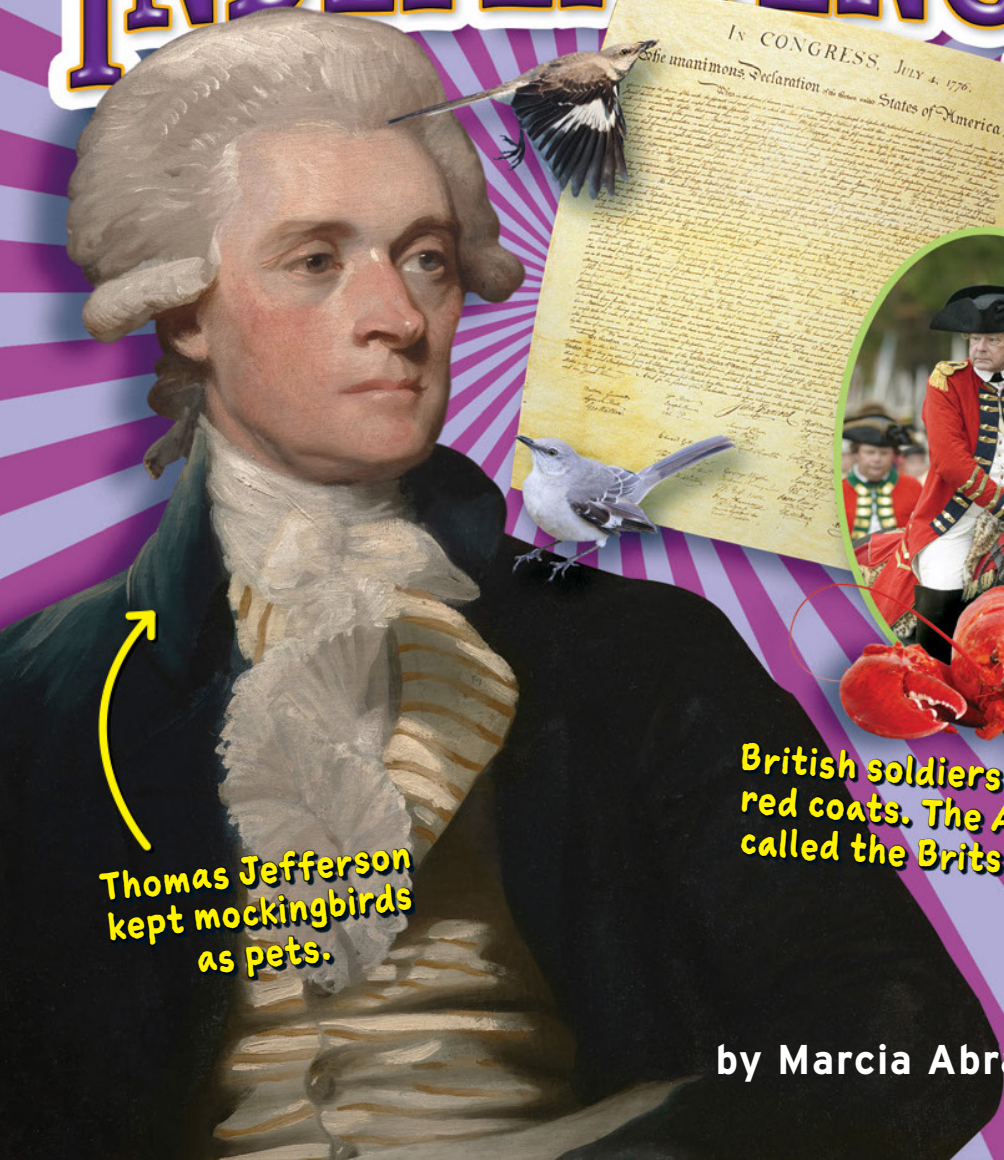


X-TREME FACTS: U.S. HISTORY

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



Thomas Jefferson
kept mockingbirds
as pets.



British soldiers wore long
red coats. The Americans
called the Brits lobsters.



by Marcia Abramson



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X-TREME FACTS: U.S. HISTORY

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



by Marcia Abramson



Minneapolis, Minnesota

Credits:

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A Particular Piece of Paper

The 13 American **colonies** declared independence from England on July 4, 1776. On that date, one of the most famous documents in U.S. history was born—the Declaration of Independence. The next day, riders on horseback began taking copies to all the colonies. When General George Washington received his copy, he was thrilled. One of his men read the Declaration of Independence to Washington's soldiers.

News about the declaration didn't reach England until **August 10!**

I HAVE SOME
GOOD NEWS!

The word **independence** never appears in the document!

General Washington was in New York when he got his copy of the declaration.

Crowds who heard the news were so happy they knocked down a statue of King George III. Then, they **cut off the statue's head!**



The crowd used ropes to pull the statue down.

The country celebrates the declaration and what it stood for every July 4.

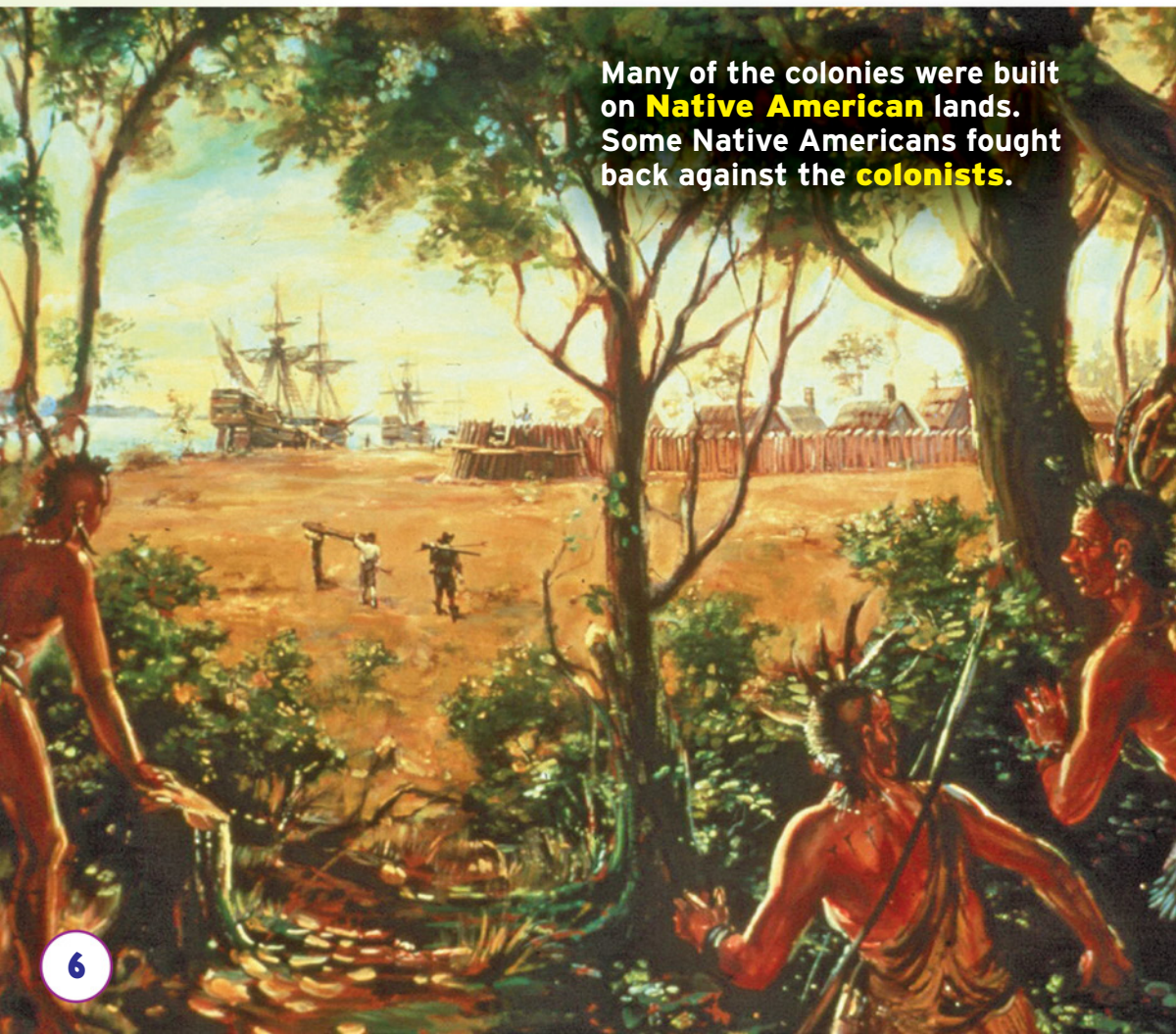


The colonists melted down King George's statue to make bullets—**42,088 bullets**, to be exact!



Before There Were States

But wait—what exactly were these 13 colonies? In the 1600s, England and other countries sent people to explore, live, and work in the Americas. They formed groups, or colonies, to grow **crops** and trade goods that would make money for the home countries. During the 1700s, the colonies from England grew, and a group of them became the 13 original American colonies.



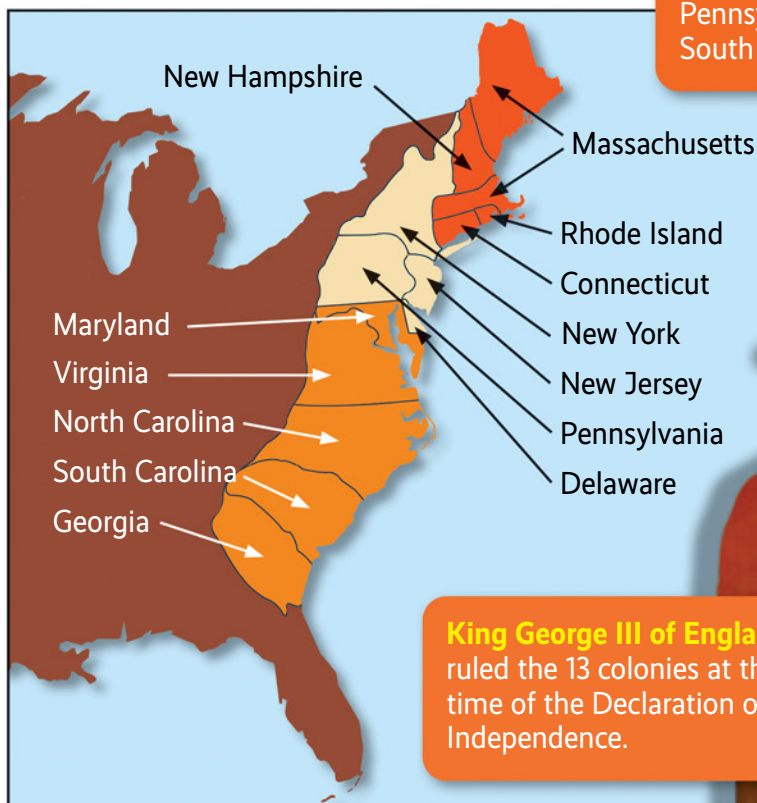
Many of the colonies were built on **Native American** lands. Some Native Americans fought back against the **colonists**.



The first English settlement vanished mysteriously! Settlers came to Roanoke Island, near North Carolina, in 1587. Three years later, nothing was left of the colony.

The first English settlements had only a few hundred people. But, by 1775, 2.4 million people lived in the 13 colonies.

The colonies would later become the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia.



THEY'RE ALL MINE!

King George III of England ruled the 13 colonies at the time of the Declaration of Independence.

- The New England colonies
- The middle colonies
- The southern colonies