

The United States Becomes a Country!

*A Story of the Revolution Told by Unlikely
Witnesses*



Cast of Characters

Narrator 1	Henry: A Patriot Mouse
Charlie: A Patriot Mouse	Tyler: A Patriot Mouse
John Adams: Founding Guy	Thomas Jefferson: Founding Guy
Benjamin Franklin: Founding Guy	Narrator 2
Mary: A Patriot Mouse	Hannah: A Patriot Mouse
Liz: A Loyalist Mouse	Burt: A Loyalist Mouse
Abby: A Loyalist Mouse	Narrator 3
Narrator 4	Francis
Susan	Sam
Narrator 5	Narrator 6

Scene 1: Philadelphia, 1776

Narrator 1: It is July 2, 1776 in Philadelphia. That is more than 230 years ago. It is 27 years before Ohio becomes a state. Our main characters are tiny mice hiding out and trying to scrape by with meager pieces of food that they happen to find. Little do they know they are about to become part of a revolution.

Henry: Seriously, Charlie, I really don't think it is necessary for you to gorge yourself on all that frosting. Pass some over this way!

Charlie: Listen, Buddy, finders, keepers. You're lucky I'm giving you any cake at all. Why don't you shut that trap and find your own dang food. The only stuff you've turned up the past few weeks is rotten eggplant. Yech!

Tyler: Hey you two stop bickering for five minutes and pay attention! I hear voices. If humans see us, that cake will be your last meal.

Narrator 1: The three mice scurry behind a wooden chair and watch the three men enter the room. The men are John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. They, along with others, are leaders that are starting this new country.

John Adams: When the other members of Congress correct your writing, they aren't trying to hurt your feelings! They just want to make sure that when we tell Great Britain we are forming our own country, we do so with the best writing.

Thomas Jefferson I know you are right, but you know how much I hate being involved in politics – especially with all of the criticism. I just want to go home and be a farmer.

Benjamin Franklin: George Washington has been the head of the Continental Army for over a year. Our soldiers are poor and young. Boys usually go with their older family members to battle. You know about 10-year-old Israel Task who is a cook and carries messages for the Continental Army. We need a piece of paper saying that the 13 colonies are now 13 states in a new nation. Accept the changes, Jefferson. We need to move!

John Adams: Benjamin is right. Colonists didn't want to go to war with Great Britain. We tried to stop the high taxes and unfair rules. We stopped buying goods that were made in Britain. Colonists had protests. For example, think about the Boston Tea Party. Colonists threw 45 tons of British tea into Boston Harbor while they were dressed like Indians.

Thomas Jefferson I agree that we have to quickly separate from Great Britain. After all, the first battle shots were fired over two years ago in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Narrator 2: The three men leave the room and the mice come out from behind the chair. Charlie has eaten all of the frosting, much to the disappointment of Henry. Mary and Hannah have joined the group.

Mary: Hey Everybody! What are you doing?

Henry: There were three men in here named Adams, Jefferson, and Franklin. They were talking about the colonies breaking away from Great Britain and making their own country. Why would they want to do that in the first place?

Hannah: Henry, if you didn't have your head in a barrel of sugar half the time, you might learn something. Great Britain was making the colonists pay a lot of taxes and follow strict laws. The colonists weren't allowed to vote on the laws or the taxes. The colonists thought it was unfair.

Mary: There was even a law that said any British soldier could move into your house without your permission.

Tyler: Well, Mary, we mice have a habit of moving into houses without being invited. But humans are just so dirty and smelly! I couldn't imagine having a strange British soldier just moving in and expecting a family to feed him!

Charlie: Shh! Get behind the chair! I hear something in the hall.

Narrator 3: Charlie, Tyler, Henry, Hannah, and Mary hide behind a group of chairs. Three confused mice named Liz, Burt, and Abby wander in the room. Liz, Burt, and Abby have just arrived from Great Britain. They were stowaways on a ship.

Liz: Hey! Look! I see a window that is open! We can crawl down to the street and finally get out of here!

Abby: No way, Liz. I am finishing this tasty cake before I go anywhere. We have been on a boat for 3 months crossing the Atlantic Ocean and all I have eaten is nasty cornmeal.

Burt: Yes, Abby, we all know how hungry you are – it is all you have talked about for the past hour!

Charlie: Hey! What are you doing here on our turf! This meeting house is ours!

Henry: That cake from the back room is mine, Thief!

Liz: First of all, you are living here without permission – just like every other mouse in Philadelphia. Secondly, we just came over from Great Britain and are looking for a permanent home. Don't worry – we'll get out of here.

Tyler: Wait! We just heard three guys talking about your king. His name is George III and he put really high taxes and unfair laws on the colonists. The colonists want to make their own country.

Liz: *Our King!* He is also your King! The British Navy has been protecting you for years. The British government and King George have been looking out for you for 150 years.

Abby: Do you think you should have to pay taxes to England? After all, they protected you colonists during the French and Indian War. The Indians and French might have killed you without the British protection!

- Henry:** But the time has come for the colonists to make their own country. The people in the United States deserve to be free from the rules of just one man! Like Patrick Henry said, "Give me liberty or give me death!"
- Burt:** Are you kidding? The colonists are fighting for freedom? You have slavery in every colony. If you win freedom from Great Britain, the only people that will be able to vote are white men who own land.
- Abby:** Burt is right. Great Britain has outlawed slavery for a long time.
- Hannah:** Hmm, I never thought about it like that before. That means that only a few people would be able to vote when the United States first starts.
- Narrator 3:** The mice continue to discuss the American Revolution. Congress signs the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It said the citizens could change or throw out any government that did not allow its people to have life, freedom or happiness.

Scene 2: Philadelphia in 1783

- Narrator 4:** Abby, Liz, and Burt have decided to stay in the meeting house with Henry, Charlie, Tyler, Mary, and Hannah. The 8 mice created their own country where citizens vote for leaders and laws. Now, their children are discussing the end of the Revolutionary War.
- Francis:** Wow, I really didn't think George Washington's Continental Army was going to beat the British Army. During the winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, there were almost 2,000 men that died of cold and sickness.
- Susan:** Luckily, there were a few women like Deborah Samson that disguised themselves as men and fought in the war. We also had the help of generals from France and Germany that came over to train our troops.
- Sam:** It is important to remember that 4,435 American soldiers died in combat and 6,188 were wounded. In the eight years of fighting, 2.2 percent of the American population died. Also, Continental Soldiers were only paid \$6.67 a month!

Francis: The French Army helped us corner the British on October 19, 1781. The British general, George Cornwallis, surrendered to George Washington. It took 2 more years for peace talks to officially end the war.

Susan: We may not have won the war without help from the French. The colonists had to fight against the British and the Indians. Remember that many Indians helped the British because the British promised them their land back after the war.

Sam: Now that the war is over, the Continental Congress needs to make a whole new government. That is going to be the hard part! What will they do about slavery? Or women not being able to vote?

Susan: I guess only time will tell. Fortunately, we know for sure it will be a government chosen by the people through voting.

Narrator 5: Being a new, free country brought many problems – especially with money. Soldiers had been promised bonus money to stay in the army but the government didn't have the cash. The soldiers were told they would be paid with money or land in the future. It took until 1789, when a new central government was formed, for the nation to give soldiers the rest of their payments.

Narrator 6: The citizens of the United States elected George Washington president in 1789. He had been the leader of the Continental Army, and most Americans voted for him. He served for 8 years as president. The people would have elected him to serve more, but he was afraid that would seem like a king. Washington thought it was important that a president not serve more than 8 years.

Narrator 5: That is a brief story of how the United States was born!

Dear Children,

Hey! Isn't it amazing that there were people brave enough and brilliant enough to start their own country? There are people all over the world who are fighting for their freedom right now. I used the books below to get the information for this play. You should check them out. We have them all in our classroom library.

[The Essential Book of Presidential Trivia](#) by Noah McCullough

[If You Lived at the Time of the American Revolution](#) by Kay Moore and illustrated by Daniel O'Leary

Liberty or Death: The American Revolution 1763-1783 by Betsy and Giulio Maestro
Thomas Jefferson by R. B. Bernstein (This is an adult book)

By the way, our first president, *George Washington* loved his horses so much that he covered them with fur coats and had their teeth brushed! History is full of fun, important, fascinating facts. I DARE you to find a new fact to share!

Yours truly,
Ms. Monda