



READ, WHITE, AND BLUE!

Learn more about America's history this summer by reading at least 10 books from our reading list and entering your name to win a prize (exciting prizes to be announced later). The book list has books for all age levels – kids, young adults and adults. Celebrate America 250 by learning more about the founding of our country.

Books Celebrating the American Revolution

Compiled by Colleen Eggett

1. Anderson, Beth. 2022. *Cloaked in Courage: Uncovering Deborah Sampson, Patriot Soldier*. Nonfiction Picture book, ages 7-10.
The story of Deborah Sampson, a woman who fought in the American Revolution disguised as a man—and finds her true identity and purpose in life.
2. Atkinson, Rick. 2019. *The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777*. Adult Nonfiction.
Explores the political and military landscape, including the roles of Washington, Franklin, Knox, and Greene, and the challenges faced by the Continental Army. Told from both the American and British perspectives.
3. Berkin, Carol. 2005. *Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence*. Adult Nonfiction.
Colonial women's experiences as they play a crucial role in the Revolution highlighting their contributions as spies, saboteurs, nurses, and managers of farms and businesses.
4. Bohrer, Melissa Lukeman. 2004. *Glory, Passion, and Principle: The Story of Eight Remarkable Women at the Core of the American Revolution*. Adult Nonfiction.
Tells the remarkable stories of women who helped found our nation with courage, sacrifice, and intellect equal to any of the famed male politicians of 1776.
5. Chernow, Ron. 2005. *Alexander Hamilton*. Adult Nonfiction.
A biography of Alexander Hamilton, the Founding Father who galvanized, inspired, scandalized, and shaped the newborn nation. This book attempts to present an accurate account of his life and contributions.
6. Chervinsky, Lindsay M. 2024. *Making the Presidency: John Adams and the Precedents That Forged the Republic*. Adult Nonfiction.
A discussion of what helped John Adams succeed in trying times and how he shaped the executive office amidst foreign threats and domestic political turmoil.

7. DK; Smithsonian Institution. 2016. *The American Revolution: A Visual History*. Adult Nonfiction.

The American Revolution is the most significant event in American history. Without it, there would not be the United States of America. This book shows why this historical period is still so important today.

8. Ferling, John. 2025. *Shots heard around the World*. Adult Nonfiction.

A study of America, Britain, and Europe's roles in the Revolutionary War. A bold, comprehensive rendering of the world war that erupted out of America's battle for independence highlighting pivotal moments in the war.

9. Forbes, Esther. 1943 / 2011 (reprinted). *Johnny Tremain*. Juvenile Fiction, ages 6-8. Newbery Award.

After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.

10. Gilbert, Alan. 2012. *Black Patriots and Loyalists: Fighting for Emancipation in the War for Independence*. Adult Nonfiction.

While white Americans were fighting for their freedom, black Americans were joining the British imperial forces to gain theirs. Free blacks on both sides played a crucial yet underappreciated role in the actual fighting.

11. Giorello, Joe. 2022. *Great Battles for Boys: The American Revolution*. Juvenile Nonfiction, ages 9-12. For reluctant readers and others.

A history book designed to engage reluctant readers by focusing on the action, strategy, and key moments of the Revolutionary War, from Lexington and Concord to Yorktown, covering major battles like Trenton and Valley Forge.

12. Hansen, Grace. 2024. *Living Through the Revolutionary War*. Juvenile Nonfiction, ages 8-9.

What life was like during the Revolutionary War: what their days consisted of, what they ate and wore, and more. Children will learn what the causes were, how it affected everyday life, and how the war ended.

13. Isaacson, Walter. 2003. *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*. Adult Biography.

The adventures of Ben Franklin, America's best writer, inventor, scientist, diplomat, and business strategist, as well as one of its most practical and ingenious political leaders.

14. Isaacson, Walter. 2025. *The Greatest Sentence Ever Written*. Adult Nonfiction.
An exploration of the first sentence in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident..." Drafted by Thomas Jefferson and edited by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, this line lays the foundation for the American Dream and defines the common ground we share as a nation.
15. Jefferson, Thomas; ed. Merrill Peterson. 1984. *Thomas Jefferson: Writings*. Adult Biography.
At the moment of our nation's birth, Thomas Jefferson defined the issues that still direct our political life. Jefferson's writings are an invaluable record of the landscape, inhabitants, life, and daily customs of America in his time.
16. Landrigan, Leslie. 2025. *Revolutionary War Sites in New England (3rd ed.)*. Travel.
A travel guide to Revolutionary War sites that would be amazing to experience first-hand. Whether planning an unforgettable trip or uncovering local stories, this guide connects you with New England's Revolutionary heritage.
17. Marsh, Sarah Jane. 2020. *Most Wanted: The Revolutionary Partnership of John Hancock & Samuel Adams*. Juvenile nonfiction, ages 6-10.
John Hancock and Samuel Adams were an unlikely pair of troublemakers. Hancock was young and dashing. Adams was old and stodgy. But together they rallied people against the unfair policies of Great Britain and inspired the American resistance.
18. Marsh, Sarah Jane. 2018. *Thomas Paine and the Dangerous Word*. Juvenile Biography, ages 8-13.
The life of Thomas Paine, who led an inspiring life of courage, failure, and resilience. He rallied Americans to declare independence against the mightiest empire in the world through his book, "Common Sense."
19. McCullough, David. 2005. *1776*. Adult Nonfiction.
The story of the soldiers who marched with General George Washington in the year of the Declaration of Independence - when the American cause was riding on their success. What happened and what the key forces were. Very well researched.
20. McCullough, David. 2001. *John Adams*. Adult Biography.
John Adams, the brilliant, fiercely independent, often irascible, always honest

Yankee patriot—had great zeal for the American Revolution. This book shows his rise to power and his great love for his wife Abigail.

21. Meacham, John. 2013. *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*. Adult Biography.
Thomas Jefferson had an understanding of power and of human nature that enabled him to move men and to marshal ideas. He strove, despite fierce opposition, to realize his vision: the creation of popular government in America.
22. Meltzer, Brad. 2016. *I am George Washington*. Picture Book; Biography. Elementary grades.
Profile of the first President of the United States, from his childhood and early endeavors, to his role as General during the American Revolution, and his legacy as the first President.
23. Miller, Marla R. 2010. *Betsy Ross and the Making of America*. Adult Biography.
The story of the famous Betsy Ross, who is fabled for making the first American flag. It shows a fascinating portrait of everyday life in Revolutionary War era.
24. Osborne, Mary Pope. 2000. *Magic Treehouse: Revolutionary War on Wednesday*. Juvenile Historical Fiction Adventure, ages 6-8.
Using their magic tree house, siblings Jack and Annie travel back to the time of the American Revolution and help General George Washington during his famous crossing of the Delaware River, to ensure that history stays on track.
25. PragerU, publisher. 2023. *Otto's Tales: Let's visit the White House and Washington Monument*. Picture Book ages 0-6.
Otto the bulldog and Smidge the kitten go to Washington DC and visit places honoring America's history. They learn that leadership comes with duty, responsibility, and serving others.
26. Roberts, Cokie. 2004. *Founding Mothers: Remembering the Ladies*. Adult Biography.
An illuminating look at the fervently patriotic and passionate women whose tireless pursuits on behalf of their families—and their country—proved just as crucial to the forging of a new nation as the rebellion that established it.
27. Robins, David. 2025. *The American Revolution: Fast, Simple, and Enjoyable Trivia to Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary*. Trivia.
250 Revolutionary War trivia questions that will challenge your knowledge and

entertain history buffs and casual readers alike. Explore the lesser-known facts, surprising anecdotes, and intriguing stories behind America's birth.

28. Rockliff, Mara . 2013. *Gingerbread for liberty! How a German baker helped win the American Revolution*. Picture Book; Biography. Elementary grades.

A stirring book about Christopher Ludwick, a German-born baker who supported the American Revolution with his baking skills, providing food for Washington's troops and persuading Hessian soldiers to switch sides by the promise of his gingerbread.

29. Rosenstock, Barb. 2020. *Leave it to Abigail: The Revolutionary Life of Abigail Adams*. Adult Biography.

The life of Abigail Adams, describing how she defied convention by asking questions, marrying against expectations, volunteering during the Revolutionary War, and representing the new nation as the President's wife.

30. Sheinkin, Steve. 2010. *The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery*. Young Adult Biography.

This book explores the complex life of Benedict Arnold, who at first was a brilliant military success showing tremendous bravery, but ultimately his traitorous actions brought him down in infamy.

31. Weil, Ann. 2025. *George Washington and the American Revolution*. Juvenile Nonfiction, ages 9-12.

This book covers key moments in George Washington's leadership, from his military appointment in 1775 to the victory at Yorktown, highlighting his role as General. He goes on to become the first President of the United States of America.