

Basic knowledge of history (intermediate level)



Name: _____

Date: _____



Info

This worksheet provides you with basic knowledge about important events and developments in history. It will help you better understand historical contexts and create a solid foundation for further learning. Have fun discovering the past!

Assignment

Read through the text and then answer the questions. Please note that the answers in the web version are only suggested solutions.

Founding Fathers

Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers. Source: Wikipedia

The **Founding Fathers** of the United States were a group of influential leaders who played pivotal roles in the American Revolution and the establishment of the United States. These individuals were instrumental in uniting the Thirteen Colonies, leading the War of Independence against Great Britain, and crafting the foundational documents of the nation, including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

The journey of the Founding Fathers began in the mid-18th century when discontent with British rule grew among the American colonies. This period was marked by increasing taxation and lack of representation in the British Parliament. The slogan "No taxation without representation" became a rallying cry for the colonists.

In 1776, the Continental Congress, a body representing the colonies, convened and took a monumental step by adopting the **Declaration of Independence**. This document, primarily authored by Thomas Jefferson, declared the colonies' independence from Britain and outlined the principles of liberty, equality, and the pursuit of happiness.

One of the most significant figures among the Founding Fathers was **George Washington**. Washington served as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. His leadership and strategic acumen were crucial in securing victory over British forces. After the war, Washington's influence continued as he became the first President of the United States, setting many precedents for the new government.

Another key figure was **Benjamin Franklin**. Franklin was a renowned polymath who contributed to various fields, including science, politics, and diplomacy. During the Revolutionary War, he served as a diplomat in France, securing French support which was vital for the American victory. Franklin also played a significant role in the drafting of the Constitution and the formation of the new government. The **Constitution of the United States**, drafted in 1787, established the framework for the federal government and outlined the principles of republicanism and democracy. The Constitution replaced the Articles of Confederation, which had proven inadequate in providing a strong and unified national government. The Convention in Philadelphia brought together delegates from the states, including many Founding Fathers, to create a more effective governing document.

Federalism is a key term associated with the Constitution. Federalism refers to the division of powers between the national government and the states. This system was designed to ensure a balance of power and prevent any single entity from becoming too dominant.

The Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, was added in 1791 to protect individual liberties such as freedom of speech, religion, and the press. These amendments were championed by Founding Fathers like James Madison to ensure that the new government would not infringe upon the rights of its citizens.

The legacy of the Founding Fathers is evident in the principles and institutions that continue to govern the United States. Their vision of a republic based on democratic ideals has endured for over two centuries, shaping the nation's identity and values.

In summary, the Founding Fathers were a group of revolutionary leaders who played critical roles in the American Revolution and the formation of the United States. Through their efforts, they established a nation built on the principles of liberty, democracy, and federalism, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to influence the country today.

Answer the questions using the text.

Who was the main author of the Declaration of Independence?

Thomas Jefferson

What role did George Washington play during the Revolutionary War?

Why was the slogan 'No taxation without representation' important?

What document replaced the Articles of Confederation?

What did Benjamin Franklin do in France during the Revolutionary War?

What is federalism?

Why were the Bill of Rights added to the Constitution?
