

Revolutionary Roles

Trace how individuals supported independence in different ways.

8.4.B “explain the roles played by significant individuals during the American Revolution, including Abigail Adams, John Adams, Wentworth Cheswell, Samuel Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, James Armistead, Benjamin Franklin, Crispus Attucks...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle every individual's name and underline the words that explain that person's role, so you can compare the different ways people supported the Revolution.

Many Paths to Revolution

- ① Revolutionary resistance grew before fighting began. In Boston, Samuel Adams helped organize opposition to British policies, while Crispus Attucks was killed in the 1770 Boston Massacre, becoming a symbol of resistance. Patrick Henry's speeches urged Virginians to defend liberty. Mercy Otis Warren wrote plays and pamphlets that criticized British rule. Wentworth Cheswell, a New Hampshire patriot and local leader, carried messages and supported the revolutionary cause. In London, King George III backed Britain's effort to keep control of the colonies.
- ② As independence gained support, Thomas Paine published *Common Sense*, using plain language to argue for separation. Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, stating reasons for independence. John Adams argued for independence in Congress and helped win support for the new nation abroad. His wife, Abigail Adams, managed the family farm and finances during his absences and urged him to remember women's rights in letters. Benjamin Franklin served as a diplomat in France, helping secure French alliance and aid.
- ③ Military success depended on leadership, information, and allies. George Washington commanded the Continental Army, holding it together through severe shortages and defeats. The Marquis de Lafayette volunteered from France, served as a major general, and strengthened French support for the Americans. James Armistead, an enslaved Virginia man who worked as a spy for the Americans, gathered crucial information about British plans at Yorktown. These people filled different roles, from commander and ally to writer, organizer, diplomat, and intelligence agent.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Samuel Adams and Mercy Otis Warren each challenge British rule?

2 What did John Adams and Abigail Adams do while the Revolution was developing?

3 How did Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson help make the case for independence?

4 Explain how George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, and James Armistead supported the military effort.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write 80 to 100 words explaining how three individuals from the passage contributed in different ways to the Revolution. Name each person, describe each role, and explain how those roles supported the revolutionary cause.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle every individual's name and underline the words that explain that person's role, so you can compare the different ways people supported the Revolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Samuel Adams and Mercy Otis Warren each challenge British rule?	Samuel Adams organized opposition to British policies. Mercy Otis Warren wrote plays and pamphlets criticizing British rule.
2	What did John Adams and Abigail Adams do while the Revolution was developing?	John Adams argued for independence in Congress and helped gain support abroad. Abigail Adams managed the family farm and finances and wrote letters urging him to remember women's rights.
3	How did Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson help make the case for independence?	Paine published <i>Common Sense</i>, which argued for separation. Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, stating reasons for independence.
4	Explain how George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, and James Armistead supported the military effort.	Washington commanded the Continental Army. Lafayette served as a major general and strengthened French support. Armistead spied for the Americans and gathered information about British plans at Yorktown.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Samuel Adams organized opposition to British policies, helping colonists act together before the war. Benjamin Franklin worked in France as a diplomat, and his efforts helped the United States gain French alliance and aid. James Armistead gathered information about British plans at Yorktown while serving as an American spy. Adams built resistance, Franklin gained an overseas ally, and Armistead supplied intelligence. Their different roles show that the Revolution depended on organizers, diplomats, and people who provided military information when choices mattered.

Accept equivalent descriptions of each person's role that match the passage. For the open response, accept any three passage figures if the student accurately explains distinct contributions in 80 to 100 words.