Question Sheet

1. During the decade before the outbreak of war, what were the two major attitudes of the colonists toward Parliament and the British Empire?

2. Why were they glad to be in the British Empire?

3. Describe how colonists who were leaders of the colonial opposition to Parliament’s authority might have seen themselves and/or what they believed.

4. Why would George Washington feel it more necessary to join the “other side” against the British?

5. Is it possible to separate the American Revolution (a new way of thinking about government, where power lay in the hands of the people) from the American Revolutionary War (American’s fight for independence)? Why or why not? How do the views of Thomas Paine in *Common Sense* help to separate the idea of the war from the overall Revolution?

6. What could have prevented the colonists’ declaring independence and going to war?

7. Why did a minority of colonists continue to move toward independence and volunteer to fight for this cause?