

The American Revolution

Lesson 3 Battlegrounds Shift

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why does conflict develop?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

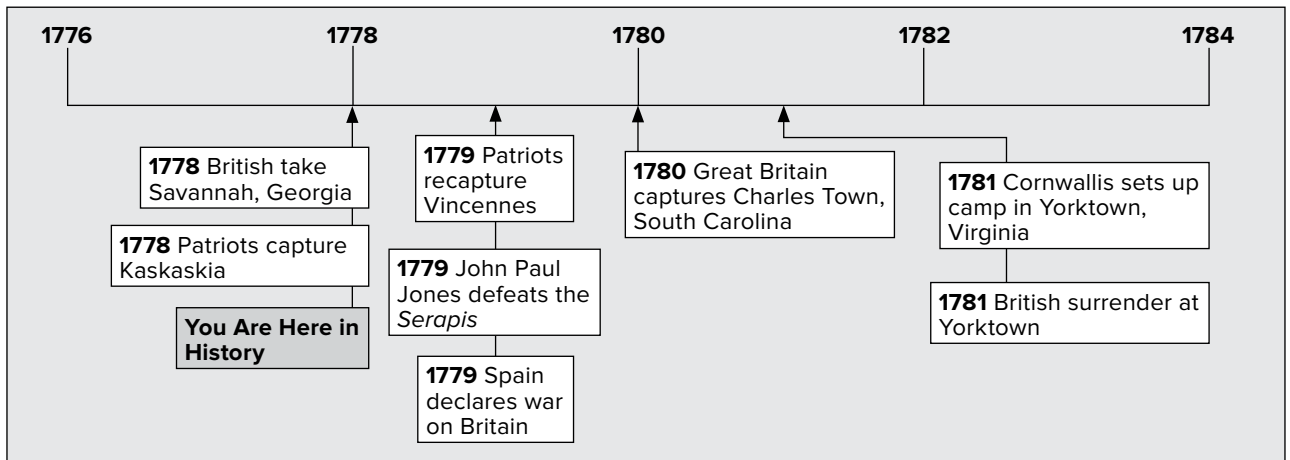
1. *How did the war in the West develop?*
2. *What was the result of the war at sea?*
3. *What was the result of the war in the South?*

Terms to Know

blockade measure that keeps ships from entering or leaving a harbor

privateer privately owned ship outfitted with weapons

When did it happen?



What do you know?

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

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

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Fighting in the West

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

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

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

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

The War at Sea

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

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

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



Explaining

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



Identifying

2. Who was Joseph Brant?



Reading Check

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



Marking the Text

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

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Identifying

5. Who was John Paul Jones?

6. What did he do?



Explaining

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



Identifying

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

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

Fighting in the South

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

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

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

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

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

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

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not control the area. British forces under Cornwallis moved north.

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

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

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

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

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

Glue Foldable here

Check for Understanding

Identify each of these people.

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

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

? Critical Thinking

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

✓ Reading Check

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



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