John Adams

- Delegate at the Second Continental Congress
- One of five men asked to write the Declaration of Independence/ signer
- Helped write the Treaty of Paris 1783 ending the American Revolution
- Vice President to George Washington
- 2nd President of the United States.
Thomas Paine

- Wrote a 79 page pamphlet, called “Common Sense” informing colonists that it was “common sense” to break away from Britain.
- Inspired colonists to get involved in the Revolution
- Served in Washington’s Army
- Wrote “The Crisis,” which George Washington used to boost morale at Valley Forge.
Thomas Jefferson

- Member of the Virginia House of Burgesses.
- Single handedly wrote the majority of the Declaration of Independence at the Second Continental Congress.
- Served as a foreign diplomat in Paris
- Served as both President and Vice President (separately)
Marquis de Lafayette

- Most notable French figure involved in the American Revolution
- Major General in the Continental Army
- At **Battle of Yorktown** fighting along side George Washington and his troops
- Present when British troops surrendered ended the American Revolution
King George III

- King during the French and Indian War and the American Revolution
- His laws increased the unrest in the colonies, which would lead to their declaring of independence.
- He unwillingly signed the Treaty of Paris in 1783 which recognized America’s independence
- 1788 he went insane, which would plague him until his death
Benjamin Franklin

- Writer, scientist, statesman, and diplomat
- Traveled to France convincing them to join the War and ally with the United States
- Helped write *Constitution* and the *Declaration of Independence*
- Signed Four most important documents in new nations history
  - Constitution
  - Declaration of Independence
  - Treaty of Alliance with France
  - Treaty of Paris 1783
Bernardo de Galvez

- Spanish Governor of Louisiana Territory
- Sent gunpowder, rifles, bullets, blankets, medicine and other supplies to the armies of General George Washington
- Raised an army and drove the Spanish out of the Gulf of Mexico
John Paul Jones

- First great American naval officer
- Won a great naval battle against the HMS *Serapis* British ship) during American Revolution
- Promoted professional standards and training
- Said the famous quote, “I have not yet begun to fight!”
George Washington

- Commander and Chief of the Continental Army
- Successfully trained 14,000 undisciplined men
- Crossed the Delaware River on Christmas night of 1776 surprising the British securing a key garrison/fort.
- Was able to convince the soldiers to stay at Valley Forge during horrible living conditions.
- Brilliantly executed Yorktown Campaign against Charles Cornwallis securing American victory (Oct. 19, 1781)
Haym Salomon

- Hero and a fervent patriot
- Financial backer of the American Revolution – provided money to the revolutionary cause
- Spoke 10 different languages
Wentworth Cheswell

- African American school teacher and politician from New Hampshire
- Built rafts to defend Portsmouth Harbor
- Town messenger; rode north, the opposite direction of Paul Revere who rode west (Direction British came from) to inform the people of the British march.
- Served in the Continental Army under Colonel John Langdon
James Armistead

- Adopted the last name Lafayette in admiration of General Marquis de Lafayette
- African American slave turned spy who joined Lafayette at Yorktown
- Granted freedom after war by Virginia Legislature
Patrick Henry

- “Give me Liberty or Give me Death”
- Founding member of the Committees of Correspondence and a delegate at the First Continental Congress
- Helped draft the Constitution of 1776
- Instrumental in the adopting of the Bill of Rights
Abigail Adams

- During the war, she provided meals and lodging to soldiers at all hours of the day and night.
- Wrote many letters describing the events of the war.
- Urged her husband, John Adams, to take women's rights into consideration if and when the colonies gained independence.
Samuel Adams

- Famous for organizing colonial resistance in and around Boston, Massachusetts
- Participated in the **Boston Tea Party 1765** and the boycotting associated with the **Stamp Act 1773**
- Urged for an intercolonial congress, called the **First Continental Congress**
- Re-elected to the **Second Continental Congress**, eventually signing the **Declaration of Independence**
- Cousin to **John Adams**
Charles Cornwallis

- Lost the Battle of Princeton to George Washington, which was a major embarrassment for Cornwallis and the British army
- Commander of the Southern front for the British forces
- Lost the last major battle of the Revolutionary War at Yorktown when he was surrounded by French and American forces.