Founding Fathers Instruction Page

Instructions:

1. Make 1 copy of the “Founding Fathers" page per group
2. Make 1 copy of the “Founding Fathers” worksheet per student
3. Make 1 copy of each “Founding Fathers” information page per group (either the long one or the bulleted short one)
4. Divide the class into groups of 3-4 students
5. Give each group poster board, chart paper, or butcher paper
6. Give each group markers or map pencils
7. Have each group read the Founding Fathers page and define the qualifications for being a Founding Father
8. Have each group read about 1 Founding Father and create a poster that explains his qualifications. The students will also read the quote and explain its meaning and what it is referencing.
9. Have the students do a gallery walk (carousel) and fill in the 1st 2 columns on the worksheet
10. Once the students return to their seats have them complete the final column and answer the 2 questions at the bottom of the worksheet
11. The teacher could have the students individually compare two of the men in a Venn diagram or write a paragraph explaining the accomplishments of the Founding Fathers in general to access their knowledge of the activity.

TEKS: US1C

Cooperative Learning
Nonlinguistic Representations
The Founding Fathers

The Founding Fathers of the United States of America were political leaders and statesmen who participated in the American Revolution by signing the United States Declaration of Independence, taking part in the American Revolutionary War, and establishing the United States Constitution. Within the large group known as the "Founding Fathers", there are two key subsets: the Signers of the Declaration of Independence (who signed the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776) and the Framers of the Constitution (who were delegates to the Constitutional Convention and took part in framing or drafting the proposed Constitution of the United States). A further subset is the group that signed the Articles of Confederation.

Some historians define the "Founding Fathers" to mean a larger group, including not only the Signers and the Framers but also all those who, whether as politicians, jurists, statesmen, soldiers, diplomats, or ordinary citizens, took part in winning American independence and creating the United States of America. Historian Richard B. Morris in 1973 identified the following seven figures as the key Founding Fathers: John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington.
**Founding Fathers Worksheet**

Instructions: As you rotate around the room looking at the posters of the founding fathers, take notes on the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Founding Father</th>
<th>Accomplishments/Ideas</th>
<th>Meaning of Quote</th>
<th>Why is he considered a FF?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles Carroll</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>John Hancock</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Jay</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Peter Muhlenberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin Rush</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Witherspoon</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Should John Peter Muhlenberg and Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. be on this list? Explain.

What others could we have included in this activity?
Charles Carroll

Charles Carroll is primarily remembered today for his political leadership in Maryland during the Revolutionary era. A wealthy planter, Carroll became a major figure in the patriot movement in 1773 when he penned the First Citizen letters, attacking the governor’s unilateral imposition of a fee as an unjust tax upon the people. A member of the Continental Congress, Carroll signed the Declaration of Independence. He also helped to write Maryland’s Constitution of 1776. After American independence was achieved, he served in the United States Senate and the Maryland legislature. Carroll’s role as a champion of religious liberty is less well known. Like many American Catholics at the time, he favored the separation of church and state and the free exercise of religion, at least for Christians. These principles were a logical consequence of the minority status of Catholics in Maryland and the nation. In nearly every American colony, Catholics suffered legal disabilities of some kind. Catholics in Maryland, for example, were denied the vote and the right to hold office. In his First Citizen letters, Carroll defended his right—and by extension, the right of his co-religionists—to participate in public affairs. He successfully fought to have religious liberty for all Christians, including Catholics, guaranteed by the Maryland Constitution of 1776.

In his later years, Carroll became famous among his countrymen as the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. By the time of his death in 1832, American independence was assured, but the battle for tolerance in the United States for Catholics and other religious minorities was unfinished.

Quote

“I do hereby recommend to the present and future generations the principles of that important document as the best earthly inheritance their ancestors could bequeath to them.”-1826

Bill of Rights Institute
Benjamin Rush

The fourth of seven children born to Quaker parents, Benjamin Rush was the most famous physician of his time. Known and respected by many of the Founding generation, Benjamin Rush treated illnesses such as yellow fever and smallpox, putting himself at great risk to do so. During the yellow fever epidemic of the 1790s he often saw more than one hundred patients a day and published an account of his findings, An Account of the Bilious Remitting Yellow Fever, as it appeared in the City of Philadelphia, in the year 1793. His regular practice of bloodletting was surrounded by debate.

He did not limit his ingenuity to medicine. He also played a major role in revolutionary politics, attending the Continental Congress of 1776 and signing the Declaration of Independence. He and James Wilson led their home state of Pennsylvania to become the second state to ratify the new Constitution.

Decidedly revolutionary in his thinking, he worked to cure social ills such as slavery, alcoholism, and tobacco addiction. He was a pioneer in the study of mental illness and a champion of humanitarian reforms. He often said that, when it came to bringing about much-needed change, “Prudence is a rascally virtue.” His reputation was for innovation and candor, if sometimes to the point of tactlessness. Throughout his career, Rush pursued his revolutionary ideas with three goals in mind: to improve life, ensure liberty, and encourage the pursuit of happiness.

Quote:
“The American war is over; but this is far from being the case with the American Revolution. On the contrary, nothing but the first act of drama is closed. It remains yet to establish and perfect our new forms of government, and to prepare the principles, morals, and manners of our citizens for these forms of government after they are established and brought to perfection.” – 1786
John Hancock

Forever famous for his outsized signature on the Declaration of Independence, John Hancock was a larger than life figure in other ways as well. Part of the great Boston triumvirate that included Samuel Adams and James Otis, Hancock was a wealthy merchant whose bank account helped to finance the radical activities of the Sons of Liberty. Hancock himself became a thorn in the side of the British, who seized his ship, the Liberty, in 1768 and put a price on his head in 1775.

Hancock served as president of the Continental Congress and presided over the signing of the Declaration of August 2, 1776. Disappointed at being passed over for command of the Continental army in 1777, he returned to Massachusetts, where he had a hand in writing the state constitution of 1780 and served as governor for all but four years between 1780 and 1793. Hancock agreed to support ratification of the Constitution despite his reservations about centralized government power.

Popular in his day and in the hearts of succeeding generations of Americans because of his famous signature, opinion of Hancock remains divided. Some agree with John Adams that he was “an essential character” in the Revolution, while others belittle him as no more than Samuel Adams’s moneyman and tool.

Quote:

“I glory in publicly avowing my eternal enmity to tyranny.” – 1774
John Jay epitomized the selfless leader of the American Revolution. Born to a prominent New York family, John Jay gained notoriety as a lawyer in his home state. He favored a moderate approach to Britain but joined his fellow Patriots once the Declaration of Independence was signed. Jay’s fellow Founders regarded him so highly that they elected him President of the Assembly, the highest office in the land under the Articles of Confederation.

Ten years later, President George Washington appointed him the first chief justice of the Supreme Court. He reluctantly resigned from the Supreme Court because he had been elected Governor of New York—an office he neither desired nor sought. As Governor, Jay fought for the emancipation of slaves by organizing and mobilizing abolitionist groups and signing an emancipation bill.

Jay left his mark on the new nation despite being somewhat marginalized by history. Jay wrote five essays in The Federalist Papers, but James Madison and Alexander Hamilton receive recognition for the now classic commentary. He worked for the Treaty of Paris, but history has given Benjamin Franklin and John Adams most of the credit. He negotiated a trade treaty with Great Britain that helped avoid a war, but history emphasizes his failures. He led the fight against slavery in New York, but his efforts are often overlooked on the national scale. He affected several of the foundations that were invaluable to a struggling infant nation and appreciated by his fellow Founding Fathers.

Quote:
“This country and this people seem to have been made for each other, and it appears as if it was the design of Providence that an inheritance so proper and convenient for a band of brethren, united to each other by the strongest ties, should never be split into a number unsocial, jealous, and alien sovereignties.” – 1787
John Witherspoon

He was a father figure to America’s Founders. A renowned theologian from Scotland, John Witherspoon educated many young men who became prominent leaders of the Founding generation. He went on to embrace the revolutionary cause. He signed the Declaration of Independence, participated in the Continental Congress, and served in positions of influence in the New Jersey state government. Yet Witherspoon’s greatest legacy was as an educator and president of the College of New Jersey. Dozens of his students went on to leadership positions in the emerging United States.

The founders of the College wanted to educate men who would be “ornaments of the State as well as the Church.” Witherspoon himself taught one president (James Madison) and one vice president (Aaron Burr). He also instructed 9 cabinet officers, 21 senators, 39 congressmen, 3 justices of the Supreme Court, and 12 state governors. Five of the 55 members of the Constitutional Convention were his former students. Witherspoon’s impact on the ministry of the Presbyterian Church was also significant. Of the 177 ministers in America in 1777, 52 of them had been Witherspoon’s students. Witherspoon established a strong position and was firmly committed to preserving religious liberty in America.

**Quote:**

“I willingly embrace the opportunity of declaring my opinion without any hesitation, that the cause in which America is now in arms, is the cause of justice, of liberty, and of human nature.”

-1776
Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. was one of the few Americans who served as governor in both a pre-Revolutionary colony and a post-Revolutionary state. During the American Revolution he was one of a very few colonial governors who supported the American side.

British General Thomas Gage arrived in Boston, a city with a history of violent protests against British policies, on May 13, 1774. Given the problems he was inheriting from Royal Governor Thomas Hutchinson, within a week of arriving Gage contacted Trumbull and expressed a "readiness to cooperate" with him "for the good of his Majesty's service."

When Gage sent Trumbull a request for assistance after the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Trumbull refused and made clear his choice to side with the Patriots. He replied that Gage's troops would "disgrace even barbarians," and he accused Gage of "a most unprovoked attack upon the lives and the property of his Majesty's subjects."

Trumbull was a friend and advisor of General Washington throughout the revolutionary period, dedicating the resources of Connecticut to the fight for independence. Washington declared him "the first of the patriots."

When Washington was desperate for men or food during the war, he could turn to "Brother Jonathan." He also served as the Continental Army's Paymaster General (Northern Department) in the spring of 1778, until the untimely death of his mother forced him to resign his post. As part of his resignation, he requested that the remainder of his back pay be distributed to the soldiers of the Northern Department.

Quote:

Use the quotes from the reading
John Peter Muhlenberg

John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg was an American clergyman, Continental Army soldier during the American Revolutionary War, and political figure in the newly-independent United States. A Lutheran minister, he served in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate from Pennsylvania.

During the early years of the Revolution, while Muhlenberg was still in Virginia, he became a follower of patriot Patrick Henry. His contributions to the revolutionary cause included service as the chair of the Committee of Safety in Virginia's House of Burgesses (1775) and as a member of Virginia's provincial convention in 1776. From 1776 to 1783, he also served in the Continental Army, as Colonel., Brigadier-General and finally as a Major-General.

Muhlenberg, as an anti-Federalist, was elected a Pennsylvania representative to the U.S. Congress, serving from 1789 to 1795 and again from 1799 to 1801. He was considered a key figure in the Democrat-Republican party of Pennsylvania, managing Thomas McKean's successful campaign for governor and helping to elect Thomas Jefferson as U.S. president. In 1801 he was elected to the U.S. Senate, but before taking his seat, he resigned to accept the lucrative position of supervisor of US customs in the Pennsylvania District. In 1803 he became collector of customs of the Port of Philadelphia. He remained active as a Lutheran layman until his death in 1807 at his suburban home at Gray's Ferry on the Schuylkill River.

Quote: "In the language of the Holy Writ, there is a time for all things. There is a time to preach and a time to fight."
Charles Carroll

- Wealthy planter from Maryland
- Catholic
- In 1773 wrote in protest of the governor’s tax policy
- Member of the Continental Congress
- Signer of the Declaration of Independence
- Helped write Maryland’s constitution
- Champion of religious freedom and fought for equal rights for religious groups

Quote
“I do hereby recommend to the present and future generations the principles of that important document as the best earthly inheritance their ancestors could bequeath to them.” - 1826
Benjamin Rush

- Most famous doctor of the time
- Quaker
- Member of the Continental Congress
- Signer of the Declaration of Independence
- Led Pennsylvania in ratifying the Constitution
- Worked to solve social problems such as slavery, alcoholism, tobacco addiction, and was a pioneer in the study of mental illness

Quote:
“The American war is over; but this is far from being the case with the American Revolution. On the contrary, nothing but the first act of drama is closed. It remains yet to establish and perfect our new forms of government, and to prepare the principles, morals, and manners of our citizens for these forms of government after they are established and brought to perfection.” — 1786
John Hancock

- Wealthy Boston merchant
- Member of the Sons of Liberty
- The British seized his ship, the *Liberty*, because of his revolutionary activities
- President of the Continental Congress
- Presided over the signing of the Declaration of Independence
- Governor of Massachusetts
- Supported the ratification of the Constitution

*Quote:*

“I glory in publicly avowing my eternal enmity to tyranny.” – 1774
John Jay

- New York lawyer
- President of the Assembly under the Articles of Confederation
- 1st Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- Governor of New York
- Author of 5 of the Federalist Papers
- Helped work on the Treaty of Paris
- Led the fight against slavery in New York

Quote:
“This country and this people seem to have been made for each other, and it appears as if it was the design of Providence that an inheritance so proper and convenient for a band of brethren, united to each other by the strongest ties, should never be split into a number unsocial, jealous, and alien sovereignties.” – 1787
John Witherspoon

• Theologian (pastor) from Scotland
• Member of the Continental Congress
• Signer of the Declaration of Independence
• Instructor at the College of New Jersey
• Supporter of religious freedom

Quote:
“I willingly embrace the opportunity of declaring my opinion without any hesitation, that the cause in which America is now in arms, is the cause of justice, of liberty, and of human nature.”
-1776
Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

• Massachusetts Governor under the British and the Americans
• Supported the revolutionary cause
• Advisor to George Washington
• Paymaster General in the Continental Army

Quote:
John Peter Muhlenberg

- Virginia pastor
- Follower of Patrick Henry
- Served in the Virginia House of Burgesses
- General in the Continental Army
- Anti-Federalist in the U.S. Congress
- Member of the Democratic-Republican Party

Quote:
"In the language of the Holy Writ, there is a time for all things. There is a time to preach and a time to fight."