American Diary

On the night of July 9, 1776, General George Washington asked that the Declaration of Independence be read to his assembled troops in New York City. Later that night, a crowd of American soldiers and civilians marched to a park, where they toppled a gold-leafed statue of Britain’s king George III on horseback. “In it were 4,000 Pounds of Lead,” a lieutenant in the Continental Army said, “…to be run up into Musquet Balls [bullets] for the use of the Yankies.”

—from the Journal of Lieutenant Isaac Bangs
The Early Years

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Opposing Sides

In Idea The British and American forces each advantages and disadvantages during the war for American independence.

ory and You What qualities should a leader Read to learn how George Washington's leadership qualities were an advantage for the Patriots.

s the toppling of the king's statue demonstrated, tensions between the colonies and Britain had reached a critical point after years of disagreement and negotiation. After colonies declared independence from Britain in July 1776, the war for freedom was undeniable.

Both sides expected the war for independence to be short. The British planned to crush rebellion by force. Most of the Patriots—Americans who supported independence—expected the British would give up after one or two major battles. Few Patriots, including John Adams when he predicted in 1776: "We shall have a long...and bloody war to go through."

First glance the British had an overwhelming advantage in the war. They had the strongest navy in the world. They also had an experienced, well-trained army and the wealth of a worldwide empire. Great Britain also had a much larger population than the United States. More than 8 million people resided in Britain, compared with only 2.5 million in the United States.

The colonists suffered serious disadvantages. They lacked a regular army and a strong navy. American soldiers also lacked experience. Weapons and ammunition were in short supply. Many Patriots belonged to militia groups—local forces. However, they were volunteer soldiers who fought for short periods of time before returning home.

The Patriots faced another obstacle. Not all Americans supported the struggle for independence. Some people were neutral, taking neither side in the conflict. The Quakers, for example, would not participate in the war because they opposed all armed conflict. Still other Americans remained loyal to Britain.

The Loyalists

Those Americans who remained loyal to Britain and opposed the war for independence were called Loyalists or Tories. At least one American in five were thought to be Loyalists—perhaps as many as one in three. Some people changed sides during the war,

Primary Source The Liberty Bell

Symbol of Freedom "Get us a good bell," wrote Isaac Norris, a Pennsylvania political leader to an aide in London in 1751. Arriving in 1752, the Liberty Bell was hung in the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall). Its most famous ringing, on July 8, 1776, announced the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. The Liberty Bell was rung every Fourth of July and for many public events until a crack appeared in about 1846. Today, the Liberty Bell is a symbol of freedom in the United States and throughout the world.

Critical-Thinking Speculating Why do you think symbols, such as statues, flags, and bells, are important to the people of a country?
Then in 1776 women could not officially join the army. Yet their contributions proved critical to the war effort. Some women spied on British soldiers while others traveled with the troops, serving as cooks, seamstresses, and nurses. A few women even disguised themselves as men in order to become soldiers.

Depending on which army was closer. Loyalist support varied from region to region throughout the war. In general, it was strongest in the Carolinas and Georgia and weakest in New England.

Loyalists supported Britain for different reasons. Some people remained loyal because they were members of the Anglican Church, headed by the British king. Others depended on the British for their jobs. Some Loyalists feared the disorder that might break out from challenging the established government. Others simply could not understand what all the commotion was about and why the colonies wanted independence. No other country, one Loyalist complained, "faced a rebellion arising from such trivial causes."

Friends and families were divided over their loyalty to Britain. For example, William Franklin, son of Patriot Benjamin Franklin, was a Loyalist who had served as a royal governor. As one Connecticut man observed:

_African Americans in the War_

Some African Americans also sided with the Loyalists. At the start of the war, the British appealed to enslaved Africans to join them. Lord Dunmore, the royal governor of Virginia, announced that enslaved people who fought on the British side would be freed. Many men answered his call. Eventually some of them ended up free in Canada. Others settled in the British colony of Sierra Leone in Africa.

_Patriot Advantages_

The Americans held some advantages. They were fighting on their own ground and fought with great determination to protect...
Raising an Army

The Americans placed great value on liberty and personal freedom for citizens. After throwing off the rule of the British Parliament, they were unwilling to transfer—or move—power to their own Continental Congress. In some ways the American Revolution was really 13 separate wars, with each state pursuing its own interests. As a result, the Congress experienced difficulty enlisting soldiers and raising money to fight the war.

The militia played an essential role in the Patriots’ forces. However, the Americans also needed well-trained soldiers who could fight anywhere in the colonies. The Congress established the Continental Army but depended on the states to recruit, or enlist, soldiers.

At first, soldiers signed up for one year of army service. General Washington appealed for longer terms. “If we ever hope for success,” he said, “we must have men enlisted for the whole term of the war.” Eventually the Continental Congress offered enlistments for three years or for the length of the war. Most soldiers, however, still signed up for only one year.

It was also difficult to recruit officers. The best officers in the Continental Army were veterans of previous, or earlier, wars or young men who were recruited from the ranks.

Women also fought with the Patriot forces. Margaret Corbin of Pennsylvania went with her husband when he joined the Continental Army. After he died in battle, she took his place. Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley also joined her husband in battle. The soldiers called her “Moll of the Pitcher,” or Molly Pitcher, because she carried water pitchers to the soldiers. As a teenager, Deborah Sampson of Massachusetts watched her brothers and their friends go off to war. She then disguised herself as a boy and enlisted.

**Critical Thinking**

Analyzing The Revolutionary War was fought on American soil. How do you think this fact influenced the role of women in the war?

The British, however, had to wage war in a faraway land. They were forced to ship soldiers and supplies thousands of miles across the Atlantic.

Another advantage for the Americans was the type of soldiers fighting for the British. The British relied on mercenaries—hired soldiers—to fight for them. The Americans called the mercenaries Hessians, after the region in Germany from where most of them came. The Patriots were fighting for the freedom of their own land. They believed they had a much greater stake in winning the war than the hired soldiers did, who were fighting for money. This belief gave the Americans an edge over the Hessians in battle.

The Americans’ greatest advantage was probably their leader, George Washington. Few could match him for courage, honesty, and determination. The war might have taken a different turn without Washington.
Patriot Defeats and Victories

**Main Idea** After suffering defeat at the Battle of Long Island, the Americans rallied and won victories at Trenton and Princeton.

**History and You** Do you think a single victory can help a struggling sports team with a losing record? Read to learn how American troops rallied following a crushing defeat by the British.

Most of the early battles in the war involved few troops. At Bunker Hill, for example, about 2,200 British soldiers fought 1,200 Americans. The British had not yet won a decisive victory over the Patriots, however. They realized they would need more troops to end the war quickly.

During the summer of 1776, Britain sent 32,000 troops across the Atlantic to New York. The British commander, General William Howe, hoped the sheer size of his army would convince the Patriots to give up. He was soon disappointed.

Defeat on Long Island

Although Washington and the Patriots had fewer than 20,000 troops, they were determined to fight. In late August the two sides clashed in the Battle of Long Island. Outnumbered and outmaneuvered, the Continental Army suffered a serious defeat at the hands of the British forces.

One Patriot, Nathan Hale, proved himself a hero at Long Island. A teacher from Connecticut, Hale volunteered to spy on British troops. He disguised himself as a Dutch schoolteacher. The British discovered his true identity, however, and hanged him. According to tradition, just before his hanging Hale said, “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

Although the Americans showed bravery, they ran short of supplies for the army. In the autumn of 1776, a British officer wrote that many of the Patriot soldiers killed on Long Island had not been wearing shoes, socks, or jackets. “They are also in great want of blankets,” he said, predicting that the rebels would suffer during the winter.
After the defeat on Long Island, Washington retreated to Manhattan. With the British in pursuit, the Continental Army retreated across New Jersey into Pennsylvania.

A Low Point
In the winter of 1776–1777, the Patriots' cause was near collapse. The size of the Continental Army had dwindled. Some soldiers completed their terms of service and went home. Other soldiers ran away.

Washington wrote his brother that if new soldiers were not recruited soon, "I think the game is pretty near up." Still, he could not believe that the fight for liberty would truly fail.

Washington pleaded with the Continental Congress for more troops. He even asked that the Congress allow free African Americans to enlist. Early in the war, however, the Southern states had persuaded the Congress not to allow African Americans in the Continental Army. Many white people in the South felt uncomfortable about giving guns to African Americans and allowing them to serve as soldiers. In those Southern states that had large enslaved populations, the whites feared revolts.

African Americans Join the Fight
As the need for soldiers grew, some states ignored the ban and enlisted African Americans. Rhode Island raised an all-African American regiment in 1778. By the war's end, every state except South Carolina enlisted African Americans to fight.

Historians estimate that as many as 5,000 African Americans joined the Patriots. Among them were Lemuel Hayes and Peter Salem, who fought at Concord. African Americans fought because they believed in the Patriot cause or they needed the money. Some were enslaved Africans who had run away from slaveholders and fought to earn their freedom.

American Victories in New Jersey
The British settled in New York for the winter, leaving some troops in Princeton and Trenton, New Jersey. Washington saw a chance to catch the British off guard.

Connecticut schoolteacher Nathan Hale was serving as a Continental soldier in New York as the British were beginning their military buildup on Long Island. He volunteered to spy on British troop positions but eventually was captured and hanged.

By the Numbers
The Fighting Forces, 1777

British regular army (42,000)
Continental Army and colonial militias (20,000)

Map Skills
Location In what state was the Battle of Saratoga fought?
Washington was stationed in Pennsylvania across the Delaware River from the British camp in New Jersey. On Christmas night 1776, Washington and 2,400 troops crossed the icy river and surprised the enemy at Trenton the next day. The British sent reinforcements under Lord Charles Cornwallis, but Washington evaded those forces. Washington then marched to Princeton, where his army drove away the British. One British observer wrote:

**Primary Source**

“A few days ago, [the Americans] had given up the cause for lost. Their late successes have turned the scale and now they are all liberty-mad again.”

—Nicholas Cresswell, quoted in *George Washington’s War*

**Reading Check**  
Explain why was the winter of 1776–1777 significant?

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“A British Plan for Victory

**Main Idea** The British plan to separate New England from the Middle Colonies was foiled at the Battle of Saratoga.

**History and You** Do you like to play chess or other games in which you outmaneuver your opponent? Read how the Americans outmaneuvered a British army and won a stunning victory.

The British worked out a battle plan for 1777. They would take Albany, New York, and gain control of the Hudson River. This would separate New England from the Middle Colonies.

The plan involved a three-pronged attack. General John Burgoyne would lead nearly 8,000 troops south from Canada. A second force, under Lieutenant Colonel Barry St. Leger, would move east from Lake Ontario.
A third group, under General Howe, would move north from New York City. The three British forces would meet at Albany and destroy the Patriot troops.

**The British Capture Philadelphia**

Howe won battles in September 1777 at Brandywine and Paoli, near Philadelphia. Then Howe's troops captured Philadelphia, forcing the Continental Congress to flee. In early October, Washington attacked the British at nearby Germantown but had to withdraw. Howe decided to spend the winter in Philadelphia instead of going to Albany.

**Patriots Slow the British**

Meanwhile, problems delayed the British from taking Albany. In August, American soldiers halted St. Leger's advance at Fort Stanwix, New York. Led by Benedict Arnold, the Americans forced the British to retreat.

General Burgoyne's army was not making much progress toward Albany either. In July he captured Fort Ticonderoga, but trouble followed. Because he enjoyed good food and fine clothes, Burgoyne traveled with 30 wagons of luxury goods. This baggage, along with the trees downed by the Americans to block the British, slowed Burgoyne's journey.

Burgoyne needed supplies. He sent 800 troops and Native Americans to capture the American supply base at Bennington, Vermont. A local militia group, the Green Mountain Boys, attacked and defeated them. Desperate for supplies, Burgoyne retreated in October to Saratoga, New York.

**The Battle of Saratoga**

Burgoyne faced serious trouble at Saratoga. The British forces he expected did not arrive. The Americans had stopped St. Leger's army at Fort Stanwix, and Howe's forces were still in Philadelphia. In addition, American troops under the command of General Horatio Gates blocked Burgoyne's path to the south. Burgoyne found himself surrounded by a larger army. Burgoyne made a desperate attack on October 7. The Americans held firm.

On October 17, 1777, General Burgoyne surrendered. The British plan had failed. General Howe resigned as commander of the British troops in America. He was replaced by General Henry Clinton.

**Reading Check**

Analyzing Why was the Battle of Saratoga a turning point in the war?

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**Section 1 Review**

**Vocabulary**

1. Use the terms mercenary, transfer, recruit, and previous in separate sentences that explain their meanings.

**Main Ideas**

2. Discussing What disadvantages did British forces face in the American Revolution?

3. Explaining Why were African Americans at first banned from serving in the Continental Army?

4. Analyzing What difficulties did General Burgoyne face at the Battle of Saratoga?

**Critical Thinking**

5. Analyzing Use a diagram like the one below to explain why the Loyalists supported Britain.

6. Persuasive Writing As a colonist, write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Point out the colonies' strengths and why you think you will win the war for independence.

7. **Essential Question**

What challenges did the American revolutionaries face at the start of the war?
American Diary

The Continental Congress sent Jonathan Austin of Boston to France to deliver the news of the American victory at Saratoga. Benjamin Franklin was already in France trying to get that country to help the Americans fight against the British. As soon as Austin arrived, Franklin nervously inquired, "Sir, is Philadelphia taken?"

Austin answered, "Yes sir. . . But sir, I have greater news than that. General Burgoyne and his whole army are prisoners of war."

—quoted in Liberty! The American Revolution

Benjamin Franklin arrives at the Court of the French king, Louis XVI.
Gaining Allies

Main Idea Even with aid from other nations and individuals, the Patriots had difficulty financing their war for independence.

History and You Have you ever had to ask friends for help when you could not complete a task? Was the task easier to complete? Read about how the Americans sought help during their fight for independence.

Like Ben Franklin, many Americans were excited by news of the victory at Saratoga in October 1777. Even more, Saratoga marked a turning point in the war. The European nations, especially France, realized that the Americans might actually win their war against Great Britain.

Now was the time for the Americans to seek support from Great Britain’s rivals. By late 1777, Benjamin Franklin had been in Paris for a year. He was trying to get the French to support the Americans’ fight for independence. With his skill and charm, Franklin gained many friends for the United States. The French had given the Americans money secretly, but they had not fully committed to an alliance.

France

News of the American victory at Saratoga caused a shift in France’s policy. Realizing that the Americans had a chance of defeating Britain, the French openly announced support for the United States. In February 1778, the French and the Americans worked out a trade agreement and an alliance. France declared war on Britain and sent money, equipment, and troops to aid, or help, the American Patriots.

Spain

Other European nations also helped the American cause. They did so mostly because they hated the British. Although Spain did not recognize American independence until after the Revolution, Spain declared war on Britain in 1779. The Spanish governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Gálvez (GAHL•ves), raised an army. Gálvez’ soldiers forced British troops from Baton Rouge and Natchez. Then the army captured British forts at Mobile in 1780 and Pensacola in 1781. Gálvez’s campaign through hundreds of miles of wilderness diverted British troops from other fronts of the war.

Primary Source Franklin Memorabilia

The World’s First Celebrity While serving as America’s first ambassador to France, Benjamin Franklin was greatly admired by the country’s nobles and thinkers. After all, he was a man of great charm and many talents—philosopher, writer, printer, scientist, inventor, politician, and diplomat. Much like a singer or movie star today, Franklin became so popular in America and Europe that his likeness appeared on many items—medallions, rings, watches, and small boxes. Fashionable ladies even adopted a hairstyle that resembled the famous fur cap that Franklin wore.

Critical Thinking

Making Connections How do you think Franklin used his personality and talents to benefit the American cause? Would you consider him a celebrity? Are there any celebrities today who are like Franklin? Explain.
Winter at Valley Forge

Word of the French-American alliance did not reach the United States until the spring of 1778. Meanwhile, British general Howe and his forces spent the winter in comfort in Philadelphia. Washington set up camp at Valley Forge, about 20 miles (32 km) to the west of the British. Washington and his troops endured a winter of terrible suffering. They lacked decent food, clothing, shelter, and medicine. Washington's greatest challenge at Valley Forge was keeping the Continental Army together.

Because it was difficult to get supplies delivered due to snowstorms and damaged roads, the Continental Army built huts and gathered supplies from the countryside. Several volunteers—including Washington's wife, Martha—made clothes for the troops and cared for the sick. Washington declared that no army had ever suffered "such uncommon hardships" with such "patience and fortitude."

Joseph Martin, a young private from Connecticut, spent the winter at Valley Forge. "We had a hard duty to perform," he wrote years later, "and little or no strength to perform it with." Most of the men lacked blankets, shoes, and shirts. Martin made a pair of rough moccasins for himself out of a scrap of cowhide, which hurt his feet.

Primary Source

"The only alternative I had, was to endure this inconvenience or to go barefoot, as hundreds of my companions had to, till they might be tracked by their blood upon the rough frozen ground."

—Joseph Martin, in A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier

Not surprisingly, many men deserted, or left without permission, while the Continental Army was camped at Valley Forge. Some officers resigned. The army seemed to be falling apart.

Yet with strong determination, the Continental Army survived the winter. Conditions gradually improved and new soldiers joined the ranks in the spring. "The army grows stronger every day," one officer wrote. "There is a spirit of discipline among the troops that is better than numbers."

Primary Source

Winter Soldiers For the Continental Army, the winter of 1777 at Valley Forge was terrible. Soldiers suffered through a lack of food and clothing, and many became ill and died. By March, better weather had arrived along with a trickle of food and supplies. By April, Baron von Steuben was turning the troops into a fighting force.

"Naked and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity [faithfulness] of the soldiery."

—George Washington, Letter to Governor George Clinton, February 16, 1778

Washington and Lafayette at Valley Forge, winter 1777

Camp bed used at Valley Forge
In April 1778, Washington told his troops of the Patriots’ alliance with France. Everyone’s spirits rose at the thought of help from overseas. The Continental Army celebrated with a religious service and a parade.

Help From Overseas
Among the leaders at Valley Forge was a French noble, the Marquis de Lafayette (lah•fee•EHT). Lafayette was filled with enthusiasm for the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence and he rushed to join the battle for freedom. Lafayette wrote: “The future of America is closely bound up with the future of all mankind.”

Upon his arrival in Philadelphia, Lafayette offered his services to General Washington. Lafayette became a trusted aide to Washington.

Other Europeans also volunteered to work for the Patriot cause. Two Poles—Thaddeus Kościuszko (kawsh•CHUSH•kon), an engineer, and Casimir Pulaski, a cavalry officer—contributed to the American efforts. Promoted to general, Pulaski died in 1779, fighting for the Continental Army.

—Friedrich von Steuben (STOH•buhn), a former army officer from Prussia, also came to help Washington. Von Steuben drilled the Patriot troops at Valley Forge, teaching them military discipline. He spoke little English, so he used aides to translate drills and a training manual that he wrote. Von Steuben turned the ragged Continental Army into a more effective fighting force.

Juan de Miralles (me•RAH•yays) arrived in Philadelphia in 1778 as a representative of Spain. At his urging, Spain, Cuba, and Mexico sent financial aid to the colonies. Miralles befriended many Patriot leaders and loaned money to the cause.

Other Europeans who had recently moved to the United States also joined the Patriot cause. In fact, almost two-thirds of soldiers in the Pennsylvania regiments were foreign-born.

Even with the help of foreign nations like France and Spain, the Patriots would find it difficult to defeat the British. The Continental Army still needed large amounts of money to continue to fight the war.

Critical Thinking
Describing What happened at Valley Forge to change the course of the war?
Money Problems

Getting money to finance the war was a major problem. The Continental Congress had no power to raise money through taxes. Although the Congress received some money from the states and from foreign countries, much more was needed to finance the war.

To pay for the war, the Congress and the states printed hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of paper money. The bills quickly lost their value, though. The amount of bills in circulation grew faster than the supply of gold and silver backing them. This led to inflation, which means that it took more and more money to buy the same amount of goods. The Congress stopped issuing the paper money because no one would use it. However, the Americans had no other way to finance their fight for independence.

Reading Check Describing How did Lafayette help the Patriot cause?

Life on the Home Front

Main Idea The ideals of liberty and freedom that inspired the American Revolution carried through to the issues of women's interests and slavery.

History and You Have you ever taken on more duties at home when another person was away? Read how women's roles changed during the American Revolution.

The war changed the lives of all Americans, even those who stayed at home. Thousands of men were away in military service, so many women took charge of their families. Other women ran their husbands' or their own businesses.

Changing Attitudes

The ideals of liberty and freedom inspired the American Revolution. These same ideals also caused some women to question their place and treatment in American society.
In an essay on education, Judith Sargeant Murray of Massachusetts argued that women’s minds are as good as men’s. Girls, therefore, should get as good an education as boys. Most girls received little schooling, so this was a radical idea.

Abigail Adams also stood up for women’s interests. She wrote to her husband, John Adams, a member of Congress:

*Primary Source*

“I cannot say that I think you [are] very generous to the Ladies, for whilst you are proclaiming peace and good will to Men, Emancipating all Nations, you insist upon retaining an absolute power over Wives.”

—from Adams Family Papers

**Hopes for Equality**

The Revolutionary War ideals of freedom and liberty inspired some white Americans to question slavery. As early as the Stamp Act crisis, religious groups and other groups had voted to condemn slavery.

In 1778 Governor William Livingston of New Jersey asked the legislature to free all enslaved people in the state. He said slavery was “utterly inconsistent with the principles of Christianity and humanity.” African Americans made similar arguments. In New Hampshire enslaved people asked the legislature for their freedom “so that the name of slave may not be heard in a land gloriously contending for the sweets of freedom.”

From the start of the war, African Americans fought for the American cause and hoped the Revolution would help end slavery. Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania attempted to abolish slavery in their states. The issue, or matter, of slavery would remain unsettled for many years, however.

**Treatment of Loyalists**

During the war, thousands of Loyalists fought on the side of the British. Some Loyalists spied and informed on the Patriots. Many Loyalists, however, fled the colonies.

Loyalists who remained in the United States faced difficult times. Their neighbors often shunned them. Some became victims of mob violence. Loyalists who actively helped the British could be arrested and tried as traitors. Patriots executed a few Loyalists, but such measures were unusual.

☐ **Reading Check** Describing How were Loyalists treated by the Patriots during the war?

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**Section 2 Review**

**Vocabulary**

1. Write a paragraph that explains how the following terms relate to the war for independence: aid, desert, inflation, issue.

**Main Ideas**

2. Explaining Why did the Patriots find it hard to finance the war for independence?

3. Discussing How did the war for independence affect slavery in the United States?

**Critical Thinking**

4. Determining Cause and Effect Use a diagram like the one below to identify the effects of the Revolutionary War on women who remained at home.

   ![Effects of the War on Women](image)

5. Creative Writing Write a paragraph in which you describe what Martha Washington might have experienced when she helped the soldiers during the winter at Valley Forge.

   **Answer the**

6. Essential Question How did the United States gain allies and aid during the Revolutionary War?
**Essential Question**
How did fighting in the West and South affect the course of the Revolutionary War?

**Reading Guide**

**Content Vocabulary**
- blockade (p. 170)
- privateer (p. 170)
- guerrilla warfare (p. 172)

**Academic Vocabulary**
- impact (p. 171)
- sustain (p. 173)

**Key People and Events**
- Joseph Brant (p. 169)
- George Rogers Clark (p. 169)
- John Paul Jones (p. 170)
- Battle of Moore’s Creek (p. 171)
- General Charles Cornwallis (p. 171)
- Francis Marion (p. 172)
- Nathanael Greene (p. 173)

**Reading Strategy**
Taking Notes As you read, use a diagram like the one below to analyze how the Americans responded to the British naval blockade.

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**American Diary**

A brave Mohawk war chief, Joseph Brant, blended Native American and British ways. Brant, however, spoke strongly on behalf of his people. On a 1776 visit to London, he said the Mohawks have “shown their zeal and loyalty to the ... King; yet they have been very badly treated by his people. . . . Indeed, it is very hard when we have let the King’s subjects have so much of our lands . . . [and] they should want to cheat us.”

—Joseph Brant, speech, March 14, 1776

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Loyalists and their Native American allies attack an American settlement in Pennsylvania’s Wyoming Valley in the summer of 1778.
War in the West

Main Idea The British, along with their Native American allies, led attacks against settlers in the West.

History and You Do you have a nickname? If so, how did you get it? Read to learn the nickname of Henry Hamilton, the British commander at Detroit.

The concerns of Mohawk chief Joseph Brant and other Native Americans about their lands became entangled in the events of the American Revolution. As a result, several important battles involving Native Americans took place along the western frontier. Some Native Americans helped the Patriots, but more sided with the British. For them, the British seemed less of a threat than the Americans.

The British and Native Americans
West of the Appalachian Mountains, the British and their Native American allies aided American settlements. Joseph Brant led a number of brutal attacks in southwester New York and northern Pennsylvania.

Henry Hamilton, British commander at Detroit, was called the "hair buyer." He earned this nickname because he paid Native Americans for settlers' scalps.

Victory at Vincennes
George Rogers Clark, a lieutenant colonel in the Virginia militia, set out to end the British attacks on western settlers. In July 1778, Clark and 175 soldiers sailed west down the Ohio River. After a march of about 120 miles (193 km), the Patriots seized the British post at Kaskaskia (ka•SKAS•kee•uh) in present-day Illinois. They then captured the British town of Vincennes (vihn•SEHNZ) in present-day Indiana.

British troops under Henry Hamilton's command recaptured Vincennes that December. Clark vowed to get it back. In February 1779, Clark and his troops led a surprise attack against the British and forced Hamilton to surrender. George Rogers Clark's victory at Vincennes strengthened the American position in the West.

Reading Check Summarizing Describe events in the Revolutionary War in the west.

Time Line Native Americans in the Revolution

The War on the Frontier At the time of the American Revolution, about 200,000 Native Americans lived along the western frontier. Their loyalties were divided between the British and the Americans.

1776 Loyalist Cherokee attack North Carolina Patriots
1775 Mohawk pledge neutrality
1782 Americans force peace on the Mohawk
1777 Mohawk turn to the British; defeated Cherokee lose land to Americans

Native American war club

Critical Thinking Hypothesizing Why do you think many Native Americans supported the British rather than the Americans?
Glory at Sea

Main Idea The American navy and American privateers had some successes against the powerful British navy.

History and You Besides George Washington, what other heroes of the American Revolution do you know? Read to learn about John Paul Jones, who became a naval hero during the Revolutionary War.

As fighting continued on the western frontier, other battles raged at sea. Great Britain’s powerful navy kept the ships of the Patriots and of their allies from entering or leaving American harbors. This blockade prevented supplies and reinforcements from reaching the Continental Army.

Privateers
To break the blockade, the Second Continental Congress ordered construction of 13 American warships. Only two of these ships, however, sailed to sea. Several were quickly captured by the British. The American navy was too weak to operate effectively.

The Congress authorized approximately 2,000 ships to sail as privateers. These were privately owned merchant ships with weapons. Finding crews for these ships was not difficult. Privateering was a profitable trade. Privateers captured more British ships at sea than the American navy.

John Paul Jones
A daring American naval officer, John Paul Jones, RAIDED British ports. Near the coast of Great Britain in September 1779, Jones’s ship, Bonhomme Richard, met the British warship Serapis escorting a fleet of merchant ships. The Bonhomme Richard and the Serapis fought for hours. The British captain asked whether Jones wished to surrender. Jones is said to have answered, “I have not yet begun to fight.”

In the end, the Serapis surrendered, but the Bonhomme Richard sank not long after the battle. Still, his victory made John Paul Jones a naval hero to the American Patriots.

✓ Reading Check Describing How did privateers contribute to the American war effort?

Primary Source John Paul Jones

The warships Bonhomme Richard and Serapis

“I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast, for I intend to go in harm’s way.”
—Captain John Paul Jones, Letter, 1778

Analyzing Why did John Paul Jones want a fast ship?
Struggles in the South

Main Idea Great Britain hoped that a strong campaign in the South would help the war.

History and You Has a strategy ever helped your team score a victory or helped you to do better on a test? Read to find out about American and British strategies in the South.

In the war’s early years, the Americans won several battles in the South. In 1776 they crushed Loyalists at the Battle of Moore’s Creek, near Wilmington, North Carolina. They also saved Charles Town, South Carolina, from the British. Although a small battle, its impact, or effect, was great.

By 1778 the British realized that bringing the American colonies back into the empire would not be easy. As a result, they changed their strategy and planned a hard-hitting offensive to finish the war.

The British concentrated their efforts in the South, where there were many Loyalists. They hoped to use British sea power and the support of the Loyalists to win decisive victories in the Southern states. Initially the strategy worked.

British Victories

In late 1778, General Henry Clinton sent 3,500 British troops from New York to take Savannah, Georgia. The British occupied the coastal city and overran most of the state.

In early 1780, Clinton himself headed south with a large army to attack the port of Charles Town, South Carolina. Charles Town surrendered in May, and the British took thousands of prisoners. It marked the worst American defeat of the war.

Clinton returned to New York, leaving General Charles Cornwallis in command of British forces in the South. The Continental Congress sent forces under General Horatio Gates to face Cornwallis. The two armies met at Camden, South Carolina, in August 1780. Although the British won, Cornwallis soon found that he could not control the area he had conquered. He and his troops faced a new kind of warfare.


Guerrilla Warfare

The British received less help than they had expected from Loyalists in Southern states. Instead, as British troops moved through the countryside, small forces of Patriots attacked them. These bands of soldiers appeared suddenly, struck their blows, and then disappeared. This hit-and-run technique of guerrilla warfare caught the British off guard.

One successful guerrilla leader, Francis Marion, operated out of the swamps of eastern South Carolina. Known as the Swamp Fox, Marion was quick and smart. One British colonel grumbled that “the devil himself” could not catch Marion.

Help From Spain

When Bernardo de Gálvez became governor of Louisiana, Spain was neutral. That did not stop Gálvez from helping the colonists. He loaned thousands of dollars to the Americans and opened the port of New Orleans to free trade. Gálvez also had tons of supplies and ammunition shipped up the Mississippi River to American troops in the Northwest Territory. With this help, George Rogers Clark captured the key posts of Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes.

In the summer of 1779, Spain declared war on Britain. Gálvez raised an army of Spanish soldiers along with Creoles, Native Americans, and African Americans and marched on British posts along the lower Mississippi. He captured Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, and Pensacola. Gálvez’s victories opened supply lines for military goods from Spain, France, Cuba, and Mexico.

According to historian Buchanan Parker Thomson, Gálvez had given:

**Primary Source**

“... the most vital aid contributed by any one man to the struggling American colonies. In winning this triumphant victory over the last great British outpost, he had not only served his King to the limit of his strength, but had made to the United States the most important gift an ally could offer: the security of their southeastern and western frontiers.”

—from Spain: Forgotten Ally of the American Revolution
Patriot Victories

After their victory at Camden, South Carolina, the British moved northward through the Carolinas in September 1780. At Kings Mountain, a British officer and more than 1,000 Loyalists defended an outpost against Patriot attack. The Patriots forced the British to retreat. The victory brought new support for independence from Southerners. They wanted to see an end to the war that was destroying their homes and farms.

In October 1780, Nathanael Greene replaced Gates as commander of the Continental forces in the South. Rather than lead an all-out attack on Cornwallis’s forces, Greene split his army in two. In January 1781, one section of the army, led by General Daniel Morgan, defeated the British at Cowpens, South Carolina. Another section joined Marion’s guerrilla raids.

Greene reunited his forces in March to meet Cornwallis’s army at Guilford Courthouse, in present-day Greensboro, North Carolina. Greene’s army was forced to retreat, but the British sustained, or suffered, great losses in the process. General Cornwallis abandoned the Carolina campaign.

British Retreat

Cornwallis realized that the British had to act quickly to win the war. More French troops were on their way to America, and the Patriots still held Virginia. Troops and supplies were still moving south. In April 1781, Cornwallis marched north to Virginia. His troops carried out raids throughout the state. They nearly captured Governor Thomas Jefferson and the Virginia legislature in June. Jefferson fled on horseback, just ahead of the advancing British troops.

General Washington sent Lafayette and General Anthony Wayne south to fight Cornwallis. Meanwhile, Cornwallis set up camp at Yorktown, which was located on the Virginia coast. There he awaited further orders from Clinton in New York. The battle for the South was entering its final phase.

**Reading Check**

**Evaluating** What effect did the Patriot victory at Kings Mountain produce?

**Section 3 Review**

**Vocabulary**
1. Define each of the following terms, and use it in a sentence: blockade, privateer, impact, guerrilla warfare, sustain.

**Main Ideas**
2. Stating Which side did more Native Americans take in the war for independence and why?

3. Discussing Why did the Americans need to break the British naval blockade?

4. Explaining How did Spain help to undermine Great Britain’s Southern strategy?

5. Creative Writing Write a short play based on John Paul Jones and the battle between the Bonhomme Richard and the Serapis.

6. Determining Cause and Effect Use a diagram like the one below to show why the British lost control in the South.

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[Diagram: British Defeats in the South]
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Answer the **Essential Question**

How did fighting in the West and South affect the course of the Revolutionary War?
The War Is Won

American Diary

At the Battle of Yorktown, a Pennsylvania soldier named Ebenezer Denny saw a drummer boy on the British side beat a signal for a meeting. The cannon fire immediately stopped. From the British lines came an officer. Then an officer from the American side ran to meet him. Denny wrote in his journal, “Firing ceased totally... I never heard a drum equal to it—the most delightful music to us all.”

—from Record of Upland, and Denny’s Military Journal
Victory at Yorktown

**Main Idea** Washington’s complicated battle plan led to the important American victory at Yorktown.

**History and You** How important is planning to the successful outcome of a project? Read to learn how Washington’s planning helped the Americans win an important victory.

Denby was proud to witness the steps leading to the British surrender at Yorktown. The buildup to this great event began a few months earlier. At that time, the Revolutionary War was at a critical point and both armies sought a victory. General Washington made plans to attack the British at Yorktown, Virginia, rather than in New York City. The Patriots hoped for help from the French.

In July 1780, French warships appeared off Newport, Rhode Island. The ships carried the promised French aid: soldiers commanded by Comte de Rochambeau (roh•sham•boh). Unfortunately, the British fleet arrived soon afterward and trapped the French ships in Newport.

In the autumn of 1780, Washington camped north of New York City. He waited for a second fleet of French ships. He also kept a close eye on the British army based in New York that General Clinton commanded. Washington planned to attack Clinton’s army as soon as the second French fleet arrived. He had to wait a year to put this plan into action. The French fleet did not set sail for America until the summer of 1781.

**Change in Plans**

Washington followed the reports of the fighting in the South during 1780 and 1781. He knew that Cornwallis’s troops were camped in Yorktown, Virginia, and that Lafayette was keeping them bottled up on the Yorktown peninsula. He also learned that Admiral François de Grasse, the French naval commander, was heading toward Chesapeake Bay instead of New York. Washington quickly changed his plans. He would advance on the British at Yorktown rather than at New York City.

Washington kept his new strategy, or plan of action, secret. He wanted Clinton to think the Patriots still planned to attack the British in New York. This, he hoped, would keep Clinton from sending aid to Cornwallis. Meanwhile, in July Rochambeau had marched his troops from Newport to join Washington.

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**Primary Source** Revolutionary Music

“Yankee Doodle” The song “Yankee Doodle” was played at the Yorktown surrender ceremony to annoy the British. British forces first sang “Yankee Doodle” to poke fun at what they considered the awkward ways of the Americans. The song tells the story of a poorly dressed Yankee “doodle,” or simple person. The Americans, however, quickly made “Yankee Doodle” their own. They created new verses that made fun of the British and praised the Continental Army and its commander, George Washington.

**Critical Thinking**

Interpreting Do you think songs and other forms of music are important in fighting a war? Explain.
Washington and Rochambeau then rushed south with their armies. The secrecy was so strict that most soldiers did not know where they were going. One soldier wrote, “We do not know the object of our march, and are in perfect ignorance whether we are going against New York, or ... Virginia.”

Washington’s troops marched 200 miles (322 km) in 15 days. General Clinton in New York did not detect the forces heading south toward Virginia. Three groups—Lafayette’s troops, Washington’s and Rochambeau’s American-French army, and de Grasse’s French fleet—would meet at Yorktown.

**The Siege of Yorktown**

Washington’s plan worked perfectly. The British were thoroughly confused. By the end of September, 14,000 American and French troops had trapped Cornwallis’s 8,000 British and Hessian troops at Yorktown. Meanwhile, de Grasse’s fleet kept Cornwallis from escaping by sea. General Clinton and the rest of the British army waited in New York. They were unable to help Cornwallis.

**Cornwallis’s Defeat**

On October 9, the Americans and French began a tremendous bombardment. One Hessian soldier wrote in his diary, “One saw men lying everywhere ... whose heads, arms, and legs had been shot off.”

British supplies began running low. Many soldiers were wounded or sick. On October 14, Washington’s aide, Alexander Hamilton, led an attack that captured key British defenses. Cornwallis realized the hopelessness of his situation. On October 19 he surrendered his troops. The Patriots had won the **Battle of Yorktown.** They took nearly 8,000 British prisoners and captured more than 200 guns.

As the British marched between rows of French and American troops to hand over their weapons, a French band played “Yankee Doodle.” A British band responded with a children’s tune, “The World Turned Upside Down.” Indeed it had.

**Reading Check**

**Explaining** Why did Washington advance on Yorktown?

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**Chance & Error in History**

**What If Washington Had Stepped Down?**

Throughout the Revolutionary War, Washington succeeded in holding his army together, despite many difficulties. He had to deal with low morale among soldiers who lived on poor rations and received low pay. The Continental Congress often interfered with his military operations. During the gloomy winter at Valley Forge, some congressmen and army officers plotted to replace Washington as commander in chief.

Washington accepts the British surrender at Yorktown.

**From Soldier to Leader**

Washington was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in 1754 in the French and Indian War. An excellent soldier, he was made brigadier general and was a major factor in Britain’s defeat of the French.

Wilderness fighting had made Washington a trained military man. This training helped prepare him for his greatest military challenge—leading the American revolutionary forces.

"The fate of unborn millions now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army."

Washington as a young soldier.

Washington as president.
Independence

Main Idea The Patriots’ spirit and resolve helped them win independence.

History and You What sort of influence do you think America’s fight for independence had on the rest of the world? Read to find out how American ideals affected the world.

The fighting did not end with Cornwallis’s surrender at Yorktown. The British still held Savannah, Charles Town, and New York. A few more clashes took place on land and sea. The victory at Yorktown, however, convinced the British that the war was too costly to pursue, or continue.

The two sides sent delegates to Paris to work out a treaty. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay represented the United States. The American Congress ratified, or approved, the preliminary treaty in April 1783. The final Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783. By that time Britain had also made peace with France and Spain.

The Treaty of Paris was a triumph for the Americans. Great Britain recognized the United States as an independent nation. The British promised to withdraw all their troops from American territory. They also agreed to give Americans the right to fish in the waters off the coast of Canada.

The United States, in turn, agreed that British merchants could collect debts that Americans owed them. The treaty also stated that the Congress would advise the states to return to Loyalists the properties taken from them.

The Newburgh Conspiracy

Washington headquartered his strong army in Newburgh, New York, after the British surrendered. The Congress refused to fund the soldiers’ pensions and failed to provide them with other pay. The soldiers’ anger mounted. In disgust, some officers circulated a letter in March 1783. If their demands were not met, the letter said, the army should use force against Congress.

Washington realized that this threat of revolt was dangerous. The new nation could be destroyed. He persuaded the angry soldiers to be patient. Then Washington urged the Congress to meet their just demands. Washington’s leadership ended the threat to the new nation. The Congress soon acted on the demands.

Washington Resigns

British troops left New York City in late November 1783. The war had truly ended. Washington could at last give up his command. On December 4, Washington said farewell to his troops. Three weeks later he formally resigned at a meeting of the Second Continental Congress. Washington said, “Having now finished the work assigned me I retire . . . and take my leave of all the employments of public life.”

Washington returned home to Mount Vernon, Virginia, in time for Christmas. There he planned to remain and live quietly with his family.
Why the Americans Won

How did the Americans manage to win the Revolutionary War? How did they defeat Britain, the world's greatest power?

The Americans had several advantages in the war. First, they fought on their own land while the British had to bring troops and supplies from thousands of miles away. The siege of Yorktown showed how much the British depended on the sea. When their ships were blocked, the British troops had no support. Also, the Americans knew the local terrain and where to lay an ambush—a surprise attack. The British, in contrast, had much difficulty controlling the American countryside once they occupied the cities.

Second, help from other nations contributed to the American victory. The French supplied soldiers, ships, and loans. The Spanish gave aid when they attacked the British in the Mississippi Valley and along the Gulf of Mexico.

Perhaps most important, the American Revolution was a people's movement. Its outcome depended not on any one battle or event but on the determination and spirit of all Patriots. As Washington remarked about the patriotic crowds, "Here is an army they [the British] will never conquer."

Influence of the American Revolution

In 1776 the American colonists began a revolution. They made clear the principles of freedom and the rights outlined in the Declaration of Independence. These ideas bounded back across the Atlantic to influence the French Revolution. French rebels in 1789 fought in defense of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity." The French upheld these principles: "Men are born and remain free and equal in rights."

In 1791 the ideals of the American and French Revolutions traveled across the Caribbean and the Atlantic to the French colony of Saint Domingue. Inspired by talk of freedom, enslaved Africans took up arms. Led by Toussaint-Louverture, they shook off French rule. In 1804 Saint Domingue—present-day Haiti—became the second nation in the Americas to achieve independence from colonial rule. "We have asserted our rights," declared the revolutionaries. "We swear never to yield them to any power on earth."

✔ Reading Check Explaining Why did Washington take action to end the Newburgh Conspiracy?

Section 4 Review

Vocabulary
1. Using complete sentences, define the following terms:
   strategy, pursue, ratify, ambush.

Main Ideas
2. Summarizing What role did the French play in the Patriot victory at Yorktown?
3. Explaining Why were the Americans successful in their fight for independence?

Critical Thinking
4. Categorizing Use a diagram like the one below to show what the United States and Great Britain agreed to in the Treaty of Paris.

   United States [Diagram]

   Great Britain [Diagram]

5. Expository Writing Write a paragraph comparing Washington's original plans to attack the British with his new secret strategy.

   Answer the
6. Essential Question How did the Battle of Yorktown lead to American independence?
Visual Summary

The American Revolution

The Continental Army suffered setbacks in the early years of the Revolutionary War.

Although the Americans were brave, military defeats and a dwindling army nearly ended the Patriots’ cause.

The Battle of Saratoga (1777), however, was a key victory for the Continental Army because it stopped Britain’s plan to separate New England from the Middle Colonies.

After the victory at Saratoga, France and Spain sent money, equipment, and troops to help the cause of the American Patriots.

The Patriots won battles in the West, the South, and at sea.

A new style of fighting used by the patriots, guerrilla warfare, surprised the British, especially in the South.

Strategic, secret plans allowed the Americans to win the Battle of Yorktown in Virginia, capturing a large British army and essentially ending the war.

In the Treaty of Paris (1783), Great Britain recognized the United States as an independent nation, ending the Revolutionary War.

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