reading *The Continental Congress*, students will:

- answer *The Continental Congress* Reading Comprehension Questions.
- complete *The Continental Congress* Discussion Questions.
- follow written directions to construct a model of Carpenter's Hall.
- take a Vocabulary Quiz for *The Continental Congress*.

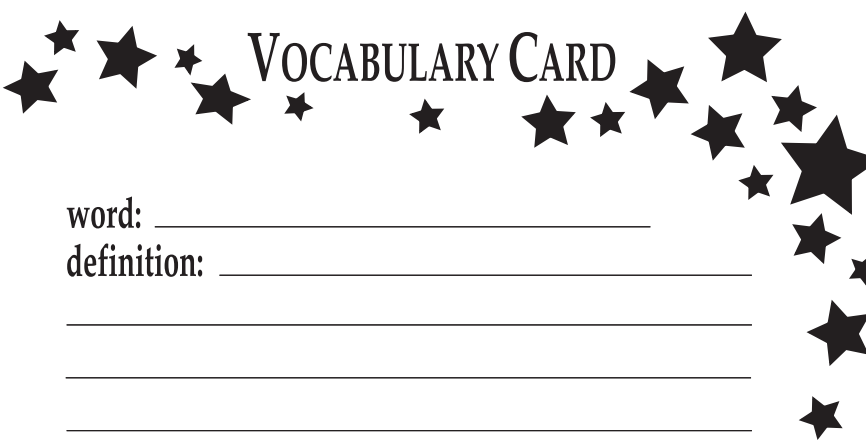
NOTE: The answers to all activities and quizzes are at the end of the lesson.

OUR OTHER EARLY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT LESSONS

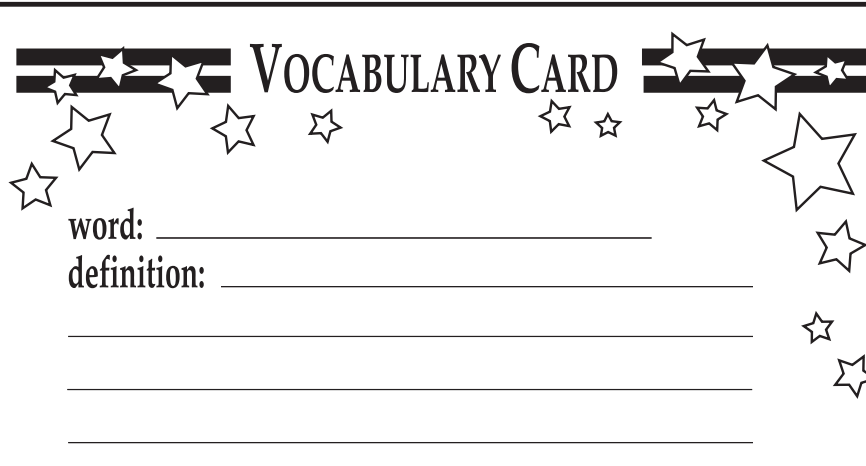
Government, First Governments in America, The French and Indian War, Great Britain's Taxes, The Continental Congress, The Declaration of Independence, The Article of Confederation, The United States Constitution, and The Bill of Rights.

 **VOCABULARY CARD**

word: _____
definition: _____

 **VOCABULARY CARD**

word: _____
definition: _____

 **VOCABULARY CARD**

word: _____
definition: _____



THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

During the ten year period between 1763 and 1773, the **colonists** in America had been punished by Great Britain's **Proclamation Line**, unfair taxes, and unwanted soldiers. In 1774, Great Britain closed the Boston **Harbor**. The colonists were afraid that if they didn't do something soon, Great Britain would take complete control of their lives forever.

THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

On September 5, 1774, twelve of the thirteen colonies sent representatives to the First Continental Congress. The meeting was held at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia. The colonists needed to decide what to do about Great Britain's cruel treatment. The leaders of the meeting included Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, and future presidents George Washington and John Adams.

The representatives were all in agreement that Great Britain's taxes and treatment were unfair. They were not in agreement about what to do. Pennsylvania and New York sent **delegates** to find a solution to the problems and make peace with Great Britain. Georgia didn't even send a representative. It was under constant attack by Native Americans and needed the help of British soldiers. The rest of the delegates were split between finding a solution and separating from Great Britain.

In the end, the representatives voted to end all trade with Great Britain until the **Intolerable Acts** were **repealed**. They wrote letters to King George III, asking him to **abolish** the Intolerable Acts. The representatives of the First Continental Congress told the colonists to begin training for war.

THE BEGINNING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

On April 18, 1775, The first shots of the **Revolutionary War** were fired in Lexington, Massachusetts. British troops dressed in bright red uniforms had marched toward the towns of Lexington and Concord searching for the colonists' hidden weapons and gunpowder. Fortunately, the **minutemen** had been warned by Paul Revere that the British were coming. In a quick battle, three Redcoats and two minutemen were killed.

The British soldiers turned back toward Boston. Along the 16 mile journey, more minutemen fired at them from behind trees and stone fences. Over 200 British Redcoats and 90 American minutemen were wounded or killed during the battle.

THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

After the battles of Lexington and Concord, the colonists knew they needed to get organized to have any chance of defeating Great Britain. On May 10, 1775, delegates of the Second Continental Congress met at the State House in Philadelphia. Sixty five representatives from each of the thirteen original colonies gathered to take control of the war. New delegates included John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, and future president Thomas Jefferson.

Representative John Adams wanted to organize a **Continental Army** with troops from each of the thirteen colonies. The Congress asked George Washington to be the commander of the Continental Army. He accepted the job.

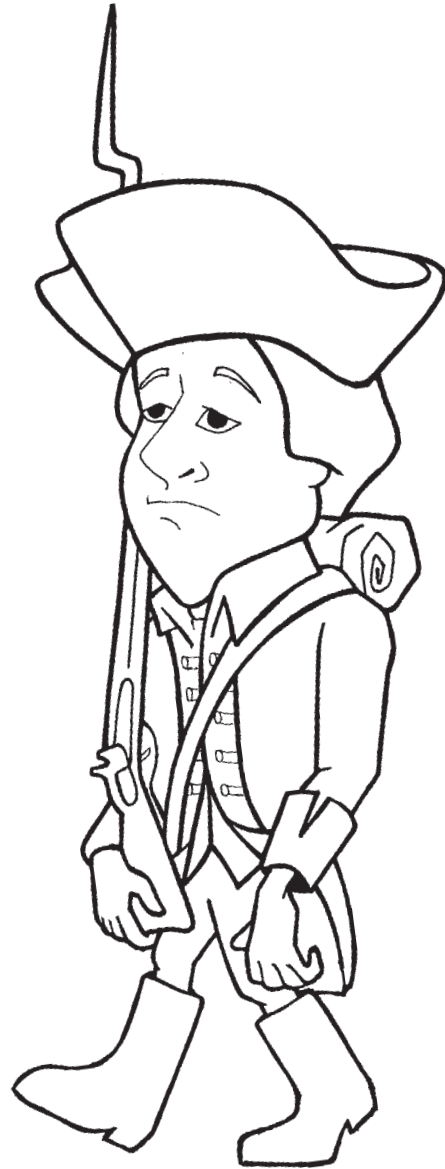
PATRIOTS AND LOYALISTS

General Washington had a difficult job facing him. He traveled to Boston and took charge of the military camps. He found that the **militia** (muh•LIH•shuh) was poorly trained. They didn't have any weapons. The training camps were dirty. If the colonists were going to win this war, they would need money, supplies, and training. Most importantly, the Continental Army needed **loyalty**.

Loyalty proved to be a big problem for General Washington and his Continental Army. Some of the colonists called themselves **Patriots**. The Patriots were willing to support the fight against Great Britain. They volunteered to fight and helped raise money for the war.

Some of the colonists were Loyalists. The Loyalists still supported Great Britain. The Loyalists fought in the British Army, spied on American soldiers, and burned the homes and farms of Patriots.

There were also colonists who didn't take either side and refused to fight at all. General Washington worked hard to pull his army together so they would be ready for battle.



AMERICAN PATRIOT


THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS
★ COMPREHENSION ★


Directions: Read each question carefully. Darken the circle for the correct answer.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Which colony did not send a representative to the First Continental Congress?</p> <p>A New York
B Delaware
C Georgia
D Pennsylvania</p> <p>2 What was this colony's reason for not attending the meeting?</p> <p>F It didn't think there was anything wrong with the way the colonists were being treated.
G It was too far to travel.
H It couldn't decide who to send.
J It was having difficulty with Native Americans and needed Great Britain's help.</p> <p>3 In which colony were the first shots of the Revolutionary War fired?</p> <p>A Massachusetts
B Pennsylvania
C New York
D North Carolina</p> <p>4 About how much time passed between the First Continental Congress and the Second Continental Congress?</p> <p>F Less than a month
G More than a year
H Less than a year
J Less than a week</p> | <p>5 Who was asked to be in charge of the Continental Army?</p> <p>A Benjamin Franklin
B Thomas Jefferson
C George Washington
D John Adams</p> <p>6 When the commander of the Continental Army visited the military camps in Boston, he found that –</p> <p>F the soldiers were well trained
G the soldiers had plenty of weapons
H he would need to find a way to spend all of the money that had been given to him to train the soldiers
J the soldiers were poorly trained</p> <p>7 If you had been a Patriot, you <u>probably</u> would have –</p> <p>A fought for Great Britain
B fought in the Continental Army
C refused to fight
D fought in the British Army</p> |
|---|--|

READING

Answers

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 5 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2 (F) (G) (H) (J) | 6 (F) (G) (H) (J) |
| 3 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 7 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4 (F) (G) (H) (J) | |

★ ★ ★ LET'S TALK ABOUT IT ★ ★ ★

THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

The Continental Congress met twice to discuss how to handle Great Britain's unfair treatment of the colonists. Read the questions below about the Continental Congress. Write your answers on the lines provided. Attach a separate piece of paper if you need more room. Be ready to discuss some of your answers.

- **During the First Continental Congress, the representatives weren't sure that they wanted to take action against Great Britain.**

If you had been a representative of the First Continental Congress, would you have voted to go to war against Great Britain or try to work out a peaceful agreement? Give reasons for your answer.

- **Loyalty proved to be the biggest problem facing General George Washington and his Continental Army.**

In your opinion, what's worse: someone who fights against you or someone who refuses to choose a side? Explain.

In your own words, describe the difference between a Patriot and a Loyalist.

Patriot: _____

Loyalist: _____



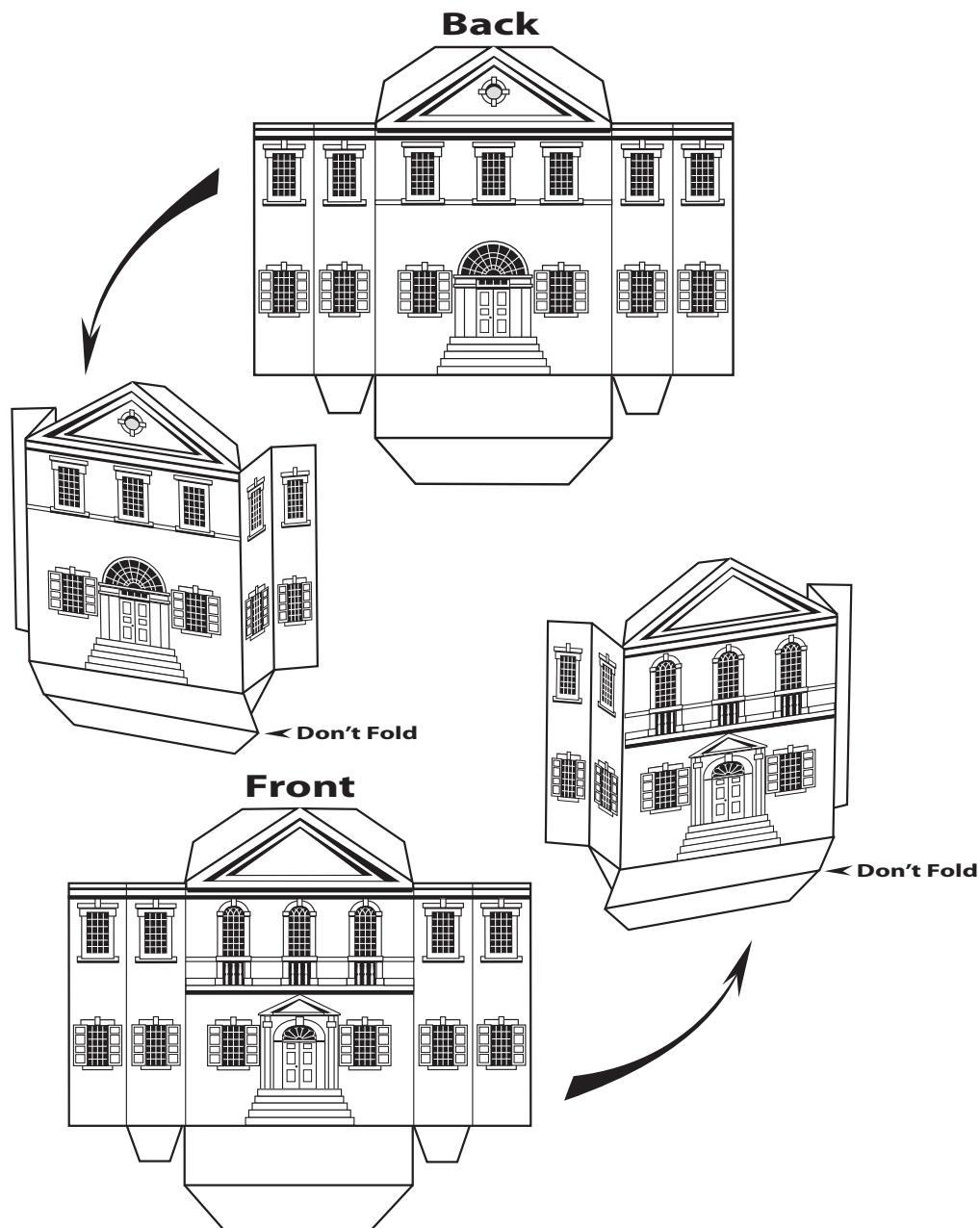
CARPENTER'S HALL MODEL



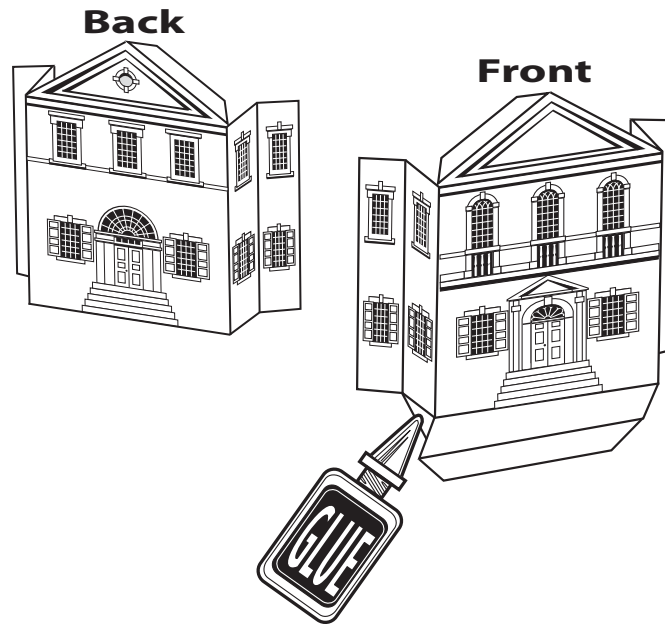
In 1774, representatives from twelve of the thirteen original colonies met in Philadelphia at Carpenter's Hall. After the historic meeting, the representatives told the colonists to prepare for war with Great Britain. Seven months later, the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired. Today, Carpenter's Hall still stands in Philadelphia. It is part of the Independence National Historic Park.

In this activity, you will follow written directions to make a model of Carpenter's Hall.

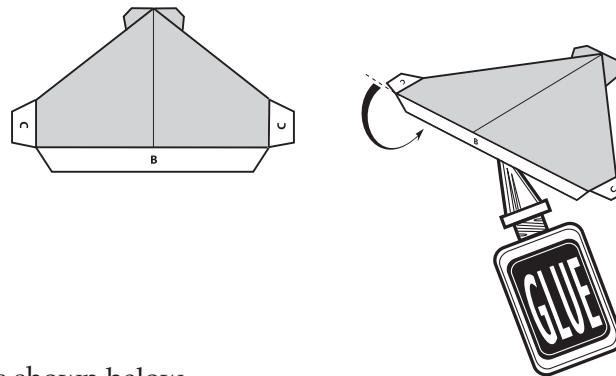
1. Cut out the Front and Back Carpenter's Hall patterns and fold as shown.



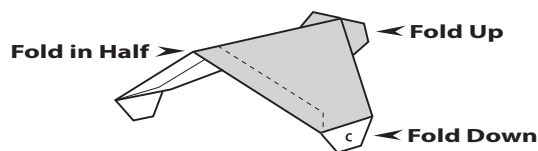
2. As shown below, fold and glue down A Tabs on both the Front and Back Carpenter's Hall patterns.



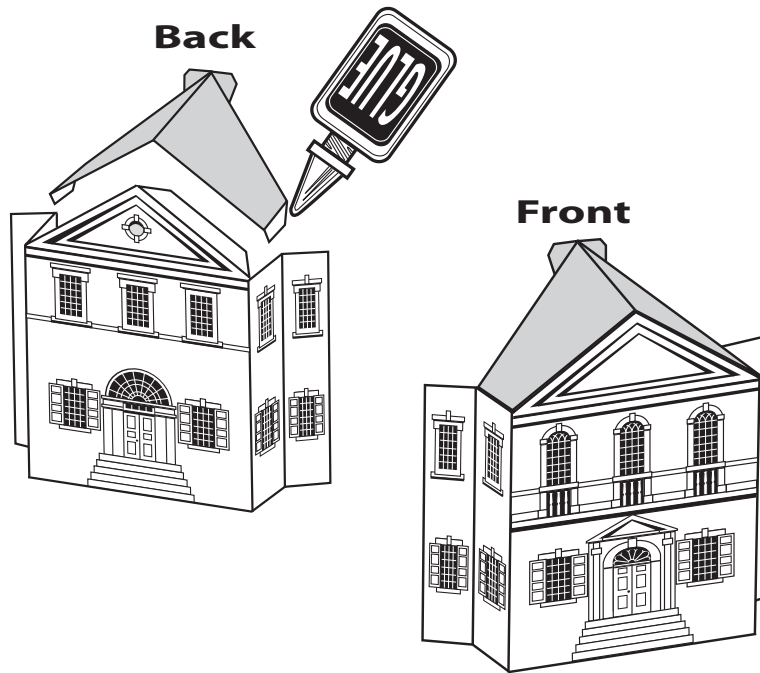
3. Cut out the Front and Back roof patterns. Fold under and glue B Tab to the underside of each roof.



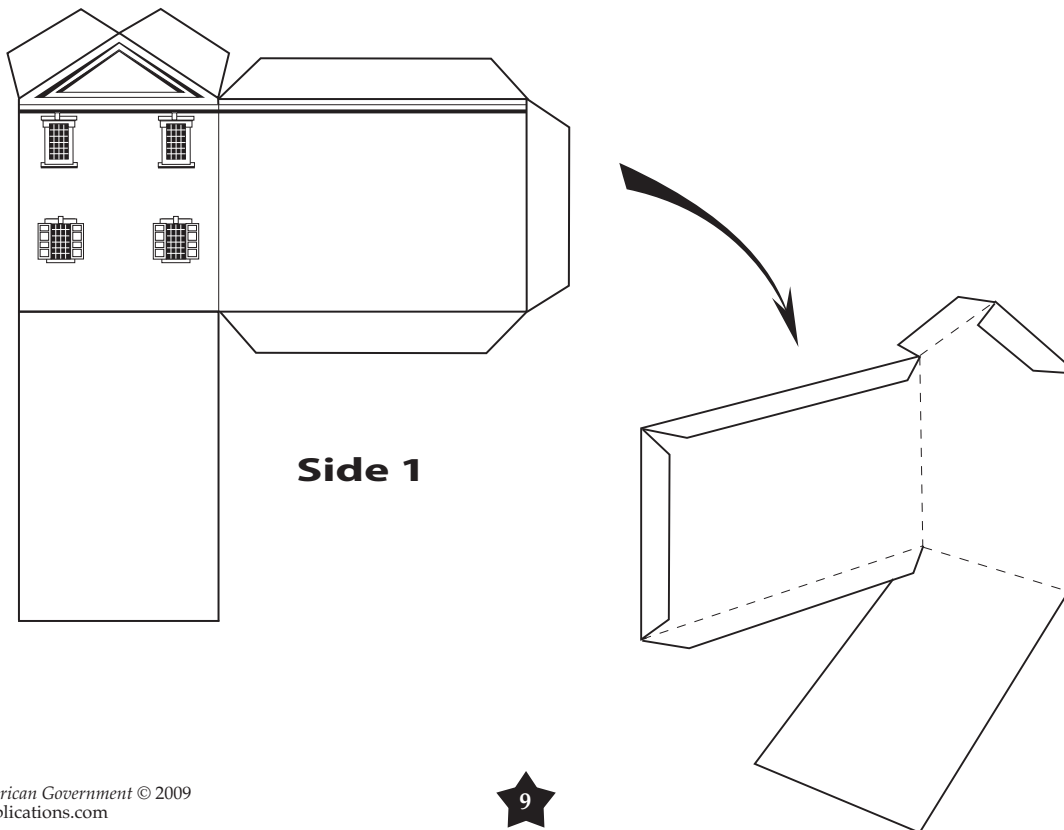
4. Fold each of the two roof patterns as shown below.



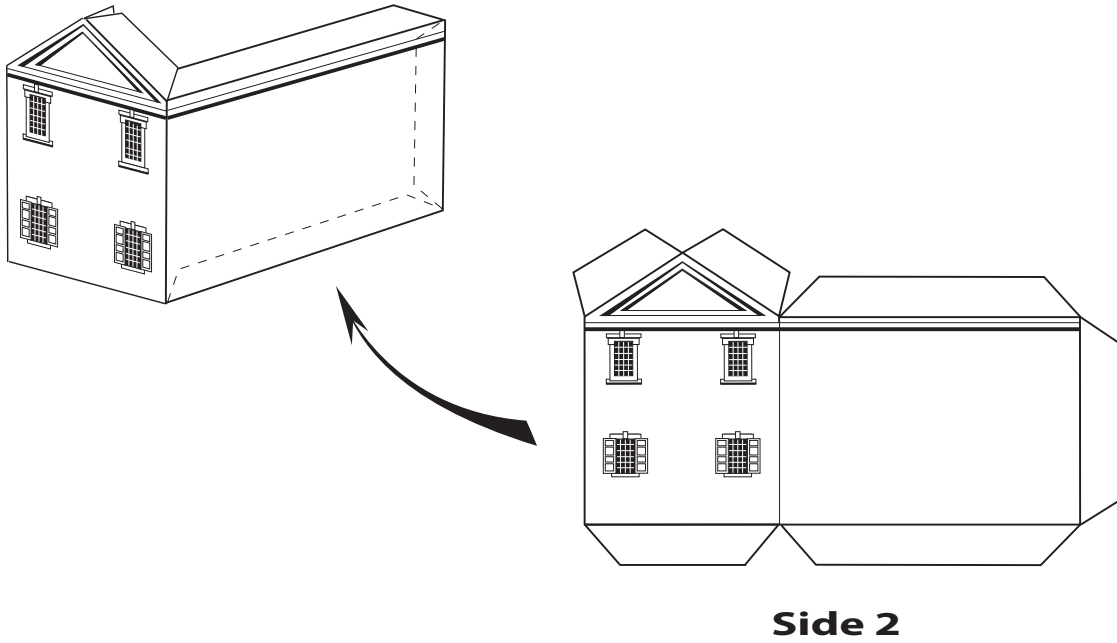
5. As shown below, use glue to attach one roof on the front of Carpenter's Hall. Glue the other roof to the back of Carpenter's Hall. Set the front and back pieces aside for later.



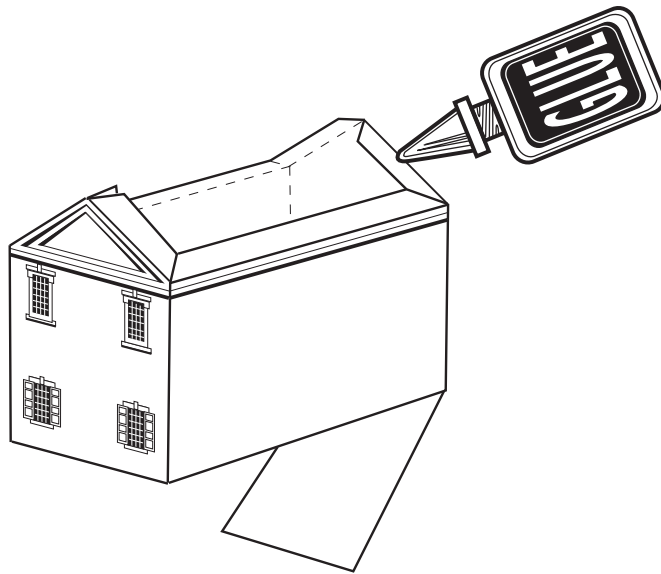
6. Cut out Side 1 and fold as shown below.



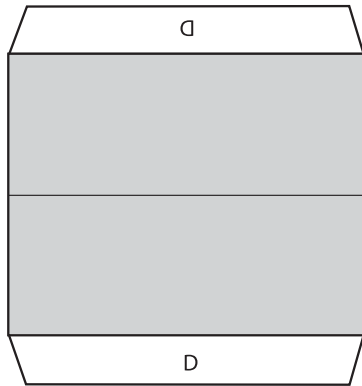
7. Cut out Side 2 and fold as shown below.



8. Glue Side 1 to Side 2. **Do not glue the floor yet.**

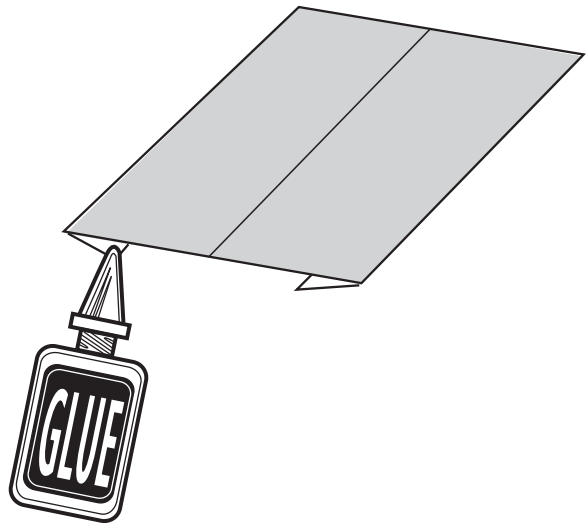


9. Cut out Side Roof.

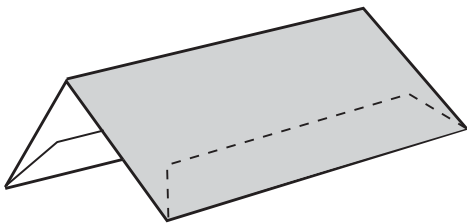


Side Roof

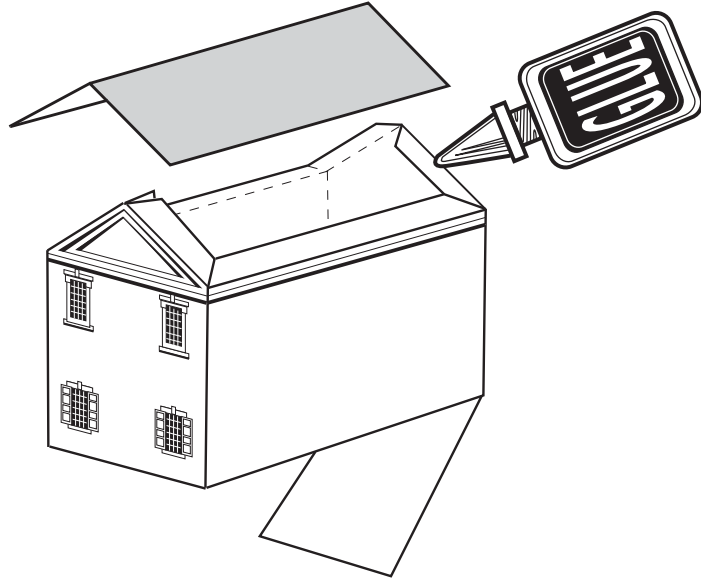
10. Fold both D Tabs under and glue.



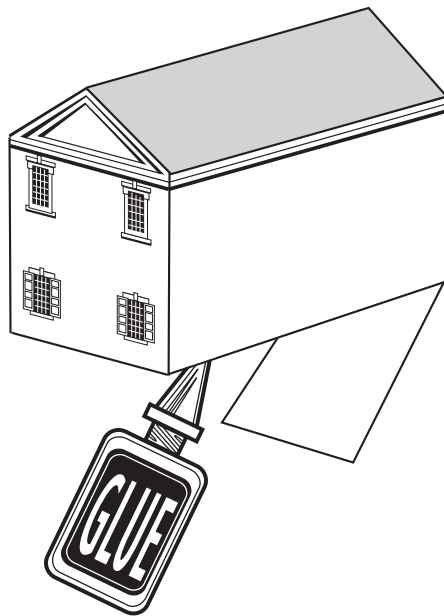
11. Fold Side Roof in half as shown below.



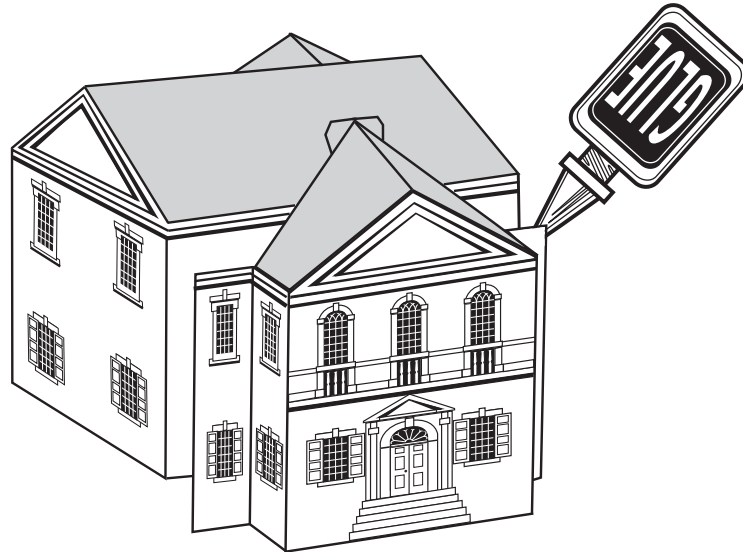
- 12.** Glue Side Roof on top of Carpenter's Hall as shown below.
(HINT: push your hand up through the open floor to help you attach the Roof.)



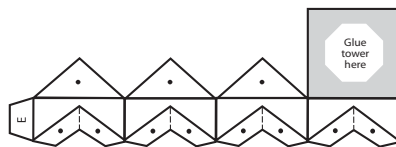
- 13.** Glue the floor to the bottom of Carpenter's Hall as shown below.



- 14.** Glue the Front and Back of Carpenter's Hall to the Sides as shown below.
(The Tabs that stick out on the bottom should be glued to the bottom of the floor.)

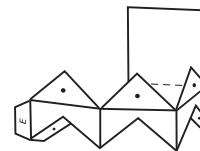


- 15.** Cut out the Tower Base.
(Don't forget to cut on the dotted lines, too!)



Tower Base

- 16.** Fold all of the Tabs with dots under.
Fold solid black lines into a square as shown below.



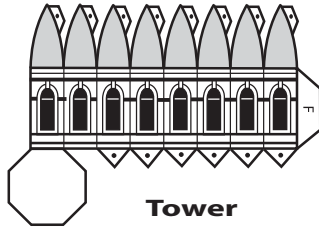
- 17.** Complete the square by gluing Tab E to the opposite side.



- 18.** As a final step, glue the top of the square to the triangle-shaped tabs.



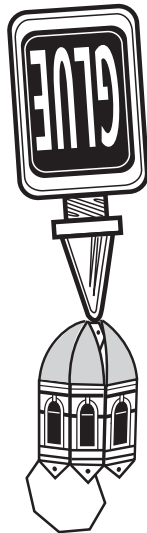
19. Cut out the Tower.



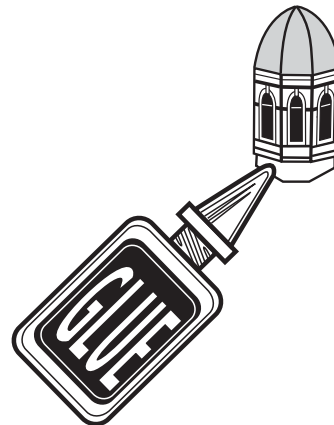
20. Fold Tab F and glue it to the opposite side as shown. **Do not fold the triangle-shaped tabs.**



21. Glue flag-shaped tabs to one another to form Dome. (HINT: push your finger into the bottom of the Dome for support while you glue.)



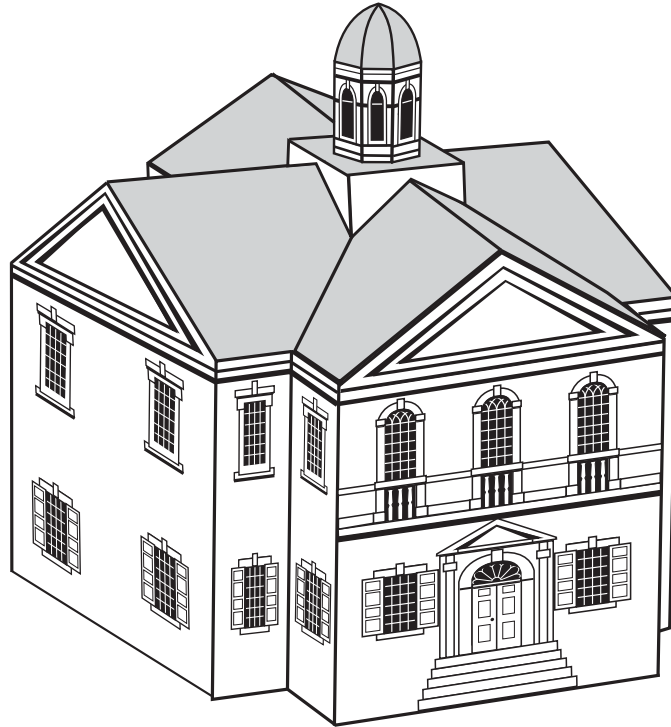
22. Glue bottom of Dome to triangle-shaped tabs. Allow Dome to dry before going to the next step.



23. Glue Dome to the Tower Base.



24. Glue Dome on top of Carpenter's Hall as shown below.

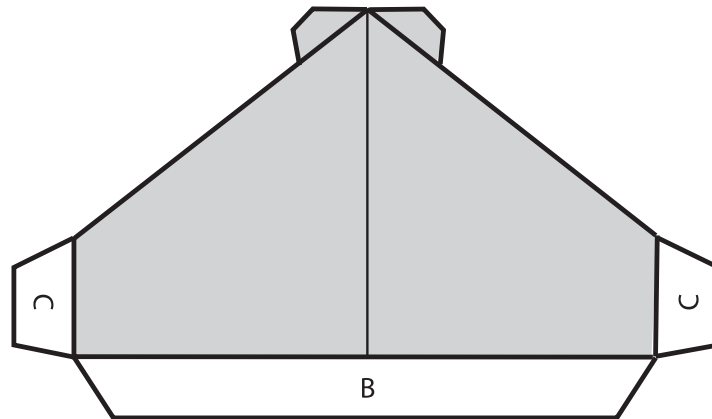
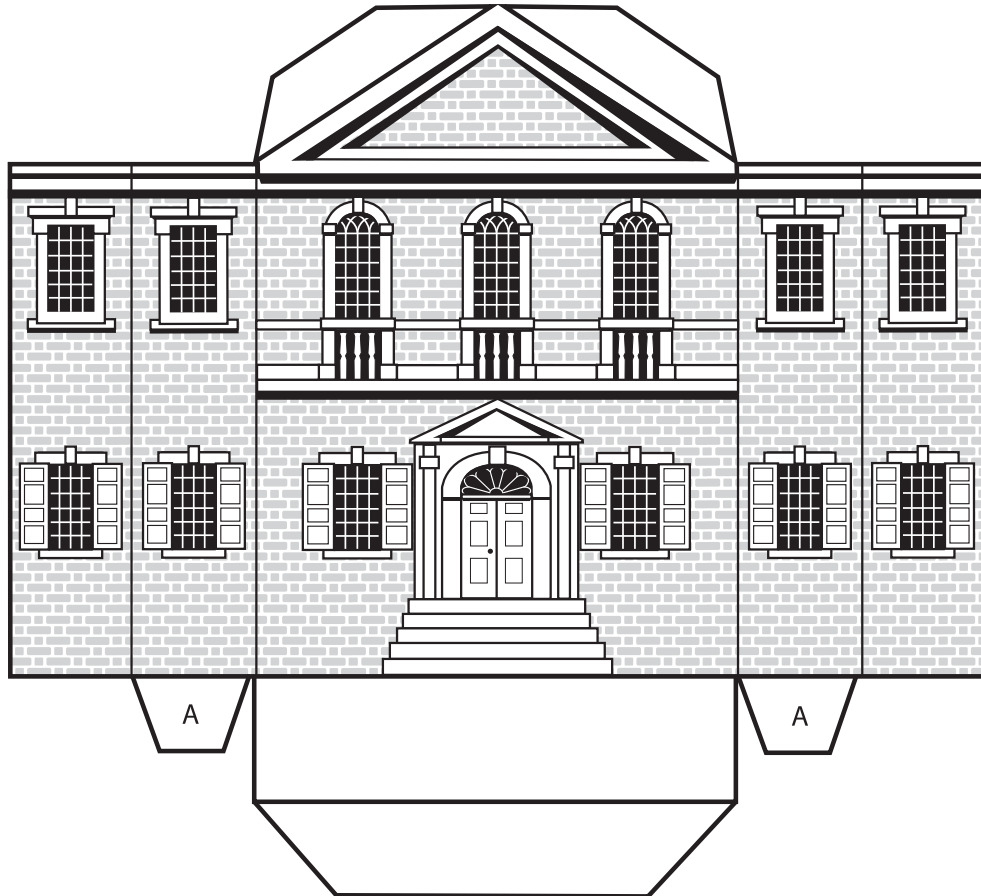


FAST FACTS

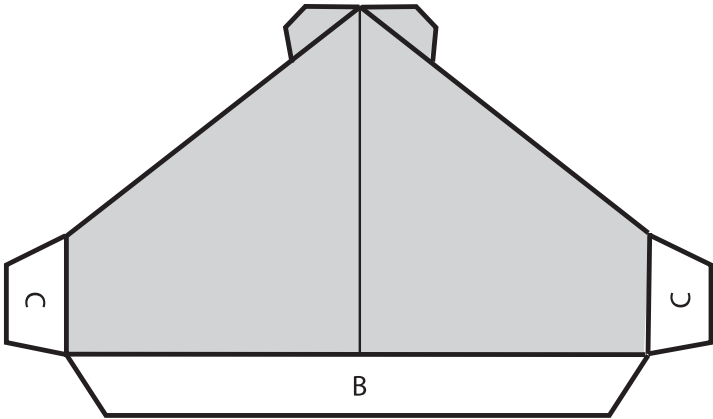
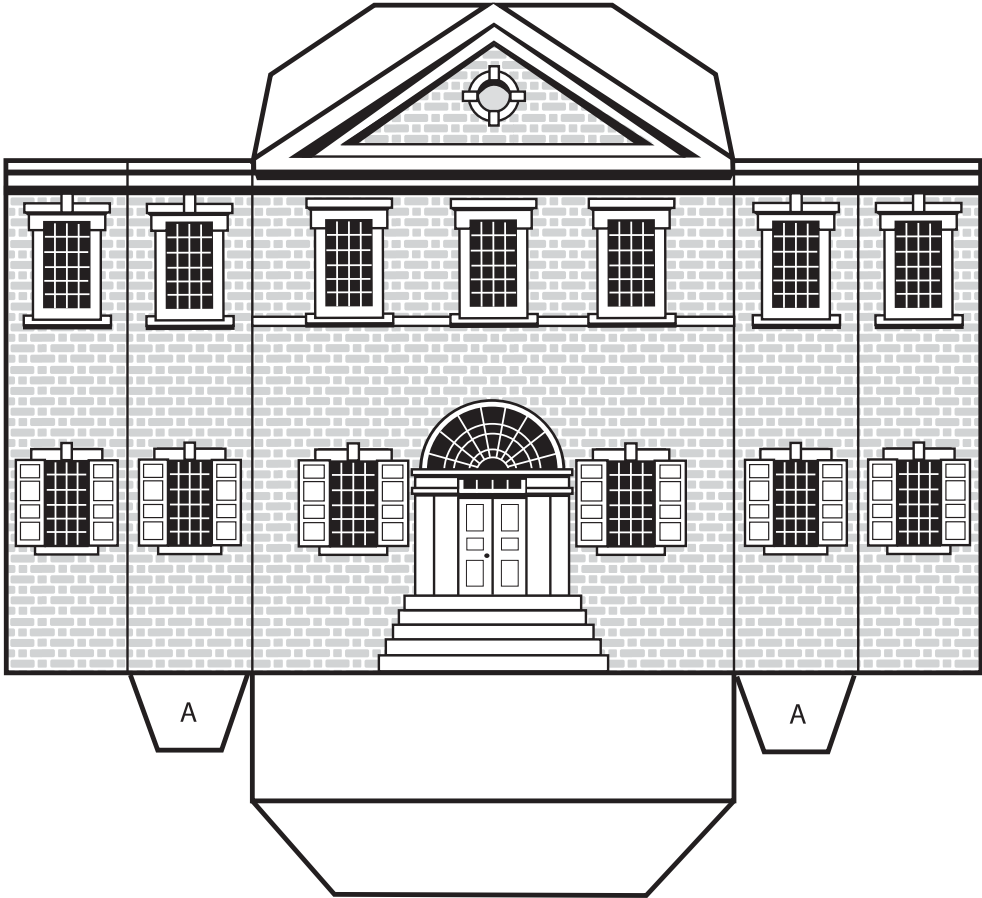
- ★ Carpenter's Hall was built in 1724 by Robert Smith of the Carpenters' Company. Smith built Carpenter's Hall as a place where **architects**, builders, and craftsmen could gather to share ideas about the art of building.
- ★ Carpenter's Hall was chosen as the meeting place for the First Continental Congress because the representatives wanted to keep the meeting private. The State House, where most important meetings were held, was full of Loyalists who might overhear the colonists planning for war.
- ★ During the Revolutionary War, Carpenter's Hall was used as a hospital and to store weapons for the colonists fighting against Great Britain.
- ★ Today, visitors to Carpenter Hall will find eight of the actual chairs used by members of the First Continental Congress.

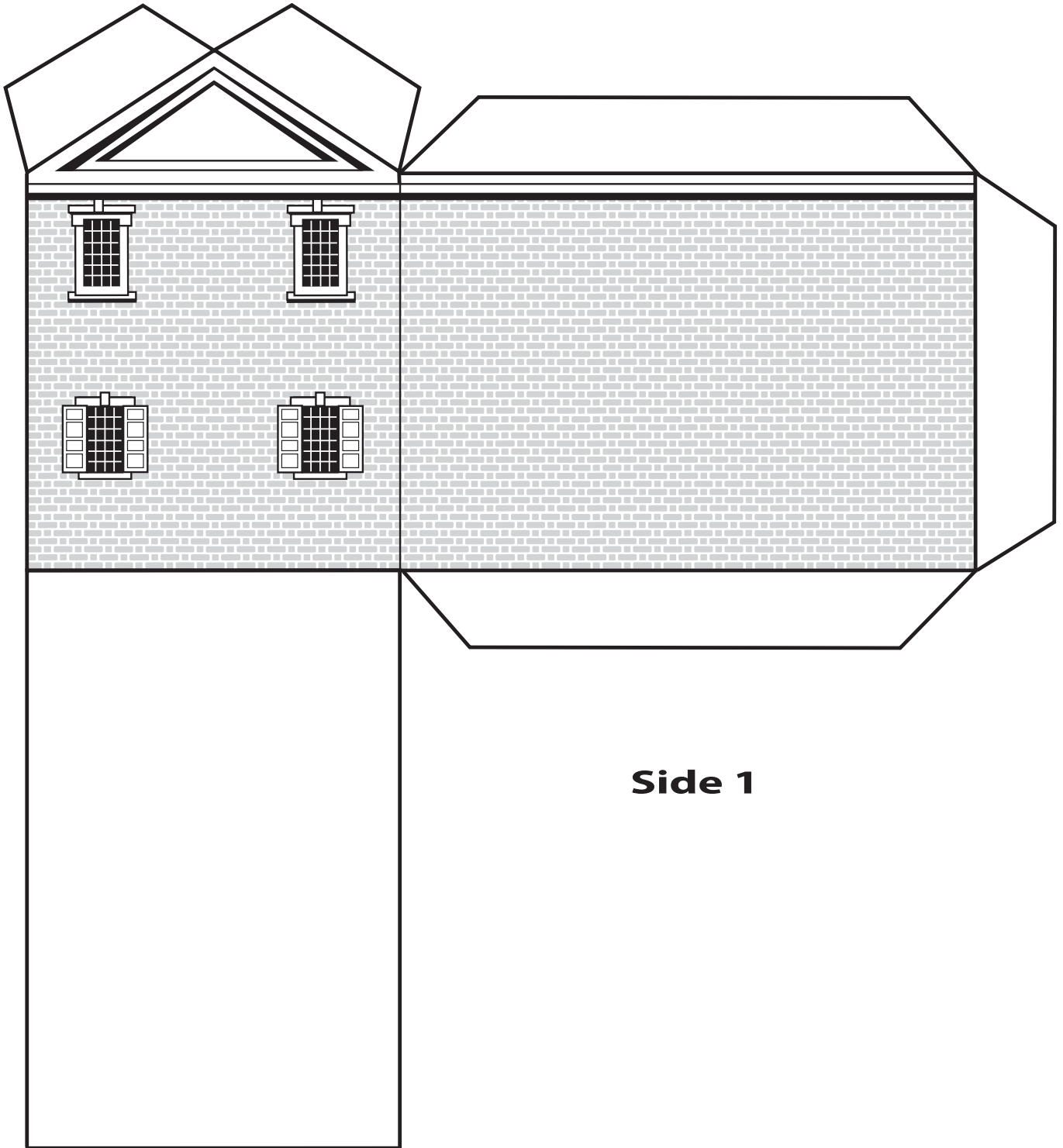
CARPENTER'S HALL PATTERNS

Front

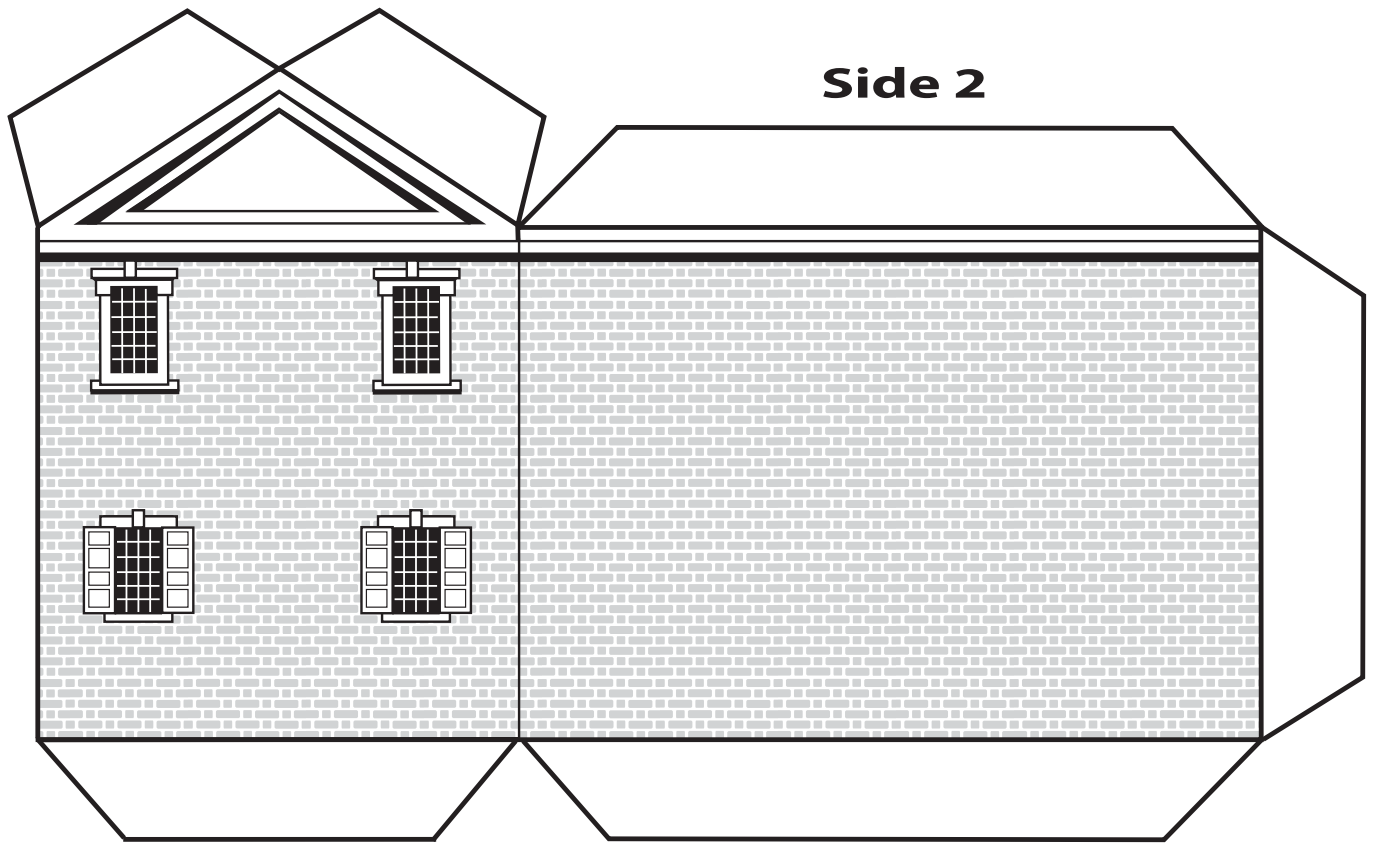


Back

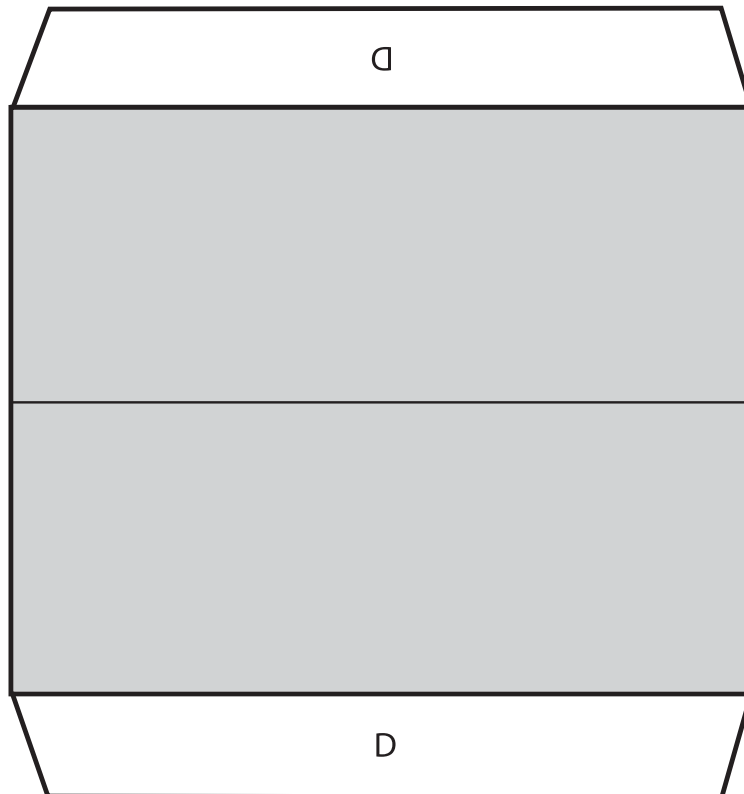


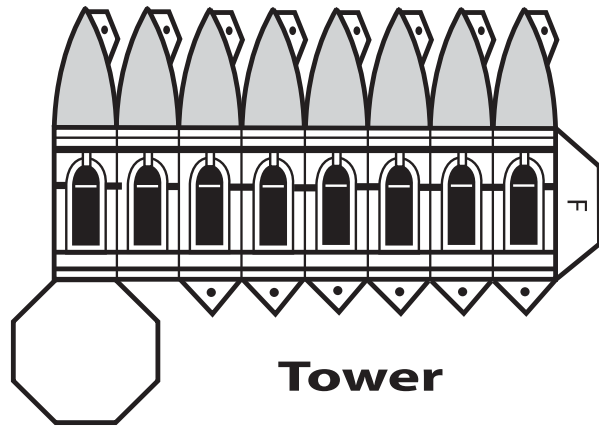


Side 1

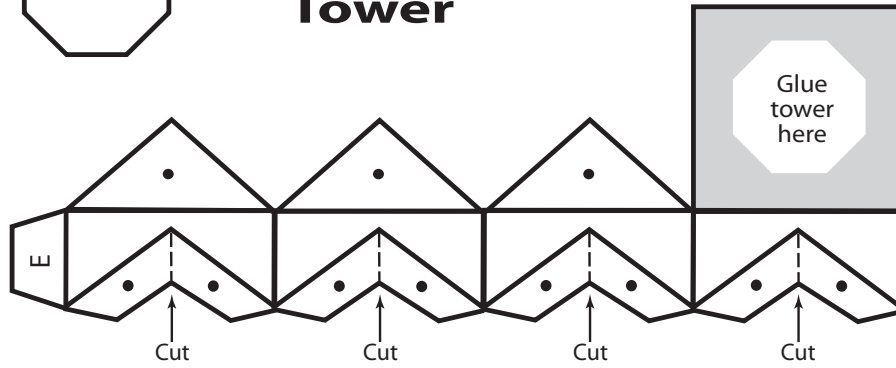


Side Roof





Tower



Tower Base

☆ ★ ☆ ★ ★ **VOCABULARY QUIZ** ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ★

THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

Directions: Match the vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right. Put the letter for the definition on the blank next to the vocabulary word it matches. Use each word and definition only once.

1. _____ Continental Army

2. _____ abolish

3. _____ Patriots

4. _____ architects

5. _____ defeating

6. _____ repealed

7. _____ Proclamation Line

8. _____ militia

9. _____ minutemen

10. _____ military

11. _____ loyalty

12. _____ delegates

13. _____ Intolerable Acts

14. _____ harbor

15. _____ Revolutionary War

A. winning victory over.

B. a sheltered area of water deep enough to provide ships a place to anchor.

C. a group of men having some military training who are called upon only in emergencies.

D. American troops that fought against Great Britain during the Revolutionary War.

E. done away with; removed.

F. laws passed by Great Britain in 1774 to punish the colonists for disobeying Great Britain and dumping tea into the Boston Harbor.

G. imaginary line drawn in 1763 by King George III to keep the colonists and the Native Americans separate from each other.

H. people sent with power to represent others.

I. battle for independence between the English colonists in America and Great Britain.

J. people who supported the United States during the Revolutionary War.

K. stop or put an end to.

L. people who are part of the armed forces who may be asked to go to war.

M. faithfulness.

N. groups of armed men who were prepared to fight on a minute's notice during the Revolutionary War.

O. people who design buildings.





GLOSSARY

a•bol•ish stop or put an end to.

ar•chi•tects people who design buildings.

Con•ti•nen•tal Ar•my American troops that fought against Great Britain during the Revolutionary War.

de•feat•ing winning victory over.

del•e•gates people sent with power to represent others.

har•bor a sheltered area of water deep enough to provide ships a place to anchor.

In•tol•er•a•ble Acts laws passed by Great Britain in 1774 to punish the colonists for disobeying Great Britain and dumping tea into the Boston Harbor.

loy•al•ty faithfulness.

mil•i•tar•y people who are part of the armed forces who may be asked to go to war.

mi•li•tia a group of men having some military training who are called upon only in emergencies.

min•ute•men groups of armed men who were prepared to fight on a minute's notice during the Revolutionary War.

Pa•tri•ots people who supported the United States during the Revolutionary War.

Proc•la•ma•tion Line imaginary line drawn in 1763 by King George III to keep the colonists and the Native Americans separate from each other.

re•pealed done away with; removed.

Rev•o•lu•tion•ar•y War battle for independence between the English colonists in America and Great Britain.



ANSWERS

ANSWERS TO COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. C
2. J
3. A
4. H
5. C
6. J
7. B

ANSWERS TO VOCABULARY QUIZ

1. D
2. K
3. J
4. O
5. A
6. E
7. G
8. C
9. N
10. L
11. M
12. H
13. F
14. B
15. I