Social Studies NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Wardell

 HOUR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**First Continental Congress**

**Who met?**  Representatives from 12 of the 13 colonies

**Why did they meet?** Because colonists feared the British would do anything, even use their army to make the colonists obey the laws.

**What did they decide?**

1. To stop all trade with Britain
2. To no longer obey British laws when the laws took away their liberty as citizens.
3. If the demands for colonial rights were not met, the congress would meet again in 8 months (in the spring)

**Second Continental Congress**

**Who met?** Representatives from the 13 colonies

**Why did they meet?** Because a battle had been fought (at Lexington and Concord) and the 8 months had passed and things were worse.

**What were some things they decided to do?**

1. Form a colonial army, called the Continental Army, and choose it’s leader, George Washington.
2. Form a committee to write a document to declare independence from Britain.
3. After a few months, they approved The Declaration of Independence, and later signed it.

**The Declaration of Independence**

**What did it say?**

 **Part I:** When a separation is necessary, it is correct to tell the reasons why.

**Part 2:** That all men are created equal and have rights that cannot be taken away from them, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

**Part 3:** It listed the MANY unfair things King George III and Parliament had done, including placing heavy taxes on the colonists, and then stated that the king was “unfit to be the ruler of a free people”.

**Part 4:** For all of these reasons, the 13 colonies are no longer a part of Britain. They declared themselves free and independent states.

**When was it approved?** July 4, 1776

**Who wrote it?** Thomas Jefferson wrote most of it, with some changes by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.