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### Introduction

**Scott Stephenson:** Welcome to the Museum of the American Revolution. I'm Scott Stephenson, President & CEO. We'll be going through the Museum's Core exhibition today and you can spend as much time as you like in the Galleries.

The Museum of the American Revolution is a new institution. We opened in April of 2017, but our collection is much older, was assembled over the course of the last century, and began with the acquisition of General George Washington's Revolutionary War tent in 1909. The Galleries we're about to explore have over 400 original objects and works of art from the 1700s, also known as the 18th century, as well as films, immersive environments, and life-size recreations of Revolutionary scenes. I've worked on this project since 2007 and had the honor to pull together the team that developed all of the exhibits and media for the Museum.

Now, early on in the process, I coined the phrase, "a movie you can walk through," which was our aspiration for the kind of experience that you would have when you visited the Museum. We don't want to be one of those dry, old, boring history museums that we were all dragged to as kids. We wanted you to have a dramatic immersive experience that made you feel like you were experiencing the American Revolution. Our journey begins in New York City in July 1776. Move through the open doors labeled "Entrance" and experience this dramatic moment. Four questions will appear on the screen at the end of this short film: How did people become revolutionaries? How did the Revolution survive its darkest hour? How revolutionary was the War? What kind of nation did the Revolution create? We framed the Museum storyline around these questions. And I'll give you lots of information as we go through the exhibits, but we hope you'll develop answers of your own to these questions.