A New Start

Every story has certain story elements. These elements include the characters, the setting, the problem, and the solution.

In the late 1500s, brave men and women and their children sailed from Europe across the Atlantic Ocean to America, looking for a better way of life. These people wanted better jobs than they had in their homelands, and many wanted the freedom to choose their own religion. Still others wanted the opportunity to be able to buy land.

This period of time in America is known as the colonial period. It lasted about 170 years. During this time, many colonists worked very hard creating a new nation. The first colony, Jamestown, was established in 1607. Between 1607 and 1733, 13 permanent colonies were established on the east coast of America. These colonies started to grow and prosper as more and more people from other countries began to immigrate. As the population of the colonies grew, trade and manufacturing developed quickly, especially in towns that had good harbors.

Despite the growth and the many successes of the colonies, the colonists also faced their fair share of problems. One very big problem was the friction between the colonies and Britain. The colonists wanted very much to control themselves and have more say in making decisions that affected them. However, the British Parliament would not allow it. This angered the colonists, so they often ignored British laws.

As Britain imposed more and more taxes on the colonists, the colonists grew angrier and angrier. Acts passed by Parliament, such as the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act, forced the colonists to take action against Britain.

In 1774, delegates from all the colonies except Georgia met to decide how to gain some independence from Britain. Their attempts failed. They met again in 1775. The delegates helped organize an army and a navy to fight the British soldiers. The colonists wanted freedom from Britain. They outlined this freedom on July 4, 1776, in the Declaration of Independence.
Identifying story elements

List each story element.

main characters: ________________________________
setting: _____________________________________
problem: _____________________________________
solution: _____________________________________

Use words from the story to complete the puzzle.

Across
1. Britain _______ many taxes on the colonists, which greatly angered them.

7. People from other countries, looking for better jobs or religious freedom, would ____________ to America.

8. The colonies decided they wanted to gain ____________ from Britain.

Down
2. Thirteen _________ colonies were established in America between 1607 and 1733.

3. ____________ from almost all of the colonies met to discuss how to gain independence from Britain.

4. The colonists tried to organize an army and a navy to fight the British ________.

5. The men, women, and children who left their countries to come to America were very ________.

6. There was _________ between the American colonies and Britain.

9. As people from other countries moved to America, the colonies started to grow and ________________.

On another piece of paper, list the story elements from your favorite movie.