

BATTLES OF SARATOGA

The Battles of Saratoga were a series of clashes culminating with the Battle of Saratoga and the surrender of British General John Burgoyne. This decisive American victory was a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

Commanders

The main British leader was General John Burgoyne, nicknamed "Gentleman Johnny." Major General Horatio Gates and Generals Benedict Arnold and Benjamin Lincoln led the Americans.



Plan

British General Burgoyne came up with a plan to defeat the Americans by splitting them in two along the Hudson River. With the colonists divided, he was sure they would not be able to stand. Burgoyne was supposed to lead his army south from Lake Champlain to Albany, New York. At the same time, General Howe planned to advance north along the Hudson River. They arranged to meet at Albany. Burgoyne and his army successfully advanced south, recaptured Fort Ticonderoga from the Americans, and then proceeded to march south. General Howe had other plans though. Instead of heading north to Albany, he headed east to take Philadelphia, leaving Burgoyne on his own.

Americans

The Americans harassed the British as they continued south by cutting down trees to block the roads and taking shots at the soldiers from the forests. Burgoyne's progress was slow and the British started to run out of food. He sent some of his soldiers to Bennington, Vermont to find food and horses. However, Bennington was guarded by American General John Stark. The Americans surrounded the British troops and captured around 500 soldiers. This was a decisive victory for the Americans and weakened the British forces.

First Battle

The first battle of Saratoga took place on September 19, 1777 on the farmland of British loyalist, John Freeman in New York. Daniel Morgan led 500 sharpshooters to the field where they saw the British advancing. The Americans were able to take out a number of officers prior to the British attacking. At the end of the battle, the British gained control of the field, but suffered 600 casualties, twice as many as the Americans.

Second Battle

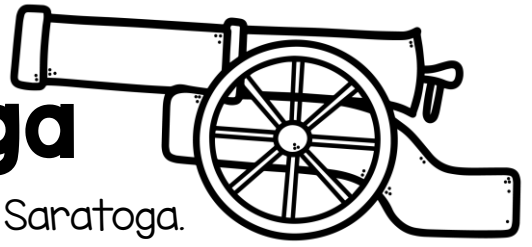
After the Battle of Freeman's Farm, Americans set up their defenses at Bemis Heights. The American forces continued to grow as more militia men arrived. The British attacked October 7, 1777, but failed miserably and were defeated by the Americans. British casualties mounted to nearly 600 men and General Burgoyne was forced to retreat. Under General Gates, the Americans pursued the British army and within days had them surrounded. The British surrendered October 17, 1777.

Outcome

The Battles of Saratoga and the surrender of the British army under General Burgoyne was one of the major turning points of the Revolutionary War. The morale of the Americans was boosted and the country now felt it could win the war. The French also decided to support the Americans with military aid.

Name _____

Battles of Saratoga



Complete the chart about the Battles of Saratoga.

Dates	
Location	
American Leaders	
British Leaders	
2 Facts about the Battle	
Outcome	

Name _____

Battles of Saratoga



Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer.

- 1) Which of the following was NOT an outcome of the Battles of Saratoga?
 - A. General John Burgoyne surrendered.
 - B. The French decided to support the Americans.
 - C. American morale was boosted.
 - D. The British defeated the Americans.

- 2) How did General Howe's decision impact General Burgoyne?
 - A. General Burgoyne was killed.
 - B. General Burgoyne was left alone.
 - C. Most of General Burgoyne's troops were killed.
 - D. General Burgoyne and his troops got lost.

- 3) How did the Americans harass Burgoyne's troops on their way to Albany?
 - A. They stole their food.
 - B. They stole their weapons.
 - C. They blocked the roads.
 - D. They imprisoned them.

- 4) Why did Burgoyne send troops to Bennington, Vermont?
 - A. They needed food and horses.
 - B. They heard there were weapon reinforcements there.
 - C. They heard the French were camped there.
 - D. They wanted to attack the Americans first.

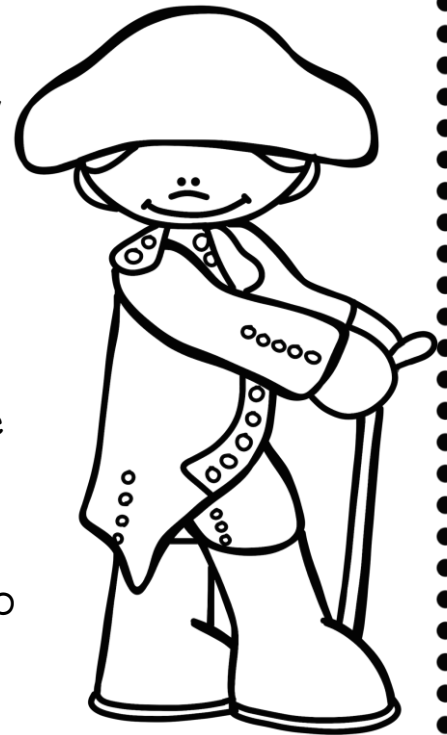
- 5) How did the Battle of Freeman's Farm impact the outcome of the Battles of Saratoga?
 - A. Even though the British won, they suffered a great amount of casualties.
 - B. Even though the British won, their main leader was killed in battle.
 - C. Even though the British lost, the Americans lost a great amount of soldiers.
 - D. Even though the British lost, the Americans lost the support of the French.

Battle of Yorktown

The Battle of Yorktown was the last great battle of the American Revolutionary War starting on September 28, 1781. The British Army surrendered at this battle and the British government started considering a peace treaty. General Nathanael Greene took over the American Continental Army in the South. Before his command, the war in the South had not been going very well. However, Greene put in some new tactics enabling American victories and causing the British Army to retreat to the East Coast.

Cornwallis

General Charles Cornwallis and the British Army retreated to Yorktown, Virginia at the same time General George Washington was marching his army down from the north. The French Navy, having defeated the British Navy, started to move to the coast near Yorktown also. The British Army was surrounded at Yorktown and found themselves greatly outnumbered by the French and American troops. For eleven days the American forces bombarded the British. Cornwallis finally sent out the white flag for surrender. He originally made many demands to George Washington for his surrender, but Washington refused.

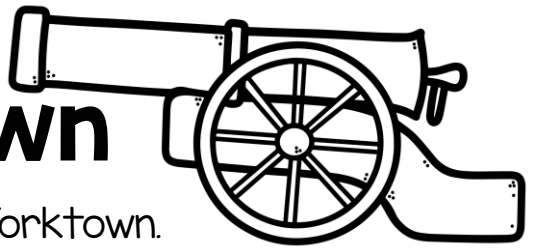


Surrender

When American troops started to prepare for another attack, Cornwallis agreed to Washington's terms and the battle was over after around 20 days. General Cornwallis signed the British surrender on October 19, 1781. The document was titled the Articles of Capitulation. Cornwallis said he was sick and did not show up for the actual surrender, but sent General Charles O'Hara to surrender his sword. Around 8,000 British troops surrendered in Yorktown, but this was not all of the army. It was a big enough force to cause the British to think they were going to lose the war. Losing at Yorktown made them realize the cost of war was not worth it to keep the colonies and called for peace. This opened the door for the Treaty of Paris.

Name _____

Battle of Yorktown



Complete the chart about the Battle of Yorktown.

Dates	
Location	
American Leaders	
British Leaders	
2 Facts about the Battle	
Outcome	

Name _____

Battle of Yorktown

True or False: Place a check in the correct column.

Statement	T	F
1. Cornwallis appeared in person to surrender to the Americans at Yorktown.		
2. Nathanael Greene improved the Continental Army in the South.		
3. The Articles of Capitulation outlined the Americans' terms for British surrender.		
4. Losing at Yorktown made many British realize the cost of war was not worth keeping the colonies.		
5. Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown after 11 days of fighting.		
6. A white flag is used to signal surrender in battle.		
7. Washington agreed to Cornwallis' terms of surrender.		
8. The Battle of Yorktown lasted around 20 days total.		

Short Answer: Answer each question.

9. Why did the British decide to surrender at the Battle of Yorktown?
10. How did the Battle of Yorktown lead to the Treaty of Paris?