

The American Colonies Under British Rule

During America's first 150 years, most settlers came from Great Britain. These people were called colonists. The colonists built settlements up and down the Atlantic Coast. The settlements eventually became the states we now call the original Thirteen Colonies.

Although these British settlers now lived in America, they still lived under the rule of the King of England. Over time, the colonists eventually came to want to make their own rules over their land.

When the British government saw the colonists wanted more independence, they tightened their control. By the mid-1770's, King George III and his government imposed heavy taxes on everyday goods, such as tea. As you can imagine, these taxes made it hard for the colonists to afford any of their basic goods.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee presented a new idea. He said the colonies should be free and independent of Great Britain. Soon after, a committee was appointed to write the Declaration of Independence.



REVIEW YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. During America's first 150 years, where did most settlers come from?

2. What did we call these settlers?

3. Who made all the rules for these colonists?

4. How did the colonist feel about this?

5. What did Great Britain do when the colonists wanted independence?

6. Who proposed the idea of free and independent colonies?
