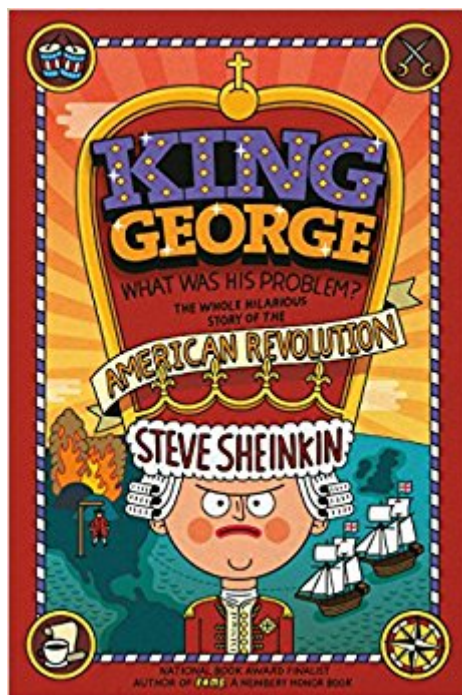


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# King George: What Was His Problem?: Everything Your Schoolbooks Didn't Tell You About The American Revolution



## Synopsis

What do the most famous traitor in history, hundreds of naked soldiers, and a salmon lunch have in common? They're all part of the amazing story of the American Revolution. Entire books have been written about the causes of the American Revolution. This isn't one of them. What it is, instead, is utterly interesting, anecdotes (John Hancock fixates on salmon), from the inside out (at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, hundreds of soldiers plunged into battle "naked as they were born") close-up narrative filled with little-known details, lots of quotes that capture the spirit and voices of the principals ("If need be, I will raise one thousand men, subsist them at my own expense, and march myself at their head for the relief of Boston" -- George Washington), and action. It's the story of the birth of our nation, complete with soldiers, spies, salmon sandwiches, and real facts you can't help but want to tell to everyone you know.

**King George: What Was His Problem?: Everything Your Schoolbooks Didn't Tell You About the American Revolution** by Steve Sheinkin, National Book Award Finalist Author of *Bomb*, a Newbery Honor Book, is a fun, funny way for young readers to learn about a chapter of American history, which has been popularized by Lin-Manuel Miranda's hit Broadway show *Hamilton*.

"For middle-graders who find Joy Hakim's 11-volume *A History of US* just too daunting, historian Sheinkin offers a more digestible version of our country's story. . . . The author expertly combines individual stories with sweeping looks at the larger picture -- tucking in extracts from letters, memorable anecdotes, pithy characterizations and famous lines with a liberal hand."

— Kirkus Reviews

**A Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year**

**A New York Public Library 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing**

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In his amusing opening statement, *Confessions of a Textbook Writer*, Sheinkin divulges that while writing history textbooks, he stashed away the good stuff, cool stories that he knew would be edited out. Some of them appear in this riveting account that was first published as a paperback called *The American Revolution* (2005). The new edition features many droll line drawings that suit the tone of the writing and source notes for the extensive quotes. Sheinkin clearly conveys the gravity of events during the Revolutionary period, but he also has the knack of bringing historical people to life and showing what was at stake for them as individuals as well as for the new nation. Often irreverent, the humor and informal tone of the writing help break through the patina of praise that too often encases figures from the American Revolution in books for young people. Vivid storytelling makes this an unusually readable history book. Grades 4-7. --Carolyn Phelan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“For middle-graders who find Joy Hakim’s 11-volume *A History of US* just too daunting, historian Sheinkin offers a more digestible version of our country’s story. . . . With a healthy “Whatever Happened To...” section, this animates the Revolution’s times, events and people in a way that standard textbooks don’t. A second volume on the Civil War, *Two Miserable Presidents*, is also out.”

—Kirkus Reviews

Like all of his books, interesting to the end. His style and delivery are both witty and accurate. If you looking for a light update to the American Revolution this is your book. I would indeed recommend it to folks wanting to learn more about the Revolutionary War just not at the PhD level.

I can't recommend this book highly enough. We have loved every minute of reading it. My 11-year-old daughter, upon finishing the book, said, "He is such a great writer! Can we read more history books written by him?" I myself learned a ton about the American Revolution that I never knew. We're planning to read Sheinkin's Civil War book next. What a gift to be able to share history with my kids in a way that is fascinating and exciting. *Not* dull!

I am in eighth grade, and I thought this book was well written and humorous. The book describes the many battles between the Americans and the British in the 13 original colonies that the

Revolutionary War was composed of. The book's main subject is about the Revolutionary War, however, the author divides each of the different people and battles into different sections to keep the story interesting. The book contains real quotes from actual people involved in the war and what their perspective was. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in American history or enjoys funny books.

I cannot say enough great things about this book! Here is one question for you though. Do you know who Ethan Allen was? I didn't but this book will tell you. I home school my daughters and found this book in our local library by accident. I thought it looked interesting so I checked it out. I quickly realized that it was a book I needed to own. There is so much to learn in this book! And it is extremely well written! Love the humor. Love the stories and people I never learned about in school. Love learning about Sam Adams and why the Stamp Act didn't work. I think libraries should have this book in the children's and the adult's sections. While looking up something else in the library with the librarians help we again ran across this book. I asked the librarian if she had read it. She said no. I told her a couple of the cool stories like the Ethan Allen. She brought it to her desk to read. The next time I was in the library she saw me and told me how much she had enjoyed to book too. When we were reading this book my daughters did not want me to stop reading. They would even ask if I could read more. We all laughed until we cried about the Sam Adams and the Stamp Act. I have read sections to my parents. They borrowed the book and on their summer RV trip my mom reads it to my dad while he is driving. It has caused them to stop and see Fort Ticonderoga. Whether you homeschool or not this is a fantastic book that your whole family will enjoy and learn from. I have since bought other books by Steve Sheinkin. Love them too. I also checked out "Bomb" from our library and read it too. It is about the atomic bomb. Wow did I learn a ton! My husband is reading it now. Thanks so much Mr. Sheinkin!

This is a light-hearted look at the Revolutionary War - packed with info but easy to read, easy to listen to, and the kids (9 and 10) kept asking for one more chapter. It kept their attention; was not, in my opinion, revisionist history; and provided a great overview of the Revolutionary War. Would I use this as my stand-alone source for teaching history? No. But as an intro and to pique interest in the period, and introduce cool and unusual bits of history, absolutely. I had initially gotten this book from the library, enjoyed it so much I then brought 2 copies, one to keep on my shelf and one to give to a friend. I have read other books by this author and have found them all to be quite engaging and accessible -- they are history books you WANT to read. King George: What Was His Problem? --

what a fun, interesting read.

My grandsons (10 1/2) have read it and re-read it and love it!

Sheinkin's writing style is so intriguing that my children now love history, their favorite subject. We learned so much which prompted me to read more in depth on the subjects. Why can't history textbooks be this interesting and informative?

I teach 4th and 5th graders. I bought this to share with my hungry chickadees. I brought it into the classroom, set it down to take care of some things and heard a ruckus going on. I turned around to find at least four students calling dibs on it, others pleading to read it. A history book that the kids are fighting to read?? ....You can't ask for more than that!

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