

## CHALLENGE PROJECTS

**Introduction** You are beginning an adventure in participatory education in which you will learn about the American Revolution: the debate that culminated in The Declaration of Independence. These Challenge Projects will deepen your understanding of the Revolution.

**Directions** Work on one of the following during your spare time inside or outside class. If you wish to do some project other than those listed below, make sure it is related to the period 1763-1776. Clear any project you think up on your own with your teacher. Your teacher will set aside a day or two for students to explain or demonstrate their work.

### Speaking

- Read a novel, biography, or autobiography set during the 1763-1776 period. Ask another student to interview you as you role-play the main character. Explain the origin of your views on independence.
- Bring actual artifacts of the revolutionary period to class. Explain each to the class.
- Use an encyclopedia or history of art to find out about colonial architecture and art. Give an illustrated talk for your class.
- Give a report contrasting the *Declaration of Independence* with the *Communist Manifesto*.

### Videotaping

- Make a 3-4 minute video with your own or the school's camcorder to create a story about the Revolution. Keep it simple. Don't try to make your story too elaborate. Maybe show how the life of one revolutionary changed because of his or her political views (e.g., how a spouse or children affected the person's life).

### Writing

- Make a "Who's Who" in Colonial America. Try to include a wide range of fields (e.g., science, government, art, and literature).
- Write an original short story set during the First Continental Congress.
- Write about the contributions of women to the revolutionary movement.
- Write a book report based upon a novel, biography, or autobiography from the Revolutionary period.

### Model-making

- Make a diorama of a Revolutionary event.
- Make a model of Independence Hall or another famous building of this time period.
- Construct a model of a ship from this historical period.

### Singing

- Research the music of Colonial America. Then bring in your instrument (guitar, banjo, fiddle) or an accompanist and sing several songs and explain what they meant to Colonial Americans.
- After studying songs of the 1763-1776 period, compose an original colonial song and sing it to the class with musical accompaniment.

### Dancing

- Research early American dancing. Then stage a Minuet Ball, explaining the dancing.

### Illustrating

- Make a series of drawings to show the interior of a colonial home.
- Draw a series of cartoons illustrating a certain event or satirizing a group of people during the Revolutionary period.
- Draw a map of the colonies. Include the major population centers and areas of political activity.
- Make a time line showing the important events and developments which led to the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*.

### Cooking

- Prepare a colonial food for the class.