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# ASO YOUTH & FAMILY CONCERT SERIES 2026

#### AMERICA 250!

#### FEBRUARY 2026

GET READY FOR A MUSICAL ADVENTURE THROUGH AMERICA'S EARLY DAYS, FEATURING AMAZING MUSICIANS PERFORMING POWERFUL SONGS, BEAUTIFUL CLASSICAL MUSIC, AND EVEN SOME BROADWAY HITS! YOU'LL HEAR THE STORY OF OUR COUNTRY'S BEGINNING, THE INCREDIBLE PEOPLE WHO SHAPED IT, AND THE ONGOING JOURNEY FOR FREEDOM—ALL TOLD THROUGH MUSIC THAT WILL INSPIRE AND AMAZE YOU. PLUS, DON'T MISS A SUPER COOL SURPRISE: THE MAGICAL, ONE-OF-A-KIND SOUND OF BEN FRANKLIN'S OWN MUSICAL INVENTION, THE GLASS ARMONICA, PLUS BEN HIMSELF!

IT'S A FUN EVENT PACKED WITH HISTORY, MUSIC, AND TONS OF ENERGY-YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

SCHOOL CONCERTS WILL BE HELD AT MILLER SYMPHONY HALL ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026 AND THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026 AT 9:30 AM AND 11:30 AM.

THE FAMILY CONCERT HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026 AT 2:00 PM INCLUDES PRE-SHOW ADMISSION TO THE ORCHESTRA LAB STARTING AT 12:30 PM. THIS SHOW IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

#### **CONCERT PROGRAM 2026**

CHECK OFF THE NAMES OF SONGS OR COMPOSERS
YOU'VE HEARD OF BEFORE!



Arr. Carmen Dragon
John Williams
Irving Berlin (arr. Ringwald)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Sherman Edwards & Peter Stone
Antonin Dvorak
Arr. Harry Burleigh
John Philip Sousa
John Philip Sousa

America The Beautiful (excerpt)
Liberty Fanfare
Give Me Your Tired Your Poor
K. 617 (Rondo movement only)
Momma Look Sharp (1776)
Symphony No. 9 (mvt. 2 only)
Deep River
Liberty Bell March
Stars and Stripes Forever



# THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR "BEING BRITISH"



Two hundred and fifty years ago (a pretty long time ago!), the original 13 colonies in America were not part of the United States yet. They were British Colonies. That meant we were part of the British Empire, and King George III of England was our king. We flew the British flag, used British money, and cheered for British troops when they came to protect us during the French and Indian War (about 1754 1763).

#### The 13 colonies were:

Massachusetts (including what's now Maine), New Hampshire,
Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland,
Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and of course,
Pennsylvania.

For many years, the people in the colonies were proud to be British. Many of them had come from England or had parents who did. People like Benjamin Franklin, born in Boston, still thought of England as the center of the world. In fact, Franklin spent almost ten years living in London and thought about moving there permanently, but his wife, Deborah, refused to cross the ocean, so they stayed in America.

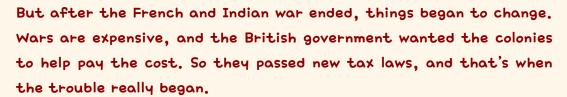
George Washington, another future founder, fought proudly as a colonel alongside British troops during the French and Indian War.

Even William Franklin, Benjamin's own son, served as an officer in the British Army.

We were all loyal subjects of the Kingor so we thought.







The first big tax came in 1765. It was called the Stamp Act, and it placed a tax on

almost everything made of papernewspapers, playing cards, even legal documents. The tax had to be paid in British money, and a special stamp had to be placed on each item to prove the tax was paid. This might sound small, but

it was the first time the British government tried to tax the colonies directly, and it made people really angry.



In cities like Boston, colonists forced tax collectors to quit their jobs. In one case, an angry crowd destroyed the home of the royal governor, Thomas Hutchinson. So many people were upset that Parliament repealed the Stamp Act a year laterbut not before the damage had been done. A deep mistrust of the king had started to grow. But he did not give up on trying to tax the colonies.

In 1773, the British tried to sneak in a new tea tax through something called the Tea Act. This gave a British companythe East India Tea Companyspecial permission to sell cheap tea in the colonies with a hidden tax. The colonists were not fooled.

On the night of December 16, 1773, a group of colonists in Boston boarded British ships and dumped over 92,000 pounds of tea into the harbor. That would be over a million dollars' worth of tea today! everyone drank tea back then, so this would be like putting a big tax on your Kool-Aid, Gatorade, or Coke. This protest became known as the Boston Tea Party.



Not long after, Paul Revere rode from Boston to warn the cities of New York and Philadelphia that more tea ships were coming.

Thanks to his message, those cities were able to convince the captains of those ships to turn back and return to England before

THAT tea was dumped overboard.

Back in England, King George and his ministers were outraged. They decided to punish Boston. In early 1774, they passed a group of harsh new laws. The colonists began calling them the Intolerable Acts.







These laws hit Boston hard. The port was to be closed until the ruined tea was paid for. Town meetings were banned, British soldiers could now be housed in private homes, and any British officer accused of a crime could be sent back to England for trial. More British soldiers began arriving in Boston. People started calling them "Lobsterbacks" because of their red coats. Tensions grew. Jobs were tight. Housing was scarce. The city felt like it was under occupation by the King's Troops.

The anger spread beyond Boston. In other colonies, people started to realize that what was happening in Massachusetts could happen anywhere. Groups like the Sons of Liberty worked to unite the colonies and urge them to stand up

of Liberty worked to unite the colonies and urge them to stand up together.

That fall, in September 1774, delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies gathered in Philadelphia. This meeting was called the First Continental Congress. For weeks, the delegates debated what to do. They wrote a

letter to the King, called the Declaration of Rights and Grievances, explaining their complaints and asking to be treated fairly. They also promised to support Boston and agreed to meet again in the spring if things did not get better with the King.



Even then, most colonists didn't want independence. They just wanted peace. They wanted to remain British citizensbut with rights and respect.

Benjamin Franklin, who was still in London, tried his best to smooth things over. He met with British leaders and pleaded for compromise. But after the destruction of the tea, British officials stopped listening. Franklin saw that war might be impossible to avoidand he was right. On the night of April 18, 1775, British soldiers began marching from Boston to Lexington and Concord. Their goal was to seize hidden weapons and supplies. Paul Revere (he was a busy guy!) and other riders warned the countryside: "The Regulars are coming!"

He didn't shout, "The British are coming!" because everyone was British back then! He was warning that the King's soldiers were on the move.

At dawn, about 70 colonial militia, known as Minutemen, stood waiting on Lexington Green, the village common in the center of town. They weren't planning to fightjust to show they were ready. The British commander ordered them to go home.

The militia began to back away. And then... a shot rang out.



No one knows who fired first. It might have been an accident. But once that shot echoed across the field, both sides opened fire. When the smoke cleared, eight colonists lay dead. The British moved on to Concord, where they met even more resistance. As they marched back to Boston, local farmers and townsmen fired at them from behind trees and stone walls the entire way. Dozens of soldiers were killed or wounded. This was the Battle of Lexington and Concordthe very first battle of the American Revolution. The fighting had begun. The colonies were no longer just arguing with the King. They were now at war.



"Liberty's Kids"

(Full YouTube series)



Recommended episode for this topic:

Episode 6: "The Shot Heard Round the World"



This episode covers the outbreak of armed conflict at Lexington and Concord. James and Sarah observe the battles from opposing perspectives, including the North Bridge skirmish and its tragic toll, including the death of Sarah's cousin, Tom Phillips.



#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1. WHAT EVENT IS REFERRED TO AS "THE SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD" IN THIS EPISODE, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
- 2. WHO ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE EPISODE, AND WHAT ROLE DO THEY PLAY IN THE STORY?
- 3. WHAT CHALLENGES DO THE CHARACTERS FACE DURING THE BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD? HOW DO THEY OVERCOME THEM?

# GEORGE WASHINGTON & THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The American Colonies were now at war with the King of England. At first, people didn't really know what to do. Most of the British soldiers were in the city of Boston. Remember it was from Boston that British troops had marched to Lexington and Concord, where the first shots between the King's army and the colonists were fired.

After those battles, hundreds of colonial militia men hurried to Boston to keep the British soldiers trapped inside the city.

Back then, Boston was almost an island. Only a narrow strip of land connected it to the mainland, so it was fairly easy for the colonists to surround it and stop the British from marching somewhere else or attacking other colonies.





But here was a big problem the militia weren't really one army. They were groups from different colonies, each with its own leader.

One of the first things the Second Continental Congress did was to join all these militias together as one army: the Continental Army. Now they could follow a single commander and work as a united force.

John Adams, a delegate from Massachusetts, suggested that George Washington, a colonel in the Virginia militia, should be the General and commander-in-chief of the United Colonies. Washington had fought alongside the British in the French and Indian War, so he knew a lot about military strategy. Choosing someone from a southern colony also helped unite all the colonies it showed that this was truly everyone's fight.



# GEORGE WASHINGTON & THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR



#### The Boston Problem

Washington rode to Boston to take charge. He wanted badly to attack and push the British out, but Boston was very well defended. The British Navy the best in the world controlled the harbor. Some people even thought about waiting until the harbor froze so soldiers could walk across the ice!

Congress and Washington's generals decided against attacking, saying it was too risky and would cost too many lives. Washington listened to their advice, even though he disagreed. This showed that he could control his emotions and take good advice skills that would help him throughout the war.

Some historians say Washington wasn't a great general because he won few big, direct battles. But the truth is, he didn't have the supplies, equipment, or trained soldiers to beat the British head-on at the start. If he had tried, his army might have been destroyed in months. Instead, he focused on keeping the army alive and fighting until the colonies had a real chance to win.

#### Henry Knox's Cannons

One of Washington's best generals was Henry Knox. Knox came up with a bold plan: go to Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York, where the Americans had captured a huge store of British cannons. These cannons weren't doing much there, but they could change the situation in Boston.

Knox led men and oxen on a 300-mile journey, dragging more than 70 cannons over 60 tons of equipment across icy roads, mountains, and frozen lakes. Some even fell through the ice but were pulled back out. He delivered every single cannon to Washington.

Then, in all in one night, Washington had his men secretly set up the cannons on the hills around Boston Harbor. In the morning, British General William Howe saw dozens of cannons aimed at his ships and said:

"The rebels have done more in one night than my whole army would have done in a month."

A few weeks later, the British sailed away from Boston. Not a single shot was fired!





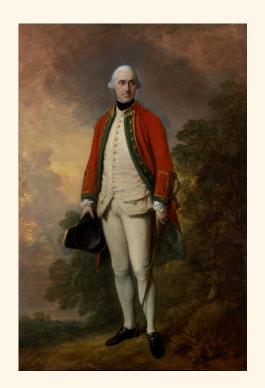
# GEORGE WASHINGTON & THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

#### The Battle of Brooklyn and the Great Escape

After leaving Boston, the British planned to capture New York City. They hoped to cut the colonies in half, making it harder for the New England and southern colonies to help each other. In July 1776, as the Declaration of Independence was being read in Philadelphia, over a hundred British warships filled New York Harbor. Washington rushed to defend the city with about 20,000 men. The British had more than 30,000.

On August 27, in what may have been the biggest battle of the war the Battle of Brooklyn Washington's army was badly defeated. By nightfall, the British had the Americans trapped. Instead of finishing the fight, the British general decided to wait until morning.

That night, Washington pulled off a daring escape. He quietly ferried all 9,000 of his remaining troops, plus their cannons and horses, across the East River to Manhattan. Just as morning came and the British ships could have spotted them, a thick fog rolled in, hiding the last boats. Washington's army had escaped to fight another day!



#### Washington Crosses the Delaware



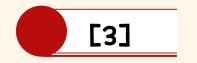
By December 1776, Washington had lost several battles. Supplies were low, and many soldiers' enlistments were ending they were ready to go home. Washington knew he needed a big win to keep the army together. On Christmas eve, December 24, 1776, he led about 2,500 men across the icy Delaware River in a snowstorm. Chunks of ice floated in the strong currents, making the crossing dangerous.

Their target was Trenton, New Jersey, guarded by Hessian soldiers German troops hired by the British.

In a surprise attack on Christmas morning, Washington's men captured the town, its supplies, and all the Hessian soldiers.

This victory gave the army badly needed supplies and hope.

Many soldiers who had planned to leave decided to stay and keep fighting.



# GEORGE WASHINGTON & THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

#### The End of the War

Washington's greatest strength wasn't winning every battle it was his ability to "hang in there no matter what" and never give up. While Washington was leading the army, our friend Benjamin Franklin was across the ocean in France, trying to convince the French to help America in its fight for independence.

In October 1777, the Americans won a very important victory at the Battle of Saratoga, where a British general surrendered with all his men, over 5,000 troops. This showed France that the Americans actually had a chance of winning.

In February 1778, the French agreed to join the fight sending money, troops, and their powerful warships to help the American cause. The battle that finally ended the eight-year war was the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. French warships blocked the British from escaping by sea, while Washington's army, along with French soldiers, surrounded the British on land. Trapped, over 8,000 British soldiers surrendered. The war was over and America had won its independence!

### ACTIVITY: QUIZ TIME!

#### 1. WHO WAS GEORGE WASHINGTON?

- A) A FAMOUS INVENTOR
- B) THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
- C) A KING OF ENGLAND
- D) A PIRATE
- 2. WHAT ROLE DID GEORGE WASHINGTON PLAY DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR?
- A) HE WAS A SOLDIER IN THE BRITISH ARMY
- B) HE WAS THE COMMANDER OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY
- C) HE WAS A SAILOR ON A SHIP
- D) HE WAS A SPY FOR FRANCE
- 3) WHY DID THE AMERICAN COLONIES FIGHT IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR?
- A) TO WIN INDEPENDENCE FROM ENGLAND
- B) TO FIND TREASURE
- C) TO EXPLORE NEW LANDS
- D) TO MAKE PEACE WITH ENGLAND

- 4) WHICH IMPORTANT EVENT MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR?
- A) THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
- B) THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD
- C) THE BOSTON TEA PARTY
- D) THE WINTER AT VALLEY FORGE
- 5) WHERE DID GEORGE WASHINGTON AND HIS ARMY SPEND A DIFFICULT WINTER DURING THE WAR?
- A) NEW YORK CITY
- B) VALLEY FORGE
- C) BOSTON
- D) PHILADELPHIA

# FOUNDING FATHER SPOTLIGHT: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Benjamin Franklin was one of what are sometimes called "The Founding Fathers" of the United States of America. These were the men who oversaw and participated in the CREATION of the United States of America.

Other key "Founding Fathers" were George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams.

These men were all born in the American Colonies when the Colonies were part of Britain under the King of England. They all took part in the attempts to gain proper rights as British Citizens, and in the end, fought the war to break free from British rule and create a new Government that would become the United States of America.

#### Early Childhood

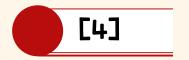
Benjamin Franklin was born on January 17, 1706, in Boston, Massachusetts. His father had come over by boat from England, and his mother was from Nantucket Island here in the Colonies. He was the youngest of many brothers and sisters. It may be that since he was the "baby" of the family, his parents indulged him a little. He spoke of his childhood as being a very pleasant one, and he had time to explore r around Boston and to play with friends when he was young.

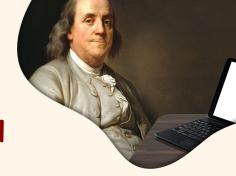
Even so, at about the age of ten, he had to help with his father's business of making candles. Making candles in the 1700's was a pretty smelly business. You had to MELT ANIMAL FAT in big pots spread around the yard, to make tallow, to put wicks in. Sometimes young Benjamin would run errands for the business, collecting money, or delivering candles. Sometimes he helped make the candles. But he knew he did not like it very much.

His father took him around to see other businesses, to see if there was something that young Benjamin would like to do. Nothing really stuck, but he did learn a lot by seeing how various businesses were run and how things worked. He watched carpenters, brick layers, and how men fixed metal pots and kettles, but none of this caught Benjamin's interest. At one point he threatened to "Run away to sea," as many young men, even young boys, found a trade working on ships. The idea of seeing new lands and sailing the ocean seemed much more exciting than making candles. But the sea was also dangerous. Many men drowned at sea or the ships never returned.

Benjamin's father did not want him to go to sea.







### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

#### Early Childhood (continued)

One thing he DID like was to read. Benjamin Franklin could read ever since he could remember, and he read everything that he could find. His father sent him to school for only about two years, which is all the family could afford. At that time school was not free, and it was an unusual luxury to send a child to school, but Franklin's father did what he could. This improved Franklin's penmanship and grammar, as he had already taught himself to read. Eventually when he was 12, he was "apprenticed" to his brother James, who was a printer.



Learning the Printing Trade

Benjamin did not always get along with his brother James. James could be bossy, and sometimes unkind. But while working in the print shop Benjamin learned A GREAT DEAL. He learned how to set type, how to run the presses, and how to publish newspapers and pamphlets. This would become VERY IMPORTANT later in his life. The printing presses to print newspapers in Early America were the only way to spread news. There were no radio, television, or phones. They were very important.

Benjamin also began to write. At first, his brother did not let him publish anything. Franklin secretly slipped letters under the door of the print shop, signed with a made-up name "Silence Do-Good." These letters were funny and wise, and people loved reading them in the newspaper. When James found out it was his younger brother writing them, he was angry! By the time Benjamin was 17, he had had enough. He ran away from Boston to Philadelphia. He arrived with very little

17, he had had enough. He ran away from Boston to Philadelphia. He arrived with very little money, but Philadelphia would become his new home.

# BENJAMIN

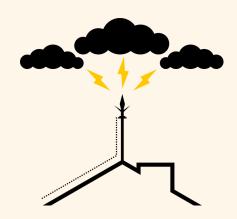


#### Printer, Writer, and Inventor

In Philadelphia, Franklin worked hard as a printer. He was successful, and before long he owned his own print shop. He published a newspaper called the Pennsylvania Gazette and a very popular little book called Poor Richard's Almanack. The Almanack had jokes, weather forecasts, and wise sayings like: "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

Franklin was not just a printer. He was also an INVENTOR and a SCIENTIST. He invented the Franklin stove, bifocal glasses, the lightning rod, a musical instrument called the glass armonica, and even experimented with electricity, famously flying a kite in a thunderstorm (although he was VERY lucky not to be killed!).

Franklin also cared about his community. He helped start the first lending library in America, a volunteer fire company, a hospital, and even what later became the University of Pennsylvania.





#### Franklin Comes to Easton and Bethlehem





In the 1750s, there was a dangerous war going on between Britain and France, called the French and Indian War. Settlers on the Pennsylvania frontier were often attacked, and people were frightened. In December of 1755, Benjamin Franklin, who was now almost 50 years old, came to the Lehigh Valley to help. He visited Bethlehem, which was a neat, busy Moravian town. Franklin wrote about how impressed he was with the people there, who worked hard and lived peacefully together.

He also came to EASTON, which at that time was a very new townjust a few log houses around the square. Franklin met with leaders and worked to organize defenses. He helped plan forts along the Blue Mountain to protect the people. If you live in Easton or Bethlehem today, you can imagine Benjamin Franklin walking down the same streets more than 250 years ago!

### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

#### A Leader of a New Nation

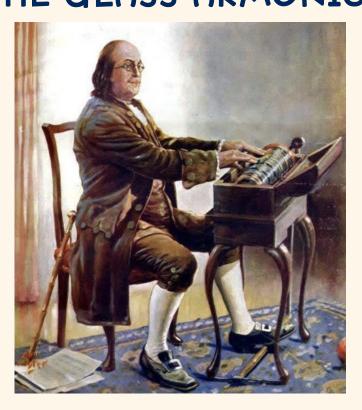
Later in life, Franklin traveled to England and France to represent Pennsylvania. He worked hard to make sure the American colonies were treated fairly. When that failed, and the colonies moved toward independence, Franklin became one of the Founding Fathers. He helped write the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE in 1776. Later, he went to France and convinced the French to help America fight the Revolutionary War. Without Franklin, America might not have won. Even when he was very old, Franklin kept serving his country. In 1787, at the age of 81, he attended the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. The U.S. Constitution, our nation's most important set of laws, was written there.



The End of His Life

Benjamin Franklin died in 1790, at the age of 84. People all over the world knew his name. He was remembered as a printer, writer, scientist, inventor, and leader. Franklin started with very little. He had only two years of schooling and worked hard all his life. Yet through curiosity, determination, and a love of learning, he became one of the most important Americans who ever lived. And remember: this remarkable man once stood right here in EASTON and BETHLEHEM, helping protect the people of our valley in a dangerous time.

# BENJAMIN FRANKLIN INVENTION SPOTLIGHT: THE GLASS ARMONICA



LEARN ABOUT THE
INSTRUMENT DIRECTLY FROM
DENNIS JAMES,
THE GLASS ARMONICA PLAYER
GUEST ARTIST AT THIS YEAR'S
ALLENTOWN SYMPHONY
YOUTH CONCERT:



LISTEN TO DENNIS

JAMES PLAY MOZART'S

'ADAGIO IN C'

FOR GLASS

ARMONICA, K.356



# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDANCE

**The Declaration of Independence** is one of the most important documents in American history.

It explained to the world why the thirteen American colonies wanted to break away from the King of England and form their own country. In it, the colonists listed their complaints (called "grievances") against the King. The leaders also hoped that if the Declaration was clear, other countries would recognize the United States as a new nation and want to trade and do business with it.

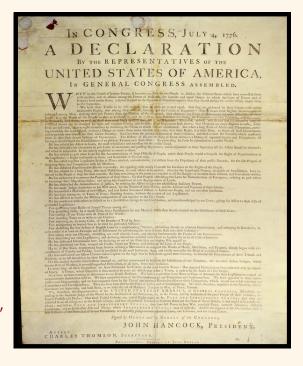
The Declaration says that every person deserves the chance to live a good life, to be free, and to be happy—and that governments must respect the rights of the people.

#### **Who Wrote It?**

In the summer of 1776, five men were chosen to write the Declaration:

- John Adams of Massachusetts
- Thomas Jefferson of Virginia
- Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania
- Roger Sherman of Connecticut
- Robert Livingston of New York

Having men from different colonies made sure the Declaration represented everyone. Thomas Jefferson did most of the writing, while Franklin and Adams helped him edit it.



#### July 2nd or July 4th?

The Continental Congress actually voted to declare independence on July 2, 1776. John Adams even wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2nd would be remembered with "pomp and parades, bells and bonfires." He was close—but just two days off!

We celebrate July 4th because that was the day Congress approved the final version of the Declaration of Independence.



# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDANCE

#### **Editing the Draft**

On July 3rd and 4th, Congress debated and cut about one-quarter of Jefferson's original draft. One big section that was removed was his strong criticism of slavery. Delegates from South Carolina and Georgia objected, and some northern merchants were also uneasy.

#### **Printing the Declaration**

Once Congress agreed on the text late on July 4th, they sent Jefferson's handwritten copy to the printer, John Dunlap. He stayed up all night printing about 200 copies. Printing was slow work—each letter had to be set backwards and upside down on the press! The copies, now called the Dunlap Broadside, were made quickly and many still show smears and streaks of ink.

Interestingly, the Dunlap Broadside did not include the names of all the delegates. Only John Hancock, president of Congress, and the secretary, Charles Thomson, had their names on the printed document.

#### **Reading the Declaration**

The first public readings of the Declaration were set for July 8, 1776, at noon. We know it was read in Trenton, New Jersey and in Easton, Pennsylvania on that day, as well as Philadelphia.

#### Famous Words

The Declaration of Independence marked the birth of the United States of America. It contains one of the most famous lines ever written:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

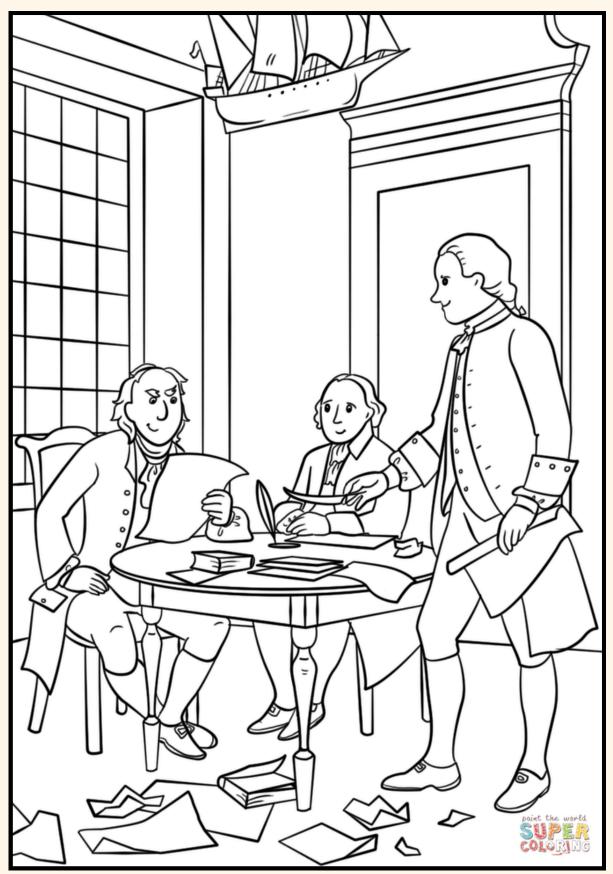


LIBERTY'S KIDS, EPISODE 14: "THE FIRST FOURTH OF JULY"

THIS EPISODE FOCUSES ON THE DEBATES LEADING TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND FOLLOWS KEY FIGURES INCLUDING THOMAS JEFFERSON. IT PORTRAYS THE DRAFTING AND IMMEDIATE REACTIONS SURROUNDING JULY 4TH.



### THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDANCE



SHOW US
COLORING
SKILLS!



TAG US:
#ALLENTOWNSYMPHONY
#YOUTHANDFAMILY2026
#AMERICA250



WHO WROTE THIS MUSIC?!











IRVING BERLIN









JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

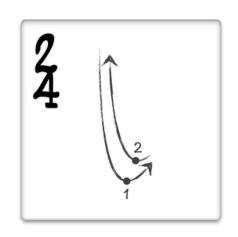
## CONDUCTING 101

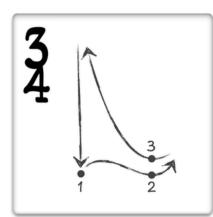
WITH GUEST CONDUCTOR, BRENT CHANCELLOR

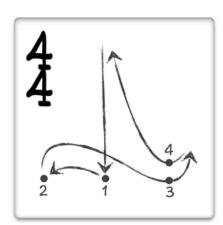


### NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO PRACTICE!

### **Common Musical Conducting Patterns**



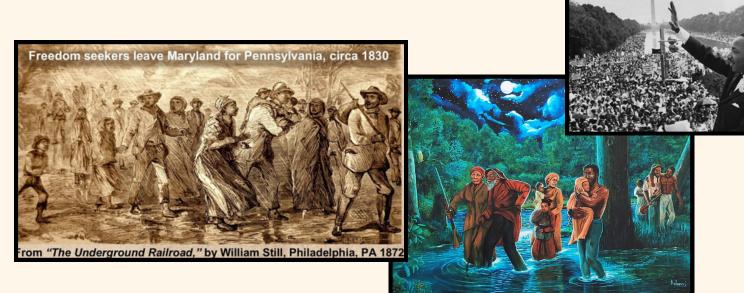




# THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD & CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE U.S.

A long time ago, in the 1800s, there was a secret network called the Underground Railroad. But don't be fooled by its nameit wasn't a real railroad with tracks and trains! Instead, it was a series of safe houses and secret routes that helped enslaved African Americans escape to freedom in the North, where slavery wasn't allowed. Brave people, called "conductors," like Harriet Tubman, guided these escaping slaves from one safe place to another, often traveling at night to avoid being caught. The courageous people who helped the slaves were known as "abolitionists," and they believed that all people should be free and treated equally.

The Underground Railroad played a big part in American history because it was one of the first major steps toward civil rights, which means fair and equal treatment for everyone. Even though the Underground Railroad happened long ago, it inspired future movements where people continued to fight for equal rights. For example, many years later, leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. worked hard to make sure that everyone, no matter the color of their skin, could enjoy the same freedoms and opportunities. The bravery and teamwork of those involved in the Underground Railroad remind us of the importance of standing up for justice and helping others.



### MUSIC SPOTLIGHT:

### SYMPHONY, SPIRITUAL OR MARCH?

CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE?

#### A SYMPHONY:

A SPECIAL KIND OF MUSIC WRITTEN FOR A LARGE GROUP OF MUSICIANS CALLED AN ORCHESTRA.

SYMPHONIES ARE USUALLY QUITE LONG. THEY ARE OFTEN SPLIT INTO SEVERAL MAIN PARTS, WHICH

ARE CALLED MOVEMENTS. MOST SYMPHONIES HAVE THREE OR FOUR MOVEMENTS.

#### A SPIRITIUAL:

A TYPE OF MUSIC CREATED BY AFRICAN AMERICANS. THIS MUSIC BLENDS AFRICAN CULTURE WITH THE DIFFICULT EXPERIENCES OF SLAVERY. SPIRITUALS INCLUDE "SING SONGS," WORK SONGS, AND PLANTATION SONGS. OVER TIME, THEY LED TO NEW MUSIC STYLES LIKE THE BLUES AND GOSPEL. IN THE 1800S, THE WORD "SPIRITUALS" COVERED ALL THESE FOLK SONGS. MANY SPIRITUALS WERE BASED ON BIBLE STORIES. THEY ALSO DESCRIBED THE EXTREME HARDSHIPS FACED BY ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICANS FROM THE 1600S TO THE 1860S. THESE SPIRITUALS WERE PASSED DOWN ORALLY, NOT WRITTEN DOWN UNTIL LATER.

#### A MARCH:

A MARCH IS A TYPE OF MUSIC THAT HAS A STRONG, STEADY BEAT. IT'S OFTEN WRITTEN TO HELP PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY <u>SOLDIERS</u>, MARCH IN STEP. EVEN IF A MARCH ISN'T USED FOR ACTUAL MARCHING, IT STILL HAS THAT CLEAR, REGULAR RHYTHM. MARCHES USUALLY FOLLOW A 2/4 OR 4/4 <u>TIME SIGNATURE</u>, WHICH MEANS THEY HAVE A STEADY "ONE-TWO, ONE-TWO" FEEL, LIKE A LEFT-RIGHT, LEFT-RIGHT STEP.

### ACTIVITY:

LISTEN TO EACH SONG AND IDENTIFY WHETHER THE FOLLOWING SONGS ARE A SYMPHONY, A SPIRITUAL OR A MARCH. GO OVER THIS WITH YOUR MUSIC TEACHER!







## DEFINING "FREEDOM"

### JOURNALING ACTIVITY:

WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF FREEDOM?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE TRULY 'FREE' (AT HOME, AT SCHOOL,
IN AMERICA, IN THE WORLD)?
HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY?!

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### Allentown Symphony's America 250 WORD SEARCH

U N M C O O A J S G A E D P Z U O W K B N Y L I S O L R A T CEXGWWJWJBRXCLYSZTHFIQMFMZOYNS Q U T W A S P T Y M Z F C Z R B S N K P R C P Y H K U V C C D C B Z D Q C Q X J Q N T F C D M E F A E T Z W X X X P D Z B P B V K F X E G Z A O Z D N E G D D O V G A N G N Y O W N LXOTGNOMPFSHOLMTKIGXOPWUPCHSAK E B U C X P G N N S V E Q N W I Y S W J L S I C N O C O D X J D J D H A B H E N U S I L Z N N E T C U R A O O V R U D J O F H O G T W O C C E L J T N U D R K O T E C N O S A S A T X E E K P R B Q V S K C A E Z T L P C D I H I D D J M A O J G B C O C I R X L N F J I L B R O Z O X O T R U N Q B J R T G B N Z B O M G A D T S F P P O R O L V N A E C N V T O L E LKEMBTDRPJTNTOTMZGOVAFMTJGKLIN AIDUFIFNUJONUEOBIKCZRGAOWSTPAI S S N R J C S O O T A K V P O O P T C B Y N Y R G T L L R R SHEDFJRJGQAGPEANVNIPTIXTGHLEDA PRTEFNHOVEWHREPEPPFDFDVGHFNL RLEJWOIUYBLAVTTELMYTZNHFQIYUUC MUDTMHLZWLMFAESFUNZRFUIMNRTROU O T N P S X U H E O S S R W E Q K R W U R O S S G V I E R H N E I A L T G B W W Z P D J H Z L E D M J F X L T I L X G N I C W N E X Y Z V H V I V O C X O V L P O U O V D A A M R N C F J L F T R P O X N R X H R O L O C E A B X Y W E U U E W ARWFRBIIVJBINMOALGETATFLAGOGDY J J D E R M Y M T R R T I O V C E S E D Y P Q V L P E T N J T T B Y N W X N O U N U L D Y A C H Y O S Y M P H O N Y U E IZOJSZVYZCAOEVDUWTWADPNATSHJF L E M B S J E U V J A L I E S K K K J C P V K H E X X S A U C C X M Q G X P G E R R V R K T Z Z D J K P R A C W G P N G MIHTUQMKDXQQTFOKRRMYNXVNTOHNJI

 symphony 2. orchestra 4. march 6. violin 7. cello 3. conductor spiritual 11. flag 12. independence 8. glassarmonica 9. Mozart 10. freedom 13. war undergroundrailroad **14.** foundingfather **15.** wethepeople 17. trumpet trombone 19. clarinet **21.** Sousa 22. patriotic 23. rights 24. America **20.** flute united 26. equality 27. libertybell 28. president 29. government 30. Franklin Washington **32.** piccolo **33.** drum

Happy 250th Birthday Estate