After Lexington & Concord 20,000 militia men gather outside of Boston

British Gen. Gage moved his troops into the city of Boston

Fort Ticonderoga

Old British fort with lots of artillery (large guns & cannons)

Captured by Ethan Allen & his group- “The Green Mountain Boys”
They dragged the artillery back to Boston

Started to act as a government

Agreed to form the Continental Army

Fort Ticonderoga

George Washington chosen as the commanding general

The British wanted to take back the high ground over Boston

The militia had fortified the hills
After 3 tries, the British chased the colonists off the hill
1,000 British soldiers killed
400 colonists killed
**Olive Branch Petition**
- Last attempt at peace negotiations
- King George would not even read it

**Into Canada**
- Americans wanted to defeat the British in Quebec & draw the Canadians into the fight on their side

**Into Canada**
- Winter weather was very harsh
- Americans came home in defeat

**Artillery Arrives**
- Gen. Henry Knox arrives in Boston with the artillery
- Washington positioned the cannons to overlooked Boston

**Artillery Arrives**
- The Americans threatened to destroy the city unless the British left
- The British withdraw their troops to NYC

**Common Sense**
- Pamphlet written by Thomas Paine
Common Sense
- Said everyone should have the right to vote
- Urged Americans to fight for independence

Declaration of Independence
- Written by Thomas Jefferson
- He was chosen because he was an excellent writer & from Virginia - the oldest & most influential colony

July 4, 1776
- Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence
- John Hancock was the first to sign it
- Said that people have natural & unalienable rights that the government cannot take away

Who It Left Out
- Women, slaves, and those that did not own property were not given a voice