

WebQuest
John Hancock, Independent Boy
In the News

Introduction

In Chapter 6, Johnny and Jay talk to Sam Adams about his newspaper, the *Independent Advertiser*, and learn what he thinks about events happening in Massachusetts and other colonies. You will learn more about this period in American history and then write your own article for the *Independent Advertiser*.

Process

Step 1

You will need a journal or other notebook to take notes as you go to each Web site listed below.

Step 2

Visit each of the Web sites and make notes about the kinds of things that were happening during this time in American history. If you were living in a colony, like Johnny was, how do you think you would feel about these events?

Web Sites:

[Timeline: America During the Age of Revolution, 1764-1775](#)

[The History Place](#)

[Kidport Reference Library: The Boston Tea Party](#)

Step 3

Write an article that expresses your own opinion about whether or not the colonies should declare their independence from Britain. Remember to support your ideas with facts—things that really happened during this time in history.

Step 4

Add a catchy headline to your completed article. The headline should be one that gets a reader's attention.

Step 5

Check your article and headline for spelling and punctuation errors. Make all the necessary corrections, then read your article aloud to the class.

Conclusion: Things to Think About

In the story, Aunt Lydia says that the writers of newspaper articles were kept secret. Why do you think that was true? Is that still true today in the United States or other countries? Why or why not?