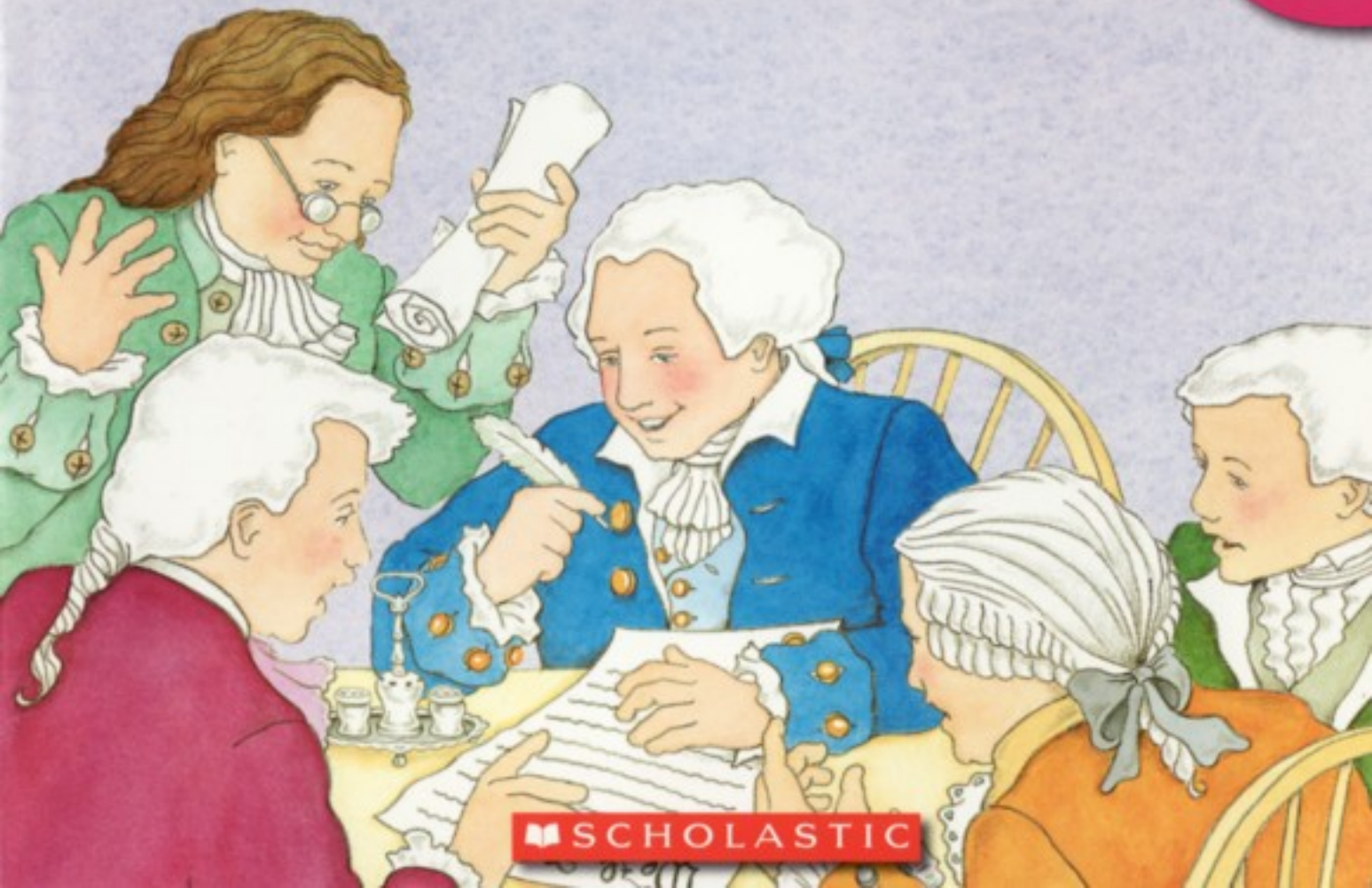


**IF
YOU**

Were There When They Signed the Constitution

BY ELIZABETH LEVY • ILLUSTRATED BY JOAN HOLUB

**NEW and
UPDATED!**



 **SCHOLASTIC**

Why did we go to war?

For over one hundred years, we were colonies that belonged to England and ruled by the King. In 1763, King George III began to demand more taxes from the American colonies. People didn't like having to pay a tax on every little thing—on paper, glass, and tea. But they had no one to speak for them in England. "No taxation without representation!" they cried.

After a while, many Americans wanted to rebel, to break away from England and become independent.



American rebels in New York City tore down a metal statue of King George. The statue was melted and made into bullets for fighting the Revolution.



What was the Declaration of Independence?

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence officially declared the American colonies free and independent. It has become one of the most famous documents in the world. It declares that all men are created equal. It said that the thirteen colonies were now thirteen free states—free from the King and England. But notice, it didn't say that the thirteen states were united. The rebels didn't know if they could win their revolution. One third of the people in the colonies stayed loyal to the King.

One of the signers of the Declaration of Independence was Benjamin Franklin. He begged the thirteen new states to work together. "We must all hang together, or assuredly, we shall all hang separately," he said.

A different time ... a different place ... What if you were there?

If you were there when they signed the Constitution you would see

- Why the Constitution is called a miracle.
- The first big argument about the Constitution.
- What was missing from the Constitution.

This book takes you behind the locked doors of Philadelphia's State House during the history-making summer of 1787. You will meet the key delegates and find out what is going on.

Look for other books in this unique series that take you to important times in history.