

John Hancock 1737 – 1793

1. *John Hancock was an American Revolutionary Leader. He was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence.*
2. *His name became a synonym for the word “signature.”*
3. *He was born on January 23, 1737 in Braintree (now known as Quincy) Massachusetts.*
4. *He graduated from Harvard in 1754 and joined his uncle’s business firm. Within 10 years, he became the wealthiest man in New England.*
5. *As a prominent merchant, he was affiliated with the cause of independence. He emerged as a leading figure in the revolutionary movement.*
6. *He joined the protest against the Stamp Act.*
7. *He was much wanted by the British because of his speeches and oratories against England. He presided over the Massachusetts Convention that ratified the United States Constitution in 1788. John Adams claimed his support for the document was “crucial.”*
8. *John Hancock died October 8, 1793.*
9. *He was a devoted patriot to the Revolutionary cause. He risked his fortune and life in the struggle for independence and performed valuable service for his country.*
10. *John Adams, while describing John Hancock, said that he was an “essential character” in the fight of the American Revolutionary War.*