



Serialized Story Guide *for* Teachers, Students and Families

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages	
Chapter 1	Common Sense Arrives	3-4
Chapter 2	A Fresh Start in America	5-6
Chapter 3	Who Was “Anonymous?”	7-8
Chapter 4	The Secret Is Revealed	9-10
Chapter 5	The Times That Try Men’s Souls	11-12
Chapter 6	Patriots Flee, But Fight Back	13-14
Chapter 7	Exiled Patriots Hatch a Plot	15-16
Chapter 8	Good Ideas in Print Shaped A Nation	17-18
Thomas Paine Word Search		19
Answers	Recalling the Facts, Comprehension Questions & Word Search	20-22
Pennsylvania Academic Standards		23
	Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening; History; Civics and Government	
Related Websites		24

Chapter 1 - Common Sense Arrives

Vocabulary

strolled - *verb*; walking in a leisurely or idle manner

pamphlet - *noun*; an unbound printed publication with no cover or with a paper cover

enlightening - *adjective*; giving spiritual insight to

gesturing – *verb*; expressing or directing by a movement of the body or limbs that expresses or emphasizes an idea or an attitude

revelation - *noun*; an act of revealing to view or making known

anonymous - *adjective*; not named or identified

Recalling the Facts

1. During what year does the story begin?
2. In what city does the story begin?
3. The colonists were under which country's rule?
4. What is the name of the pamphlet the men were talking about?
5. How did the author of the pamphlet sign his name?
6. Who was the well-known journalist and publisher who owned a small press?
7. How many colonies were there at this time?
8. How many copies of the pamphlet were printed, sold, borrowed or traded?

Comprehension Questions

1. Why was everyone excited as they walked down the streets of Philadelphia?
2. Who did Walter say he was going to give his copy of *Common Sense* to after he was finished reading it? Where did Walter get his copy of the book and who sold it to him? Why were they all reading the same copy?
3. Who else received credit to for being the author and why?

In the News

Common Sense became the same as a "modern-day best seller" of its day. Look through the newspaper for book reviews and advertisements. What are some of today's best sellers?

Take It to the Real World

The author was actually a new immigrant, an Englishman, who had arrived in Philadelphia on November 30, 1774. Immigration is still an issue that is very much alive and in the news. Look for any reference to immigrants and/or immigration in today's paper. Photos, comics, editorials, classified ads, etc. can also help. Be sure to check it all out in today's newspaper!

Make a Prediction

What was life like for immigrants during this period of time? How do you think you would have felt if you were the immigrant arriving in Philadelphia in November, 1774?

Essay Questions

1. Thomas Paine's pamphlet was titled *Common Sense*, and it made the argument for the American colonies to declare independence from England. What were some reasons for American independence? Were these reasons "common sense" to the colonists? Why did Paine give his pamphlet the name *Common Sense*?
2. *Common Sense* was widely read throughout the colonies and the author mentioned that John Eshleman and Horace Bancroft were laborers. *Common Sense* became so popular in the colonies that almost everyone who could read saw a copy. What about the American Revolution appealed to the average person?

Chapter 2 - A Fresh Start in America

Vocabulary

queasy - *adjective*; suffering from nausea

citizen - *noun*; a person who owes allegiance to a government and is entitled to government protection

reconcile - *verb*; to restore to friendship or harmony

ingenious - *adjective*; marked by originality, resourcefulness and cleverness

surveyor - *noun*; one who determines the form, extent, and position of a tract of land by taking measurements

subsistence - *noun*; condition of managing to stay alive

acquaintance - *noun*; a person with whom one becomes friendly

obliged - *verb*; to bind by a favor; to do a favor for or do something as a favor

circulation - *noun*; the average number of copies of a publication sold over a given period

restless - *adjective*; continuously moving, discontented

nonsense - *noun*; having no meaning, not conveying an intelligent idea

Recalling the Facts

1. What ocean did Thomas Paine cross to come to America?
2. The city of Philadelphia is on the shores of which river?
3. Who was referred to as "Philadelphia's best known citizen?"
4. What jobs did Thomas Paine hold when he was in England?
5. What type of store did John Aitken own?
6. Thomas Paine eventually became the assistant editor of which publication?
7. Who was the King of England in 1776?
8. What could Frederick do that many other young people could not?

Comprehension Questions

1. In what month did Thomas Paine arrive and in what condition was he?
2. What did Thomas Paine carry with him "that would seal his future" in Philadelphia?
3. Where did Thomas Paine frequently visit when he began to recover? Why?
4. How did Frederick feel about his father's bookstore? What did he like to do when he finished his chores?
5. Explain what happened to the magazine's circulation after Thomas Paine started to work there? What reasons are given for this increased number of readers?

In the News

Thomas Paine began working for *Pennsylvania Magazine* as the associate editor. Look through the newspaper and find the information index. Notice how many different editors a newspaper can have! Each one is in charge of a different part of the newspaper. Read through the newspaper and find a section that you like.

Take It to the Real World

If you were to pick a job as editor which section of the newspaper would you like to prepare and revise for publication? Editors work closely with the publisher and make sure that the vision; policies, core values and procedures of the publication are followed.

Make a Prediction

Who will be the first to figure out that Thomas Paine is Anonymous?

Essay Questions

1. Thomas Paine enjoyed having discussions with others about the news of the day, and he began to discuss independence from England. Do you think the king should have arrested him for calling for independence?
2. Why do you think Thomas Paine published *Common Sense* with the byline of Anonymous?

Chapter 3 - Who Was "Anonymous?"

Vocabulary

execution - *noun*; putting to death especially as a legal penalty

abide - *verb*; to accept without objection

misbehavior - *noun*; an improper action or manner of conduct

horrors - *noun*; painful and intense fear

snatched - *verb*; tried to grasp something suddenly, seized

motivated - *verb*; provided with a reason to act

Recalling the Facts

1. To whom did Frederich want to speak about Mr. Anonymous?
2. Thomas Paine told Frederich about a boy who grew up in which country?
3. What was the religion of the boy's father?
4. The most well-known belief of the Quakers is against what?
5. What was the main religion of England?
6. Who founded Pennsylvania?
7. The boy in Thomas Paine's story ran away to do what?

Comprehension Questions

1. What was John Aiken's question that would not go away?
2. Why did Frederich think "Paine would forget, or that he wouldn't have time to talk to a young boy like himself?"
3. Explain how the "Quakers were different in the way they conducted their lives."
4. Where did Frederich walk to each day when he finished his chores? Why?
5. What motivated the young Englishman Thomas Paine described and what did Frederich believe it would take to run away and become a sailor? Why?

In the News

Thomas Paine's story had Frederich on the edge of his seat while he told him the tales of "the English boy who ran away to sea." Look through the newspaper and see if you can find a story that keeps you on the edge of your seat. Perhaps you will find a story about a runaway or missing person.

Take It to the Real World

In the story you read how the Quaker Religion listed "misbehaviors" that they tried to correct. They included: violence, drinking alcohol, dressing fancy, speaking ill of one's neighbors and family, having slaves, being tardy, stealing, lying, etc. In our society today, participating in some of these activities can result in breaking the law. Look through the newspaper and find examples of these misbehaviors in the news. What happened to the offenders?

Make a Prediction

Who do you think the "young Englishman" in the story is?

Essay Questions

1. Describe and explain the courage needed to write *Common Sense*. What was more courageous, writing *Common Sense*, a pamphlet calling for revolution, or running away from home? Why?
2. What are some possible reasons Thomas Paine may have had to run away from home?
3. The Quakers were persecuted in England because of their religion. Why do you think they were "helped" to move to the colonies?

Chapter 4 - The Secret is Revealed

Vocabulary

ambitious - *adjective*; having a desire to achieve a particular goal

petition - *noun*; a formal request

parliament - *noun*; the supreme legislative body of the British government

stifled - *verb*; repressed, stopped

ordinary - *adjective*; to be expected: usual or of common quality, rank, or ability

debate - *verb*; to formally discuss an idea, question, or motion by parties with opposing views

seething - *verb*; to become violently agitated

crucial - *adjective*; decisive; trying, severe

independence - *noun*; the quality or state of self-governing

Recalling the Facts

1. Where was the young man in the story sent to work?
2. It was discovered that the young man could do what very well?
3. What did the other tax collectors ask the young man to do?
4. Where did the young man have to take the petition?
5. What language was Anna's father teaching her?
6. Who did Anna think wrote *Common Sense*?
7. What was the name of the debating club that Thomas Paine belonged to in England?

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was surprised that he could put his thoughts in order? Why did it matter?
2. Whom did Thomas Paine meet in Parliament? Why was that important?
3. In Parliament, who considered changes in the English laws?

4. How old was Thomas when he succeeded at his first work and at what had he previously failed?

5. What were the crucial skills that Paine possessed and what was the whispered word?

In the News

Independence is as important today for some countries as it was in Thomas Paine's day. Search the news for examples of places still fighting for independence. How are they going about it? At what cost? What crucial skills may they be lacking to accomplish their goal?

Take It to the Real World

Paine explained that "there were always those wars that England waged, and each time they drafted the Americans to fight in their wars." It "was not very fair and it cost much money." Today the United States is engaged in a war filled with controversy. Look for a news story, photo, cartoon, etc. that makes reference to the war. Take a stand and write a response.

Make a Prediction

What will happen in the new colonies once the whisper of "independence" is spoken?

Essay Questions

1. In this story, Paine mentions wars that the colonists did not want to fight. What were some of those wars? Why did the colonist object to fighting those wars?
2. "The English Parliament was taxing the colonies to pay for their protection." Assess this statement in light of the comments in this story.

Chapter 5 - The Times that Try Men's Souls

Vocabulary

statesman - *noun*; one versed in the principles of government

prohibiting - *verb*; preventing from doing something; forbidding by authority

awkward - *adjective*; the wrong way; lacking dexterity or skill

aide-de-camp - *noun*; a military assistant to a superior officer

correspondent - *noun*; one who communicated with another by letter

mercenaries - *noun*; soldiers hired by a foreign country to serve solely for wages

strategists - *noun*; persons skilled in the science and art of military command exercised to meet the enemy in combat under advantageous conditions

Recalling the Facts

1. The colonies had thoughts of independence from which country?
2. What were the colonists concerned about paying to the English?
3. When Franklin asked Thomas Paine to write about the English-American relations, what was the name of the pamphlet he wrote?
4. Which pamphlet name did Benjamin Rush decide would be a better fit for the colonists?
5. What did Thomas Paine do that worried Anna?
6. What job did Paine have in the army?
7. In December 1776, where did the Continental Army have a terrible retreat?
8. Which of Paine's articles did General Washington have his men read before crossing the Delaware on Christmas Eve?
9. What was Thomas Paine's new pen name that he used to sign his *Crisis* articles?

Comprehension Questions

1. What concerns was Thomas Paine trying to voice? How did he do that?
2. Who left for Philadelphia first and how long did it take the other person to follow?

3. Where did Frederick find Anna? What was she doing?
4. What did Thomas Paine arm himself with when he went off to war? Why?
5. What prompted Thomas Paine to write the first of his 13 *The American Crisis* articles?

In the News

Thomas Paine was described as "America's first war correspondent" writing articles that were published in Philadelphia's newspapers throughout the war. Search the newspapers of today and locate articles and/or photos that were provided by newspaper war correspondents of today.

Take It to the Real World

Some news correspondents have their own television shows. Some shows were created due to news situations. Look through today's newspaper and locate the TV schedule. List the shows that are news-related. How many male correspondents are there as compared to female correspondents?

Make a Prediction

Will Thomas Paine's stand for "unity in the colonies" make a difference in the success of independence from England? Explain your answer.

Essay Questions

1. During the war Thomas Paine wrote articles instead of fighting. Which was more valuable to the revolutionary cause, writing or fighting? Why?
2. Why did George Washington have the *Crisis I* read to all his men before crossing the Delaware River on his way to Trenton? What was so important about that battle?

Chapter 6 - Patriots Flee, But Fight Back

Vocabulary

morale - *noun*; the mental and emotional frame of mind of an individual or group with regard to the tasks at hand

proportions - *noun*; size and dimensions

shillings - *noun*; a former monetary unit of the United Kingdom; any of several early American coins

advocate - *noun*; one who pleads another's cause, to plead in favor of

refugees - *noun*; people who flee for safety

retreated - *verb*; withdrew; moved back

blockade - *noun*; a restrictive measure designed to obstruct commerce and communications

harpsichord - *noun*; a stringed instrument resembling a grand piano but usually having two keyboards and two or more strings for each note and producing tones by the plucking of strings with quills or leather points

enchanted - *verb*; bewitched or enraptured

conspiracy - *noun*; the act of joining in a secret agreement to do an unlawful act

maritime - *adjective*; of or relating to navigation or commerce on the sea

combustible - *adjective*; capable of burning

Recalling the Facts

1. On April 17, 1777, who appointed Paine Secretary of Foreign Affairs?
2. As the British were moving closer to Philadelphia, Anna and Frederick's family went to stay with friends in which town?
3. To where did the government of the colonies move?
4. In 1780 there was a shortage of what, that might cause the colonies to lose the war?
5. To help the war effort, Thomas Paine came up with an idea to create what?
6. Who provided the money to form the Bank of North America?

7. What instrument did Mr. Hopkinson play in his home in Bordentown for the Philadelphia refugees?

8. What were the men discussing?

Comprehension Questions

1. Paine "wrote in great detail about the government or Army problems that needed a solution from all the colonies." What position in today's government is similar?

2. Frederick and Anna's family packed their belongings into a wagon that September to make a trip to New Jersey. Why were they referred to as "refugees?"

3. Who were they hoping to see in the crowds while leaving Philadelphia? Why?

4. Paine told Anna, "Before the weather turns I shall be with the Kirkbrides just north of here in Bucks County, Pennsylvania." Explain what he meant by "before the weather turns."

5. What was it that Anna learned weeks later about Mr. Paine?

6. Who was his meeting with and where did the meeting occur?

In the News

Even during troubled times people needed to have celebrations. In the story we find that enjoying good food and music were ways that everyone was able to relax and have some fun. The newspaper provides much information about food and entertainment. Read the newspaper and find out which sections provide readers with that information.

Take It to the Real World

Moving to a new home, school or town is always stressful. Pretend that you are in that situation and after settling in you decide that you need a fun evening out. Find the entertainment section of the newspaper and plan an outing that will help you to relax and become more familiar with your new hometown.

Make a Prediction

Do you believe the "maritime experiment" that Mrs. Borden referred to will be successful?

Essay Questions

1. If the English army captured the conspirators in Bordentown, what should they have done with them? How far should they go to get information about the secret naval attack?
2. Is there a limit in times of war as to what an army can do? Describe that limit.

Chapter 7 - Exiled Patriots Hatch a Plot

Vocabulary

moored - *verb*; tied to with lines or anchors

outlandish - *adjective*; strikingly out of the ordinary

gallants - *noun*; young men of fashion

harmonious - *adjective*; musically agreeable combination of tones

ditty - *noun*; a simple, genuine song

jerkin - *noun*; a close-fitting sleeveless jacket

clatter - *noun*; a rattling sound

espied - *verb*; to catch sight of, behold, see, perceive, or notice

tithing - *noun*; a tenth part paid or given especially for the support of a church

motley - *adjective*; made up of diverse often inconsistent or odd elements

routed - *verb*; to send by a selected route or to arrange and direct the order of

despised - *adjective*; looked down upon with contempt or aversion: regarded as worthless

score - *noun*; a group of twenty things

mischievous - *noun*; a cause or source of harm or evil

staves - *noun*; narrow strips of wood or iron plates placed edge to edge to form the covering or lining of a barrel

hoops - *noun*; a circular ring for holding together the narrow strips of a container

Recalling the Facts

1. What was Francis Hopkins' humorous song-poem entitled?
2. Down which river were the kegs being sent?
3. What did the colonists hope would happen?
4. During which year did the Battle of the Kegs supposedly take place?
5. To what tune is the "Battle of the Kegs" sung?

6. Near which city did these strange things happen?
7. Who did the sailor say was the guide of the wooden kegs?
8. Who were the powerful foes of the colonists?
9. What did the “men of might” eat after the battle was over?

Comprehension Questions

1. Explain what is meant by the line, "Strange things I'll tell, which late befell in Philadelphia city."
2. Why is this story being retold? Why did they decide to make it a "harmonious ditty?"

In the News

Songs and poems are often written about interesting events, just as "The Battle of the Kegs" humorously depicts a plot devised by the colonists to fight the British. Look through the newspaper for an interesting story. Write a brief poem or pick a simple tune and write some lyrics that describe the story you chose. Try to add a bit of humor to your poem or song.

Take It to the Real World

Sometimes far-fetched or unusual ideas turn out to be very successful and at other times they just don't work. Scan the newspaper for an article or a cartoon about a new idea or concept. Do you think the idea will have a lasting impact on history, or do you think it will quickly be forgotten? Defend your answer.

Make a Prediction

Once the war is over, what do you think Thomas Paine will do?

Essay Questions

1. Describe what was happening in the song. Where the rebels successful? How do you know?
2. The attack described in the song would be considered a terrorist attack today. Were the conspirators terrorists?

Chapter 8 - Good Ideas in Print Shaped a Nation

Vocabulary

dialogues - *noun*; conversations between two or more people

delegates - *noun*; representatives to a convention or conference

redress - *verb*; remedy: to remove the cause of a grievance

grievances - *noun*; causes of distress allowing reasons for complaints or resistance

consul - *noun*; an official appointed by a government to reside in a foreign country to represent the commercial interests of citizens of the appointing government

amendments - *noun*; changes, additions or deletions to an original text

guillotine - *noun*; a machine for beheading by means of a heavy blade

ventilation - *noun*; the circulation of air as in a room

curtsy - *noun*; an act of respect, usually by women, which consists of lowering the body by bending the knees

liberal - *adjective*; open-minded, not following traditional or orthodox ways

reign - *noun*; the time during which a king rules

erect - *verb*; to build

Recalling the Facts

1. Many of Thomas Paine's writings were debated by the delegates to what?
2. Where was the Constitutional Convention held?
3. What year was the Constitutional Convention held?
4. Who was the elder delegate at the Constitutional Convention?
5. What did the delegates add to the Constitution before it was completed?
6. What important document did Thomas Paine write in England?
7. What important document did Thomas Paine write in France?
8. In 1794, who was Thomas Paine's friend, who also served as the American Consul in Paris?

Comprehension Questions

1. Why was Thomas Paine in Paris?
2. What five freedoms were guaranteed in the First Amendment?
3. Thomas Paine did not write the U. S. Constitution, but how is he connected to it?
4. Where was Paine arrested during the French Revolution and its Reign of Terror? Why and where did they imprison him? Explain why it seemed hopeless that he would not be freed and how he escaped the guillotine.
5. Who arrived to surprise Mr. Paine and how did they make him feel?
6. What began at dinner that night?

In the News

Today's newspapers and media sources are products of the First Amendment to our Constitution and our Bill of Rights. Explain this statement and find examples in the newspaper to defend your explanation.

Take It to the Real World

During the end of the 1700s, France also experienced a revolution. Today, many countries are plagued with unrest and war because their citizens are fighting for rights they believe should be guaranteed by their governments. Look for an article that describes a country in which the citizens feels they are being deprived of their rights.

Make a Prediction

What do you think happened to Thomas Paine's remains? Where would you bury Mr. Paine if you found his remains? Explain your answers.

Essay Questions

1. The American Revolution's ideas and themes spread to other countries. Why do you think other countries were inspired by the American Revolution?
2. The first amendment protects our rights to free speech and a free press. Describe how Thomas Paine impacted the American Revolution through his writings.

Thomas Paine Word Search

H I N D E P E N D E N C E T Q D B W
M C O L O N I S T S P F B F Z A M Q
J F E P H I L A D E L P H I A R K A
J A S T A T E S M A N H E S E A N H
A A E U I U N B D Q E N S V X O T D
M N D N A K G E P V G T I R N V D T
E B D T I F C E D L Q R L Y Q O W N
S P C P F A T R I N E Q M K U J M E
M S O F A I P S I R O O J B A Z Z M
O A M H T T H S A S U P O R K P S A
N G M I E M R W A S I R S E E U W I
R W O K A T A I Z M D S E E R C U L
O N N N N L A K O E O L P V R K T R
E U S Q E M I B N T T H E A I R O A
S U E D H M X T E R W Y T W P B O P
B M N Q H N O S O D O O P A V E V C
F Z S Y N W F F F R T H S H R T R V
D E E Z N L O W P O X E A R H F Q S

ANONYMOUS
BORDENTOWN
COLONISTS
COMMON SENSE
CORRESPONDENT
CRISIS PAPERS
DEBATE
DELAWARE RIVER
ENGLISHMAN
FORT LEE

INDEPENDENCE
JAMES MONROE
PARLIAMENT
PATRIOT
PETITION
PHILADELPHIA
QUAKER
STATESMAN
SURVEYOR
THOMAS PAINE