

## *Was it hard to get money during the war?*

Because of the war, gold and silver coins were hard to come by. And the war cost a lot of money! To pay for the war, the Continental Congress asked each state to print its own paper money. At first Patriots used the paper dollars in support of their cause.

However, this kind of money lost value because so much was printed and it was easy to copy. Many people called the paper money “shin plasters,” because they felt it was only useful as a bandage for a sore leg. People began to say, “It’s not worth a Continental” when they meant something was not worth very much.

This kind of situation is called inflation. It got so bad that in March of 1780, a paper dollar was worth just a fourth of a cent! And things kept getting worse. In May of 1781, it took 225 paper dollars to equal one gold dollar. A few weeks later, you needed 900 paper dollars to buy one gold dollar’s worth of supplies.





It was said that it took a wagon-load of money to buy a wagon-load of food. Some soldiers even refused to be paid in the paper money at all; they wanted hard gold.

