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**Journey through the Great Awakening**

**Introduction**

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| It’s 1739 and you’re a colonist living in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (choose a colony). Like many other colonists, you attend church regularly, but lately you have noticed some changes. For one, there do not seem to be as many people at Sunday services. All the churches in your colony used to be packed on Sundays, but recently you have no trouble finding a seat, even if you’re late! You have even found yourself skipping some services‒they’re so long and your preacher is more boring than watching paint dry; half the time you fall asleep in the middle of his sermons! Perhaps it has something to do with these new “Enlightenment” ideas that seem to be catching on. People are thinking much more rationally and logically now, and science now seems to have an answer for almost any question of life...  In response to all these changes, you’ve heard about some itinerant (traveling) preachers who are traveling through the colonies calling for a revival of religion through more personal and emotional religious experiences. Ever since your town got a printing press, newspapers have been all the rage, and you managed to snag yourself a job writing for one. You’ve been hired to follow one of these itinerant preachers, George Whitefield, and write an article about his popular sermons. You’ve already come up with a great headline for your article‒the Great Awakening, since people no longer seem to fall asleep when he preaches. During your travels, you’ll get a chance to hear some sermons and interview some fellow colonists to get their thoughts on this “Awakening” that seems to be spreading throughout the colonies. Safe travels! |

**The Task**

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| Reporters take notes and conduct interviews for their stories. On your journey, take notes on what you learn about Whitefield and the Great Awakening and how it affects different people in the colonies. You’ll use these later to write your article. Consider the following questions:  Why do people seem so impressed by Whitefield’s preaching and revivals? What seems to draw people to them?   * How do people describe the revivals and Whitefield? What was appealing? * What are your impressions of the revivals, Whitefield, and the responses to them? How did the Great Awakening affect colonial life? * How do you think the Awakening affected or influenced a sense of unity or shared ideas or identity in the colonies? * Why do you think the Great Awakening encouraged people to question traditional beliefs or authority? |

Take notes in the space on the following pages.. Reference the questions above if you get stuck.

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| [Journey Stop](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/16qnlPn0laHDXsvKrk0ZbIe7vX0W4NM3bYQRP0rqfRJM/edit?usp=sharing) | Notes |
| 1.Ben Franklin |  |
| 2. New York |  |
| Journey Stop | Notes |
| 3. A Traveler from Connecticut |  |
| 4. Oloudah Equiano |  |
| 5. The Man Himself...George Whitefield! |  |
| 6. Images from your Travels |  |

**Homework**

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| Now it is time to put all those notes‒and your writing skills‒to the test. Imagine you are writing your newspaper article about the Great Awakening and George Whitefield. What would you tell your readers about the revivals, Whitefield, and the Great Awakening in general? How did it start, what do colonists think, and who is this Mr. Whitefield and what are his ideas? Finally, what is the key takeaway or understanding your readers should gain from the Great Awakening? How did it lead to new ways of thinking about authority and identity in the colonies? Think like a reporter: use quotes, examples and descriptions!  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