

Weekly Concept Reaching a Compromise



Essential Question

What do good problem solvers do?



Go Digital!



Francis G. Mayer/Corbis



A Stitch in Time

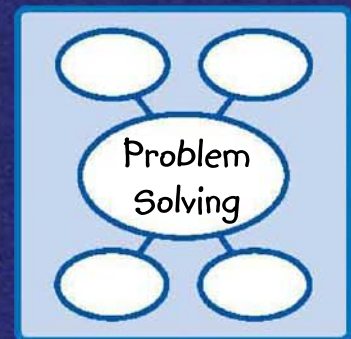
In May of 1776, a committee led by General George Washington had an idea for what would be the first American flag. They asked seamstress Betsy Ross for help.

- ▶ General Washington explained his proposal for the flag, which included a six-pointed star.
- ▶ Betsy Ross showed him how to make a five-pointed star with a simple fold and one snip! With little debate, Washington changed the design!

Talk About It



Write words you have learned about solving a problem. Then talk about how this committee solved a problem.



Vocabulary

Use the picture and sentences to talk with a partner about each word.



committees

I am on one of the **committees** to plan our class trip.

What committees could help plan a school talent show?



convention

Ms. Blake attends a **convention** of music teachers every year.

What kind of convention would you like to attend?



debate

The council members will **debate** the benefits and costs of a new park before they vote on it.

What is a synonym for debate?



proposal

The mayor shared a **proposal**, or plan, to build a new community center.

Do you have a proposal that would improve your community?



representatives

Our government **representatives** help make laws to benefit our country.

What qualities should good representatives have?



resolve

To try to **resolve** the argument over food choices, Mrs. Marks asked Jeremy to discuss the importance of nutrition.

What steps help you resolve a problem?



situation

The icy roads caused a dangerous driving **situation**.

What kinds of weather can cause serious situations?



union

The United States is a **union** of 50 states that joined together.

What two states are not shown on this map? Where are they located?

Your Turn

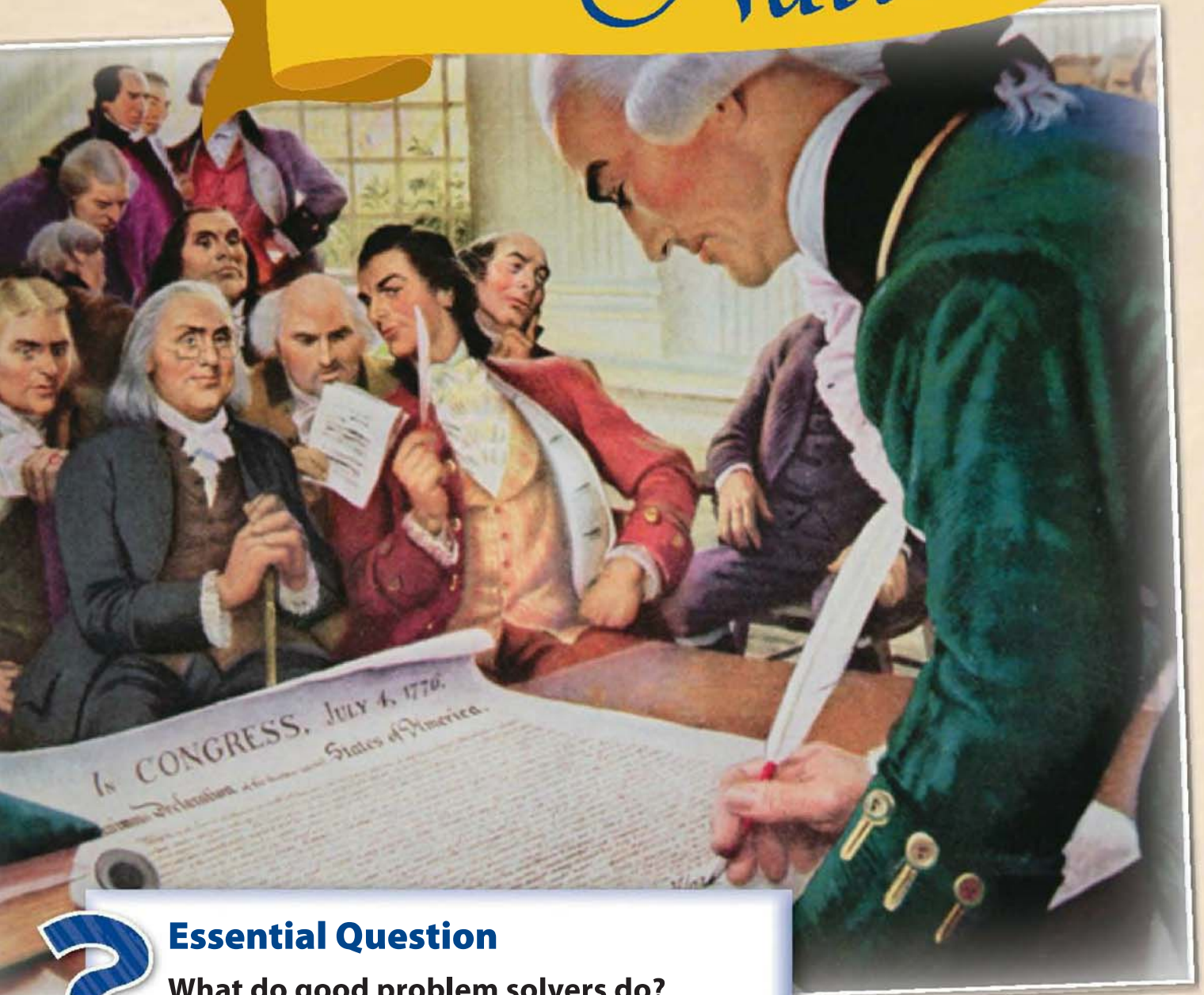
COLLABORATE



Pick three words. Write three questions for your partner to answer.

Go Digital! Use the online visual glossary

Creating a Nation



Essential Question

What do good problem solvers do?

Read about how American colonists tried to solve their problems with Great Britain.

Taxes and Protests

In 1765, King George III of Great Britain needed money to rule his empire. How could he raise it? With taxes! Parliament, the law-making branch of the British government, passed a new tax called the Stamp Act. Every piece of paper sold in the American colonies had to carry a special stamp. Want to buy a newspaper? Stamp! Pay the tax.

To most colonists, the Stamp Act was unfair. The British had the right to choose **representatives** to speak for them in Parliament. The colonists had no such right. How could Parliament tax them if they had no voice in government?

The colonists held protests against the Stamp Act. Consequently, it was repealed, or canceled. But more taxes followed. Women protested a tax on cloth imported from Britain. How? They wove their own cloth at home.



Boston Tea Party: Some colonists disguised themselves as Native Americans.

Before long, the **situation** grew worse. In 1770, British soldiers fired into a disorderly crowd in Boston. Five colonists died. This tragedy is known as the Boston Massacre.

By 1773, most taxes had been repealed, or canceled, except the one on tea. One night, colonists held a protest called the Boston Tea Party. Dressed in disguise, they slipped onto three British ships in Boston Harbor and then they tossed the ships' cargo—tea—overboard.

Revolution Begins

An angry King George punished the colonies by ordering the port of Boston closed and town meetings banned. Colonists called these harsh actions the “Intolerable Acts.” However, they could not agree on how to **resolve** the problems with Great Britain. Patriots wanted to fight for independence. Loyalists wanted peace with the king. Many colonists were undecided.

Finally, colonists called for representatives from each colony to attend a **convention**. This important meeting, the First Continental Congress, took place in 1774 in Philadelphia. After discussion, the delegates decided to send a peace **proposal** to the king. Congress ended, but the trouble continued. In April 1775, there were rumors that the British were marching to

Lexington and Concord, villages near Boston, to capture weapons that the patriots had hidden there.

The colonial militias were ready. Militias were groups of volunteers willing to fight. British troops attacked. The militias fired back. Surprisingly, the British retreated, or went back.

Now that war had begun, the patriots called for a Second Continental Congress in May. Delegates made George Washington commander of the new Continental Army. Congress also sent another peace proposal to King George.

As war continued, Congress formed **committees** to do important tasks. Five delegates were chosen to write a declaration of independence. This committee gave the job to one of its members—Thomas Jefferson.

(bkgd) Oleksiy Maksymenko/Alamy

Events of the American Revolution

Events of the American Revolution



Independence Declared

Jefferson knew he had to convince many colonists of the need for independence. As a result, he combined a variety of ideas to make his case. Individuals, he explained, had certain rights. These included life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments were created to protect those rights. Instead, King George had taken away colonists' rights and freedoms. Therefore, the colonies had to separate from Britain.

Congress went on to **debate** Jefferson's points. As a result, his strong words against slavery were deleted. There were other compromises, too. But on July 4, 1776, Congress approved the Declaration of Independence. A nation was born. Washington's army fought on. Finally, in 1778, France

joined the fight on America's side. This was a turning point. In 1781, British troops surrendered in the war's last major battle. That year, Congress approved the Articles of Confederation. This document outlined a government for the former colonies. The United States was created as a confederation, or a **union**, of separate states. The Articles gave the states, rather than a central government, the power to make most decisions.

In 1783, King George finally recognized the nation's independence. By then, though, the United States government clearly wasn't working very well. The states often didn't agree with one another.

The revolution had ended. The work of shaping a government had just started. It would continue with a Constitutional Convention in 1787.

1781

- Last major battle of the War
- Approval of the Articles of Confederation

1783

King George recognizes independence of United States



Make Connections

Talk about some of the ways American colonists tried to solve their problems with Great Britain. **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

Think of a time you tried to solve a problem. How does your experience compare to the colonists'? **TEXT TO SELF**