

The American Revolution

Lesson 1 The War for Independence

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why does conflict develop?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

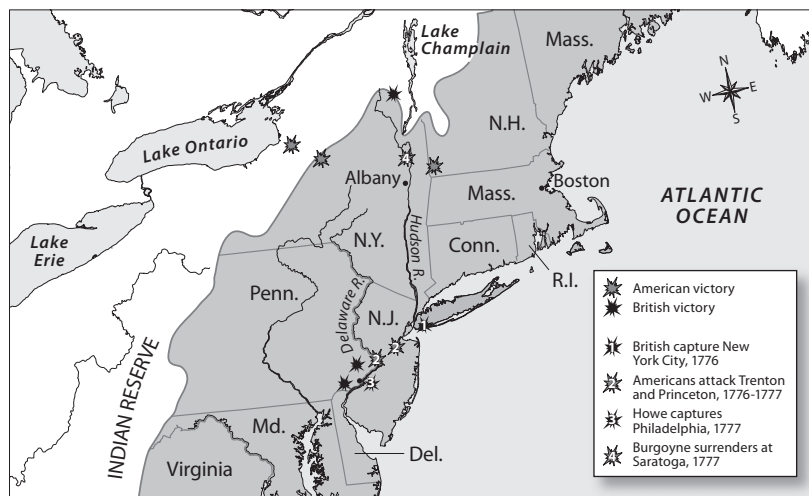
1. *Who were the opposing sides in the American Revolution?*
2. *What were significant battles in the early years of the American Revolution?*
3. *Was the British plan for victory successful?*

Terms to Know

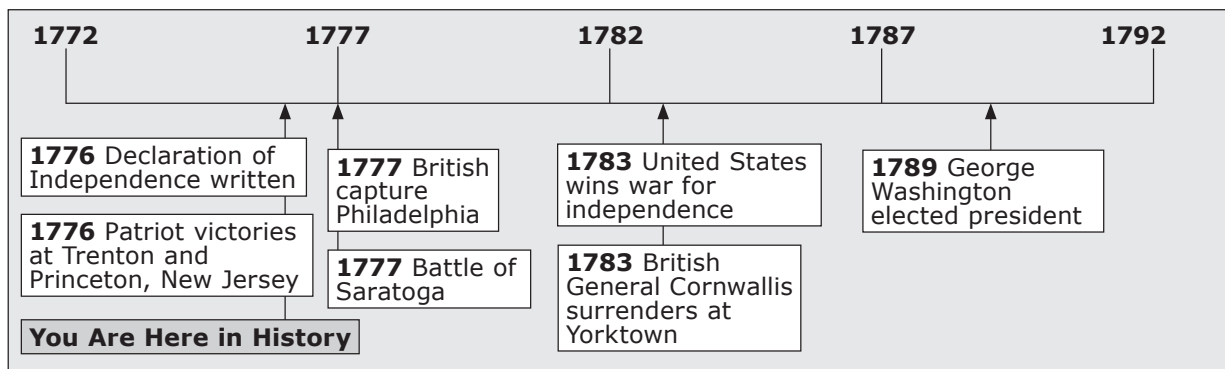
mercenary hired soldier

recruit to enlist in the military

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



The American Revolution

Lesson 1 The War for Independence, *Continued*

The Two Armies Face Off

The British felt they would crush the colonists. The colonists thought Great Britain would give up quickly after losing a few battles.

The British were confident because they had:

- the strongest navy in the world
- a well-trained army
- great wealth from their worldwide empire
- a large population (over 8 million people)

In comparison, the colonists had

- a weak navy
- no regular army, just local militia groups
- a lack of fighting experience
- a shortage of weapons and ammunition
- some people who did not support the war.

As many as one in three people in the colonies may have remained loyal to Great Britain. They were called Loyalists, or Tories. Some relied on the British for their jobs. Others thought a revolution would cause too much trouble or did not agree with the reasons for the war. Even neighbors and family members disagreed. Benjamin Franklin was an important Patriot while his son, William, was a Loyalist.

Great Britain also had **mercenaries**, soldiers who were paid to fight. The Americans called them Hessians. Some African Americans also supported Great Britain and the Loyalists. Great Britain sometimes promised freedom to African Americans who helped the British cause.

The Patriots had the advantages of fighting on their own land. The British would be fighting far from home. All of the British supplies and soldiers had to come from far away. They were also fighting for a great cause—their independence from Britain. This gave them strong motivation to fight. The Patriots' greatest advantage was the leadership of George Washington. He was courageous, determined, and an excellent leader.

After the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the Continental Congress acted as a national government. Congress, however, had limited powers. They did not have the power to raise money through taxes. Some members of Congress, such as James Madison from Virginia, called for a stronger national government.

Not everyone agreed with this idea. After living with harsh British rule, the colonists did not want to give power to the new government. This made it hard for Congress to raise money and **recruit**, or enlist, soldiers.

Reading Check

1. What disadvantages did the Patriots face in fighting the British?

Examining the Details

2. List three advantages the Patriots had during the American Revolution.

Listing

3. Give two reasons that people in the colonies stayed loyal to Britain.

The American Revolution

Lesson 1 The War for Independence, *Continued*

Critical Thinking

4. Why did Congress need to establish the Continental Army?

Identifying

5. Name three women who were involved in the fighting.

Comparing

6. How did the number of British troops compare with the number of American troops?

Reading Check

7. About how many African Americans fought in the war?

Many of the troops were members of a local militia, or people who are called to fight when needed. Many needed to tend to their farms to support their families. Congress established the Continental Army so that soldiers could be trained and paid. At first, soldiers signed up for a year at a time. General Washington, however, felt soldiers should agree to stay until the war was over. It was also difficult to find good leaders. Some were capable young men from the army. Others had experience in earlier wars.

A few women were involved in the fighting. Margaret Corbin went with her husband, then took his place when he died in battle. A legend says that a woman called "Molly Pitcher" fought in the war and brought pitchers of water to the soldiers. Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man so she could join the fight, too.

Early Campaigns

Early battles of the American Revolution were fought by smaller numbers of soldiers. At Bunker Hill, in Massachusetts, about 2,200 British soldiers fought about 1,200 Americans. The British outnumbered the Americans and won the battle, but lost many more troops. They quickly realized more troops were needed to fight the war.

In 1776, Great Britain sent 32,000 more troops to help fight the war. The Patriots did not have a large army, about 20,000 soldiers, but they were very determined. In August 1776, the two armies met in the Battle of Long Island in New York. The British caught a Patriot spy, Nathan Hale. Before he was hanged, Hale supposedly said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

The British had more men and more supplies. Many Patriot soldiers had no shoes, socks, or jackets. The Battle of Long Island was a serious defeat for the Continental Army. The British leader chased the Continental Army across New Jersey into Pennsylvania. He could have probably captured all of the Patriot troops, but he was satisfied that Washington was defeated, and he let him go.

This was a difficult time for the Continental Army. Even General Washington worried. They needed more men and more supplies. Many African Americans wanted to join the Army but were not allowed to. Washington asked Congress to reconsider. Historians estimate that around 5,000 African Americans eventually fought.

General Washington did not give up. On Christmas night, he and his troops crossed the icy Delaware River. He

The American Revolution

Lesson 1 The War for Independence, *Continued*

surprised a Hessian force camped in Trenton, New Jersey. After this victory, they marched on to Princeton, New Jersey. Washington pushed back the British troops they met there. The battles encouraged the troops to believe they could win.

British Strategy

The British had a plan to win in 1777. They wanted to cut off New England from the Middle Colonies. They needed to take Albany, New York, and control the Hudson River. The British plan involved coming in to Albany from three directions at the same time. General Burgoyne would move south from Canada, Lieutenant Colonel St. Leger would move east from Lake Ontario, and General Howe would move north up the Hudson River.

General Howe changed his plans, capturing Philadelphia instead. The Continental Congress was forced to escape. Howe stayed in Philadelphia for the winter. St. Leger also lost a battle to the Americans and did not reach Albany.

General Burgoyne captured Fort Ticonderoga in July 1777, but needed supplies. He sent troops to Vermont, but the local militia, called the Green Mountain Boys, attacked. Burgoyne's troops retreated to Saratoga, New York. There, American general Horatio Gates surrounded them and Burgoyne surrendered on October 17, 1777.

The British plan to take Albany and the Hudson River had failed. The Americans had won a huge victory at Saratoga. The American win at the Battle of Saratoga changed the course of the war.

//////////Glue Foldable here//////////

Check for Understanding

List two important American wins in the early days of the American Revolution.

1. _____
2. _____

Give two reasons that the British plan to take Albany failed.

1. _____
2. _____

? Critical Thinking

8. What was the British plan in 1777?

✓ Reading Check

9. How did Howe's victory in Philadelphia lead to Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga?

FOLDABLES®

10. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Factors that led to Independence* on the anchor tab. Create a memory map by drawing five small arrows from the title to the tab and writing what you remember about the advantages the Patriots had that helped them win their independence. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.

The American Revolution

Lesson 2 The War Continues

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why does conflict develop?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did America gain allies?*
2. *What was life like on the home front during the American Revolution?*

Terms to Know

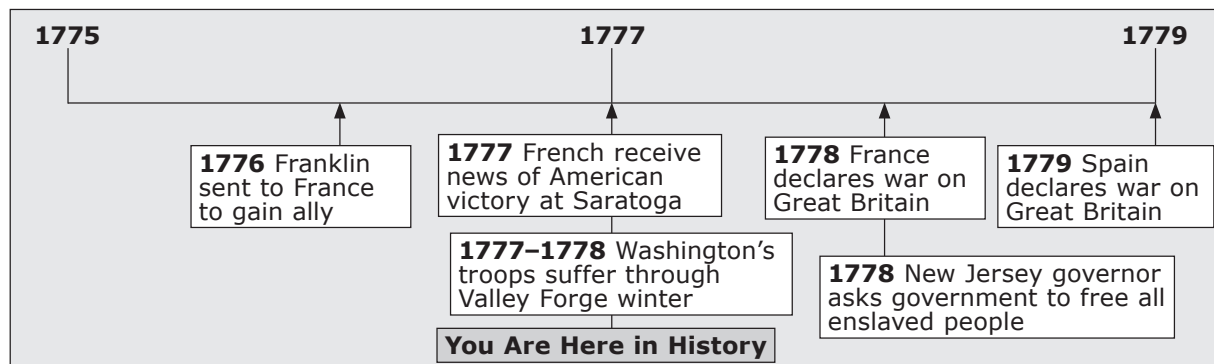
desert to leave without permission or intent to come back

inflation when it takes more and more money to buy the same amount of goods

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



The American Revolution

Lesson 2 The War Continues, *Continued*

Gaining Allies

The United States needed help to win the American Revolution. The Continental Congress sent Benjamin Franklin to France in 1776. Franklin was a charming, skilled statesman and was very popular in France. The Continental Congress hoped he would be able to win French support for the American war. Early on, the French secretly gave the Americans money for their cause. They did not want to openly take sides against Great Britain.

Some news arrived in 1777, however, that ended up changing the French position. The Continental Congress sent Jonathan Austin of Boston to France with news of the American victory at Saratoga. When Austin arrived, Benjamin Franklin asked him if the British had taken Philadelphia. "Yes sir ... but sir, I have greater news than that," Austin answered. "General Burgoyne and his whole army are prisoners of war!"

This information about the Patriot win at Saratoga was very important. France and other nations now saw that the Patriots might win the war. Soon after, in February 1778, France declared war on Great Britain. They agreed to help the Americans with money, equipment, and troops.

News that the French had joined the war traveled slowly back to the United States. Over the winter of 1777-1778, the Continental Army suffered through a hard winter. General Washington and his troops were camped in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. This city was about 20 miles away from Philadelphia. There, British General Howe and his men were comfortable and warm. Washington's troops were miserable and cold. They did not have enough food, clothing, or medicine. General Washington had to use all of his skills to keep his army together at Valley Forge.

Many soldiers got sick. Many died. Some soldiers quit. Other soldiers **deserted**, or left without permission. Despite the hardships, the Continental Army survived the winter. As spring arrived, the troops grew stronger. Then, in April 1778, General Washington told the troops that France would help them. This made everyone feel hopeful. The army celebrated with a religious service and a parade.

People came from all over Europe to help the Patriot cause. A young Frenchman named Marquis de Lafayette arrived in 1777 to help the Patriots. He was only 19 years old, but he was excited about the ideas of liberty and independence. He volunteered to help and became a trusted aide to General Washington.



Explaining

1. Why was the Battle of Saratoga an important victory for the Patriots?



Marking the Text

2. Underline the word *deserted* and its definition. Why did some American soldiers decide to desert during the winter of 1777-1778?

The American Revolution

Lesson 2 The War Continues, *Continued*

Critical Thinking

3. Why would foreign-born people come to help the Patriots in their fight for freedom?

Reading Check

4. How did Lafayette help the Patriot cause?

Reading Check

5. What help did the Patriots receive from Spain?

Two Polish men were also important in the war effort: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski. Kosciuszko helped build important defenses for the Americans. Pulaski was promoted to general. He was wounded in battle, and later died in 1779.

Friedrich von Steuben from Prussia was another foreign-born person who helped the Patriots. Through the harsh winter at Valley Forge, von Steuben trained the Continental Army. This made them a better fighting force.

Some people did important work off the battlefield as well. Juan de Miralles came from Spain. He helped persuade Spain, Cuba, and Mexico to help the United States by sending money to support the war.

Marquis de Lafayette	French nobleman and Patriot volunteer; became trusted aide to General Washington
Thaddeus Kosciuszko	Polish nobleman who helped build important defenses for the Americans
Casimir Pulaski	Polish man who rose to rank of general in Continental Army, died fighting for the Patriot cause
Friedrich von Steuben	Former army officer from Prussia who helped train the Continental Army
Juan de Miralles	Spanish supporter who persuaded Spain, Cuba, and Mexico to send money to help the Patriots

Even with help from many countries and individuals, the fight for independence was still not over. More battles and challenges were yet to come.

Life on the Home Front

The war affected the lives of everyone in the United States. Getting money to pay for the war was a challenge for the government. It printed millions of dollars of paper money. But the paper money lost value. The economy suffered from **inflation**. It took more and more money to buy the same amount of goods.

Women raised their children and took care of their homes on their own. They also ran businesses and farms while their fathers, husbands, and brothers were away at war. Children lived without their fathers present.

The American Revolution

Lesson 2 The War Continues, *Continued*

This caused some people to think differently about women's roles. Abigail Adams, the wife of Congressman John Adams, wrote to ask him to think about the rights of women as he helped form the new nation.

For others, the fight for freedom made them change their thoughts about slavery. In 1778, the governor of New Jersey, William Livingstone, asked his state government to free all enslaved people. He felt that slavery went against the ideas of Christianity. African Americans also spoke up for their freedom. The conflict over slavery would continue for many years to come.

The war also affected another group of people in the United States. These people were Loyalists, or American settlers who supported Great Britain. Some Loyalists joined the British troops and fought against the Patriots in the war. Some were spies for Great Britain. Others fled to Canada or went back to Great Britain.

The people who stayed faced trouble. Many were treated badly by their neighbors. Some were attacked or hurt. Those caught spying could be arrested or even put to death.

//////////////////// Glue Foldable here //////////////////////

Check for Understanding

Name two people from other nations who helped the United States gain freedom. Describe what each contributed.

1. _____

2. _____

Name two groups of people who sought greater freedom as a result of the Revolution and how people's thinking changed.

1. _____

2. _____



Reading Check

6. How were Loyalists treated by the Patriots during the war?



7. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Foreign Allies* on the anchor tab. Label the two tabs *France* and *Spain*. Recall and list ways that each helped the Patriots during their fight for independence. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.

The American Revolution

Lesson 3 Battlegrounds Shift

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why does conflict develop?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

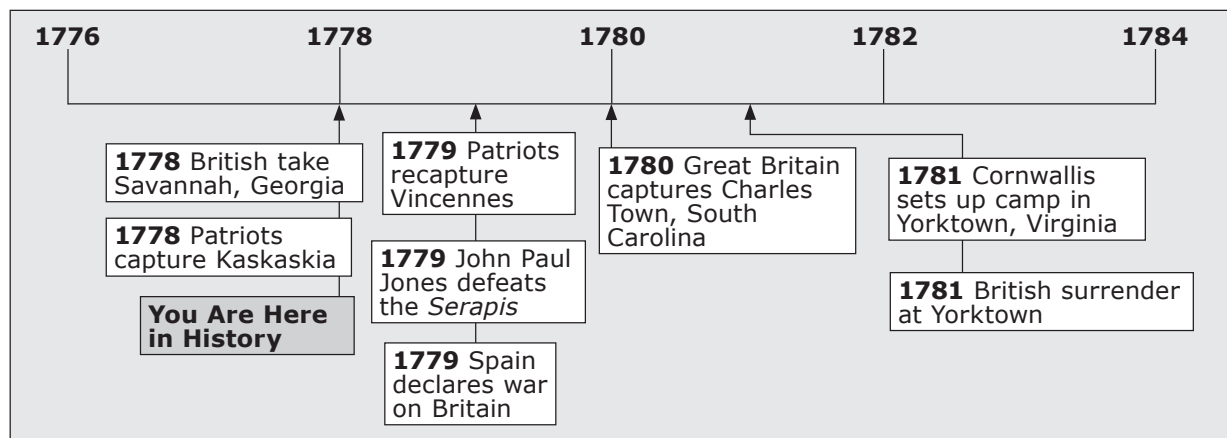
1. *How did the war in the West develop?*
2. *What was the result of the war at sea?*
3. *What was the result of the war in the South?*

Terms to Know

blockade measure that keeps a country from communicating and trading with other nations

privateer privately owned ship outfitted with weapons

When did it happen?



What do you know?

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now ...		Later ...
	On which side did most Native Americans fight during the Revolution?	
	How did Americans fight back against the British naval blockade?	
	What area of the United States did the British focus on winning?	

The American Revolution

Lesson 3 Battlegrounds Shift, *Continued*

Fighting in the West

There were many Native American nations in the different colonies. Some of these nations took sides in the war between the Patriots and the British. Some helped the Patriots. More Native Americans decided to help the British. The Patriots had fought against them, taken land that belonged to them, and changed their way of life. To Native Americans, the British seemed like less of a threat.

The American Revolution was fought in many areas. One important area was along the western frontier, or land west of the Appalachian Mountains. The British and some Native Americans raided American settlements.

Mohawk chief Joseph Brant led attacks in southwestern New York and northern Pennsylvania. Henry Hamilton was a British leader on the western frontier. He had a terrible nickname: the "hair buyer." Hamilton paid Native Americans for the scalps of American settlers.

A lieutenant colonel in the Virginia militia named George Rogers Clark wanted to end the attacks on western settlers. He and a small force captured the British post of Kaskaskia, in what is now Illinois. Clark then decided to capture the British town of Vincennes, in what is now Indiana. Henry Hamilton recaptured Vincennes in December 1778, but Clark did not give up. He staged a surprise attack on Vincennes in February 1779, during a very cold winter. The British surrendered.

The War at Sea

The war was also fought at sea. The United States did not have a strong navy. Congress called for building 13 warships, but only two ever sailed. Great Britain had a very powerful navy. Its many ships blocked American ports and harbors. This stopped ships from coming or going with people or supplies. This is known as a **blockade**.

Something had to be done to break the blockade. So Congress gave special permission to about 2,000 privately owned merchant ships to have weapons attached. The ships could then capture enemy ships and take their cargo. These ships were called **privateers**. They played an important role in the American Revolution because they captured more British ships than the American navy.

A very famous battle at sea took place in 1779 off the coast of Great Britain. It was between a British ship called the *Serapis* and an American ship called the *Bonhomme*



Explaining

1. Why did more Native Americans side with the British than with the Patriots?



Identifying

2. Who was Joseph Brant?



Reading Check

3. Describe events in the Revolutionary War in the West.



Marking the Text

4. Underline the word *blockade* and its definition. What did Americans do to combat the blockade?

The American Revolution

Lesson 3 Battlegrounds Shift, *Continued*



Identifying

5. Who was John Paul Jones?

6. What did he do?



Explaining

7. What special method of fighting did Francis Marion use in his attacks on the British?



Identifying

8. Who was Bernardo de Gálvez and how did he help the Americans?

Richard. The American captain was John Paul Jones. The ships fought for hours. Eventually, the British captain asked Jones if he wanted to surrender. Jones refused and said, "I have not yet begun to fight." John Paul Jones and his crew captured the *Serapis*. The victory was the first time an American ship had captured a British ship in British waters. John Paul Jones became a Patriot hero.

Fighting in the South

The British had more troops and supplies during the American Revolution, but they realized that they would not be able to win quickly. They came up with a new strategy. They wanted to win the South.

The Americans won some important early battles in the South. The Patriots beat Loyalist forces at Wilmington, North Carolina. They also kept the British from capturing Charles Town, now called Charleston, South Carolina. They were small battles, but had a big impact on the war.

The British also had some successes in the South. They took the city of Savannah, Georgia. In 1780, they finally captured Charles Town. Thousands of troops were taken prisoner by the British. This was the worst American defeat of the war. The British success would not last, however.

The British believed they could use strong Loyalist support and their naval power to help them win the South. The British did not get the Loyalist support they hoped for. They also had to deal with American hit-and-run tactics. Patriot forces would attack the British by surprise, and then disappear again. Francis Marion, called the "Swamp Fox," was a successful Patriot leader in the South. He was quick and smart, and he hid from the British easily in the eastern South Carolina swamps.

Other countries were also keeping Great Britain distracted in the South. In 1779, Spain declared war on Great Britain. At that time, Louisiana had a Spanish governor named Bernardo de Gálvez. He helped the Patriots a great deal. He did this by giving them money and allowing them to use the Port of New Orleans. He also shipped tons of supplies and ammunition up the Mississippi River. Gálvez also fought the British in the South. This fighting with Spain weakened the British.

The British gained a big victory at Camden, South Carolina. General Cornwallis led the British troops, and General Horatio Gates led the Patriot forces. The British

The American Revolution

Lesson 3 Battlegrounds Shift, *Continued*

won the battle but could not control the area. British forces under Cornwallis moved north.

Some settlers in the South were neutral, meaning they did not take sides. The British told these local people that they must support them. The British said if the locals did not help them, they would hang their leaders and destroy their land. This angered the Americans who lived in the mountains of the South. They formed a militia.

They clashed with a Loyalist force at Kings Mountain. The Patriots surrounded the Loyalist forces. They killed or captured nearly all of the 1,000 Loyalist troops. This victory won more support from Southern settlers.

More victories followed. Nathaniel Greene took command of the Continental Army in the South. He decided to split his troops into two sections. One part had success against the British at Cowpens, South Carolina. The other part of the army helped in raids with Francis Marion.

Later in 1781, the two sections met Cornwallis' army at what is now Greensboro, North Carolina. The Patriots did not win, but the British suffered great losses. General Cornwallis decided to give up the fight in the Carolinas.

Cornwallis and his troops went north into Virginia. Cornwallis set up camp with his men at Yorktown on the Virginia coast. Both Marquis de Lafayette and Anthony Wayne went south into Virginia to push Cornwallis back. The battle for the South was entering its final phase.

Check for Understanding

Identify each of these people.

1. John Paul Jones _____
2. Francis Marion _____
3. General Charles Cornwallis _____

How did the treatment of neutral settlers in the South hurt British chances for success?

? Critical Thinking

9. Why do you think neutral Americans decided to fight against the British?

✓ Reading Check

10. What effect did the Patriot victory at Kings Mountain have?



11. Place a three-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Label the three tabs *War in the West*, *War at Sea*, and *War in the South*. List the key words, dates, names, and events that you remember about each. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.

The American Revolution

Lesson 4 The Final Years

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why does conflict develop?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What events occurred in the victory at Yorktown?*
2. *What helped the Patriots win independence?*

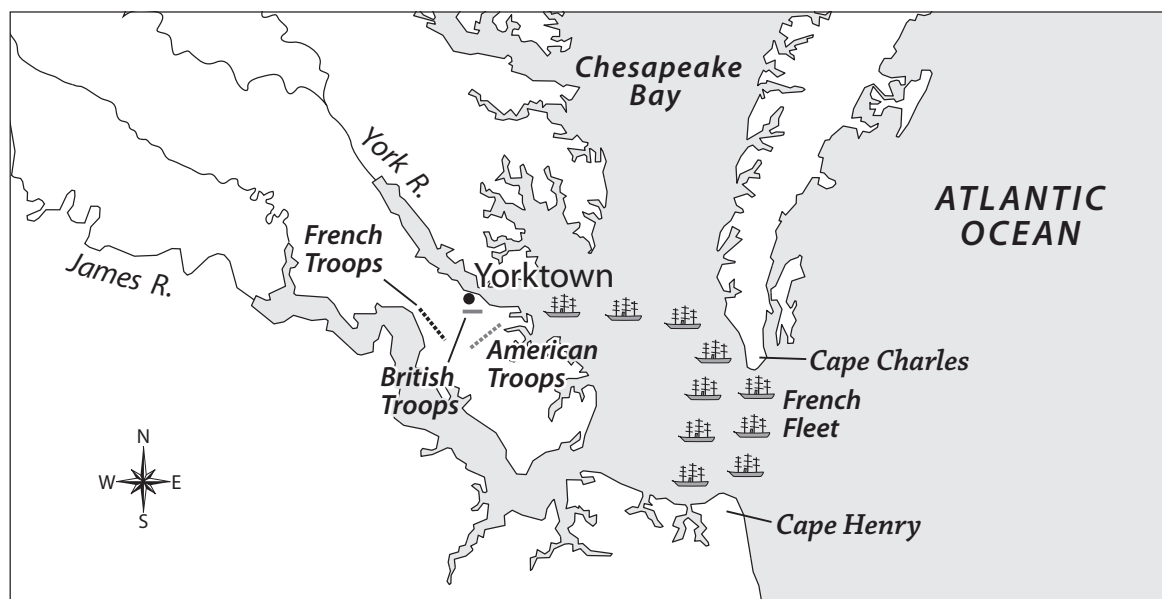
Terms to Know

siege an attempt to force surrender by blocking the movement of people or goods into or out of a place

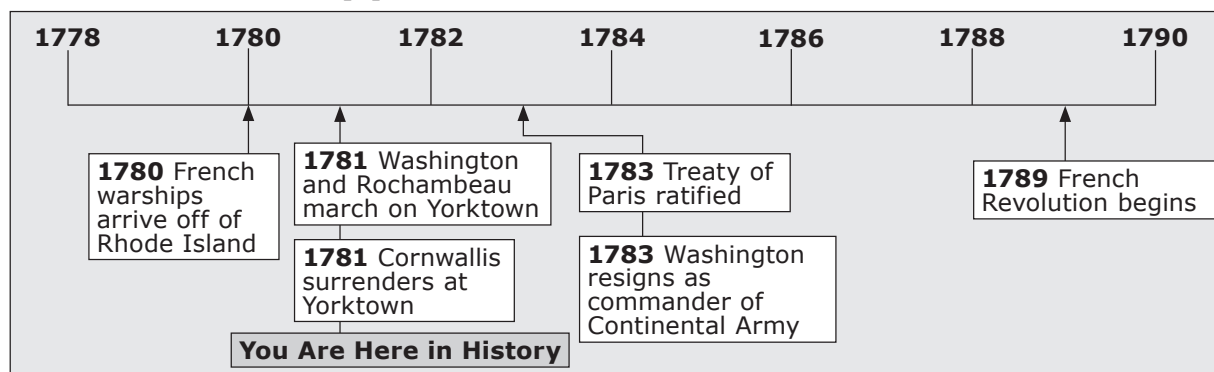
ratify to approve officially

ambush an attack in which the attacker hides and surprises the enemy

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



The American Revolution

Lesson 4 The Final Years, *Continued*

Victory at Yorktown

While battles were going on in the South, General Washington and his troops were in New York. In July 1780, French warships arrived off of Rhode Island to help the Americans. They carried thousands of French troops led by Comte de Rochambeau. They joined General Washington and waited for a second French fleet to arrive.

General Washington had a plan. He wanted to attack an army base in New York commanded by British general Clinton. A second fleet of French ships was expected. The attack would happen when that force arrived.

General Washington and Comte de Rochambeau waited, but the second French fleet never arrived in the North. Instead, Washington learned that the fleet would arrive at Chesapeake Bay. They could help fight General Cornwallis, who was camped on the Yorktown Peninsula.

Cornwallis was in a dangerous position. There was only one direction on land for escape. This had been blocked by Marquis de Lafayette and Anthony Wayne. Now the second French fleet would block escape by water as well.

General Washington changed his plan to attack General Clinton in New York. He and Rochambeau would take their troops to Virginia to fight against Cornwallis. This plan was kept a secret. Washington and Rochambeau moved quickly. Even their soldiers did not know where they were going. He hoped to trick General Clinton so he would not have time to send help to General Cornwallis. The plan worked. French and American troops left New York and marched 200 miles (322 km) in just 15 days. General Clinton did not know they were gone until it was too late.

The Continental forces at Yorktown were ready. Washington, Rochambeau, Lafayette, and the French fleet had Cornwallis cornered. British ships could not reach Cornwallis to help him escape. Washington's plan had worked perfectly.

At the end of September 1781, the Americans began a **siege**. This means that the Patriots hoped to force Cornwallis to surrender by keeping the British blocked off from supplies and communication. Cornwallis did not give up right away. He was surrounded by 14,000 American and French army and naval forces, but he still had 8,000 British and Hessian troops. The British were low on supplies. Many of their men were sick or wounded. On October 14, General Washington's aide, Alexander Hamilton captured important British defenses. Cornwallis saw he could not win. He surrendered.



Describing

1. Explain how General Cornwallis was trapped on the Yorktown Peninsula.



Marking the Text

2. Underline the sentence that describes Washington's first plan. How did General Washington change his strategy?



Vocabulary

3. What does the word *siege* mean?



Reading Check

4. Why did Washington advance on Yorktown?

The American Revolution

Lesson 4 The Final Years, *Continued*

Critical Thinking

5. Why was the Treaty of Paris important?

Reading Check

6. Why did Washington take action to end the soldier's threat in Newburgh?

The Patriots won the Battle of Yorktown. The French band played the song "Yankee Doodle" which the British had used to make fun of the Americans. In response, the British band played a children's tune called "The World Turned Upside Down."

Independence Achieved

Yorktown was not the last battle of the American Revolution. The British still held cities such as Savannah, Charles Town, and New York. Yet the British realized that the fight was finished. The war was too costly to continue.

Both sides sent representatives to France to work out a peace agreement. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay represented the United States. The first draft of the Treaty of Paris was **ratified**, or approved, by Congress. The final agreement was signed in September 1783.

The treaty was a success for the Patriots. Great Britain agreed to recognize the United States as an independent nation along with other agreements.

United States	Great Britain
Recognized as independent nation	British merchants could collect debts from Americans
Promised that Congress would advise state governments to return Loyalist property	British agree to withdraw troops
	Americans granted permission to fish off of Canada

Some time passed between the end of the war and the signing of the treaty. The Continental Army was kept active during this time in Newburgh, New York. The soldiers wanted to get paid. They were angry because they were owed money. Some thought they should use force against Congress if they were not paid. General Washington stepped in to settle the dispute. He understood the threat was very serious for the new nation. He asked the soldiers to be patient. He also asked Congress to meet the soldiers' demands. Congress agreed. General Washington showed his superior leadership once again.

The American Revolution

Lesson 4 The Final Years, *Continued*

When the last of the British troops left New York City in November 1783, Washington decided to resign. He wanted to retire to Virginia and live a quiet life with his family.

Even though the British were strong, the Americans won the war because they had certain advantages. They fought on their own land for a cause they believed in. They knew the land and how to use it, often using **ambushes** to surprise the enemy. The British, on the other hand, fought a war far from home. Their troops and supplies had to be shipped in. They also had a hard time controlling the Americans even when they captured major cities.

The Americans also had help from many others. The French supplied soldiers and naval support as well as money. The Spanish gave aid when they attacked Britain. Individuals from other countries came to help the Americans fight and build their defenses.

Most of all, the British could not fight against the power of independence. Americans fought hard because they believed in what they were fighting for. They wanted to protect their land, their families, and their freedom.

This spirit spread to other places in the world as well. Shortly after the American Revolution, French rebels fought for freedom. They fought for the ideals of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity." These ideas also took root in the French colony of Saint Domingue, which is now Haiti. Led by a man named Toussaint Louverture, enslaved Africans fought for their freedom. In 1804, Saint Domingue became the second nation in the Americas to win its freedom.

//////////Glue Foldable here//////////

Check for Understanding

Give two reasons that General Cornwallis was defeated at Yorktown.

1. _____
2. _____

List two elements that helped the Patriots win the war.

1. _____
2. _____



Explaining

7. How did France and Spain help the Americans win the war?



8. Use a two-tab Foldable and place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *American Independence* on the anchor tab. Label the two tabs *Patriots Win* and *Loyalists Defeated*. Recall and list reasons for the Patriot's victory and the defeat of the Loyalists. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.