

Revolutionary War Leaders – Teacher’s Notes

- Benjamin Franklin – spent most of the period of the American Revolution in France. He represented the colonies as an American envoy starting in 1776 and remained until 1785. He negotiated the alliance with France and then the Treaty of Paris which ended the war.
- George III – feared that the loss of one group of colonies would lead to the loss of others and the eventual decline of the empire. To prevent this, the Crown maintained an aggressive policy against colonial resistance. George III struggled to enforce royal authority throughout his reign.
- Marquis de Lafayette – a French aristocrat who played a leading role in two revolutions in France and the American Revolution. He respected the concepts of liberty and freedom and constitutional government. Between 1776 and 1779 he fought in the American Revolution, commanding forces as a major-general in the colonial army. Important because France joined the Colonists against the British.
- Thomas Paine – *The Crisis* was read to the soldiers during the winter at Valley Forge to encourage them to continue fighting for the cause of independence.
- George Washington – resident of Virginia, surveyor, planter, a soldier in the French and Indian War, delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses, commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolution, later he will serve as chairman of the Constitutional Convention in 1787