

## Chapter 4

### Guided Reading Questions for *The Elementary Common Sense of Thomas Paine*

1. How could forming and maintaining a colonial army create new trade (commerce) for the colonies?
2. According to Paine, “The rich are, in general, slaves to fear.” How could being rich enslave a person to fear?
3. Look at the photos of the coins on pages 61-62. After the War of Independence (the American Revolution) was won, George Washington was elected as our first president. However, he refused to allow his face to be put on the nation’s new coins. Why do you suppose he made that decision?
4. Compare and Contrast the “Olive Branch Petition” and Paine’s *Common Sense*. Where do the documents agree? What are some of the major differences between the two documents? (You can use the Venn Diagram on pages 151-152 for help.)
5. Look at 1772 in the timeline. Sam Adams created the Committees of Correspondence. Why was this event so important in colonial America? What might have happened in the coming years if this had not been formed?
6. Read the Boston Port Act (pages 75 - 84). The King closed Boston’s port and harbor until the citizens “calmed down” and paid for the tea they destroyed during the Boston Tea Party. Why do you think the colonists didn’t settle down after this Act closed the harbor?
7. Visualize how Thomas Paine lived. What did his home look like? What sort of furniture did he have? What sort of personal belongings did he own? Draw a picture of Thomas’ house and label the items you think you would find inside it.

