

the British empire. As time went on, the colonies became more and more intolerant of the British presence in America and they began to unite in opposition to government from London. The old colonial system (which was really the lack of a system) was obviously inadequate for the requirements of the situation.

The War of Independence

Dissatisfaction grew until 1773 when the powerful British East India Company, finding itself in financial difficulties, secured a monopoly on all tea exported to the colonies. On the night of December 16, a group of Americans disguised as Indians boarded three British ships and threw their cargo of tea into Boston harbour. This act became known as the "Boston Tea Party". The following year, a Congress of representatives of the 13 colonies met in Virginia, and in the spring of 1775 open rebellion broke out. In 1775, in Philadelphia, Congress declared the colonies independent and decided that war was inevitable. Colonel George Washington

was appointed commander-in-chief of the American forces. In 1776 a Committee of five was appointed to draw up a declaration embodying a philosophy of freedom and equality.

One of the leading figures in the struggle for independence was Thomas Jefferson, the author of the "Declaration of Independence", which was adopted on 4th July, 1776, and celebrated ever since by Americans as their national holiday. The American Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents guaranteeing man's freedom.



The signing of the Declaration of Independence



The signing of the Declaration of Independence

author of the "Declaration of Independence", which was adopted on 4th July, 1776, and celebrated ever since by Americans as their national holiday. The American Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents guaranteeing man's freedom.

Matching

Match the dates with the historical events.

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Christopher Columbus landed at one of the Bahama Islands and claimed it for Spain naming it San Salvador. | 1607 |
| 2. The first English colony was founded during the reign of James I. It was named Virginia in honour of Elizabeth I the Virgin Queen. | 1620 |
| 3. Another settlement was established in Massachusetts by the Pilgrim Fathers, escaping from religious intolerance in England. | 1776 |
| 4. The colonies revolted and declared themselves independent. The new government of the USA issued the Declaration of Independence which was adopted on 4th July. | 1492 |