



## Seeds of Independence

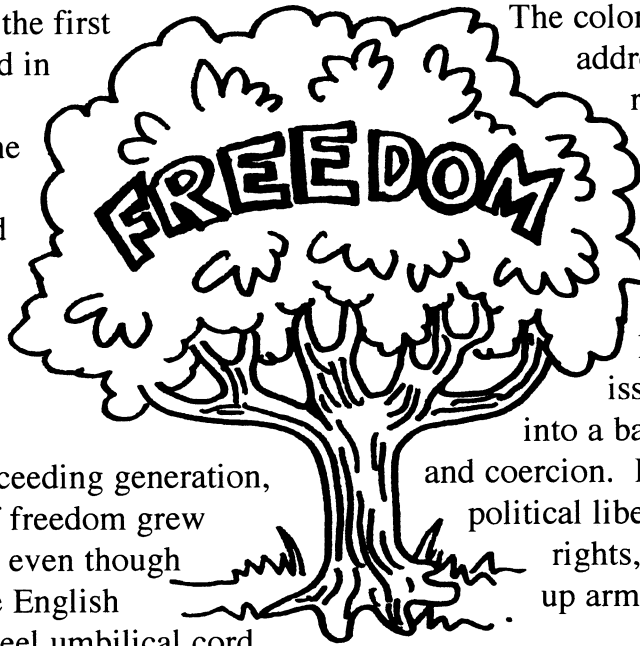
The seeds of Independence were sown long before the Continental Congress of 1776, when the colonies declared their independence. Most likely it began when the first colonist arrived in America. Out of necessity, the colonists were self-reliant and had a great love for freedom and independence.

With each succeeding generation, the oak tree of freedom grew and flourished even though attached to the English crown. The steel umbilical cord between Mother England and her child—the colonies, was strong and fast until the 1760's.

In 1760, George, III became king and almost immediately began implementing policies that resulted in the cutting of the umbilical cord strand by strand, eventually resulting in the Declaration of Independence.

King George first attempted to make stronger enforcement of the existing

trade laws. Then he sought to increase the colonists' taxes using the French and Indian as justification for these burdensome taxes.



The colonists repeatedly addressed the King regarding the situation. However, because of the stubbornness of King George, III, and the attitude of his Governors, the issue finally developed into a battle between freedom and coercion. In the name of political liberty and personal rights, the Americans took up arms.

It was a protest of human beings enslaved or governed without representation. Each act of the king increased the number in the choir chanting "taxation without representation".

Many of the colonists became united in a just and common cause which resulted in the forming of the First Continental Congress.



## Suggestions for Study

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- What events brought about the writing of the Declaration of Independence?
- When George III became King of England, what did he do regarding the colonies?
- What does 'governed without representation' mean? Let's talk about it.
- Do we have 'representation' today? Let's talk about it.

