Causes of the American Revolution

1. Taxes
   1. French and Indian War (1754-1763)
      1. A war between France and Britain that was paid for by taxes on the American colonists
   2. Stamp Act (1765)
      1. The British placed a tax on all paper goods in the colonies (newspaper, cards, etc)
   3. Townshend Acts (1767)
      1. Another series of taxes on goods imported into the colonies (glass, gunpowder, etc)
2. Limited Freedoms
   1. Proclamation of 1763 (1763)
      1. In order to prevent wars with the Native Americans, the British stopped western expansion in the colonies at the Appalachian Mountains
   2. Tea Act (1773)
      1. In order to boost the sale of East India Company tea, the British restricted the sale of tea in the colonies from any other supplier
   3. Intolerable Acts (1774)
      1. As a consequence for the Boston Tea Party, the British passed a series of acts that limited freedoms in Boston (town hall meetings were banned, colonists were required to house British soldiers, the Boston harbor was closed, etc)
3. Resistance from the Colonists
   1. Boston Massacre (1770)
      1. Angered over British policies, a group of colonists in Boston started a fight with British soldiers. A few Americans were killed
   2. Boston Tea Party (1773)
      1. In response to the Tea Act, members of the Sons of Liberty boarded British ships in Boston Harbor and dumped thousands of pounds of tea overboard
   3. Battle of Bunker Hill (1775)
      1. A loss for the Americans, but one of the first armed conflicts of the revolution which suffered losses on both sides
   4. Battles of Lexington and Concord (1775)
      1. Another armed conflict between the British and the colonists, included the “shot heard around the world”
4. Unity of the Colonists
   1. Sons of Liberty formed (1765)
      1. A unified group of colonists who desired to protest British actions
   2. 1st Continental Congress (1774)
      1. A unified group of colonists and the first evidence of an American federal government
   3. Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* (1776)
      1. Paine writes a pamphlet that insists it is “common sense” to declare independence from Britain…it brought the colonists together in a unified mission against the crown