

## THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

The first battles of the Revolution were fought near Boston in 1775. Then the conflict spread south throughout the 13 colonies.

**Find:** The map by J. DeCosta: *A Plan of the Town and Harbor of Boston...* (item #56)



**First fight:** What do you see happening near Lexington and Concord on this map?

**Compare:** Find the view of Lexington or Concord to the right by Amos Doolittle. (item #57) What different information about the battle do you find in this picture that isn't on the map?



Map It!

Find maps in this room and the next that show these battles. Add cannons (land battles) or ships (sea battles) to the map of the Colonies above to mark:



- Battle of Bunker Hill | MA (item #60)
- Battle of Saratoga | NY (item #73)
- Battle of Germantown | PA (item #74)
- Battle of Yorktown | VA (item #77)
- Battle of Sullivan's Island | SC (item #81)

## MAPPING A NEW NATION

In the years following the Revolution, maps were made featuring the newly created United States of America.



**Find:** The map and cartouche by John Wallis: *The United States of America...* in the last room. The cartouche has been made into a large wall mural.

**Symbols of America:** What symbols do you see in the cartouche that are still symbols of the United States today?



Map It!

Design your own cartouche in the frame on the large map. Use pictures and symbols that represent you. Give your map a title.

### What does liberty mean to you?

#### Are there rights that you think every kid should have?

The **Liberty Tree** was a real elm tree that once stood on the corner of today's Essex and Washington streets in Boston. Colonists gathered there to protest what they felt were unjust taxes imposed on them by the British Parliament in the years leading up to the American Revolution.

*Follow the signs to the Leventhal Map Center in the library to find the Liberty Tree. Create your own leaf and add it to the tree.*



Norman B. Leventhal Map Center  
at the Boston Public Library  
700 Boylston St • Boston, MA 02116  
[maps.bpl.org/WeAreOne](http://maps.bpl.org/WeAreOne)



## FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE

### How to use this guide:



Find this symbol to lead you along the road to American Independence.

When the guide says **Map It!** add a place, event, or drawing to the maps inside.

### PRELUDE TO REBELLION

Boston was a bustling port and a center of rebellion in the years leading up to the American Revolution.

**Find:** The map by John Bonner and William Price: *A new plan of ye great town of Boston...* (item #1)



**Working for a living:** Look closely at the wharves and streets. Based on what you see, what kind of work do you think many people did in 1769 Boston?

Be sure to find and read about the Liberty Tree.

**Compare:** Find the Probst map of London (item #20) in the next room. Which was larger: London or Boston?



Map It!

Find and label Boston and London on the map inside.



# BRITAIN’S NORTH AMERICAN EMPIRE

## Colonial Trade

Goods and people traveled back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean in a web of trade.

**Find:** The map by John Mitchell: *A Map of the British and French Dominions in North America.* (item #32)

**Trade goods:** Look at the **cartouche** in the bottom right corner. What kinds of goods do you see pictured?

**Compare:** What goods can you see in both the cartouche and the barrels in the middle of the room? How many can you find?

**Cartouche:**  
A decorative picture on a globe or map

**Map It!** Draw a ship on your map and mark your route from London to Boston or the West Indies.

## Slavery in the Colonies

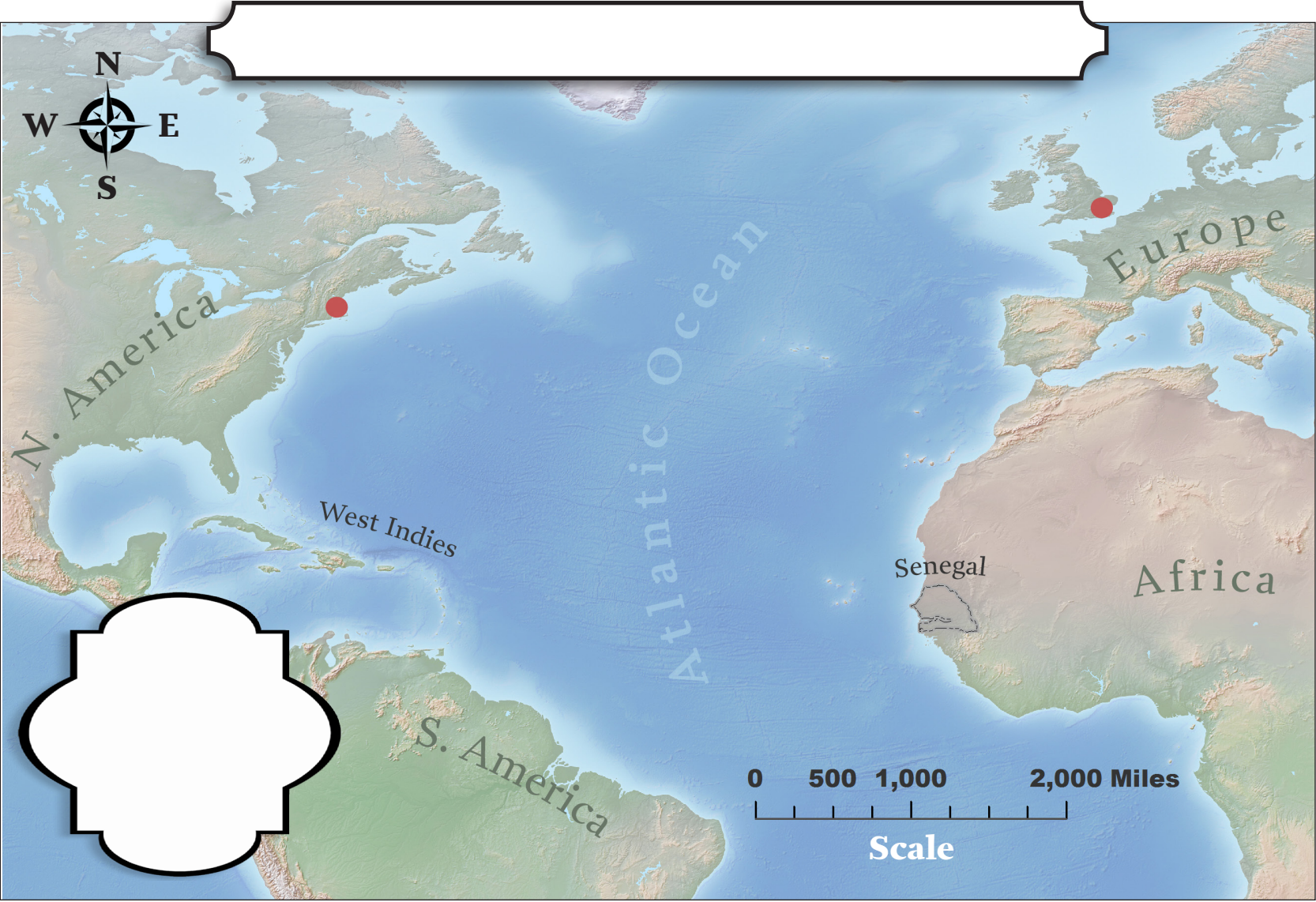
Africans were brought against their will to the West Indies and American colonies to provide the labor needed to produce trade goods.



**Find:** The book and portrait of Phillis Wheatley and the *Plan and Section of a Slave Ship.* (item #30 & #31)

**Slavery in Boston:** In 1765 around 800 enslaved people lived in Boston, including a teenager named Phillis Wheatley. How old was Phillis when she was captured and sent to Boston on a slave ship?

**Map It!** Phillis is thought to have come from the area of modern Senegal in West Africa. Draw Phillis’s journey from Senegal to Boston on your map.



## Map Making

Maps were important tools for documenting land and resources, particularly as the French, English, and Spanish fought for control of North America.

**Scale:**  
A tool for measuring distances on a map

**Find:** The surveyor’s compass and chain and the *Survey of Land* by George Washington in the next room. (item #36 & #37)

**Tools of the Trade:** Surveyors like the young George Washington used instruments like these to map plots of land. The compass is used to figure out direction and the chain is used to measure distance.

**Map It!** Use the **scale** to measure the distance of:

- Phillis’s journey from Senegal to Boston
- the voyage from Boston to London