

Chapter Overview

Although the United States declared its independence in 1776, no country recognized it as an independent nation at that time. It took a war and the efforts of American diplomats to win this recognition. In fighting for the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the American Patriots laid the foundation for today's government.

The British and the Americans each had advantages and disadvantages as they faced each other in war. As the war progressed, the Americans would receive support from European nations. The war would be fought in the New England and Middle Colonies and later spread to the West and the South. Against incredible odds, the United States was able to win its independence from Britain in 1783.

CHAPTER BENCHMARKS



SS.8.A.1.2 Analyze charts, graphs, maps, photographs and timelines; analyze political cartoons; determine cause and effect.

SS.8.A.1.3 Analyze current events relevant to American History topics through a variety of electronic and print media resources.

SS.8.A.1.5 Identify, within both primary and secondary sources, the author, audience, format, and purpose of significant historical documents.

SS.8.A.1.6 Compare interpretations of key events and issues throughout American history.

SS.8.A.1.7 View historic events through the eyes of those who were there as shown in their art, writings, music, and artifacts.

SS.8.A.3.3 Recognize the contributions of the Founding Fathers (John Adams, Sam Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, George Mason, George Washington) during American Revolutionary efforts.

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW

TERMS

- mercenary
- recruit
- inflation
- blockade
- privateer
- siege
- ratify
- ambush

PEOPLE, PLACES, EVENTS

- George Washington
- Nathan Hale
- Peter Salem
- Battles of Trenton and Princeton
- The Battle of Saratoga
- Benjamin Franklin
- Valley Forge
- Marquis de Lafayette
- Friedrich von Steuben
- Juan de Miralles
- Abigail Adams
- George Rogers Clark
- John Paul Jones
- Francis Marion
- Bernardo de Gálvez
- Nathanael Greene
- Battle of Cowpens
- Battle of Yorktown
- The Treaty of Paris
- Toussaint L'Ouverture

CHAPTER 6

The American Revolution

CHAPTER BENCHMARKS, *continued*

SS.8.A.3.4 Examine the contributions of influential groups to both the American and British war efforts during the American Revolutionary War and their effects on the outcome of the war.

SS.8.A.3.5 Describe the influence of individuals on social and political developments during the Revolutionary era.

SS.8.A.3.6 Examine the causes, course, and consequences of the American Revolution.

SS.8.A.3.8 Examine individuals and groups that affected political and social motivations during the American Revolution.

SS.8.A.3.15 Examine this time period (1763–1815) from the perspective of historically underrepresented groups (children, indentured servants, Native Americans, slaves, women, working class).

SS.8.G.1.2 Use appropriate geographic tools and terms to identify and describe significant places and regions in American history.

LAFS.68.RH.2.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

LAFS.68.RH.2.5 Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).

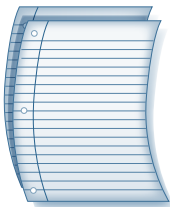


The American Revolution

Make this Foldable and label the top of the four sections *The American Revolution*. Label each of the three tabs under the title: *Beginning (1776–1777)*, *Middle (1778–1779)*, and *Ending (1780–1783)*. As you read, record events, battles, strategies, successes, and failures experienced by both sides. You might divide each of the three pages into left and right sections and label each *Patriots* and *British*. Use this Foldable to study for quizzes and tests.

Step 1

Stack two sheets of paper so that the back sheet is 1 inch higher than the front sheet.



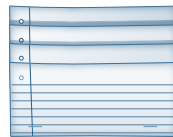
Step 2

Fold the paper to form four equal tabs.



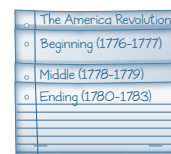
Step 3

When all tabs are an equal distance apart, fold the papers and crease well.



Step 4

Open the papers, and then glue or staple them along the fold.



LESSON 1 SUMMARY

The War for Independence

SS.8.A.1.2, SS.8.A.1.6, SS.8.A.3.3, SS.8.A.3.4, SS.8.A.3.6, SS.8.A.3.8, SS.8.A.3.15, SS.8.G.1.2

The Two Armies Face Off

The British and the Americans each had advantages and disadvantages as they faced each other in war. Each side believed they could win the war quickly.

British Advantages

The British had good reason to be confident. They had the strongest navy in the world and a well-trained army. Because of their large empire, they had great wealth. They also had a population of 8 million people compared to an American population of only 2.5 million.

In contrast, the Patriots did not have a regular army. They had only militia groups with limited weapons and little training. The American navy was weak. In addition, not all Americans supported the war. Some stayed loyal to Britain. Others, such as the Quakers, did not believe in war and refused to take part.

Loyalists in the Colonies

Most colonists who supported the British lived in the southern colonies of Georgia and the Carolinas. They were called “Loyalists” or “Tories.” Overall, it is estimated that 20 to 30 percent of the colonists were Loyalists. Some would change sides after the war began.

Colonists had different reasons for siding with Britain. Some depended on Britain for their jobs. Some worried that a conflict would upset their life in the colonies. Others were content with British rule and did not understand why people wanted to break free from Britain.

To gain more support, the British offered African Americans their freedom if they would take up the British cause. Many did, and some ended up free in Canada. Others relocated to the British colony of Sierra Leone in Africa.

Differences in loyalties often divided families and friends. For example, William Franklin, who was the son of Patriot Benjamin Franklin, was a Loyalist who had served as a royal governor of New Jersey.

- 1. DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** Why would Britain’s larger population give it an advantage during war?

- 2. CITING TEXT EVIDENCE** List three reasons that Loyalists sided with Britain.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued*

3. IDENTIFYING

EVIDENCE Underline the advantages that the Patriots had over the British.

4. DETERMINING

CENTRAL IDEAS Why were colonists afraid to form a strong national government during the war?

Advantages of the Patriots

The Patriots did have some advantages over the Loyalists. They were fighting on their own land. In addition, the British had to ship soldiers and supplies across the Atlantic Ocean.

The Patriots were also fighting for a cause that was very important to them—their independence. As a result, they had a greater sense of purpose than the British. The British often used **mercenaries**, or paid soldiers, from Germany to fight for them. The Americans called them “Hessians.” They did not have as much at stake as the colonists who were fighting for freedom.

George Washington’s leadership was the Patriot’s greatest advantage. Without his courage and determination, the war could have taken a very different turn.

The Continental Army

After the Declaration of Independence was written, the Continental Congress served as the national government of the colonies. However, the powers of the Congress were limited. Because it could not raise money by taxing colonists, it could not supply the money needed for the war effort.

Some members of Congress, led by James Madison, called for a stronger national government to unite the colonies during the war. Many colonists disagreed. They were fighting to free themselves from British rule and did not want to transfer that same power to the Continental Congress.

Because there was not a strong national government, the American Revolution was really 13 separate wars, with each state fighting for its own interests. This made it hard for Congress to raise money and **recruit**, or enlist, soldiers.

Many of the soldiers in the Patriot army were members of their local militias. They were used to fighting for a short time in their own colony and then returning home. Some were farmers who could not leave their land for long periods of time.

It was important for the Patriots to form a real army whose soldiers could travel outside their home colonies. The soldiers needed to be well trained and paid for their efforts. To meet this need, Congress established the Continental Army.

At first, soldiers signed up for a year at a time. Although George Washington convinced Congress to ask soldiers to sign for three-year terms or until the war ended, most still signed up for only one year. It was difficult to find good military leaders for the Continental Army.

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LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued*

Almost all the soldiers in the Patriot army were men, but there were a few women involved in the fighting. Margaret Corbin of Pennsylvania went with her husband when he joined the Continental Army. She took his place when he was killed in battle.

Another woman, Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley, also went with her husband into battle. She was known as “Molly Pitcher” because she brought pitchers of water to the soldiers. Some reports say she also took part in the fighting. Deborah Sampson of Massachusetts, disguised herself as a man to fight in the war.



According to legend, “Molly Pitcher” took her husband’s place when he collapsed on the battlefield.

Early Campaigns

In the early years of the American Revolution, the number of soldiers involved in battles was small. At Bunker Hill, in Massachusetts, about 2,200 British soldiers fought about 1,200 Americans.

To win the war, the British realized they would need many more soldiers. In 1776 they sent 32,000 more troops to America. They hoped the Americans would see the size of their force and surrender, but that did not happen.

5. DRAWING CONCLUSIONS What obstacles do you think a woman would have to overcome as a soldier in the American Revolution?

LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued*

6. MAKING

INFERENCES What did Hale mean when he is reported to have said, “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country”?

Patriot Defeat on Long Island

George Washington had only 20,000 soldiers under his command. In August of 1776, the two armies fought in the Battle of Long Island in New York. The Continental Army was badly outnumbered and it was defeated by the British.

Nathan Hale was a Patriot spy. When the British discovered him, they sentenced him to death. Before he was hanged, some accounts say that his last words were, “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

After the loss on Long Island, Washington retreated from New York. The British chased the Continental Army across New Jersey into Pennsylvania. They believed they had beaten Washington, so they let him go.



Patriot spy Nathan Hale was captured and hanged by the British.

A Low Point for the Patriots

The Continental Army was facing a cold winter and the Patriot cause was near collapse. The Army had less than 5,000 soldiers and few supplies.

Washington begged the Continental Congress for more soldiers. He suggested allowing African Americans to join the fight. However, many people, especially those in the Southern Colonies, were against this idea. They persuaded Congress not to allow it. They worried that arming and training African Americans might lead to revolts among those held in slavery.

LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued*

African Americans in Battle

Some colonies allowed African Americans to enlist despite the ban. Historians estimate that around 5,000 African Americans fought with the Patriots.

One African American soldier, Peter Salem from Massachusetts, fought at Concord and the Battle of Bunker Hill. In return, he later won his freedom. Some African Americans joined the army to earn money. Others were enslaved and had run away. Some were given permission by their owners to enlist.

The Battles of Trenton and Princeton

Despite the cold winter and early losses, Washington remained hopeful that the Patriots could beat the British. Although most of the British forces were in New York, they had some troops in the towns of Princeton and Trenton, New Jersey. Washington planned to take them by surprise.

Washington was camped with his soldiers in Pennsylvania across the Delaware River from the British in New Jersey. On Christmas night in 1776, he led 2,400 troops across the icy river to surprise the British at Trenton the next day. He succeeded and then escaped and went to Princeton, where his troops defeated the British forces.

British Strategy

In early 1777, the British devised a plan to defeat the Patriots. They would take control of the Hudson River to cut off the New England Colonies from the Middle Colonies.

To control the Hudson River, they first had to capture Albany, New York. They planned to approach Albany from several different directions at the same time. British General Burgoyne would move south from Canada and Lieutenant Colonel St. Leger would move east from Lake Ontario. General Howe would move north up the Hudson River.

7. EXPLAINING Why were many people opposed to African Americans enlisting in the Continental Army?

8. ANALYZING Why did the British think that cutting off the New England Colonies from the Middle Colonies would help them defeat the Patriots?

LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued*

9. DRAWING

CONCLUSIONS Why was the Battle of Saratoga an important victory for the Americans?

The British Capture Philadelphia

At the last minute, General Howe changed his plans. He decided to capture Philadelphia, the home of the Continental Congress. His attack forced the members of Congress to flee. Winter was setting in, so Howe decided to stay in Philadelphia instead of going to Albany.

The Battle of Saratoga

Howe’s change of plans was not the only development that led to problems for the British in Albany. In addition, both St. Leger and Burgoyne were delayed in reaching Albany.

American soldiers led by Benedict Arnold had stopped St. Leger at Fort Stanwix, New York. Burgoyne was able to capture Fort Ticonderoga in July 1777, but then he needed supplies. He sent some troops to Vermont to capture an American supply base. However, a local militia group, the Green Mountain Boys, attacked and defeated his troops.

As a result, Burgoyne did not get supplies for his troops. He retreated to Saratoga, New York. While there, American general Horatio Gates surrounded Burgoyne’s troops. The British force surrendered on October 17, 1777.

The British plan to control the Hudson River had failed. The American victory at Saratoga would change the course of the war.

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LESSON 1 SUMMARY, *continued*



REVIEW LESSON 1

1. Complete the chart below, or create your own chart on a separate sheet of paper, to show the advantages and disadvantages of the British and American fighting forces.

BRITISH		AMERICAN	
Advantages	Disadvantages	Advantages	Disadvantages

2.  **CONSTRUCTING AN ARGUMENT** Use the information in your chart to prepare a statement to be presented to the Continental Congress by George Washington. Its purpose will be to gain congressional support for changes that will improve the Patriots' chances for winning the war. The statement should describe what Washington and the American forces will need to overcome the British advantages, and the Patriots' disadvantages, in the conflict.

The War Continues

SS.8.A.3.3, SS.8.A.3.4, SS.8.A.3.6, SS.8.G.1.2

1. DRAWING CONCLUSIONS Why do you think the French would not publicly support the Americans until after the Battle of Saratoga?

2. REASONING What leadership skills do you think Washington employed during the harsh winter at Valley Forge? What does the survival of the army at Valley Forge suggest about Washington's leadership?

Gaining Allies

The United States needed help from other countries to win the American Revolution. The Continental Congress chose Benjamin Franklin, a skilled diplomat, to convince the French to support the Americans in war.

Earlier in the war, Franklin was able to convince the French to give the Americans money, but they wanted to do it secretly. They did not want to openly side against Britain.

However, after the victory at Saratoga the French changed their mind. France and other nations now realized that the Patriots might win the war. In February 1778, France declared war on Great Britain. They agreed to help the Americans with money, equipment, and troops.

Spain also agreed to help the Americans. They did not form an alliance with the United States, but they declared war on Great Britain in 1779. They fought the British in present-day Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

Winter at Valley Forge

The news of the French-American alliance did not reach the Patriots until the spring. Meanwhile, the Continental Army had to suffer through a hard winter. General Washington and his troops set up camp at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. General Howe and his British troops set up camp about 20 miles away in Philadelphia, where they were warm and comfortable. The American troops suffered because they did not have enough food, clothing, or medicine.

Washington had to work hard to keep his troops together. Many soldiers got sick and died. Some quit, and others deserted, or left without permission. Despite the extreme hardships, the Continental Army survived the winter. In spring, conditions improved. New soldiers joined the army and, in April of 1778, Washington told his troops about France's help. This gave the soldiers hope.

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LESSON 2 SUMMARY, *continued*



Washington and Lafayette greet the soldiers at Valley Forge.

3. ANALYZING VISUALS What does the painting show about Lafayette's relationship with Washington?

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Foreigners Help on the Battlefield

The Patriots now had help from many different countries. Individuals from other countries also offered their assistance. A young Frenchman named Marquis de Lafayette volunteered his services to General Washington as a trusted aide. He supported the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence and wanted to join the fight for freedom.

Two Polish men also joined the war effort. Thaddeus Kósciuszko helped the army build up its defenses. Casimir Pulaski served as a general and was killed in battle in 1779.

Friedrich von Steuben, who had fought in the Prussian army, trained Patriot troops at Valley Forge to make them more effective soldiers. Juan de Miralles was a Spaniard who came to Philadelphia in 1778. He convinced Spain, Cuba, and Mexico to send money to support the Patriots.

As more Europeans moved to the United States, many joined the Patriot cause. In Pennsylvania about two-thirds of the troops were born in other countries. Despite the support from other countries, the Patriots still had many challenges to overcome.

LESSON 2 SUMMARY, *continued*

4. CITING TEXT

EVIDENCE Why was it difficult for the Congress to support the war effort?

5. SEQUENCING Number the following statements to show the order of events when Congress began printing money to finance the war.

- _____ Not enough gold and silver to back paper money
- _____ States print hundreds of millions of dollars in paper money
- _____ People stop using the new money
- _____ Congress stops printing money and Americans have no way to pay for war
- _____ Leads to inflation

Problems in the Economy

Although the Continental Congress acted as the government of the new United States, it did not have the power to raise money through taxes. This made it difficult to get enough money to pay for the war effort. States and foreign countries provided some money, but it was not enough.

To raise the money it needed, the Continental Congress and the states printed hundreds of millions of dollars of paper money. However, the money soon lost its value. This was because there was not enough gold and silver to back all the money that had been printed. This led to **inflation**, which is a steady rise in prices.

Congress stopped printing paper money because people refused to use it. Now the Americans had no way to pay for the war.



Members of the Continental Congress included John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Jefferson.

Life on the Home Front

It was not just the soldiers who were affected by the war. The war touched the lives of all Americans. With their husbands away at war, many women had to run farms and businesses.

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LESSON 2 SUMMARY, *continued*

They had to take care of families by themselves and their children had to live without their fathers.

As women’s roles changed during the war, some people began to think differently about how women should be treated. They believed that equality and freedom should be extended to women as well as men.

One woman who felt this way was Abigail Adams, the wife of Congressman John Adams. She reminded Patriot leaders to remember the rights of women when making decisions about the new nation.

6. MAKING CONNECTIONS Why did the fight for equality and freedom make women and enslaved African Americans question their position in society?

Questioning Slavery

The fight for freedom also made some people question slavery. In 1778 the governor of New Jersey asked his state government to free all enslaved people. He thought the practice of slavery went against the ideas of Christianity and humanity.

African Americans also spoke up. Many had fought for the American army and hoped that a victory would mean an end to slavery in the United States. In 1780 Pennsylvania adopted a plan to gradually free enslaved people. It was the first legislature in the world to take this action. Many northern states followed with similar measures, but slavery would continue for many years.

Treatment of Loyalists

Another group of people affected by the war were the Loyalists who lived in the United States. Loyalists supported Britain, and many joined the British troops to fight against the Patriots. Some were spies.

Some Loyalists fled to Canada or returned to Britain. Others fled to Spanish-owned Florida. Those who stayed in the United States were often treated badly. Many were shunned by their neighbors or became the victims of violence. Those who were spies or openly helped the British could be arrested or even executed.

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LESSON 2 SUMMARY, *continued*



REVIEW LESSON 2

1. Use a chart like the one below to describe how European nations and individuals helped the American fight for independence.

COUNTRY OR PERSON	CONTRIBUTION

2.  **ANALYZING** Why might a European nation want to become involved in the Americans' war for independence? Find out more about international relations in Europe during this period. Then create a list of pro and con statements that a European leader might consider before committing to the Patriot cause.

LESSON 3 SUMMARY

Battlegrounds Shift

SS.8.A.3.4, SS.8.A.3.6

Fighting in the West

Native Americans in and around the colonies were also affected by the war. Some chose to side with the Patriots, but most sided with the British. Many saw the Patriots as a threat to their land and way of life. To them, the British posed less of a threat.

West of the Appalachian Mountains, the British and their Native American allies raided American settlements. Mohawk chief Joseph Brant led brutal attacks in southwestern New York and Northern Pennsylvania. Farther west, Henry Hamilton was a British commander at Detroit. He paid Native Americans for settlers' scalps. This earned him the nickname, the "hair buyer."

George Rogers Clark, a Virginia militia leader, wanted to stop the attacks on western settlers. With a small group of soldiers, he captured the British post at Kaskaskia, in what is now Illinois, and the British town of Vincennes, in present-day Indiana.

British troops led by Hamilton were able to recapture Vincennes, but Clark did not give up. He staged a surprise attack in the winter of 1779 and forced the British to surrender. His actions strengthened the American hold on the west.



Mohawk chief Joseph Brant served as a representative to the Continental Congress after the war hoping to receive a fair land settlement for his people. Unable to reach an agreement, he and his people moved to Canada.

1. EXPLAINING Why did many Native Americans side with the British in the war?

LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued*

2. ANALYZING

INFORMATION What was the British naval strategy during the American Revolution?

What was the American naval strategy?

3. DESCRIBING How did John Paul Jones contribute to the war effort?

The War at Sea

The American Revolution was also fought at sea. The British Navy was the strongest in the world. It used its many ships to block American ports and harbors. This **blockade** prevented people and goods from entering or leaving.

The Americans did not have a strong navy. To break the blockade, Congress ordered the construction of 13 American warships. Only two ever made it to sea. Others were captured by the British or destroyed to keep them out of British hands.

To help with the war at sea, Congress authorized about 2,000 ships to sail as privateers. A **privateer** is a privately owned merchant ship fitted with weapons. The ships could capture enemy ships and take their cargo. Privateers were able to capture more British ships than the American navy.

An American Naval Hero

One Patriot emerged as a naval hero during the Revolution. John Paul Jones had been using his ship, the *Bonhomme Richard*, to raid British ports. In 1779 he engaged with a British warship, the *Serapis*, off the coast of Britain.

The two ships fought for more than three hours. When the British asked Jones if he wanted to surrender, Jones responded, "I have not yet begun to fight." Eventually the *Serapis* surrendered, and Jones captured victory for the Americans.



In this image, the *Bonhomme Richard*, commanded by John Paul Jones, attacks the British ship *Serapis*.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division [LC-USZC2-1855]

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LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued*

Fighting in the South

In the early part of the war, the Americans were able to win some important battles in the South. Patriots beat Loyalist forces in Wilmington, North Carolina. They were also able to keep the British from capturing Charles Town (now Charleston), South Carolina.

Although these battles were small, they helped to convince the British that the Patriots could not be easily beaten. As a result, the British came up with a new plan to win the war. They would focus on the South. Many Loyalists lived in the South and the British wanted to use their naval power to dominate the Patriots. At first, their strategy worked.

Hit-and-Run Tactics

In 1778, 3,500 British troops from New York attacked and captured Savannah on the Georgia coast. They also captured Charles Town. The British took thousands of prisoners in what was considered the worst American defeat of the war.

However, the British were not getting the Loyalist support that they had hoped for in the South. They also faced a new type of fighting that they had not seen before. Small bands of soldiers would attack them and then disappear back into the woods. This hit-and-run approach caught the British off guard. One Patriot group was led by Francis Marion. He was known as the “Swamp Fox” because he launched his attacks, and then disappeared back into the swamps of South Carolina.

Spain’s Help

The British army also faced another enemy in the South. Spain declared war on Britain in 1779. The Spanish governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Gálvez, gave the Patriots money and let them use the Port of New Orleans. He also shipped supplies and ammunition north on the Mississippi River to Patriot troops in the Northwest Territory.

Gálvez also raised his own army to fight the British. He drove the British forces out of the Gulf of Mexico region.

4. CITING TEXT

EVIDENCE Where was the battle between the *Bonhomme Richard* and the *Serapis* fought?

5. CITING TEXT

EVIDENCE Underline three events or occurrences that helped the Patriots overpower and eventually defeat the British in the South.

6. **PREDICTING** What do you think Spain might have expected in return for its help to the Patriots?

LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued***American Successes**

The British won a huge victory at Camden, South Carolina, in August 1780. General Cornwallis led the British troops, and General Horatio Gates led the Patriot forces. Gates had more men, but the British surrounded them. Nearly 2,000 American soldiers were killed, wounded, or captured. Only 324 British soldiers were killed or wounded.

As the British moved north after the battle, they warned people to give up and join the British. If they did not, they said they would hang their leaders and destroy their land. This angered the Americans who lived in the mountains of the South.

Although these people had not yet taken sides in the war, they were determined that they would not let the British take their land. They formed a militia. At King's Mountain, they killed or captured a force of about 1,000 Loyalists. Their victory helped build more support for the Patriots in the southern states.

More victories followed. Nathanael Greene became the commander of the Continental Army in the South. He decided to split his troops into two forces to fight the British under General Cornwallis on two fronts. One part of his army beat the British at Cowpens, South Carolina. The other group was sent to help the "Swamp Fox," Marion Francis.

In 1781 the two American forces rejoined. They met Cornwallis in what is now Greensboro, North Carolina. The Patriots did not win, but the British suffered heavy losses. As a result, Cornwallis decided to give up his campaign to take over the Carolinas.

Cornwallis and his troops moved north into Virginia and carried out raids along the way. He and his men camped at Yorktown on the Virginia coast. General Washington sent Lafayette and General Anthony Wayne to push Cornwallis back. The battle for the South was entering its final phase.


LESSON 3 SUMMARY, *continued*



REVIEW LESSON 3

1. Create a chart like the one below to describe the challenges that the Patriot army faced on each of the changing fronts during the Revolution.

FRONT	CHALLENGES
In the West	
At Sea	
In the South	

2.  **WRITING AN ARGUMENT** Using the information from your chart and the lesson, write a speech that a Patriot recruiter might have used to convince Americans to join the army or the navy to fight the British. Your speech should describe how American forces overcame the challenges they faced in the different theaters of war during this period.

The Final Years

SS.8.A.1.2, SS.8.A.1.7, SS.8.A.3.6, SS.8.A.3.4, SS.8.A.3.6, SS.8.G.1.2

1. CITING TEXT

EVIDENCE List three things that contributed to the American victory at Yorktown.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Victory at Yorktown

While the British fought in the South, General Washington stayed in the north with his troops. In July of 1780, the French arrived to help the Americans. French warships carrying thousands of soldiers sailed into Newport, Rhode Island. They were led by Comte de Rochambeau. They joined General Washington in New York and waited for a second French fleet to arrive.

Washington had a plan. When the second French fleet arrived, he would attack an army base in New York commanded by British General Clinton. However, the second fleet never arrived in the North. Instead, Washington received word that it would land in Chesapeake Bay.

Washington Leaves for Virginia

Washington and Rochambeau had to launch a new plan. They knew that Lafayette and Anthony Wayne had been able to pin down Cornwallis on a peninsula at Yorktown, Virginia. They decided to use the second French fleet to help them defeat Cornwallis.

Washington kept his plan secret. He wanted the British to think he still planned to attack Clinton in New York. This would keep them from sending more troops to help Cornwallis.

Washington and Rochambeau moved quickly. French and American troops marched 200 miles in just over two weeks. The Continental forces at Yorktown were ready. With the help of Lafayette, Rochambeau, and the French fleet, Washington had Cornwallis cornered.

A Trap at Yorktown

Washington's plan had worked. Now 14,000 American and French troops had gathered to face off against Cornwallis's 8,000 British and Hessian troops at Yorktown. The British were trapped. Clinton and the rest of the British army could not come to Cornwallis's aid.

In September 1781, the Americans began a **siege**, which means they blocked British supplies and communication. On October 9, Patriot forces attacked. The British were

LESSON 4 SUMMARY, *continued*

low on supplies and many soldiers were sick or wounded. On October 14, Washington ordered an attack to capture key British defenses. Seeing that the situation was hopeless, Cornwallis surrendered.

The Patriots had won the Battle of Yorktown. At the surrender ceremony, a French band played “Yankee Doodle.” The British had once used the song to mock the Americans. In response, a British band played a children’s tune called “The World Turned Upside Down.”

Independence Achieved

The Patriot victory at Yorktown stunned the British, but it was not the last battle of the American Revolution. The British still held Savannah, Charles Town, and New York. However, they realized that the war would be too costly to continue.

Both sides sent representatives to France to draw up 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 of 1783.

In the treaty, Britain recognized the United States as an independent nation. The British agreed to withdraw all of their troops from the United States. They also gave Americans fishing rights to areas around Canada.

In return, the British were allowed to collect money owed to them by Americans. Congress also promised to ask the governments of each state to return property taken from the Loyalists.

2. CITING TEXT EVIDENCE What treaty ended the American Revolution?

3. CITING TEXT EVIDENCE Underline the terms received by the Americans in the Treaty of Paris.

4. MAKING INFERENCES Why do you think Congress agreed to let the British collect money owed to them by Americans?

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In this image, Cornwallis surrenders to Washington at Yorktown.

LESSON 4 SUMMARY, *continued*

5. STATING OPINIONS

Do you think the soldiers should have been paid for their service to the Continental Army? Why or why not?

6. EXPLAINING What influence did the American Revolution have around the world?

A Conspiracy Against Congress

After the war ended, the Continental Army remained active until the Treaty of Paris was signed. Many soldiers were angry because they thought that Congress owed them money for their service. Some soldiers threatened to use force against Congress if they were not paid.

General Washington stepped in to settle the dispute. He knew the unrest could threaten peace in the new nation. He asked the soldiers to be patient and urged Congress to meet the soldiers' demands. Congress agreed.

After the war ended in November 1783, Washington resigned his position as general. He wanted to return to his home in Mount Vernon, Virginia, and live a quiet life with his family. However, his retirement would not last long. He would be called upon to serve the young country in yet another way.

Why the Americans Won

Against many odds, the Americans had defeated Great Britain. The British were strong, but the Americans had many advantages. They fought on their own land for a cause they believed in. They were familiar with the land and were able to set successful **ambushes**, or surprise attacks. They also used military tactics and fighting skills that were not familiar to the British.

The Americans also had support from other countries. The success at Yorktown would not have been possible without the help of the French. Spain provided financial support and launched attacks against the British in the South. Individuals such as Lafayette also provided help to the Patriot army.

A key advantage held by the Patriots was their desire for independence. Americans fought hard because they believed so strongly in what they were fighting for. They wanted to protect their land, their families, and their freedom.

These same ideas also inspired people in other parts of the world. Shortly after the American Revolution, a group of rebels in France fought a revolution to gain "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity."

These ideas also took root in the French colony of Saint Domingue, which is now Haiti. Enslaved Africans, led by a man named Toussaint L'Ouverture, fought for their freedom. In 1804 Saint Domingue became the second nation in the Americas to win its freedom.



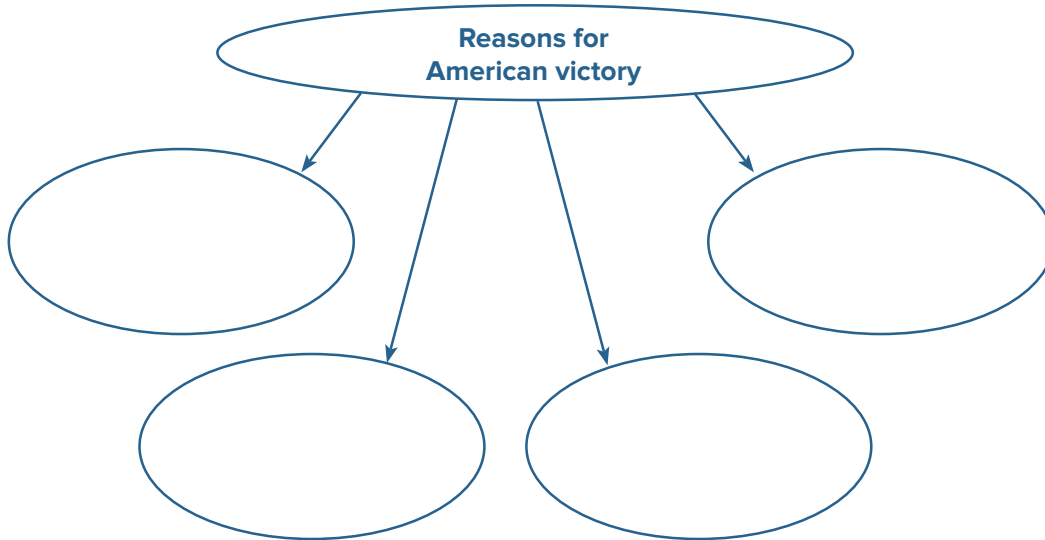
Toussaint L'Ouverture helped enslaved Africans in Saint Domingue to gain their freedom.

LESSON 4 SUMMARY, *continued*



REVIEW LESSON 4

1. Create a diagram like the one below to show the reasons why the Americans were able to win the war against Great Britain.



2. **PRIORITIZING** Many people believed that the Americans would never be able to defeat the strong British army and navy. Yet the Patriots achieved a surprising victory and won their independence. Consider the reasons for the American victory listed in your diagram. Which of those reasons do you think was the most important to the war's final outcome? In a short essay, explain why you think that reason was the key to the Patriots' success.



Benchmark Skill Activities

DIRECTIONS: Write your answers on a separate piece of paper.

LAFS.68.WHST.2.4, SS.8.A.3.6

1. COMPARING AND CONTRASTING

Use your **FOLDABLES** to write an essay.

In a short essay, compare and contrast the three phases of the war for which you took notes on your Foldable. When and where did most of the battles in each phase take place? Did either side have an obvious strategy during each phase of the war? Which side was most successful during each of the phases, and why? Summarize the course of the war and how it led to the war's final outcome in your last paragraph.

LAFS.68.RH.1.1, LAFS.68.RH.1.2, SS.8.A.1.2; SS.8.A.1.5; SS.8.A.1.6; SS.8.A.1.7; SS.8.A.3.6

2. ANALYZING CARTOONS

This political cartoon was created in England after the British were defeated in the American Revolution. The rattlesnake represents the American colonies. It is coiled around groups of British soldiers commanded by Burgoyne and Cornwallis.



- Why do you think the colonies are portrayed as a rattlesnake?
- How are the British portrayed in the cartoon?
- Before the war, British cartoonists often used the symbol of a Native American princess to represent the colonies. Why do you think that changed after the war?
- The sign on snake's tail says "An Apartment to let for Military Gentlemen." What do you think this means?

BENCHMARK SKILLS ACTIVITIES, *continued*

LAFS.68.WHST.3.7, SS.8.A.1.3

3. ANALYZING CURRENT EVENTS

The Americans' efforts in the American Revolution inspired other countries to seek freedom from governments they thought were unjust. Do research on the Internet to find an example of a group of people or country today that is staging protests or involved in efforts to overthrow what they consider to be an unjust government. Create a multimedia report to present to the class that includes the following information:

- a. A map showing where the country or area is located
- b. A description of the current government or ruling power in that country or area
- c. A description of the reasons why people feel the government needs to change or be abolished
- d. Examples of the actions that have taken place to make these changes occur



Benchmark Note Cards

DIRECTIONS: Use these note cards to help you prepare for the test.

SS.8.A.3.3 Recognize the contributions of the Founding Fathers (John Adams, Sam Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, George Mason, George Washington) during American Revolutionary efforts.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS AND THE REVOLUTION

Name	Contribution
John Adams	member of Continental Congress; represented the United States when the Treaty of Paris was drafted
Benjamin Franklin	diplomat who helped America gain support from France; represented the United States when the Treaty of Paris was drafted
John Jay	represented the United States when the Treaty of Paris was drafted
James Madison	member of Congress; called for a stronger national government to unite the colonies during the war
George Washington	commander of the Continental Army

SS.8.A.3.4 Examine the contributions of influential groups to both the American and British war efforts during the American Revolutionary War and their effects on the outcome of the war.

AMERICA'S ALLIES IN THE REVOLUTION

Country or Person	Contribution
France	Declared war on Britain and sent money, equipment, and troops
Spain	Declared war on Britain and fought them in present-day Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida
Marquis de Lafayette	Volunteered as an aide to Washington
Thaddeus Kósciuszko	Helped Patriots build up their defenses
Casimir Pulaski	Promoted to general and died in battle
Friedrich von Steuben	Helped train Patriot troops
Juan de Miralles	Persuaded Spain, Cuba, and Mexico to contribute money to Patriots

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BENCHMARK NOTE CARDS, *continued*

SS.8.A.3.6 Examine the causes, course, and consequences of the American Revolution.

ADVANTAGES/ DISADVANTAGES OF AMERICAN AND BRITISH FORCES

Advantages	
British	Americans
Strongest navy in world	Soldiers motivated by desire to gain freedom
Well-trained soldiers	Fighting was on own ground
Great wealth	Led by George Washington
Large population	

Disadvantages	
British	Americans
Soldiers not motivated by personal reasons	Weak navy
Had to ship soldiers and supplies from far away	Lack of fighting experience
	Small population
	Shortage of weapons and supplies
	Some colonists remained loyal to Britain

IMPORTANT BATTLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Battle	Result
Battle of Long Island	British outnumbered Patriots and defeated them, allowing British to occupy New York
Battles of Trenton and Princeton	Americans surprised and defeated the British forces at both Trenton and Princeton, New Jersey
Battle of Saratoga	American army surrounds Burgoyne and his forces in New York; British forced to surrender
Battle of Cowpens	British force in South Carolina defeated by a force of Nathanael Greene's army
Battle of Yorktown	With help from the French fleet, the Americans trap Cornwallis and his men at Yorktown, Virginia, and cut off supplies and communication. This victory for the Americans convinced the British that they could not continue the war.

BENCHMARK NOTE CARDS, *continued*

SS.8.A.3.6 Examine the causes, course, and consequences of the American Revolution.

CHANGING BATTLEFIELDS

In the West	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many Native Americans sided with Britain because they presented less of a threat than the Americans who wanted their land.• George Rogers Clark of the Virginia militia sought to end British attacks on western settlers.• Clark's victory at Vincennes (Indiana) strengthened the American position in the West.
At Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Britain's powerful navy blockaded American ports.• Because the American Navy was small and weak, privateers were hired to help capture British ships.• John Paul Jones became a war hero when his ship defeated a British warship off the coast of Britain.
In the South	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The British hoped to take the South by enlisting the help of the many Loyalists who lived there.• The British captured Savannah, Charles Town, and other southern towns.• Because of successful Spanish attacks in the Gulf of Mexico region and the hit-and-run warfare tactics of the Patriots, the British abandoned their campaign to take over the Carolinas.• British forces then moved north to Yorktown, Virginia, where they were trapped and defeated by Washington and the French.

BENCHMARK NOTE CARDS, *continued*

SS.8.A.3.6 Examine the causes, course, and consequences of the American Revolution.

THE TREATY OF PARIS

British terms:

1. Britain recognizes the United States as an independent nation.
2. They promise to withdraw all their troops from American territory.
3. They grant fishing rights off the coast of Canada.

American terms:

1. The United States promises that Americans will pay off their debts to British merchants.
2. New states will return property taken from Loyalists.

SS.8.A.3.8 Examine individuals and groups that affected political and social motivations during the American Revolution.

THE REVOLUTION AND AMERICAN SOCIETY

- The fight for liberty and freedom that inspired the American Revolution caused some women to question their place in society. Abigail Adams championed the interests of women in a letter to husband John Adams, who was a member of the Congress.
- The ideals of the Revolution also inspired some white Americans to question slavery. In 1778 the New Jersey governor asked his government to free all enslaved people. African Americans made similar arguments. In 1780 Pennsylvania adopted a plan to gradually free enslaved people. Other northern states soon followed. However, slavery would remain a divisive issue for many years.

Chapter 6

VISUAL SUMMARY

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the missing information about each event in the American Revolution.

BATTLES AND EVENTS OF THE REVOLUTION		
Battle	Date	Result
Battle of Long Island	1776	
		The Patriots defeat the British in New York.
France decides to support the Patriots.	1778	
	1778–1779	American militia leader George Rogers Clark forces the British to surrender at Vincennes.
<i>Bonhomme Richard vs. the Serapis</i>		
Battles in the Carolinas		Nathanael Greene, the new commander of the Continental Army, forces Cornwallis to abandon his Carolina campaign.
		Cornwallis surrenders after the Americans defeat the British.
Treaty of Paris		

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USING PRIMARY SOURCES

DIRECTIONS: Read the following excerpt from a letter written by George Washington. Answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper.

February 16, 1778

Dear Sir,—

It is with great reluctance I trouble you on a subject, which does not properly fall within your province; but it is a subject that occasions me more distress, than I have felt since the commencement of the war; and which loudly demands the most zealous exertions of every person of weight and authority, who is interested in the success of our affairs; I mean the present dreadful situation of the army, for want of provisions, and the miserable prospects before us, with respect to futurity. It is more alarming, than you will probably conceive; for, to form a just idea of it, it were necessary to be on the spot. For some days past, there has been little less than a famine in camp. A part of the army has been a week without any kind of flesh [meat], and the rest [for] three or four days. Naked and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery, that they have not been, ere this, excited by their suffering to a general mutiny and dispersion. Strong symptoms, however, of discontent have appeared in particular instances; and nothing but the most active efforts, every where, can long avert so shocking a catastrophe.

—from George Washington’s letter to Governor George Clinton (February 16, 1778), by George Washington

1. Based on the date this letter was written, from where did Washington most likely write it?
2. Which words does Washington use to describe how he personally feels about the conditions of the camp?
3. According to Washington, what hardships are his soldiers enduring? Based on what you know about the time of year and location of this camp, what other hardships might the soldiers have been facing when the letter was written?
4. Washington wrote this letter to George Clinton who was the governor of New York at the time. What parts of his letter do you think would have moved Clinton to address Washington’s needs? Why?
5. Read the last two sentences of the excerpt. Summarize what Washington was trying to say in this part of his letter.



Chapter Practice Test

DIRECTIONS: Circle the best answer for each question.

The following excerpt is from a poem about the Battle of Trenton. Read the poem and answer questions 1 and 2.

*In Trenton when the sun was set,
The Hessians at their quarters met;
And while the brilliant candles shine,
They pass along the sparkling wine:
For Christmas day had come and gone,
The joyful hours were nearly flown;
With a merry laugh our country's foe
Enjoy the minutes as they flow,
And many a soldier sang with glee
Of blue-eyed maids in Germany.*

*On Pennsylvania's wintry shore
The chilling blast howled loud and sore;
When lulled the winds, there echoed then
The heavy tramp of armed men.
Columbia's sons haste to the strife,
To strike for liberty and life.*

*George Washington was at their head!
A gallant band, and nobly led . . .*

1

SS.8.A.1.5, SS.8.A.1.7, SS.8.A.3.2, LA.8.1.6.1 (High)

Who is being described in the first stanza of the poem?

- A** the Patriot Army
- B** the Loyalists fighting for the British Army
- C** the foreign soldiers fighting for the British Army
- D** General Washington



Chapter Practice Test, *continued*

2

SS.8.A.1.5, SS.8.A.1.7, SS.8.A.3.2, LA.8.1.6.1 (High)

Refer back to the poem about the Battle of Trenton. What phrase describes the purpose of the American soldiers in this battle?

- A “Columbia’s sons haste to the strife”
 - B “George Washington was at their head!”
 - C “to strike for liberty and life”
 - D “a gallant band, and nobly led”
-

3

SS.8.A.3.6 (Moderate)

What was an important advantage held by the Patriots in the conflict?

- A They were better trained.
 - B They were fighting on their own land.
 - C They had a stronger navy.
 - D The Native Americans were their allies.
-

4

SS.8.A.3.6, SS.8.A.3.8 (High)

Why was it difficult for the Continental Congress to get soldiers and raise money for the war effort?

- A Most colonists were Loyalists.
- B Britain still controlled most of the finances within the individual colonies.
- C The population of the colonies was too small.
- D Americans were fearful of a strong national government and unwilling to give the Congress much power.



5

SS.8.A.3.4, SS.8.A.3.6 (High)

What was one outcome of the victory at Saratoga?

- A France agreed to offer support to the Americans.
- B Native Americans decided to switch alliances and side with the Americans.
- C The British were able to separate and defeat the New England and Middle Colonies.
- D The main theater of the war switched to Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

6

SS.8.A.1.2, SS.8.A.1.5, SS.8.A.3.3, SS.8.A.3.6 (High)

This painting shows Washington at Valley Forge.



What do you think the artist's main purpose was for creating this painting?

- A to show the horrible conditions at Valley Forge
- B to show respect for Washington and the American war effort
- C to show the Continental Army at work
- D to discourage recruits from joining the Continental Army



Chapter Practice Test, *continued*

7

SS.8.A.3.5 , SS.8.A.3.15 (Moderate)

During the war, why did some women and enslaved Africans question their positions in society?

- A They wanted the same pay that male soldiers received.
 - B They wanted the British to grant them equal rights.
 - C They sought rights equal to those in Britain and France.
 - D They wanted the same rights that white American males were fighting for.
-

8

SS.8.A.3.6 (Moderate)

What military tactic did the Americans use to defeat the British in the South?

- A capturing Loyalists to prevent them from fighting for the British
 - B a hit-and-run style of warfare
 - C using Native Americans to attack British forces
 - D fighting only large battles for major cities
-

9

SS.8.A.3.6 (Moderate)

Which battle convinced the British that the war was too costly and marked the end of the American Revolution?

- A Battle of Saratoga
- B Battle of Bunker Hill
- C Battle of Trenton
- D Battle of Yorktown



10

SS.8.A.3.2, SS.8.A.3.4, SS.8.A.3.8, SS.8.C.1.2 (Moderate)

Which statement completes the following list?

British Terms in the Treaty of Paris
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• recognize the United States as an independent nation• withdraw all troops from American territory• ?

- A** pay American merchants what they were owed
- B** provide fishing rights to Americans in waters off the coast of Canada
- C** force Loyalists to move to Britain
- D** allow the colony of Saint Domingue to become independent