**Signing of the Treaty of Paris**Ending the Seven Year’s War, also known as the French and Indian War in North America.  France ceded all mainland North American territories, except New Orleans, in order to retain her Caribbean sugar islands. Britain gained all territory east of the Mississippi River; Spain kept territory west of the Mississippi, but exchanged East and West Florida for Cuba.

**Proclamation of 1763**

Wary of the cost of defending the colonies, George III prohibited all settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains without guarantees of security from local Native American nations. The intervention in colonial affairs offended the thirteen colonies' claim to the exclusive right to govern lands to their west.

**Stamp Act**

Seeking to defray some of the costs of protecting the colonies, Parliament required all legal documents, newspapers and pamphlets required to use watermarked, or 'stamped' paper on which a levy was placed.

**Stamp Act Congress**Representatives from nine of the thirteen colonies declare the Stamp Act unconstitutional as it was a tax levied without their consent.

**Declaratory Act**

Parliament finalizes the repeal of the Stamp Act, but declares that it has the right to tax colonies

**Townshend Revenue Act (Townshend Duties)**Duties on tea, glass, lead, paper and paint to help pay for the administration of the colonies, named after Charles Townshend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. John Dickinson publishes Letter from a Philadelphian Farmer in protest. Colonial assemblies condemn taxation without representation.

**British troops arrive in Boston in response to political unrest**

**Boston Massacre**

Angered by the presence of troops and Britain's colonial policy, a crowd began harassing a group of soldiers guarding the customs house; a soldier was knocked down by a snowball and discharged his musket, sparking a volley into the crowd which kills five civilians.

**Tea Act**

In an effort to support the ailing East India Company, Parliament exempted its tea from import duties and allowed the Company to sell its tea directly to the colonies. Americans resented what they saw as an indirect tax subsidizing a British company.

**Boston Tea Party**Angered by the Tea Acts, American patriots disguised as Mohawk Indians dump £9,000 of East India Company tea into the Boston Harbor.

**Intolerable Acts**Four measures which stripped Massachusetts of self-government and judicial independence following the Boston Tea Party. The colonies responded with a general boycott of British goods.

**Continental Congress**Colonial delegates meet to organize opposition to the Intolerable Acts.

**Battles of Lexington and Concord**First engagements of the Revolutionary War between British troops and the Minutemen, who had been warned of the attack by Paul Revere.

**Battle of Bunker Hill**The first major battle of the War of Independence. Sir William Howe dislodged William Prescott's forces overlooking Boston.

**Olive-Brach Petition**Congress endorses a proposal asking for recognition of American rights, the ending of the Intolerable Acts in exchange for a cease fire. George III rejected the proposal and on 23 August 1775 declared the colonies to be in open rebellion.