Notes for Revolutionary Era

Patriots
- Ordered molasses and rum or coffee in taverns

Loyalists
- Ordered tea. Loyalist barkeepers asked “Have what you please, Either coffee or tea.”

Committees of Correspondence – organized system of delivering news between colonies
Sons of Liberty
- Patriot group founded in Boston
- Had medals identifying themselves with Liberty tree
- Had a red and white striped flag

“yankie” – Scottish for dishonest person
“doodle” – English slang for fool

- By 1775, there are 7 colleges
- Boston had 5 public schools
- Washington had all his soldiers vaccinated against smallpox
- “American” started to be used for the colonists by 1750
- King’s birthday (June) was a holiday

The World in 1770

- Colonists thought of themselves as English first and part of their particular colony second ---- no united feeling of being “American”
- Became used to self governance; local control over taxes was always important
- Over 2 million people
- Philadelphia is the largest city with approximately 34,000
- Ethnicity: African, Dutch, English, French, German, Irish, Scandinavian, Scottish. Most were English; second largest group are Africans
- Economy
  - South – rice, tobacco, indigo
  - New England – fishing, shipbuilding
  - Middle Colonies – wheat, vegetables, fruit
- Religion – Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Congregationalists (Puritans), Jewish, Lutheran, Quaker

- Government - Most colonies had a Royal Governor. Local governing bodies, such as Virginia’s House of Burgesses, were based on Britain’s Parliament. Half of their members were appointed by the king and half elected by colonial landowners. The King regarded the laws they passed to be subject to his will and to Parliament.
Ben Franklin invented the Pennsylvania Fireplace, lightning rod, odometer, designed reading glasses with two lenses in 1783.

Calling a person a “big wig” was an insult. While wigs were worn by many people, to wear a large hairstyle was thought to be showing off.

1764 – smallpox epidemic in Boston. 1537 people fled the town to get away. Revere put a flag and a guard in front of his house during quarantine when his family came down with it. Inoculation began and 4977 were inoculated.

1768 – Hancock’s sloop Liberty seized by customs officials for smuggling madeira wine.

Quartering act – Boston – soldiers were quartered all over – sail lofts, sugar houses, distilleries, warehouses.

“bloody backs”, “lobster backs”

Boston massacre trial – John Adams and Josiah Quincy defended soldiers and captain Preston. All were acquitted except for two (Kilroy, Montgomery) who were branded on the hand for manslaughter.

New England horses were lighter than in England in order to carry riders and go over bad roads. These horses were often exported to West Indies.

Tea party – ships: Beaver, Eleanor, Dartmouth docked at Griffin’s Wharf, carried 342 chests of tea, valued at 18,000 pounds. Massachusetts law said they couldn’t be cleared until they were unloaded and they must be unloaded within 20 days or be liable to seizure. Dartmouth had been in for 18 days. Governor Hutchinson refused to permit the ships to return to England with her cargo.

Postal service – it took 6-9 days for a letter to get from Boston to NY. Mr. Hurd of Connecticut delivered a yoke of oxen with the mail.