

The Continental Congresses

	FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS	SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS
Dates Met	September 5 th -October 26 th 1774	May 10 th , 1775- March 1 st , 1781
Reason	Called originally in 1773 by Benjamin Franklin, the idea did not gain traction until after the Boston Port Act. Coordinated by the various Committees of Correspondence.	Lexington/Concord skirmishes (April 1775); provided for in the First Continental Congress if Britain failed to take action on petitions to revoke the Intolerable Acts.
Which Colonies?	12 of 13 (Georgia stayed home)	13 of 13
President	Peyton Randolph	John Hancock, others
Major Leaders	John Adams, Samuel Adams, George Washington, Joseph Galloway, Robert Treat Paine, Silas Deane, Roger Sherman, John Jay, Samuel Chase, William Paca, Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, Edmund Pendleton, John Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin	John Adams, Samuel Adams , George Washington, Joseph Galloway, Robert Treat Paine, Silas Deane, Roger Sherman, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson , Gouverneur Morris, James Monroe , John Jay, Samuel Chase, William Paca, Patrick Henry, Elbridge Gerry, Roger Sherman, Richard Henry Lee, Edmund Pendleton, John Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton .
Major Issues	Seeking independence from Britain was not a stated purpose: rather, the revocation of the Intolerable Acts .	War Congress . War Financing, Creation of a new coordinating government to face a far superior world power.
Major Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The (Continental) Association o Protest Measures o Set Future Meeting Date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May 10th, 1775 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Military Coordination / Financing o Independence o Diplomacy o Legislation
Successes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Articles of Association provided for boycott of British goods that might have been successful if fighting had not broke out in April of 1775. Non-importation, non-exportation, non-consumption. o The delegates spent almost two months talking (and drinking) together, and came to have a better understanding of the issues facing diverse regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Declaration of Independence (July, 1776): o Silas Deane Mission to France: sent as ambassador to persuade France to ally with the colonies against Britain. o Appointment of George Washington as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.
Failures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Galloway Plan: sharply divided o Suffolk Resolves (resolutions passed by Suffolk County Mass, carried by Paul Revere) split the congress between the older, more conservative members who were urging caution and the younger, more radical members. The resolutions were nevertheless adopted by the congress. o Declaration of Grievances: conceded the right of Parliament to tax the colonies [message directed to King George III, not Parliament]. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Olive Branch Petition (July, 1775): refused by George III. o Articles of Confederation (Nov 1777): was not passed until 1781; which left the Union with a weak confederation, leading to calling of the Constitutional Convention. o Political Factions began to emerge (parties) despite the "founders" desires to avoid: the southern colonies would be led by Virginia, and the Northern would be led by Massachusetts. The middle states swung support between the two factions.

Full text of the Journals of the Continental Congress:
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwjclink.html>