

Introduction

Have you ever wondered why the Fourth of July is a holiday? Before that date in 1776, the thirteen American colonies were part of an empire of more than thirty-two lands ruled by the King of England. The Declaration of Independence, which was signed by members of the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, showed that the colonies wanted to be free. But it took a war for this to actually happen.



This war is called the “American Revolution.” Some call it the “War of Independence” or the “Revolutionary War.” It is usually viewed as a struggle between the American colonies and King George III of England, who ruled the British Empire. But it was also a “civil” war, a war that is fought between people of the same country.

There were people from many different backgrounds living in the British American colonies. Not all of them thought it was a good idea to break away from England. If you and your family remained loyal to the king, you were called Loyalists. If you and your family wanted to be free from British rule, you were called Patriots.

