



Road to Independence Timeline

Mission: The archive's timeline fell apart! Rebuild the road to independence in order, using cause and effect to reason about what came first. Then connect five cause-and-effect links.

Big question: How did one event lead to the next on the road to independence?

★ Warm-up: Which came first?

Reason out the order.

Boston Tea Party or Intolerable Acts? ✓ **Tea Party first; the Acts punished it.**

Yorktown or Treaty of Paris? ✓ **Yorktown; the treaty ended the war.**

Key vocabulary

Chronological	In time order.
Cause	Why something happens.
Effect	What happens as a result.
Treaty	A formal agreement between nations.

1 Box 1

Build the timeline

In the simulator: Put all 10 events in order.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Record dates

Record the year of each event.

Event	Year
Stamp Act	1765
Declaration of Independence	1776
Treaty of Paris	1783

3 Box 3

Connect causes and effects

In the simulator: Find all 5 cause-and-effect links.

What did you notice?

4 Box 4

Before independence

Why is it a misconception that the war started with the Declaration of Independence?

- ☐ Fighting began at Lexington and Concord in 1775, a year earlier ☐ The war never started
☐ The Declaration came after Yorktown

✓ **Fighting began at Lexington and Concord in 1775, a year earlier**

How long?

How many years passed between the Stamp Act and the Treaty of Paris?

Answer: _____ years ✓ **18**

5 Box 5

The most important link

Which cause-and-effect link was most important to American independence?

The link

Look for: States a cause and effect; at least 8 words

Why it mattered

Look for: a number from the simulator; at least 16 words

6 Box 6

Legend: a missing event Legend only

Name an event from 1763–1783 that is NOT on this timeline and explain where it would go and what it caused.

Look for: a number from the simulator; at least 20 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How did one event lead to the next on the road to independence?

Look for: The Revolution was a chain of causes and effects: war debt → taxes → protests → punishment → battles → independence. The victory at Saratoga brought French help, which made the win at Yorktown and the Treaty of Paris possible.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	NC4-E
 Investigator	11I-I

 Watch for these misconceptions

- "The war started with the Declaration of Independence." Fighting began at Lexington and Concord more than a year earlier.
- "All colonists wanted independence." Many were Loyalists or neutral.
- "The colonists won alone." French money, troops, and navy were essential.