Mrs. Call's Class Example
Informative Essay

Events Leading to the Revolutionary War

During the time of exploration, many countries fought over new land. England was one of the major powers competing for land in the New World. Along with explorers sent to obtain land, others left England for religious freedom. These individuals settled in the 13 Colonies with a dream of a new life, free of persecution. However, England and its Parliament ignored the fact that the colonists were Englishmen too, and began infringing upon their rights and freedoms. Because the colonists began being treated unfairly, certain events occurred which led to a war for independence, the American Revolution.

There were several events leading to the Revolutionary War. The first of these events was the French and Indian War. Land was the driving force of this war. France had settled in forts near the Ohio River, but Britain claimed this land as their own. Britain tried to get the French to leave, however, France refused to cooperate. Therefore, the French and their allies, the Indians, declared war on Great Britain and the American Colonists. The results of this war were the beginning of conflicts between Britain and the Colonists. After the war, Great Britain received a lot of land to which the colonists felt they were entitled. Some colonists decided to settle west of the Appalachian Mtns, land won from France. Because of these actions, King George III announced the Proclamation of 1763, the second event leading to the Revolutionary War. This proclamation forbade the colonists to settle west of the Appalachian Mtns. King George III explained this was for the colonists own good to “protect” them, and to prevent another war with the Indians. Another event leading to war was taxation without representation. This meant the colonists were being taxed by Parliament, individuals who do not represent the colonists. Parliament continued forcing unfair laws and taxes on the colonists when the colonists did not have any say in Parliament. Due to these taxes, colonists began fighting back with boycotts. Later, Britain ordered colonists to house and feed the thousands of soldiers under the Quartering Act. The Stamp Act was another law forced upon the colonists requiring them to pay a tax on every type of paper product. During this time, bitter feelings between the Colonists and British continued to rise. As a result, the Boston Massacre, another event leading to the war, began when a group of teenage boys began throwing rock-filled snow balls and assaulting a lone British soldier standing guard. The frightened British soldier cried for help, and conflict arose between the colonists and soldiers. According to historians, an unknown soldier fired upon the crowd and a battle ensued. Five people were killed, including the first
black American martyr Crispus Attucks, and 6 more were wounded. This tragedy caused an outrage amongst the colonists leading them closer to separating from England. The final event leading to the Revolutionary War happened because of the Tea Act which lowered prices on tea, but still continued to be taxed. Despite the lower price of tea, the colonists proceeded to boycott because of the unfair tax. To protest the tax on tea, the Sons of Liberty, dressed as Indians, boarded three ships and dumped over 342 boxes of tea into Boston Harbor. King George III then introduced the Intolerable Acts which included the closing of all harbors, not allowing supplies in or out. These events led to one of the most significant wars in America’s history.

England’s relationship with the colonists had been contentious since the colonist’s rights continued to be ignored. Thoughts of separating from their mother country ran deep in the minds of the colonists. The results of the French and Indian War, The Proclamation of 1763, taxation without representation, acts such as the Quartering and Stamp Act, Boston Massacre, and the Boston Tea Party all triggered sparks leading to an unavoidable war with England. This Revolutionary War became a fight for independence and liberty.