**Phillis (Phyllis) Wheatley**

**Background**
- Known as the first prominent black writer in America
- She was born in Africa and brought to America as a slave
- Her poetry expresses deep belief in God and thankfulness for the circumstances that allowed her to know Him
- She received an education from the lady who owned her
- Her poetry was more popular in Britain
- She eventually gained her freedom on October 18, 1773
- She even appeared before General Washington in March of 1776 for her poetry
- She was a strong supporter of the Revolutionary Cause

**Phillis Wheatley Works We are Studying**
- Wrote Poetry in mostly **iambic Pentameter with Heroic Couplets**
  - On Being Brought from Africa to America
  - To the University of Cambridge
  - His Excellency George Washington

**Patrick Henry**

**Background**
- Patrick Henry is perhaps best known for the speech he made in the House of Burgesses on **March 23, 1775**, in Saint John’s Church in Richmond, Virginia.
- Thomas Jefferson credited Henry with being the man who "set the ball of Revolution rolling."
- His immortal words have been described as "the most famous cry for freedom in the world."

**Patrick Henry Works We are Studying**
- Wrote speeches – He was a great orator
  - Give Me Liberty or Give me Death Speech

**Thomas Jefferson**

**Background**
- Studied to be a lawyer at William and Mary College in Williamsburg
- Lived at Monticello in Virginia
- Attended Second Continental Congress in 1776 – tasked to write a Declaration of Independence from Britain
  - Listed the crimes of the English king
  - Argued why Americans were justified in fighting for their freedom
- Served as Governor of Virginia during the war
- Served as American ambassador to France (after Ben Franklin) during ill-fated reign of Louis XVI
- Served as **Secretary of State** under President George Washington
- Served as **Vice President** under President John Adams
- Served as **President** for two terms (1801-1809)
  - Acquired Louisiana Territory from Napoleon
  - Sent Lewis & Clark on famous expedition
- Founded University of Virginia
- His 6,000-10,000 book library was the initial collection of the Library of Congress

**Thomas Jefferson Works We are Studying**
- Declaration of Independence
- Letter to the Danbury Baptists
- Letter to His Daughter
**George Washington**

**Background**
- First job – a surveyor at age 17
- After distinguishing himself in French and Indian War at age 21, he was promoted to Commander of entire Virginia militia - 1755
- Married widowed Martha Dandridge Custis – 1759
- Lived at Mount Vernon in Virginia
- Attended First and Second Continental Congresses in Philadelphia – He was given Command of the new army 1775
- Lord Cornwallis of British surrendered to him in 1781 @ Yorktown
- Returned to Mount Vernon to Martha and to raise his two step-grandchildren whose dad had died during the war
- A leader in movement toward a new Constitution
- Unanimously chosen President - served for two terms (1789-1797)
- He died after two years of retirement
- He was “First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen.” - Henry “Lighthorse” Lee

**George Washington Works We are Studying**
- Prayer Journal
- Farewell Address
- Rules of Civility – in your Classroom Expectations sheet for this class!

**Philip Freneau**

**Background**
- A poet who wrote about the issues and events of the War for Independence
- Was founder and future president James Madison’s roommate in college
- Served as a ship’s officer during the war – was imprisoned by the British in harsh conditions

**Philip Freneau Works We are Studying**
- On the Death of Dr. Benjamin Franklin
- To the Memory of the Brave Americans Under General Greene, in South Carolina
- On the Universality and Other Attributes of the God of Nature
- On a Honey Bee
- The Wild Honey Suckle