

# CHAPTER 6

# The American Revolution

1776–1783

## Why It Matters

*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.*

## The Impact Today

*In fighting for the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the American Patriots laid the foundation for the United States of America we know today.*



**The American Journey Video** The chapter 6 video, “The American Revolution,” details how the American Patriots were able to defeat a powerful British military.



**1776**

- U.S. Declaration of Independence written

**1777**

- Battle of Saratoga

**1777–1778**

- Patriot troops winter at Valley Forge

**1778**

- France and U.S. form an alliance



1774

**1774**

- Joseph Priestley discovers oxygen

1776

**1776**

- Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* published

1778



The Americas



World

# FOLDABLES™

## Study Organizer

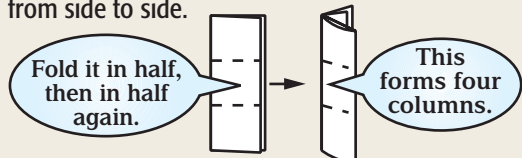
### Organizing Information Study Foldable

When you group information into categories on a table, it is easier to compare characteristics of items. Make this foldable to help you compare the attitudes and actions of the Patriots and Loyalists.

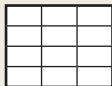
**Step 1** Fold a sheet of paper into thirds from top to bottom.



**Step 2** Open the paper and refold it into fourths from side to side.



**Step 3** Unfold, turn the paper, and draw lines along the folds.



**Step 4** Label your table as shown.

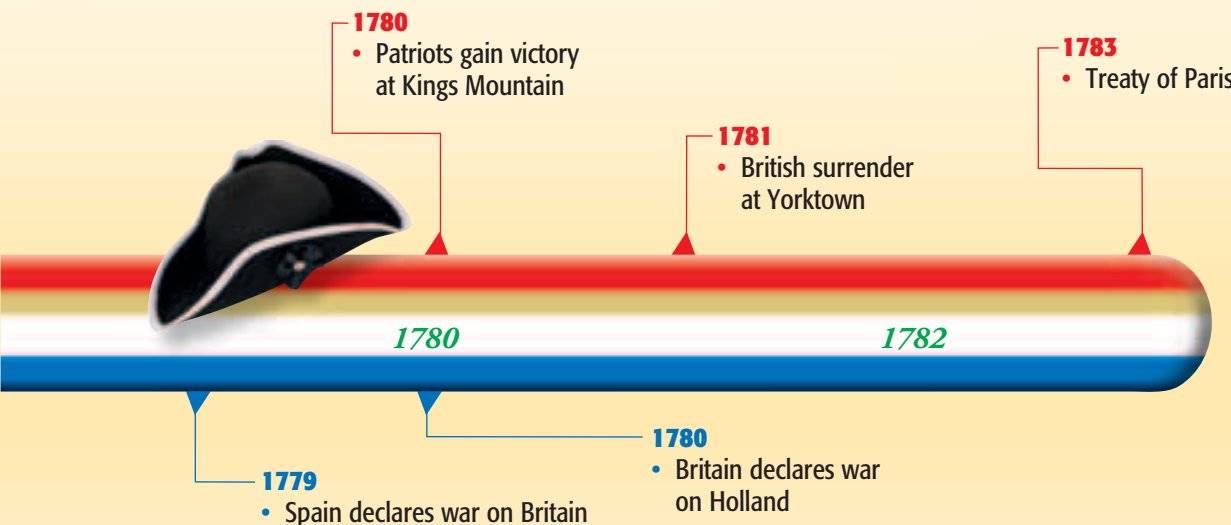
The American Revolution	Patriots	Loyalists
Beginning		
Middle		
End		

**Reading and Writing** As you read about the American Revolution, write down facts about the attitudes and actions of the Patriots and Loyalists at different times during the war.



*Molly Pitcher at the Battle of Monmouth* by Dennis Malone Carter

According to legend, when her husband collapsed, Molly Pitcher immediately took his place in the gun crew and continued firing his cannon.



**HISTORY**  
*Online*

### Chapter Overview

Visit [taj.glencoe.com](http://taj.glencoe.com) and click on Chapter 6—Chapter Overviews to preview chapter information.

# SECTION 1 The Early Years

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

The British and the Americans each had advantages and disadvantages as they faced one another in war.

### Key Terms

neutral, mercenary, recruit

### Reading Strategy

**Classifying Information** As you read the section, re-create the chart below and describe British and American advantages and disadvantages in the spaces provided.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
British		
American		

### Read to Learn

- why some Americans supported the British.
- how the Battle of Saratoga marked a turning point of the war.

### Section Theme

**Groups and Institutions** Although British forces won several battles early in the war, Patriot victories slowed their progress.

### Preview of Events

♦ 1776

**July 1776**

American colonies declare independence

♦ 1777

**December 1776**

Patriots capture Hessians at Trenton

**October 1777**

Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga

♦ 1778

**1778**

African American regiment forms in Rhode Island

## AN American Story

The mighty British troops sailed to America, confident that they would quickly and easily crush the rebellious colonists. A British officer wrote to his friend, describing a military skirmish: September 3, 1776

We landed on Long-Island. . . [I]t was a fine sight to see with what [eagerness] they dispatched the Rebels with their bayonets after we had surrounded them so that they could not resist. . . The island is all ours, and we shall soon take New-York, for the Rebels dare not look us in the face. I expect the affair will be over [after] this campaign. . .

## The Opposing Sides

Following years of disagreement and negotiation, the tensions between the colonies and England had reached a critical point. After the colonies declared independence from England in July 1776, the war for freedom was unavoidable.

Both the British and the Americans expected the war for independence to be short. The British planned to crush the rebellion by force. Most of the Patriots—Americans who supported independence—believed the British would give up

after losing one or two major battles. Few Patriots believed John Adams when he predicted in April 1776:

“We shall have a long . . .  
and bloody war to go through.”

At first glance the British had an overwhelming advantage in the war. They had the strongest navy in the world; an experienced, well-trained army; and the wealth of a worldwide empire. Britain also had a much larger population than the United States—over 8 million people in Britain compared to 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 military experience, and weapons and ammunition were in short supply. Many Patriots belonged to militia groups—local forces—but 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 who remained loyal to Britain and opposed the war for independence were called Loyalists or Tories. At least one American in five was a Loyalist—perhaps as many as one in three. Some people changed sides during the war, depending on which army was closer. Loyalist strength varied

# Two ViewPoints

## The War Between Americans

The American Revolution was not only a war between the British and the Americans. It also divided Americans themselves. While American Patriots fought passionately for independence, Loyalists fought just as fiercely for their British king.

### Loyalist Views

#### The Congress—1776 song

Ye Tories all rejoice and sing  
Success to George our gracious King,  
The faithful subjects tribute bring  
And [denounce] the Congress.

Prepare, prepare, my friends prepare  
For scenes of blood, the field of war;  
To royal standard we'll repair,  
And curse the haughty Congress.

Huzza! Huzza! and thrice Huzza!  
Return peace, harmony and law!  
Restore such times as once we saw  
And bid adieu to Congress.

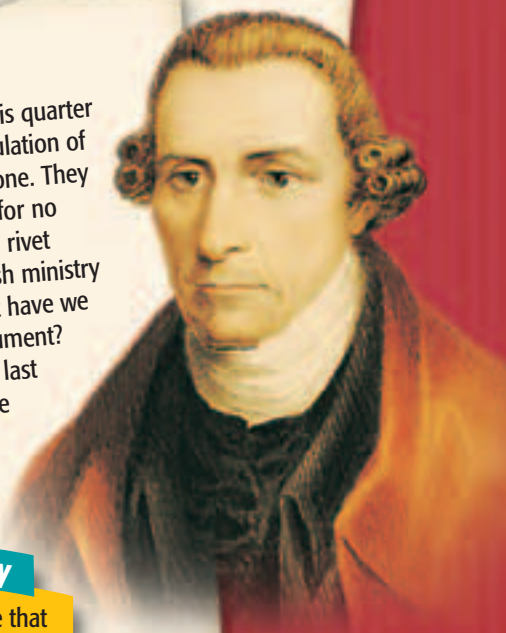
### Patriot Views

#### Patrick Henry of Virginia, 1775 —

“Has Great Britain any enemy in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are meant for us; they can be meant for no other. They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging. And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years . . . I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”


### Learning From History

1. Why did Patrick Henry believe that war was necessary?
2. Which argument—Loyalist or Patriot—would convince you if you had been an American at this time? Explain your answer.



# Linking Past & Present

## Women in War



Molly Pitcher and Deborah Sampson were two of the few women who actually fought in the Revolution. Other colonial women, along with their families, followed the armies to cook and clean for their husbands. Today women make up nearly 15 percent of the active-duty armed forces in the United States. During the twentieth century,

**Past**  
Molly Pitcher

women served in every war as well as in peacekeeping missions around the world. One of every seven U.S. soldiers serving in the Iraq War in 2005 was female.



**Present**  
Women marines served in the Gulf War in 1991.

from region to region. In general it was strongest in the Carolinas and Georgia and weakest in New England.

Loyalists supported Britain for different reasons. Some remained loyal because they were members of the Anglican Church, headed by the British king. Some depended on the British for their jobs. Many feared the disorder that would come from challenging the established government. Others simply could not understand what all the commotion was about. No other country, one Loyalist complained, “faced a rebellion arising from such trivial causes.”

The issue of independence disrupted normal relations. 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 Loyalist observed:

“Neighbor was against neighbor, father against son and son against father. He that would not thrust his own blade through his brother’s heart was called an infamous villain.”

## 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, and many men answered his call. Eventually some of them ended up free in Canada, and others settled the British colony of Sierra Leone in Africa.

## Patriot Advantages

The Americans possessed some advantages. They were fighting on their own ground and fought with great determination to protect it. The British, on the other hand, had to wage war in a faraway land and were forced to ship soldiers and supplies thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean.

The makeup of the British army in America also helped the Patriots. The British relied on **mercenaries**—hired soldiers—to fight. The Americans called the mercenaries **Hessians**, after the region in Germany where most of them lived. To gain support for the war effort, Patriots compared their own troops, who were fighting for the freedom of their own land, to the Hessians, who fought for money. The Patriots had a much greater stake in winning the war than the hired soldiers did. This personal stake 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 steering its course.

## 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 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 Congress experienced difficulty enlisting soldiers and raising money to fight the war.

Although the militia played an essential role in the Patriots' forces, the Americans also needed a regular army—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 a year.





Women also fought with the Patriot forces. **Margaret Corbin** of Pennsylvania accompanied her husband when he joined the Continental Army. After he died in battle, she took his place. Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley also accompanied 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. Moved by a sense of adventure, she disguised herself as a boy and enlisted.

 **Reading Check** **Summarizing** What disadvantages did the Patriots face?



## The Revolutionary War, 1776–1777



-  British capture New York City, 1776
-  Americans attack Trenton and Princeton, 1776–77
-  Howe captures Philadelphia, 1777
-  Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga, 1777

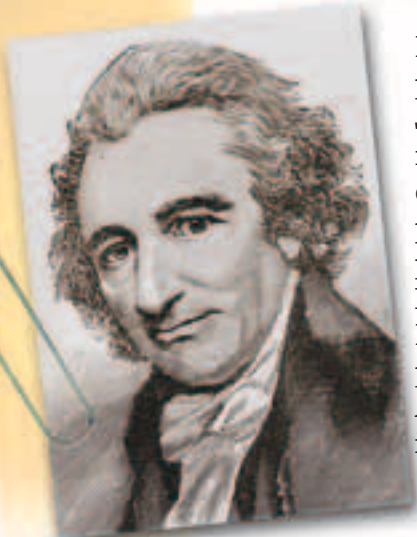


### The Fighting Forces, 1777



# People In History

Thomas Paine 1737–1809



In early 1776 Thomas Paine published a pamphlet titled *Common Sense*. The pamphlet moved many American colonists toward independence. After taking part in the retreat across New York and New Jersey, Paine published another pamphlet to help boost Americans' lagging spirits. In *The American Crisis*,

written in December 1776, he warned: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will in this crisis shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

He reminded Americans that "the harder the

conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

Washington had Paine's stirring words read to his troops to inspire them to continue the fight for independence. Throughout the colonies people passed copies of *The American Crisis* from hand to hand and discussed Paine's patriotic ideas.

## Fighting in New York

Most of the early battles 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, and 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 and disguised himself as a Dutch schoolteacher. The

British discovered his true identity, however, and hanged him. According to tradition, just before his hanging, Hale's last words were,

“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 greatly when "the severe weather sets in."

After the defeat on Long Island, Washington retreated to Manhattan, pursued by the British. By late November, the Continental Army had 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, Washington could not believe that the fight for liberty would truly fail.

 **Reading Check** **Describing** Why was the total number of soldiers in the Continental Army decreasing?

## Patriot Gains

Washington pleaded with the Continental Congress for more troops. He asked the Congress to enlist free African Americans. Early in the war, the Southern states had persuaded the Congress to not 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 Southern states with large enslaved populations, 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 for the same reasons as other Americans. They believed in the Patriot cause or they needed the money. Some soldiers were enslaved Africans who had run away from slaveholders. Others fought to earn their freedom.

### American Victories in New Jersey

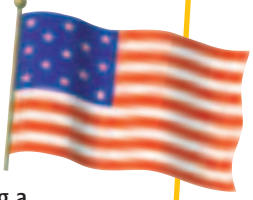
The British army settled in New York for the winter of 1776, leaving some troops in New Jersey at **Trenton** and **Princeton**. Armies usually called a halt to their wars during the winter, and the British did not expect to fight.

Stationed across the Delaware River from the British camp in New Jersey, Washington saw a chance to catch the British off guard. On Christmas night 1776, Washington took 2,400 troops

Fact Fiction Folklore

## America's Flags

**First Stars and Stripes, 1777–1795** On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress designed the first Stars and Stripes. The Congress determined that “the Flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation.” For Americans past and present, the color red symbolizes courage; white, purity of ideals; and blue, strength and unity of the states.



across the icy river and surprised the enemy at Trenton the next day. The Americans captured more than 900 Hessians. The British sent reinforcements under Lord Charles Cornwallis, but Washington led his troops away from Cornwallis’s men. Washington then marched the army to Princeton, where they drove away the British. One discouraged British soldier wrote in his diary,

“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.”

 **Reading Check** **Explaining** What was the outcome of the battle at Trenton?

## A British Plan for 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 planned to take Philadelphia, the American capital, before marching to Albany. After winning battles in September 1777 at Brandywine and Paoli near Philadelphia, Howe's troops captured the city itself, forcing the Continental Congress to flee. In early October Washington attacked the main British camp at nearby Germantown, but he was forced to withdraw. Howe postponed the move north to Albany and decided to spend the winter in Philadelphia.

## Patriots Slow the British

Meanwhile problems delayed the British plans to take 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 Burgoyne captured Fort Ticonderoga, but trouble followed. Burgoyne, a dashing general who enjoyed good food and fine clothes, traveled with 30 wagons of luxury goods. Loaded down with this heavy baggage, Burgoyne's army moved slowly through the dense forests. To make matters worse, the Americans blocked the British by chopping down trees across their path.

In need of food and supplies, Burgoyne sent 800 troops and Native Americans to capture the American supply base at Bennington, Vermont.

The British troops' brightly colored uniforms made the soldiers easy targets in the woods. A local militia group, the **Green Mountain Boys**, attacked and defeated them. Having lost part of his army and desperately short of supplies, Burgoyne retreated in October to the town of **Saratoga** in New York.

## The Battle of Saratoga

At Saratoga Burgoyne faced serious trouble. He expected British forces from the west and south to join him, but they had not arrived. 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 his path to the south. Burgoyne found himself surrounded by an army about three times as large as his own. Burgoyne made a last desperate attack on October 7, but the Americans held firm.

On October 17, 1777, General Burgoyne surrendered. As a Patriot band played "Yankee Doodle," over 5,700 British soldiers handed their weapons to the Americans. The British plan to separate New England from the Middle Colonies had failed. Soon afterward, 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 an important victory for the Americans?

## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT



**Study Central™** To review this section, go to [taj.glencoe.com](http://taj.glencoe.com) and click on **Study Central™**.

### Checking for Understanding

1. **Key Terms** Write a short paragraph in which you define the following terms: **neutral**, **mercenary**, **recruit**.
2. **Reviewing Facts** Compare the strengths of the British and American military forces.

### Reviewing Themes

3. **Groups and Institutions** What problems did the Continental Congress face in raising an army to fight during the American Revolution?

### Critical Thinking

4. **Analyzing Information** Explain why African Americans were willing to enlist in the Continental Army.
5. **Organizing Information** Re-create the chart below and describe each battle, including its outcome, in the space provided.

Battle	Description
Long Island	
Trenton/Princeton	

### Analyzing Visuals

6. **Geography Skills** Examine the map on page 165. Which event came first—the British capture of New York or the British capture of Philadelphia?

### Interdisciplinary Activity

**Descriptive Writing** Write a newspaper article that describes the Battle of Saratoga. Include details about British and American strategies and troop movements.

# Social Studies SKILLBUILDER

## Reading a Military Map

### Why Learn This Skill?

In your study of American history, you often have to read maps. A military map shows the areas where battles occurred, routes soldiers took, who won the battles, and who controlled various sites.

### Learning the Skill

Military maps use colors, symbols, and arrows to show major battles, troop movements, and defensive positions during a particular battle or over a period of time.

When reading a military map, follow these steps:

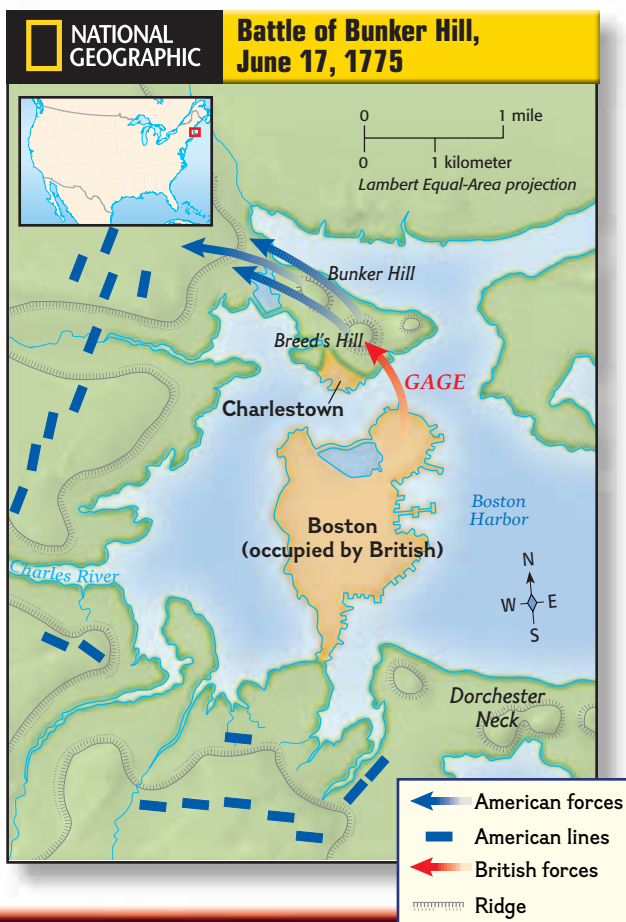
- Read the map title. This will indicate the location and time period covered on the map.

- Read the map key. This tells what the symbols on the map represent. For example, battle sites may be symbolized by crossed swords, a burst shell, or a star.
- Study the map itself. This will reveal the actual events or sequence of events that took place. Notice the geography of the area and try to determine how it could affect military strategy.

### Practicing the Skill

Analyze the information on the map on this page; then answer the following questions.

- 1 What troops surrounded Boston Harbor? How do you know this?
- 2 What action did the American forces take after fighting the Battle of Bunker Hill?
- 3 Which commander led the British troops to Breed's Hill?
- 4 In which direction did the British forces move when they left Boston? What parts of the map help you find this information?



### Applying the Skill

**Reading a Military Map** Find a map of a specific battle of the American Revolution in an encyclopedia or other reference book. Create a three-dimensional model of the battle and use moveable pieces to represent troops. Then demonstrate troop movements over the course of the battle.



Glencoe's **Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook CD-ROM, Level 1**, provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.

## What were people's lives like in the past?

What—and who—were people talking about? What did they eat? What did they do for fun? These two pages will give you some clues to everyday life in the U.S. as you step back in time with TIME Notebook.



BETTMANN/CORBIS

### Eyewitness The Boston Tea Party

**GEORGE HEWES** is one of hundreds of people roused by Sam Adams on December 16, 1773. Adams whipped the crowd into a rage, resulting in the dumping of 342 cases of untaxed British tea into Boston Harbor. Hewes boarded one of the ships that night and here is what he remembers:

“IT WAS NOW EVENING, AND I IMMEDIATELY DRESSED MYSELF IN THE costume of an Indian, equipped with a small hatchet . . . and a club, with which, after having painted my face and hands with coal dust in the shop of a blacksmith, I [went] to Griffin’s Wharf, where the ships lay that contained the tea. . . I fell in with many who were dressed, equipped and painted as I was, and who fell in with me and marched in order to the place of our destination. . . We then were ordered by our commander to open the hatches and take out all the chests of tea and throw them overboard, and we immediately proceeded to execute his orders, first cutting and splitting the chests with our tomahawks, so as to thoroughly expose them to the effects of the water.”

### 1770s WORD PLAY

## What's In A Name?

Match the nickname with the person or thing to the right.

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Sable Genius  | a. Mary Hays gave American soldiers water and fired a cannon in the war                    |
| 2. Molly Pitcher | b. Benjamin Banneker, African American, built the first American clock                     |
| 3. Battalia Pie  | c. Most famous type of gun used in the 1700s   |
| 4. Brown Bess    | d. Meal made of pigeon, rabbit, sheep tongues, and the red growth on the heads of roosters |

ANSWERS: 1. b; 2. a; 3. d; 4. c

## VERBATIM

### WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“I’m obnoxious...and unpopular. You are very much otherwise.”

**JOHN ADAMS**,  
to Thomas Jefferson in discussing  
which of them should write the  
Declaration of Independence in 1776

“Whilst you are proclaiming peace and goodwill to men... you insist upon retaining [keeping] an absolute power over wives.”

**ABIGAIL ADAMS**,  
in a letter to her husband John  
around the time of the signing of the  
Declaration of Independence

“Yankee Doodle went to town, / A-ridin’ on a pony. / Stuck a feather in his cap / And called it Macaroni.”

**YANKEE DOODLE**,  
opening words from the song written by  
the British about American soldiers

“I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

**NATHAN HALE**,  
according to tradition, those were  
the last words of 21-year-old  
about to be hanged



NORTH WIND PICTURES

Benjamin Banneker

## How to Load and Shoot a Cannon

Here are the steps that soldiers follow before firing their cannons at the British:

- 1 As the officer in charge, you must be loud enough to be heard above the noise of cannon shot.
- 2 Have six or seven strong people help you as the cannon is difficult to load and shoot. Then you must call out the following commands:

**"WORM!"** The **wormer**, a soldier with a long piece of iron, must step forward to clean out the barrel of the cannon.

**"SPONGE!"** The **sponger** must stick a wet sheepskin into the cannon barrel to cool it off and put out any sparks from the last use.

**"LOAD!"** The **loader** then stuffs a bag of powder into the barrel and adds ammunition—a big iron ball or smaller grapeshot.

**"RAM!"** The **rammer** will push and pack the ammunition down the barrel with a pole.

**"PICK AND PRIME!"** The **gunner** must now open a bag of gun powder. He puts a little powder in a vent hole.

**"GIVE!"** The **gunner** must light a fuse.

**"FIRE!"** The **gunner** lights the powder on top of the barrel with the fuse. The flame jumps through the air vent and ignites the powder inside the cannon.

**"STAND BACK!"** The **cannon ball** will explode out of the barrel at about 1,000 feet per second.



BROWN BROTHERS

## NUMBERS

### THE COLONIES AT THE TIME

**60** Seconds it takes a Minuteman soldier to get ready to fight

**16** Age of Sibyl Ludington, who in 1777 made a 40-mile midnight ride like Paul Revere's, shouting "The British are coming!"

**10,000** The approximate number of enslaved persons who earned their freedom by fighting against the British

**200** Number of American doctors with actual medical degrees in 1776



BROWN BROTHERS

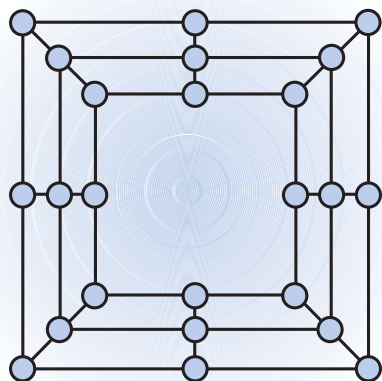
## COLONIAL GAMES

### Nine Man Morris Scores a Ten!

What are all the colonial kids playing?

It's that entertaining game **Nine Man Morris**.

1. Get nine copper coins, nine silver coins, and a friend to play with you.
2. Make a drawing like the one shown on a piece of paper.
3. Give yourself the copper coins and your friend the silver ones.
4. Take turns placing your coins on the dots in the drawing.
5. Be the first to line up three of your coins in a row.
6. Capture one of the other player's coins when you get three in a row.
7. Keep playing until one player is down to two coins. The other player wins!



## SECTION 2

# The War Continues

### Guide to Reading

#### Main Idea

As the Revolutionary War continued, the Americans received support from European countries.

#### Key Terms

desert, inflation

#### Reading Strategy

**Classifying Information** As you read the section, re-create the chart below and describe how each person helped the Americans fight for independence.

Person	Contribution
Lafayette	
Pulaski	
Von Steuben	
De Miralles	

#### Read to Learn

- why other nations helped the Patriots.
- how Washington's troops survived the winter at Valley Forge.
- what challenges Americans faced at home as a result of the war.

#### Section Theme

**Groups and Institutions** Patriots faced hardships but were encouraged by help from Europeans.

#### Preview of Events

♦ 1777

**October 1777**

Americans win  
Battle of Saratoga

♦ 1778

**Winter 1777–1778**

Patriot troops suffer  
at Valley Forge

**February 1778**

France and U.S.  
form an alliance

♦ 1779

**1779**

Spain declares  
war on Britain

## AN American Story

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 against the British. As soon as Austin arrived, Franklin nervously inquired, "Is Philadelphia taken?" Austin answered, "It is, sir. But, sir, I have greater news than that. General Burgoyne and his whole army are prisoners of war."

### Gaining Allies

The victory at Saratoga in October 1777 boosted American spirits. Even more, Saratoga marked a turning point in the war. The European nations, especially France, realized that the United States might actually win its 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, 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 gave the Americans money secretly, but they had not 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 announced support for the United States openly. 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 the American Patriots.

## Spain

Other European nations also helped the American cause, 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•vez), raised an army. Gálvez's 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.

## 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 to the west of the British. Washington and his troops endured a winter of terrible suffering, lacking decent food, clothing, and shelter. Washington's greatest challenge at Valley Forge was keeping the Continental Army together.

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 rough pair of moccasins for himself out of a scrap of cowhide. Although the moccasins hurt his feet, they were better than going barefoot, "as hundreds of my companions had to do, till they might be tracked by their bloods upon the rough, frozen ground."

📖 (See page 963 for more accounts of the winter at Valley Forge.)

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.

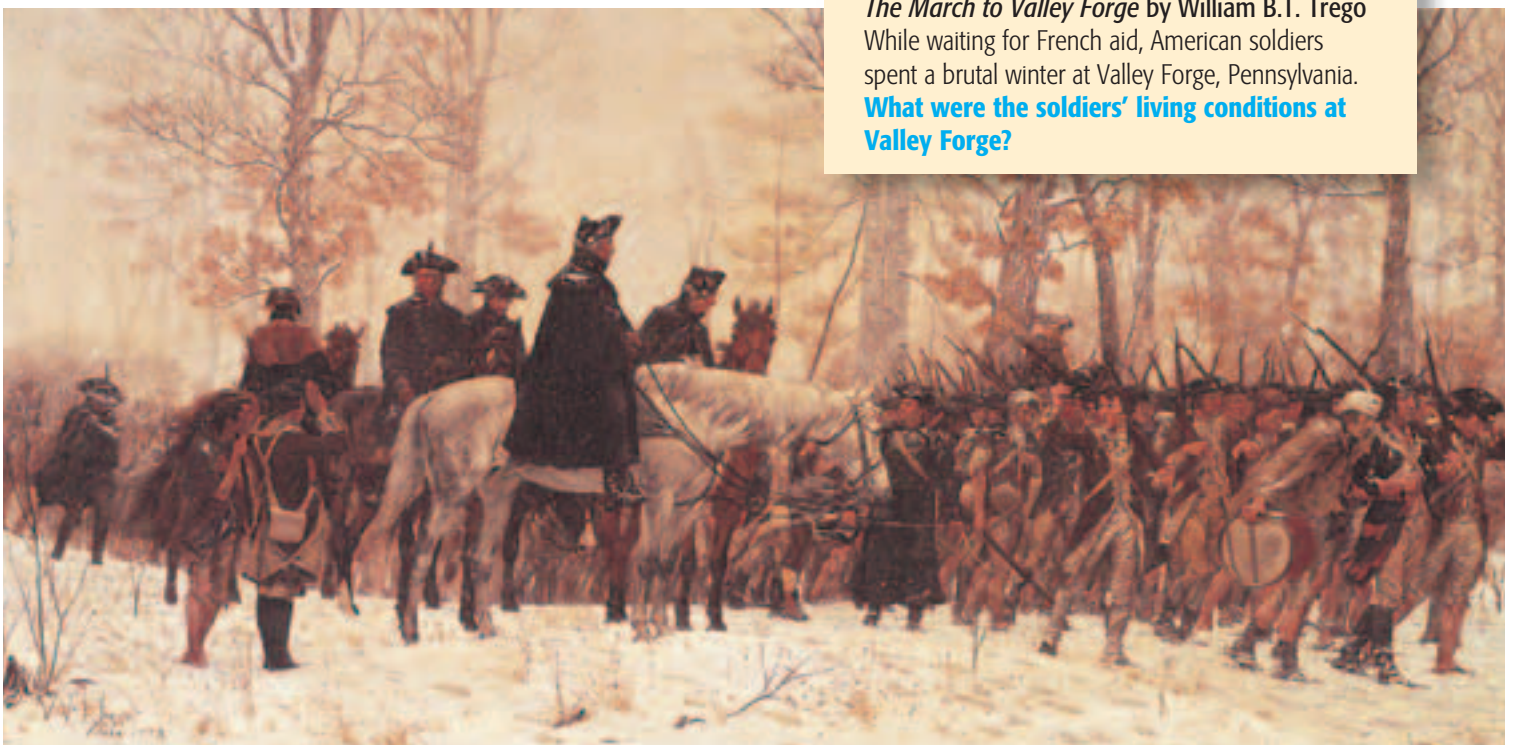


### History Through Art

*The March to Valley Forge* by William B.T. Trego

While waiting for French aid, American soldiers spent a brutal winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

**What were the soldiers' living conditions at Valley Forge?**



Yet somehow, with strong determination, the Continental Army survived the winter, and conditions gradually improved. The troops built huts and gathered supplies from the countryside. 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.” 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.”

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 hardy soldiers who spent the winter at Valley Forge was a French nobleman, the **Marquis de Lafayette** (lah•fay•EHT). Filled with enthusiasm for the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence, Lafayette had bought a ship and set sail for America. He rushed to join the battle for freedom. Lafayette wrote to his wife and children in France,

“The future of America is closely bound up with the future of all mankind.”

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

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

**Friedrich von Steuben** (STOO•buhn), a former army officer from Germany, also came to help Washington. Von Steuben drilled the Patriot troops at Valley Forge, teaching them military discipline. He turned the ragged Continental Army into a more effective fighting force.

**Juan de Miralles** (mee•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 lent money to the cause.

## Economics

### Money Problems

Getting money to finance the war was a major problem. The Continental Congress had no power to raise money through taxes. Although

### Causes and Effects of French-American Alliance in 1778

Causes	Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longstanding hostility between Britain and France</li> <li>• Conflict between Britain and France during French and Indian War</li> <li>• Victory at Saratoga boosts French confidence in Patriots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• France lends money to the Continental Congress</li> <li>• France sends soldiers and ships to help American forces</li> <li>• Americans win independence</li> </ul>

#### Graphic Organizer Skills

In 1777 Benjamin Franklin negotiated with French leaders for money and support for the American cause.

**Drawing Conclusions** Why was it important for France to recognize the colonies’ independence?



the Congress received some money from the states and from foreign countries, much more money was needed.

To pay for the war, the Congress and the states printed hundreds of millions of dollars worth of paper money. These bills quickly lost their value, however, because 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 the fighting of their war for independence.

 **Reading Check** **Describing** How did Lafayette help the Patriot cause?

## Life on the Home Front

The war changed the lives of all Americans, even those who stayed at home. With thousands of men away in military service, women took over the duties that had once been the responsibility of their husbands or fathers. Other women ran their husbands' or their own businesses.

### Changing Attitudes

The ideals of liberty and freedom that inspired the American Revolution caused some women to question their place in 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. At a time when most girls received little schooling, this was a radical idea.

**Abigail Adams** also championed women's interests. She wrote to her husband, John Adams, who was a member of the Second Continental Congress:

“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.”



### Picturing History

Paper notes issued by the Congress and the states rapidly declined in value. By the time these South Carolina bills were printed, their real value was only 10 percent of their face value. **Why did American notes quickly decline in value?**

### Treatment of Loyalists

Every state had some Loyalists. Thousands of them fought with the British against the Patriots. To prove their loyalty to Britain, some Loyalists spied and informed on the Patriots.

Many Loyalists, however, fled the American colonies during the Revolutionary War. They packed their belongings and sold whatever they could. Some left hurriedly for England. Others took off for Florida. Still others journeyed to the frontier beyond the Appalachian Mountains and to Canada.

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 extreme measures were unusual.

### Citizenship

#### 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,



### Analyzing Political Cartoons

This cartoon, drawn in 1779, shows a rider being thrown by a horse. Cartoonists often use animals as symbols. For example, an eagle is often used to symbolize the United States. The Republican Party is often represented by an elephant, while the Democratic Party symbol is the donkey. **Who do the horse and rider represent? What idea is the cartoon presenting?**

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. Slavery, Livingston said, was “utterly inconsistent with the principles of Christianity and humanity.”

African Americans made similar arguments. In New Hampshire enslaved Africans 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 beginning of the war—at Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill—African American soldiers fought for the American cause. To some fighting for freedom, both African American and white, the Revolution seemed to bring nearer the day when slavery would be abolished. Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania attempted to end slavery in their states. The issue of slavery would remain unsettled for many years, however.



**Reading Check Explaining** What contributions did women make during the war?

## SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT



**Study Central™** To review this section, go to [taj.glencoe.com](http://taj.glencoe.com) and click on **Study Central™**.

### Checking for Understanding

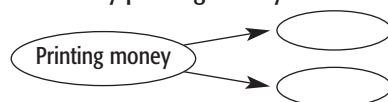
- Key Terms** Write a short paragraph in which you define the terms **desert** and **inflation** correctly. Use standard sentence structure and spelling in your paragraph.
- Reviewing Facts** Explain why the French did not publicly support the Americans until after the Battle of Saratoga.

### Reviewing Themes

- Groups and Institutions** How were the Loyalists treated by the Patriots during the war?

### Critical Thinking

- Making Inferences** The Americans claimed to fight for liberty and freedom. How did these ideals make women and enslaved Africans question their positions in society?
- Determining Cause and Effect** Re-create the diagram below and describe what happened when the Continental Congress tried to finance the war by printing money.



### Analyzing Visuals

- Graphic Organizer Skills** Study the cause-and-effect chart on page 174. In what ways did France help the Americans in their fight for independence? What event led France to aid the Americans in the first place?

### Interdisciplinary Activity

**Expository Writing** Compose a clearly written paper focusing on the personal and professional characteristics that made Washington an effective leader.

## SECTION 3

# The War Moves West and South

### Guide to Reading

#### Main Idea

Revolutionary War fighting spreads to the West and South.

#### Key Terms

blockade, privateer, guerrilla warfare

#### Reading Strategy

**Organizing Information** As you read the section, re-create the chart below and describe the significance of key battles in the West and South.

Battle	Significance
Vincennes	
Camden	
Kings Mountain	
Guilford Courthouse	

#### Read to Learn

- how the war involved Native Americans.
- how a new kind of fighting developed in the South.

#### Section Theme

**Geography and History** As the war continued, Patriot victories were won in the West, in the South, and at sea.

#### Preview of Events

♦ 1778

**July 1778**

George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes

♦ 1779

**September 1779**

The *Serapis* surrenders to John Paul Jones

♦ 1780

**May 1780**

British troops take Charles Town

♦ 1781

**January 1781**

Patriots defeat British at Cowpens



Francis Marion organized a small but expert fighting force in South Carolina. Living off the land, Marion's soldiers harassed British troops by staging daring surprise attacks, sabotaging communication and supply lines, and rescuing American prisoners. After these attacks, Marion withdrew his men to swamps and forests. His habit of disappearing into the swamps to get away from the British earned him his nickname, the Swamp Fox.

## War in the West

At the same time Francis Marion was staging his daring raids in the South, important battles of the Revolutionary War were taking place along the western frontier. Much of this fighting involved Native Americans. Although some helped the Patriots, more sided with the British. For many Native Americans, the British seemed to present less of a threat than the Americans did.

West of the Appalachian Mountains, the British and their Native American allies were raiding American settlements. Mohawk chief **Joseph Brant** led a number of brutal attacks in southwestern New York and northern Pennsylvania. After the war, Brant served as a representative of the Mohawk people to the Continental Congress and tried to get a fair land settlement for his people. Unable to reach an agreement, Brant and his people moved to Canada.

**Henry Hamilton** commanded Detroit, the main British base in the West. Some called Hamilton the “hair buyer” because he paid Native Americans for the scalps of settlers.

## ★ Geography

### 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 down the Ohio River to the mouth of the Tennessee River. After march-

ing about 120 miles, the Patriots seized the British post at Kaskaskia (ka•SKAS•kee•uh) in present-day Illinois. Then, in July 1778, they captured the British town of **Vincennes** (vihn•SEHNZ) in present-day Indiana.

During Clark’s absence in December, British troops under Henry Hamilton’s command recaptured Vincennes. Clark vowed to get it back. In February 1779, after marching for days through countrysides flooded with icy waters, Clark and his troops surprised the British, forcing Hamilton to surrender. George Rogers Clark’s victory at Vincennes strengthened the American position in the West.

✓ **Reading Check Explaining** What British outposts did George Rogers Clark’s troops capture?

## Glory at Sea

As fighting continued on the western frontier, other battles raged at sea. Great Britain used its powerful navy to patrol American waterways,

# 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 conduct of military operations. During the gloomy winter at Valley Forge, some congressmen and army officers plotted to replace Washington as commander in chief.

One of his critics was Dr. Benjamin Rush, who served for a time as surgeon general of the Continental Army. In a letter to John Adams, Rush compared Washington unfavorably to the hero of Saratoga, Horatio Gates.

“I am more convinced than ever of the necessity of discipline and system in the management of our affairs. I have heard several officers who have served under General Gates compare his army to a well-regulated family. The same gentlemen have compared Gen’l Washington’s imitation of an army to an unformed mob. Look at the characters of both! The one [Gates] on the pinnacle of military glory—exulting in the success of schemes planned with wisdom, and executed with vigor and bravery. . . . See the other [Washington] outgeneraled and twice beaten. . . .”

—Dr. Benjamin Rush, October 21, 1777



keeping the ships of the Patriots and the ships of their allies from entering or leaving American harbors. This British **blockade** prevented supplies and reinforcements from reaching the Continental Army.

## Privateers

To break the British naval blockade, the Second Continental Congress ordered the construction of 13 American warships. Only two of these, however, sailed to sea. The Americans destroyed four of their own ships to keep them out of British hands. Others were quickly captured by the British. Several states maintained their own small fleets, but the American navy was too weak to operate effectively.

American privateers captured more British vessels at sea than did the American navy. The **privateers** were privately owned merchant ships equipped with weapons. The Congress authorized approximately 2,000 ships to sail as privateers and attack enemy shipping. Finding crews for these ships was not difficult. Sailors

from the whaling and fishing ports of New England signed on eagerly for the profitable privateering trade.

## John Paul Jones

A daring American naval officer, **John Paul Jones**, began raiding British ports in 1777. He sailed in an old French ship that Benjamin Franklin had obtained for him. Jones gave the ship a French name, *Bonhomme Richard*, in honor of Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

Sailing near the coast of Great Britain in September 1779, the *Bonhomme Richard* met a large fleet of British merchant ships escorted by the warship *Serapis*. The *Bonhomme Richard* moved close to the *Serapis* before attacking. The two ships fought for more than three hours. At one point Jones's ship was so badly damaged that 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 John Paul Jones contribute to the war effort?

## Struggles in the South

In the early years of the war, the Americans had won some battles in the South. In 1776 they had crushed Loyalists at the Battle of Moore's Creek, near Wilmington, North Carolina, and had saved **Charles Town**, South Carolina, from the British. Although a small battle, its impact 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.



## What might have happened?

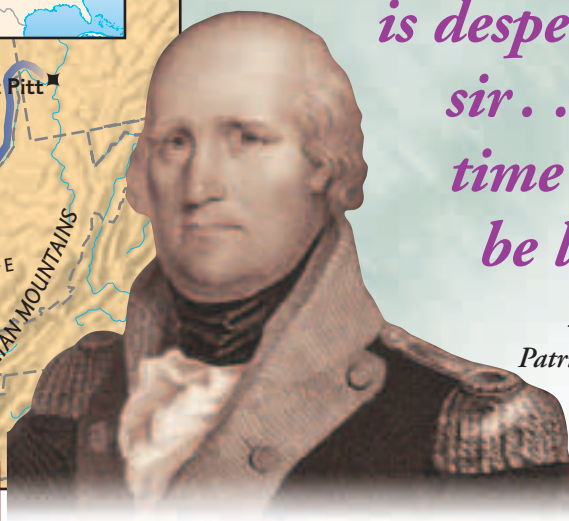
1. How do you think the soldiers might have reacted to Washington stepping down?
2. Washington wrote that he would resign his post if he could not count on support. Would the American Revolution have taken a different course with another commander? Explain your answer.

-  American victory
-  British troops
-  American troops
-  Fort
-  Present-day boundaries



*“I know the case is desperate, sir . . . no time is to be lost.”*

—letter to Patrick Henry, February 1779



George Rogers Clark captured the key points of Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes, saving the west region for the United States.

### Geography Skills

The Revolutionary War spread west of the Appalachian Mountains where American troops won key victories.

- 1. Region** What victories did the American forces win in the West?
- 2. Analyzing Information** From what fort did Clark’s troops set out?

## British Victories

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

Clinton himself headed south with a large army in early 1780 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. A member of Britain’s Parliament gloated, “We look on America as at our feet.”

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 30-year-old Bernardo de Gálvez became governor of the Spanish territory of Louisiana in January 1777, 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 on the part of the colonists. Gálvez also organized the shipment of tons of supplies

and ammunition up the Mississippi River to the army of George Rogers Clark in the Northwest Territory. With this help from Gálvez, Clark was able to capture the key points 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. Striking quickly, he captured British forts at Baton Rouge and Natchez. Then, in March 1780, Gálvez forced British Mobile to surrender. In May 1781 he took Pensacola, the British capital of West Florida.

These victories opened supply lines for military goods from Spain, France, Cuba, and Mexico. According to historian Buchanan Parker Thomson, Gálvez had given

“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.”



## The Revolutionary War in the South, 1778–1781



- British capture Savannah, 1778
- British capture Charles Town and Camden, but are defeated at Kings Mountain in October 1780 and at Cowpens in January 1781
- Washington and Rochambeau rush toward Virginia, August 1781
- French Admiral De Grasse keeps British ships away
- Cornwallis trapped; the British surrender at Yorktown, 1781



### Geography Skills

Most of the fighting took place in the South during the latter years of the Revolutionary War.

- 1. Location** What British general was trapped at Yorktown, Virginia?
- 2. Drawing Conclusions** How did the French navy help the Americans win the war?

- American and allied forces
- British forces
- American victory
- British victory
- Fort





*“I shall not spare  
any effort or  
trouble . . . for  
the benefit of  
the colonies.”*

—Bernardo de Gálvez,  
letter May 6, 1778,  
to Patrick Henry

### Patriot Victories

After the British 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 the attack of Patriot sharpshooters. 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. In March Greene reunited his forces 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 great losses in the process. General Cornwallis abandoned the Carolina campaign.

### British Retreat

Cornwallis decided to march north to Virginia in April 1781. His troops carried out raids throughout the state, nearly capturing 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, and awaited further orders from Clinton in New York. The battle for control of the South was entering its final phase.

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

## SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT



**Study Central™** To review this section, go to [taj.glencoe.com](http://taj.glencoe.com) and click on **Study Central™**.

### Checking for Understanding

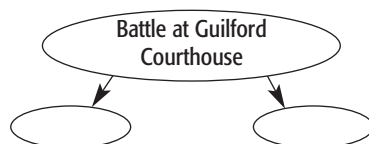
1. **Key Terms** Write a short paragraph in which you use the following terms: **blockade**, **privateer**, **guerrilla warfare**.
2. **Reviewing Facts** Explain why most Native Americans sided with the British in the conflict.

### Reviewing Themes

3. **Geography and History** How did the British navy use the location of the colonies to their advantage?

### Critical Thinking

4. **Drawing Conclusions** Why was guerrilla warfare effective against the British?
5. **Analyzing Information** Re-create the diagram below and describe the results of the battle at Guilford Courthouse.



### Analyzing Visuals

6. **Geography Skills** Study the maps on pages 180 and 181. Who won the battle at Cowpens, South Carolina? At Kings Mountain, South Carolina? Whose forces did George Rogers Clark face at Vincennes?

### Interdisciplinary Activity

**Art** Create a symbol or emblem that captures the spirit of the Patriot soldiers.

# SECTION 4 The War Is Won

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

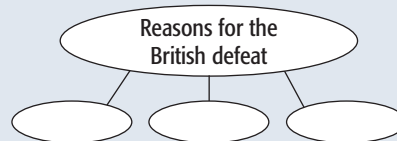
The American colonies overcame many disadvantages to win independence.

### Key Terms

ratify, ambush

### Reading Strategy

**Organizing Information** As you read the section, re-create the diagram below and list the reasons why the Americans were able to defeat the British in the Revolutionary War.



### Read to Learn

- how George Washington changed his military strategy.
- why the Americans won the Revolutionary War despite many disadvantages.

### Section Theme

**Groups and Institutions** A combined Patriot force secured final victory, ensuring an independent United States.

### Preview of Events

♦ 1780

**July 1780**

French troops arrive in colonies

♦ 1781

**August 1781**

Washington advances toward British at Yorktown

♦ 1782

**October 1781**

Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown

♦ 1783

**September 1783**

Treaty of Paris is signed



A popular children's tune in eighteenth-century Britain went like this:

*"If ponies rode men and if grass ate the cows,  
And cats should be chased into holes by the mouse . . .  
If summer were spring and the other way 'round,  
Then all the world would be upside down."*

This song would hold special meaning for the British troops in America as the Revolution reached its peak.

## Victory at Yorktown

The Revolutionary War was at a critical point. Both armies needed a victory to win the war. While General Washington made plans to attack the British at Yorktown, Virginia, rather than New York City, the Patriots hoped for help from the French.

In July 1780, French warships appeared in the waters off **Newport**, Rhode Island. The ships carried more than 5,000 soldiers under the command of the French general, the **Comte de Rochambeau** (ROH•SHAM•BOH). Cheering crowds greeted the French soldiers, who were well armed and clad in colorful

uniforms and plumed caps. The promised French aid had arrived at last. 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 waiting for a second fleet of French ships. From this position he could keep 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 this second French fleet arrived from the West Indies. He had to wait a year to put his plan into action, however, because the fleet did not set sail for America until the summer of 1781.

### Change in Plans

Washington had followed reports of the fighting in the South during 1780 and 1781. He knew that the British army commanded by Cornwallis was camped in **Yorktown**, Virginia. Washington also knew that Patriot forces under the Marquis de Lafayette were keeping Cornwallis and his troops bottled up on the Yorktown peninsula.

In August 1781, Washington 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 took steps to keep the new American strategy secret. He wanted Clinton to think the Patriots still planned to attack New York. This, he hoped, would keep Clinton from sending aid to Cornwallis.

General Rochambeau had marched his troops from Newport to join General Washington in July. Washington and Rochambeau then rushed south with their armies. The secrecy was so strict that most of the 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 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 main American-French army, and the French fleet under Admiral De Grasse—would meet at Yorktown.

### The Siege of Yorktown

Washington wondered whether his complicated plan had fooled Clinton, and whether the French fleet would reach Yorktown in time. On September 5, to his great relief, Washington received news that Admiral De Grasse's ships were nearing Yorktown.

The plan worked perfectly, and the British were thoroughly confused. By the end of September, 14,000 American and French troops had trapped Cornwallis's 7,500 British and Hessian troops at Yorktown. Meanwhile, De Grasse's



#### Picturing History

The Marquis de Lafayette (left) relied on James Armistead (right), an enslaved African American, to gather military information about the British. Armistead was later freed and took the name James Armistead Lafayette.

**How did the French help the Patriots win the war?**



## History Through Art

### *Surrender of Lord Cornwallis*

by John Trumbull Trapped by American and French forces, General Charles Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. The victory would guarantee America's independence. **What were the two major terms of the Treaty of Paris?**



fleet kept Cornwallis from escaping by sea. General Clinton and the rest of the British army waited in New York, unable to help Cornwallis.

### Cornwallis's Defeat

On October 9 the Americans and French began a tremendous bombardment. A Hessian soldier described the dreadful scene in his diary:

“One saw men lying nearly everywhere who were mortally wounded and whose heads, arms, and legs had been shot off. . . . Likewise on watch and on post in the lines, on trench and work details, they were wounded by the fearfully heavy fire.”

British supplies began running low, and many soldiers were wounded or sick. Cornwallis realized the hopelessness of his situation. On October 19 he surrendered. The Patriots had won the **Battle of Yorktown**.

Handing over their weapons, the British marched between rows of French and American troops—the French in fancy white uniforms on one side and the raggedly clothed Continental Army on the other. A French band played “Yankee Doodle,” and a British band responded with a children’s tune called “The World Turned Upside Down.” Indeed it had.

**Reading Check Explaining** Why did Washington decide to advance on the British camp at Yorktown?

## Independence

The fighting did not really end with Yorktown. The British still held Savannah, Charles Town, and New York, and a few more clashes took place on land and sea. The Patriot victory at Yorktown, however, convinced the British that the war was too costly to pursue.

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 territory that the new nation claimed extended from the Atlantic Ocean west to the Mississippi River and from Canada in the north to Spanish Florida in the south. 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

**HISTORY Online**  
**Student Web Activity**  
Visit [taj.glencoe.com](http://taj.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 6—Student Web Activities** for an activity on the Battle of Yorktown.

# People In History

Peter Francisco 1760–1831



Peter Francisco was found abandoned in Colonial America in 1765 when he was about five years old. It was later learned that he was from an island in the Portuguese Azores. The abandoned boy was adopted by an uncle of Patrick Henry.

When the Revolution began, 16-year-old Fran-

cisco joined the Tenth Virginia Regiment and earned a reputation for bravery and dedication to the revolutionary cause. George Washington was reported to have said about Francisco, "Without him we would have lost two crucial battles, perhaps the war, and with it our freedom. He was truly a one-man army."

After the war, Francisco served as sergeant at arms in the Virginia House of Delegates. In 1974 the Portuguese Continental Union of the United States of America began bestowing a "Peter Francisco Award" upon distinguished Americans who have contributed to the Portuguese cause.

debts owed by Americans. The treaty also stated that the Congress would advise the states that property taken from Loyalists was to be returned to them.

## The Newburgh Conspiracy

After the British surrender, Washington maintained a strong army with headquarters at Newburgh, New York, planning to disband it when the peace treaty was signed. The period following the British surrender at Yorktown was not easy for American soldiers. Anger mounted when Congress refused to fund their pensions (money for service) and failed to provide other pay. In disgust some officers circulated a letter in March 1783. If their demands were not met, the letter said, the army should refuse to disband.

Shocked and worried, General Washington realized that such an action could lead to a revolt that would threaten to destroy the new nation. He persuaded the angry officers to be patient with Congress. Then he urged Congress to meet the soldiers' just demands: "If, retiring from the field, they [the officers] are to grow old in poverty...then shall I have learned what ingratitude is."

Washington's leadership ended the threat to the new nation, and Congress soon acted on the demands.

## Washington's Farewell

British troops left New York City in late November 1783. The war had truly ended, and George Washington could at last give up his command. On December 4 Washington said farewell to his officers at Fraunces' Tavern in Manhattan. "With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take my leave of you."

Nearly three weeks later Washington formally resigned from the army at a meeting of the Second Continental Congress in Annapolis, Maryland. A witness described the scene: "The spectators all wept, and there was hardly a member of Congress who did not drop tears." Washington said,

“Having now finished the work assigned me I retire . . . and take my leave of all the employments of public life.”

He returned to his home, Mount Vernon, in time for Christmas. There he planned to live quietly with his family.

## Why the Americans Won

How had the Americans managed to win the Revolutionary War? How had they defeated Britain, the world's strongest power?

The Americans had several advantages in the war. 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 the British depended on support from the sea. When their ships were blocked, the British troops were without support.

The British succeeded in occupying cities but had difficulty controlling the countryside. They had not been successful at Saratoga or in the Carolinas. The Patriots, however, knew the local terrain and where to lay an **ambush**—a surprise attack.

Help from other nations contributed to the American victory. The success at Yorktown would not have been possible without French soldiers and ships. Loans from France helped the Americans win the war. The Spanish also aided the Patriots by attacking 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 the Patriots. As the Continental Army marched from New York to Yorktown, crowds came out to watch


and wish the troops well. Washington pointed to the crowd and said,

“We may be beaten by the English . . . but here is an army they will never conquer.”

## The Influence of the American Revolution

In 1776 the American colonists began a revolution, making clear the principles of freedom and 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.” French revolutionaries repeated the principles of the American Declaration of Independence: “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-held island 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** **Summarizing** What were three reasons the Americans were successful in their fight?

## SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT



**Study Central™** To review this section, go to [taj.glencoe.com](http://taj.glencoe.com) and click on **Study Central™**.

### Checking for Understanding

1. **Key Terms** Use each of these terms in a sentence that will help explain its meaning: **ratify**, **ambush**.
2. **Reviewing Facts** Describe how the French navy helped George Washington at Yorktown.

### Reviewing Themes

3. **Groups and Institutions** What influence did the American Revolution have around the world?

### Critical Thinking

4. **Predicting Consequences** What might have happened if the French fleet had not arrived at Yorktown?
5. **Organizing Information** Re-create the diagram below and describe the terms that the Americans agreed to in the Treaty of Paris.



### Analyzing Visuals

6. **Picturing History** Look at the painting on page 185. How does the artist focus attention on the figures in the center of the painting?

### Interdisciplinary Activity

**Geography** Create a map of the United States that shows the boundaries of the country at the time of the Treaty of Paris. Use colored pencils to show the lands that the British gave to the Americans.

# CHAPTER 6

## ASSESSMENT and ACTIVITIES

### Chapter Summary The American Revolution

#### 1776

- Thomas Paine writes the inspiring *Common Sense*.
- The Continental Army is defeated at the Battle of Long Island.
- George Washington leads troops across the Delaware River to surprise the British at Trenton.



#### 1777

- The Patriots defeat the British at Saratoga, New York.
- The British capture Philadelphia.

#### 1778

- France provides money, troops, and equipment to the Patriots.
- The Continental Army suffers from the lack of supplies at Valley Forge.

#### 1779

- John Paul Jones forces the surrender of the British warship *Serapis*.

#### 1780

- The British capture Charles Town and take thousands of prisoners.

#### 1781

- The Americans win the Battle of Yorktown.

#### 1783

- The Treaty of Paris is signed, marking the end of the Revolution.



#### Reviewing Key Terms

Examine the pairs of words below. Then write a sentence explaining what each of the pairs has in common.

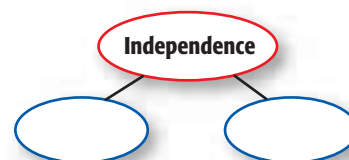
1. mercenary, recruit
2. blockade, privateer
3. guerrilla warfare, ambush

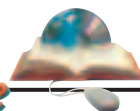
#### Reviewing Key Facts

4. Why did the British think their military forces were superior to those of the Americans?
5. Why did Loyalists support Britain?
6. How did Thomas Paine help the Patriots during the Revolutionary War?
7. What European nations fought with the Americans against the British?
8. What were some of the problems that troops faced during the winter at Valley Forge?
9. What ideas did Judith Sargeant Murray promote about education?
10. Why did many Native Americans give their support to the British?
11. What fighting method did the Americans use to keep the British from taking the Southern Colonies?
12. Which battle convinced the British that fighting the Americans was too costly?
13. Why was fighting on their own land an advantage for the Patriots?

#### Critical Thinking

14. **Compare and Contrast** What advantage does the text state the Patriots had over British mercenaries?
15. **Analyzing Information** How did women help in the war effort?
16. **Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think the British found it easier to capture American cities than to take over the American countryside?
17. **Determining Cause and Effect** Re-create the diagram below and describe two ways America's fight for independence influenced other countries.





## Self-Check Quiz

Visit [taj.glencoe.com](http://taj.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 6—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the chapter test.



## Geography and History Activity

The Treaty of Paris in 1783 established the boundaries of the new United States. The newly independent nation shared land claims on the North American continent with several nations. Study the map below and answer the questions that follow.

18. **Location** What natural landmark formed the new western boundary of the United States?
19. **Region** Which country claimed the most land in North America in 1783? The least land?



## Practicing Skills

**Reading a Military Map** Study the military map on page 181. Then answer the questions that follow.

20. What color symbolizes British troop movement?
21. What symbol represents battles?
22. When did the British capture the city of Savannah?
23. Who was victorious at the Battle of Cowpens?

## Citizenship Cooperative Activity

24. **Expository Writing** As citizens, we have responsibilities to our communities. For a community to be successful, its citizens must take an active role in it. Write a one-page paper in which you discuss the topic, "My responsibilities to my community."

## Economics Activity

25. As consumers, you must be aware of the value of a product you wish to purchase. Such things as cost, performance, and reliability determine the quality of the product. Research various brands of a certain product, such as cars, dishwashers, or computers, and determine which brand creates the best merchandise for the dollar value.



## Alternative Assessment

26. **Portfolio Writing Activity** Scan the chapter for details about people who came to the United States from other countries to help in the war effort. Record the names in your journal. Then create a chart that shows the people's names, their home countries, and what they did to aid the Americans.

## Standardized Test Practice

**Directions:** Choose the *best* answer to the following question.

What American victory convinced the French to form an alliance with the United States?

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| A Saratoga    | C Bunker Hill |
| B Ticonderoga | D Trenton     |

## Test-Taking Tip

Remember to eliminate answers that you know are wrong. For example, the Patriots did not win the battle of Bunker Hill; therefore, choice **C** is not correct.