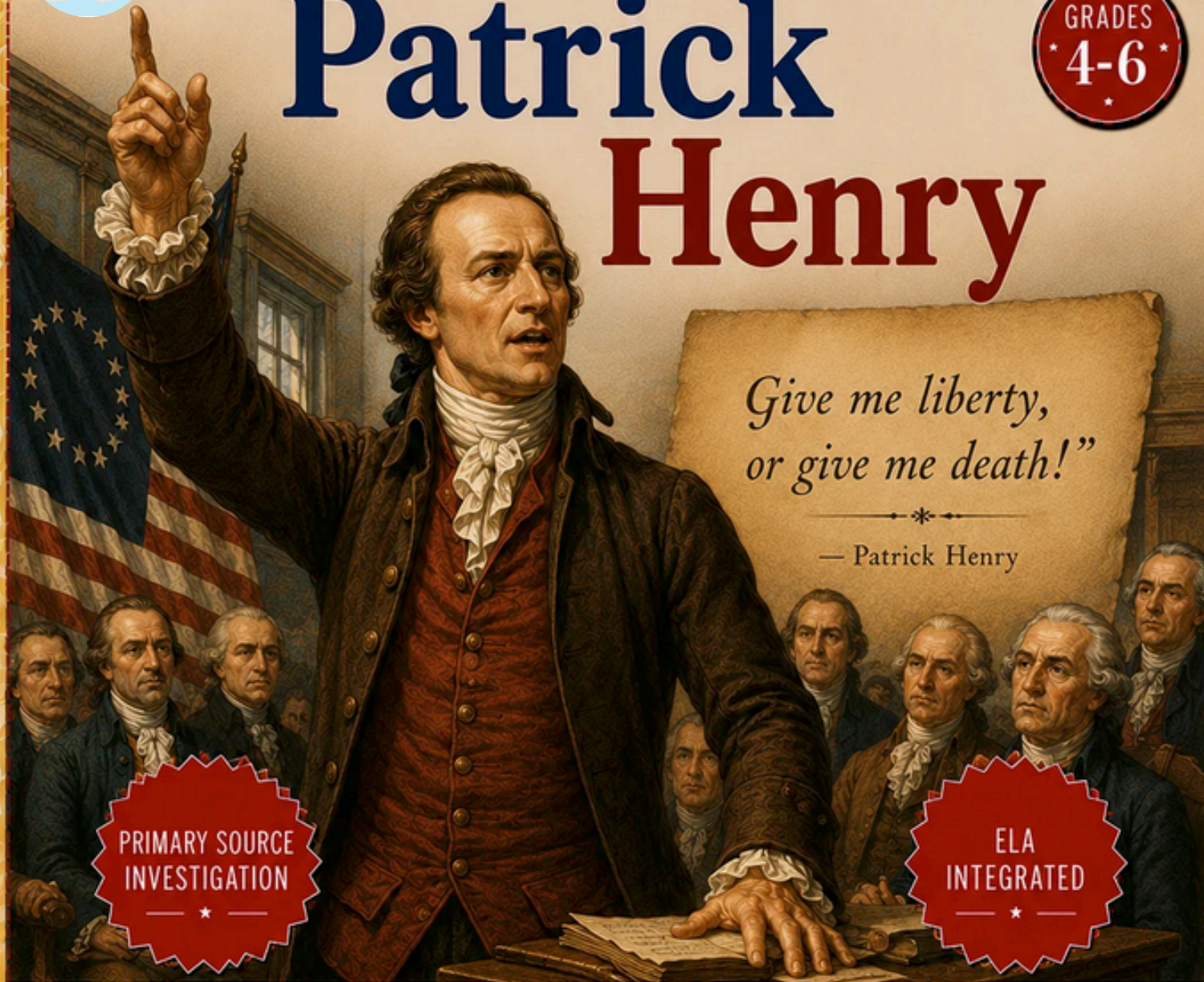


★ AMERICAN REVOLUTION SERIES ★

GRADES 4-6

# Patrick Henry



Give me liberty, or give me death!"  
— Patrick Henry

PRIMARY SOURCE INVESTIGATION

ELA INTEGRATED

✓ Assessments

✓ Build Thinking Skills

✓ Engaging Activities

What is Patrick Henry Fired-Up About?

Patrick Henry is angry about \_\_\_\_\_ and he wants people to \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

Patrick Henry is angry about \_\_\_\_\_ and he wants people to \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

Patrick Henry is angry about \_\_\_\_\_ and he wants people to \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

EXIT TICKET

Answer the questions below in complete sentences.

1. What made Patrick Henry angry?

2. What did he want the colonists to do?

3. Why does he use the word "liberty"? (in your own words)

"Give liberty or give me death!" Patrick Henry, 1775. "I have not yet come when you take the liberty, or give me death!"

"Give liberty or give me death!" Patrick Henry, 1775. "I have not yet come when you take the liberty, or give me death!"

# Patrick Henry

Materials:

Included with download:

- Text of Patrick Henry’s Speech
- “What is Patrick Henry Fired-Up About” table
- Exit Ticket
- Liberty’s Kids Episode 104 – Liberty or Death!
- Quote cards

Online:

- Audio recording of Patrick Henry’s speech from Colonial Williamsburg. <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/learn/deep-dives/give-me-liberty-or-give-me-death/>
- Liberty’s Kids Episode 104 - Liberty or Death. [https://www.kidzsearch.com/kidztube/libertys-kids-hd-104-liberty-or-death-history-cartoons-for-kids\\_e1ed06c07.html?vid=e1ed06c07](https://www.kidzsearch.com/kidztube/libertys-kids-hd-104-liberty-or-death-history-cartoons-for-kids_e1ed06c07.html?vid=e1ed06c07)

Anticipatory set: Dilemma (5-7 min)

Goal: Introduce the core conflict (freedom vs. safety)

How it works

Write this on a card: “What is freedom?”

Have students

- Stand on the “freedom” side
- Share their definition

Why it works

Patrick Henry

action. This activity mirrors that same either/or tension, so students emotionally connect before reading.

Transition line:

“Patrick Henry faced this exact question in 1775—and his answer changed history.”

## Detailed, ELA Integrated Lesson Plan

es)  
ording of the speech. While listening they fill in the organizer

—just listen for emotion and big ideas.”

e Want? (8–10 minutes)  
ould do?”

be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?  
literally enslaved?”  
is a metaphor.”

o show how serious he thinks it is. He is NOT saying colonists are  
n America were in a completely different, real, and brutal

Colonists still had rights and freedoms. Enslaved Africans  
perty (make the distinction clear and respectful).

gent and extreme  
complete loss of freedom  
Why is it important we don’t take this literally?” Expected answer:  
ual description.

Closure: Give students a strip with the prompt, “Patrick Henry is angry about \_\_\_\_\_, and he wants people to \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.” Have them complete it independently or in pairs. Share out.

Watch Liberty’s Kids Episode 104.

Challenge: Have students memorize Patrick Henry’s famous quote. Cards with the quote are included.

What terms shall we find which have not been already exhausted? Let us not, I beseech you, sir, deceive ourselves. Sir, we have done everything that could be done, to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne. In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be

free<sup>2</sup> if we mean to preserve inviolate those contending if we mean not basely to abandon engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves contest shall be obtained, we must fight! In the God of Hosts is all that is left us! They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or and when a British guard shall be stationed irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire our backs, and hugging the delusive phantom and foot? Sir, we are not weak if we make a hath placed in our power. Three millions of a country as that which we possess, are inv us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battle

**Patrick Henry's Speech to the Second Virginia Convention  
March 23, 1775.**

MR. PRESIDENT: No man thinks more highly than I do of the patriotism, as well as abilities, of the very worthy gentlemen who have just addressed the House. But different men often see the same subject in different lights; and, therefore, I hope it will not be thought disrespectful to those gentlemen if, entertaining as I do, opinions of a character very opposite to theirs, I shall speak forth my sentiments freely, and without reserve. This is no time for ceremony. The question before the House is one of awful moment to this country. For my own part, I consider it as nothing less

Text of Patrick Henry's Speech  
with link to a video recording of it.

gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, A

the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it. I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided; and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past. And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry for the last ten years, to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace themselves, and the House? Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately received? Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet. Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss. Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition comports with these war-like preparations which cover our waters and darken our land. Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled, that force must be called in to win back our love? Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements of war and subjugation; the last arguments to which kings resort. I ask, gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array, if its purpose be not to force us to submission? Can gentlemen assign any other possible motive for it? Has Great Britain any enemy, in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are meant for us; they can be meant for no other. They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging. And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer upon the subject? Nothing. We have held the subject up in every light of which it is capable; but it has been all in vain. Shall we resort to entreaty and humble supplication?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# What is Patrick Henry Fired-Up About?

*Listen to or read Patrick Henry's speech. Fill in the chart below.*

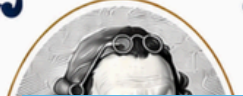
Organizer for students to capture the big ideas and emotions from the speech.

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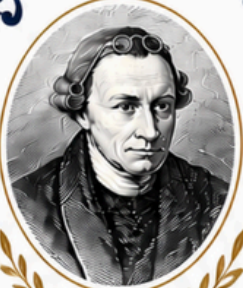
 “Patrick Henry is angry about \_\_\_\_\_,  
and he wants people to \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_.”

★

 “Patrick Henry is angry about \_\_\_\_\_,  
and he wants people to \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_.”

Sentence completion activity to express the big idea.  
Exit ticket to check for understanding.

★

 “Patrick Henry is angry about \_\_\_\_\_,  
and he wants people to \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_.”

★

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## EXIT TICKET

questions below in complete sentences.

★

the colonists to do?

★

he word “slavery”? (in your own words)

 Quote from Patrick Henry’s Speech  
to the Second Virginia Convention,  
March 23, 1775.

★

“Is life so dear, or peace so sweet,  
as to be purchased at the price of chains and  
slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not  
what course others may take, but as for me, give  
me liberty, or give me death!”

★

Card with quote for memorization  
challenge.