

## Vocabulary

navigation     tyrant  
 instruct        stark  
 swagger        governor  
 patriots        spunk



### Word Families

Knowing about **Word Families** can increase your vocabulary. A prefix or suffix added to a base word can change its meaning. For example, *unpatriotic* and *patriotism* have *patriot* as a base word but each word means something different.



# Letters from the Revolution

by Aryeh Gross

London, England  
 July 1, 1772

Dear Richard,

We were shocked to hear about the British ship, the *Gaspee* that sank off the coast of Rhode Island. Is it close to where you live? Do you know anyone who was aboard? It is hard to believe that the *Gaspee* was sunk by the tricky **navigation** of a colonist's boat. This smaller boat was able to steer the *Gaspee* into some hidden rocks. Then it quickly turned to attack the sinking ship.

Who would be bold enough to **instruct** the colonists to act like this? It could only be their rebel leader. I have heard that he walks with a **swagger** and is too proud for his own good. They are hiding him and calling him one of the best **patriots** because he loves Rhode Island more than England. It is not good that so many colonists have turned against King George. We should all be his loyal subjects. Please come home to England.

Sincerely,

*Thomas*

Rhode Island  
 September 10, 1772

Dear Thomas,

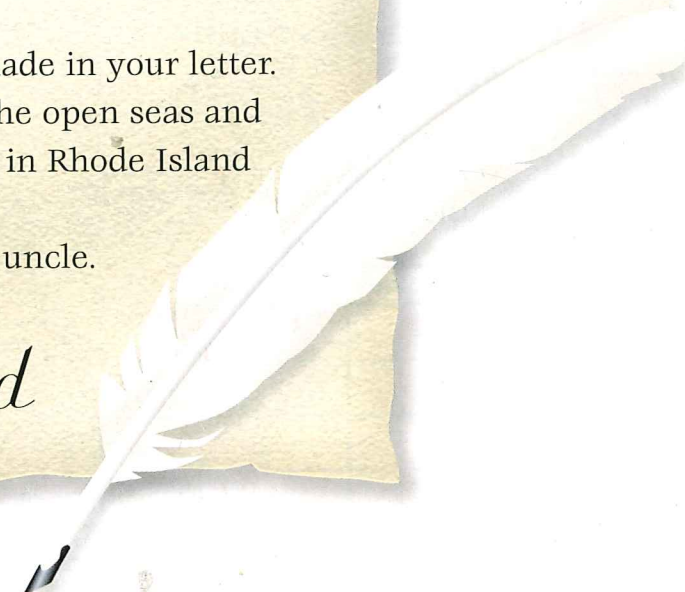
Thank you for your letter, but you are wrong about the *Gaspee*. The British commander in the colonies was a cruel **tyrant** who ruled as he pleased. People who once had plenty of food stored in their homes now have cupboards that are **stark** and bare. When our leader, the **governor** of Rhode Island complained, the British commander paid no attention. The colonists took matters into their own hands. I think it shows **spunk** and courage for our small colonies to fight the mighty England.

I disagree with the comments you made in your letter. We do take pride in our act of revolt on the open seas and against England. This is patriotism. I am in Rhode Island to stay.

My best wishes to you, my aunt and uncle.

Yours truly,

*Richard*



## Reread for Comprehension



### Make Inferences and Analyze Draw Conclusions

To draw conclusions, you make inferences about two or more pieces of information from a story and arrive at a new understanding of a character or event. A Conclusions Chart can help you use information in the story to draw a conclusion. Use your Conclusions Chart as you reread the selection.

Text Clues	Conclusion