

Revolutionary Roles

Trace how different founders advanced the Patriot cause.

SS.8.A.3.3 "Recognize the contributions of the Founding Fathers (e.g., John Adams, Sam Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, George Mason, George Washington) during American Revolutionary efforts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each Founding Father's name and underline the words that tell what that person did to support Revolutionary efforts.

Many Paths to Independence

- ① American Revolutionary efforts depended on people who organized protests, argued for independence, raised money, and led armies. In Boston, Samuel Adams helped organize resistance to British policies and promoted colonial rights. John Hancock, a wealthy merchant and president of the Second Continental Congress, used his influence to support the Patriot cause. Benjamin Franklin served in Congress, helped write the Declaration of Independence, and traveled to France. There he helped win French financial and military support, which strengthened the American war effort.
- ② Some founders shaped the new nation's political goals. Thomas Jefferson was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, which explained why the colonies should separate from Britain. George Mason helped write Virginia's Declaration of Rights, supporting individual liberties. James Madison served in Virginia's revolutionary government and later in the Continental Congress. These men used writing, debate, and public service to state Revolutionary ideas about rights and self-government before and during the struggle.
- ③ Other founders took visible roles in directing the Revolution. George Washington accepted command of the Continental Army and kept it together through difficult campaigns. John Adams argued strongly for independence in the Continental Congress and later helped negotiate the peace treaty with Britain. Alexander Hamilton served as Washington's aide during the war, then commanded troops at Yorktown. Their contributions were different, but each supported the Revolutionary effort through leadership, military service, diplomacy, or a persuasive voice in government.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Benjamin Franklin's work in France strengthen the American war effort?

2 How were Thomas Jefferson's and George Mason's contributions alike, and how were they different?

3 Which founder commanded the Continental Army, and what challenge did he face during the Revolution?

4 What two roles did John Adams take during Revolutionary efforts?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two of these founders: Samuel Adams, John Hancock, or James Madison. Write three sentences explaining what each person contributed and how their different actions supported the Revolutionary effort.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each Founding Father's name and underline the words that tell what that person did to support Revolutionary efforts. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Benjamin Franklin's work in France strengthen the American war effort?	He helped win French financial and military support for the Americans.
2	How were Thomas Jefferson's and George Mason's contributions alike, and how were they different?	Both used writing to support Revolutionary ideas. Jefferson was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, while Mason helped write Virginia's Declaration of Rights.
3	Which founder commanded the Continental Army, and what challenge did he face during the Revolution?	George Washington commanded the Continental Army and kept it together through difficult campaigns.
4	What two roles did John Adams take during Revolutionary efforts?	He argued for independence in the Continental Congress and helped negotiate the peace treaty with Britain.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Samuel Adams organized resistance to British policies and promoted colonial rights. John Hancock used his influence as a merchant and Congress president to support the Patriot cause. Adams built resistance, while Hancock gave influential support to the cause.

Accept accurate explanations based on the passage that name two selected founders, state each contribution, and connect the contributions to Revolutionary efforts. Wording may vary.