

# People to Know / Vocabulary

## Lesson 5

### As You Read

Who:

- *What did this person do for a living?*
- *Where are they from?*

Importance:

- *What did this person accomplish that made a difference then and/or now?*
- *How did they affect others then and/or now?*

### Samuel Adams

Samuel Adams (1722-1803) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Adams worked and failed at various jobs but he excelled as a political leader.

When Britain began taxing the colonies, Adams helped create the Sons of Liberty, a political action group that used threats and violence to oppose British policies in America. In his "Massachusetts Circular Letter," Adams urged all the colonies to oppose British taxes.

Adams used the Boston Massacre to create anti-British feelings and formed the Boston Committee of Correspondence that kept watch on British activities and reported them to the local population and other colonies.

Samuel Adams greatly influenced the patriot movement and pushed political opinion toward independence from Great Britain.

### King George III

King George III (1738-1820) had a difficult time growing up. He

had the pressures of being in line to be king and was a slow learner. When his grandfather died, George became king at age 22 in 1760.

George III stumbled through his rein. He repeatedly chose bad officials to represent the monarchy causing instability in the early years of his government. The huge debt left over from the French and Indian War led to tax revolts, mistrust, and eventual rebellion in the American colonies. The British public blamed George III for eventually losing the American colonies after fighting a long, costly, bloody war. The loss of the colonies irritated George III for years afterward.

George III suffered from some disorder that caused him to go through periods of insanity. By 1810, he was replaced by his son George IV. King George III spent the last decade of his life blind, deaf, and insane.

### VOCABULARY

Patriot:

a person who supports independence from Great Britain  
*John Adams supported a break from Britain to create a new country.*