Section 1
The Early Years of the War

This painting shows General Washington and his troops in their winter camp at Valley Forge.

Section 2
The War Expands

Section 3
The Path to Victory

Section 4
The Legacy of the War

1776
British capture New York, but Americans win a battle in New Jersey.

1776
Scotsman Adam Smith publishes a book saying that government shouldn’t control the economy.

1777
Battles of Saratoga convince Europeans that America might win the war.

1777
Voilaire, who wrote about the rights of people, dies in Paris.

1778
France enters the war on the American side.

1778
American frontier soldiers take a British fort in what is now Indiana.

1779
Voilaire, who wrote about the rights of people, dies in Paris.
It is 1777. Your brother is an American soldier. In his last letter to you, he wrote that the army has no shoes or bullets and little food. But he plans to keep fighting.

Now, a British army is coming toward your farm. You hear that the soldiers are stealing crops to feed themselves and their horses.

What would you sacrifice to win freedom?

What Do You Think?

- What sacrifices do civilians make during wartime?
- What sacrifices do soldiers make?
- Is it worth such sacrifices to win independence for your country? Why or why not?

Visit the Chapter 7 links for more information about the American Revolution.
Reading Strategy: Sequencing Events

What Do You Know?
What stories do you know about the people or events of the Revolution? How do people display courage and self-sacrifice during wartime?

Think About
- what you’ve learned about American settlers from movies, television, historical fiction, or science fiction about space travel
- opportunities and challenges offered in a new land
- your responses to the Interact with History about sacrificing to win freedom (see page 191)

What Do You Want to Know?
What would you like to learn about the steps that people took to win the American Revolution? In your notebook, record what you hope to learn from this chapter.

Sequencing Events
To sequence is to put events in the order in which they happened. You learned this skill in Chapter 6 by sequencing the events that led to the American Revolution. Now as you read Chapter 7, practice sequencing again. Put the major battles and events of the war in order by recording them on a time line. Copy the time line below in your notebook. You may want to make it bigger.


Taking Notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1776</th>
<th>1777</th>
<th>1778</th>
<th>1779</th>
<th>1780</th>
<th>1781</th>
<th>1782</th>
<th>1783</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1776</td>
<td>1777</td>
<td>1778</td>
<td>1779</td>
<td>1780</td>
<td>1781</td>
<td>1782</td>
<td>1783</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CALIFORNIA STANDARDS
Reading 2.0 Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose.
The Early Years of the War

MAIN IDEA
The American desire to gain rights and liberties led them to fight for independence from Britain.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW
Today those same rights and liberties are protected by the U.S. Constitution.

TERMS & NAMES
George Washington
rendezvous
Battles of Saratoga

ONE AMERICAN’S STORY
In search of liberty, Haym Salomon moved from Europe to New York sometime between 1764 and 1775. He was a Jew from Poland. Salomon soon became a successful merchant and banker. During the war, Salomon supported the Patriot cause.

When the British captured New York in 1776, many Patriots fled but Salomon stayed. The British arrested him. Salomon spoke many languages. The British thought he could help them deal with foreign merchants, so they let him out of prison. Salomon used this opportunity to help other prisoners escape.

In 1778, the British wanted to arrest him again, so he fled to Philadelphia and continued to aid the Patriots. He loaned the new government more than $600,000, which was never repaid.

Like Salomon, many people made hard choices about which side to support during the Revolutionary War. This section discusses those choices and the obstacles Americans faced in the war’s early years.

Americans Divided
The issue of separating from Great Britain divided American society. Opinion polls did not exist in the 1700s, so we don’t know exactly how many people were on each side. But historians estimate that roughly 20 to 30 percent of Americans were Loyalists, roughly 40 to 45 percent were Patriots, and the rest remained neutral. Most Americans did not support the Revolution.

Both Patriots and Loyalists came from all walks of life and all parts of America. In general, New England and Virginia had high numbers of Patriots. Loyalists were numerous in cities, in New York State, and in the

Haym Salomon sacrificed his health and his fortune to help his new country.

CALIFORNIA STANDARDS
8.1 Students understand the major events preceding the founding of the nation and relate their significance to the development of American constitutional democracy.
CST1 Students explain how major events are related to one another in time.
HI1 Students explain the central issues and problems from the past, placing people and events in a matrix of time and place.
HI2 Students understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence, and correlation in historical events, including the long- and short-term causal relations.
HI4 Students recognize the role of chance, foresight, and error in history.

Taking Notes
Use your chart to take notes about the early years of the American Revolution.

1776 1777 1778
South. Many Loyalists worked for the British government or were clergy in the Church of England. Some Quakers were Loyalists, although many wanted peace. (Their faith taught that war was wrong.)

The war divided Native Americans, too. For instance, some Iroquois nations fought with the British and others with the Americans. Those Native Americans who joined the British feared that if the Americans won, they would take Native American land. Some Native Americans who lived near colonists and interacted with them sided with the Americans.

African Americans also fought on both sides. At first, slave owners feared that African Americans who had guns might lead slave revolts. Therefore, few states allowed African Americans to enlist, or sign up with the army. Then a British governor offered freedom to any enslaved person who joined the British army. Many slaves ran away to fight for the British. In response, most states began to accept African-American soldiers. In all, about 5,000 African Americans served in the Continental Army. Many African Americans who did so hoped that American independence would bring greater equality.

Differences over the war split families, too. For example, Benjamin Franklin’s son William took Britain’s side. The father and son stopped speaking.

Creating an Army

Because not everyone supported the war, raising an army was difficult. The army also faced other problems. In June 1775, George Washington became the commander of the Continental Army. At first, this new national army was formed from state militias, made up of untrained and undisciplined volunteers.

After Congress created the Continental Army, men began to enlist, but most of them didn’t stay long. At the start of the war, Congress asked men to enlist only for one year. Later Congress did lengthen the term of service. When the soldiers’ time was up, they went home. As a result, Washington’s army never numbered more than 17,000 men.

Congress’s inability to supply the army also frustrated Washington. The soldiers needed everything—blankets, shoes, food, and even guns and ammunition. Angrily, Washington wrote, “Could I have foreseen what I have, and am likely to experience, no consideration upon earth should have induced [persuaded] me to accept this command.”

Many women tried to help the army. Martha Washington and other wives followed their husbands to army camps. The women cooked, did laundry, and...
nursed sick or wounded soldiers. A few women even helped fight. Mary Hays earned the nickname “Molly Pitcher” by carrying water to tired soldiers during a battle. Deborah Sampson dressed as a man, enlisted, and fought in several engagements.

Building an army was crucial to Washington’s plan. To the British, the Americans were disorganized, inexperienced rebels. The British thought that if they won a decisive battle, the Americans would give up. By contrast, Washington’s main goal was to survive. To do so, he needed to keep an army in the field, win some battles—no matter how small—and avoid a crushing defeat. He knew he could not hope to win a major battle until he had a large, well-equipped army.

Struggle for the Middle States

As Chapter 6 explains, Washington had forced the British to retreat from Boston in March 1776. He then hurried his army to New York City, where he expected the British to go next. One British goal was to occupy coastal cities so that their navy could land troops and supplies in those cities. From there, they could launch their military campaigns.

Washington’s hunch was correct. In July 1776, Britain’s General William Howe arrived in New York with a large army. Then in August, more soldiers arrived, including about 9,000 Hessian mercenaries. A mercenary is a professional soldier hired to fight for a foreign country. British soldiers usually signed up for life—which discouraged enlistment. So Britain needed mercenaries, whom it hired from the German states.

For several months, the British and American armies fought for New York State. Finally, the British forced Washington to retreat through New Jersey. By December, when the American army crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania, it was in terrible condition. Charles Willson Peale, a Philadelphia painter who watched the crossing, saw one muddy soldier who “had lost all his clothes. He was in an old, dirty blanket jacket, his beard long, and his face so full of sores he could not clean it.” To Peale’s shock, the soldier called his name. He was Peale’s brother!

Political writer Thomas Paine also witnessed the hard conditions and the soldiers’ low spirits on the retreat. To
urge them to keep fighting, Paine published the first in a series of pamphlets called *The American Crisis*.

**A VOICE FROM THE PAST**

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.

*Thomas Paine, The American Crisis*

Washington hoped a victory would encourage his weary men. He also knew that he must attack the British quickly because most of his soldiers would leave once their enlistments ended on December 31.

Late on December 25, 1776, Washington’s troops rowed across the icy Delaware River to New Jersey. From there, they marched in bitter, early-morning cold to Trenton to surprise the Hessians, some of whom were sleeping after their Christmas celebration. The Americans captured or killed more than 900 Hessians and gained needed supplies. Washington’s army won another victory at Princeton eight days later. These victories proved that the American general was better than the British had thought. The American army began to attract new recruits.

**Britain’s Strategy**

Meanwhile, the British were pursuing a *strategy*—an overall plan of action—to seize the Hudson River Valley. If successful, they would cut off New England from the other states. The strategy called for three armies to meet at Albany, New York. General John Burgoyne would lead a force south from Canada. Lieutenant Colonel Barry St. Leger would lead his army from Lake Ontario down the Mohawk Valley. Burgoyne expected General Howe to follow the Hudson north from New York City.
Burgoyne left Canada in June 1777 with an army that included British, Hessians, and Iroquois. In July, they captured Fort Ticonderoga. Called “Gentleman Johnny” by his soldiers, Burgoyne enjoyed traveling slowly and throwing parties to celebrate victories. After Ticonderoga, his delays gave the Americans time to cut down trees to block his route. They also burned crops and drove off cattle, leaving the countryside bare of supplies for the British troops.

Things grew rougher during the last 25 miles of Burgoyne’s march to Albany. On a map, the route looked easy, but it really crossed a swampy wilderness. The army had to build bridges and roads. Burgoyne took four weeks to reach the Hudson. Still confident, he looked forward to the rendezvous, or meeting, with St. Leger and Howe in Albany.

On August 4, Burgoyne received a message from Howe. He would not be coming north, Howe wrote, because he had decided to invade Pennsylvania to try to capture General Washington and Philadelphia—where the Continental Congress met. “Success be ever with you,” wrote Howe. Yet Burgoyne needed Howe’s soldiers, not his good wishes.

Howe did invade Pennsylvania. In September 1777, he defeated but did not capture Washington at the Battle of Brandywine. Howe then occupied Philadelphia. In October, Washington attacked Howe at Germantown. Washington lost the battle, however, and retreated.

**Battles Along the Mohawk**

As Burgoyne received Howe’s message, St. Leger faced his own obstacle in reaching Albany. In the summer of 1777, he was trying to defeat a small American force at Fort Stanwix in the Mohawk River valley of New York. St. Leger’s forces included Iroquois led by Mohawk chief Joseph Brant, also called Thayendanegea (THI•ehn•DAHG•ee).

Brant and his sister, Molly, had strong ties to the British. Molly was a British official’s wife, and Joseph was a convert to the Church of England. Both Joseph and Molly tried to convince the Iroquois to fight for the British, who upheld Iroquois rights to their land.

During August 1777, American general Benedict Arnold led a small army up the Mohawk River. He wanted to chase the British away from
Fort Stanwix. Arnold sent a captured Loyalist and some Iroquois who were American allies to spread the rumor that he had a large army. The trick worked. St. Leger's troops were afraid they were about to be outnumbered. The army retreated so fast that it left behind tents, cannon, and supplies. Because of St. Leger’s flight and Howe’s refusal to follow the strategy, no one was left to rendezvous with Burgoyne.

**Saratoga: A Turning Point**

By this time, Burgoyne's army was running out of supplies, and it needed horses. The general sent a raiding party into Vermont to see what it could find. The raiding party encountered New England troops, who badly defeated it at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777.

Despite this setback, Burgoyne's army headed slowly toward Albany. On the way, it met a powerful Continental Army force led by General Horatio Gates. Gates's soldiers were waiting on a ridge called Bemis Heights, near Saratoga, New York. There the Americans had created fortifications, or built-up earthen walls, behind which to fight. The Polish engineer Tadeusz Kosciuszko (TAH•deh•ooosh KAWSH•choosh•kaw) had helped the Americans do this.

Burgoyne would have to break through the fortifications to proceed to Albany. On September 19, he attacked. While Gates commanded the Americans on the ridge, Benedict Arnold led an attack on nearby

---

**Exercising Free Speech**

The British could have charged Thomas Paine with a crime for writing *The American Crisis*. The crime was sedition, or stirring up rebellion. By saying what he thought, Paine risked going to prison. Today U.S. citizens have the right to speak freely without fear of jail.

Like Thomas Paine, some students have used free speech to urge people to take action. For example, the Sidney Lanier Middle School in Houston, Texas, has published its school newspaper on the Internet. In October 1996, one writer urged other students to get involved in that year’s election, saying, “Even though you will not be able to vote yet, you can still influence your parents to do so.”

---


Freeman’s Farm. His men repeatedly charged the British and inflicted heavy casualties. Still, the British held their position.

On October 7, another battle broke out. Again Arnold led daring charges against the British. Although hundreds of muskets were firing at him, he galloped through the battlefield “like a madman,” a sergeant later said. Frightened, Burgoyne’s Hessian mercenaries began to fall back. Eventually, a bullet tore into Arnold’s leg and stopped him. Even so, the Americans forced Burgoyne to retreat.

Burgoyne’s army moved slowly through heavy rain to a former army camp at Saratoga. By the time they arrived, the men were exhausted. Some fell in the mud and slept in their wet uniforms. The Continental Army then surrounded Burgoyne’s army and fired on it day and night without stopping. Burgoyne decided to surrender. The series of conflicts that led to this surrender is known as the Battles of Saratoga.

The Battles of Saratoga had two very different consequences. As Benedict Arnold was recovering from his wound, he married a woman who was a Loyalist. Over time, Arnold came to feel that Congress had not rewarded him enough for his heroic actions at Saratoga and other battles. Influenced by his bitterness and his wife, he betrayed his army. In 1780, he agreed to turn over an American fort to the British. Although his plot was discovered before he could carry it out, he escaped. Even today, the name Benedict Arnold is used to mean traitor.

On the positive side, the victory at Saratoga was a turning point in the Revolution. It caused European nations to think that the Americans might win their war for independence. As you will read in Section 2, several European nations decided to help America in its struggle.
The War Expands

MAIN IDEA
Some Europeans decided to help America. As the war continued, it spread to the sea and the frontier.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW
This was the beginning of the United States’ formal relationships with other nations.

TERMS & NAMES
ally
Marquis de Lafayette
bayonet
desert
privateer
James Forten
John Paul Jones

8.1.3 Analyze how the American Revolution affected other nations, especially France.
CST3 Students use a variety of maps and documents to identify physical and cultural features of neighborhoods, cities, states, and countries and to explain the historical migration of people, expansion and disintegration of empires, and the growth of economic systems.
REP4 Students assess the credibility of primary and secondary sources and draw sound conclusions from them.
HI1 Students explain the central issues and problems from the past, placing people and events in a matrix of time and place.

ONE AMERICAN’S STORY
To defeat the British Empire, the United States needed a foreign ally. An ally is a country that agrees to help another country achieve a common goal. The ideal ally would share America’s goal of defeating Britain. So the United States turned to France—Britain’s long-time enemy.

In 1776, Congress sent Benjamin Franklin to France to persuade it to be the ally of the United States. Famous for his experiments with electricity, Franklin became a celebrity in Paris. He wrote to his daughter, saying that medallions with his likeness were popular there.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST
These, with the pictures, busts [sculptures of the head and shoulders], and prints (of which copies upon copies are spread everywhere), have made your father’s face as well known as that of the moon.

Benjamin Franklin, letter to his daughter Sally

After America’s victory at Saratoga, the French agreed to an alliance. This section explains how the war expanded with foreign aid.

Help from Abroad
France was still bitter over its defeat by Britain in the French and Indian War, in which France lost its North American colonies. The French hoped to take revenge on the British by helping Britain’s American colonies break free. In 1776, France began to give secret aid to the Americans. However, the French didn’t want to lose to Britain a second time. That is why they didn’t publicly ally themselves with the United States until after the Americans had proved they could win battles.

After hearing of the American victory at Saratoga, King Louis XVI of France recognized U.S. independence. In 1778, France signed two treaties of alliance with the United States. By doing so, France went to
war with Britain. As part of its new alliance, France sent badly needed funds, supplies, and troops to America.

In 1779, France persuaded its ally Spain to help the Americans. Spain was also Britain's rival. The Spanish governor of Louisiana, General Bernardo de Gálvez, acted quickly. He captured the British strongholds of Natchez and Baton Rouge in the lower Mississippi Valley.

From there, his small army went on to take Mobile, and in 1781 Pensacola in West Florida. These victories prevented the British from attacking the United States from the southwest. In addition, Britain had to keep thousands of troops fighting Gálvez—instead of fighting the Americans. However, like France, Spain's motives were not simply to help the United States. Gálvez's victories helped extend Spain's empire in North America.

By entering the war on America's side, France and Spain forced the British to fight a number of enemies on land and sea. The British had to spread their military resources over many fronts. For example, they were afraid they might have to fight the French in the West Indies, so they sent troops there. This prevented the British from concentrating their strength to defeat the inexperienced Americans.

Europeans Help Washington

The Americans gained some of the military experience they needed from Europe. Several European military officers came to Washington's aid, including men from France, Poland, and the German states.

The Marquis de Lafayette (LAF•ee•EHT) was a 19-year-old French nobleman who volunteered to serve in Washington's army. He wanted a military career, and he believed in the American cause. He quickly gained Washington's confidence and was given the command of an army division. Lafayette won respect and love from his men by sharing their hardships. Called "the soldier's friend," he used his own money to buy warm clothing for his ragged troops. Washington regarded him almost as a son.

Lafayette fought in many battles and also persuaded the French king to send a 6,000-man army to America. He became a hero in both France and the United States. Later he took part in France's own revolution.

Along with Lafayette came the Baron de Kalb, a German officer who had served in the French army. He became one of Washington's generals and earned a reputation for bravery. In 1780, he received 11 wounds in the Battle of Camden and died.

Another German, Baron von Steuben, helped turn the inexperienced Americans...
into a skilled fighting force. Washington asked him to train the army. In 1778, Steuben began by forming a model company of 100 men. Then he taught them how to move in lines and columns and how to handle weapons properly. Under Steuben's direction, the soldiers practiced making charges with bayonets—long steel knives attached to the ends of guns. Within a month, the troops were executing drills with speed and precision. Once the model company succeeded, the rest of the army adopted Steuben's methods.

**Winter at Valley Forge**

Help from Europeans came at a time when the Americans desperately needed it. In late 1777, Britain's General Howe forced Washington to retreat from Philadelphia. Beginning in the winter of 1777–1778, Washington and his army camped at Valley Forge in southeast Pennsylvania.

On the march to Valley Forge, Washington's army was so short on supplies that many soldiers had only blankets to cover themselves. They also lacked shoes. The barefoot men left tracks of blood on the frozen ground as they marched. The soldiers' condition did not improve at camp. The Marquis de Lafayette described what he saw.

*A VOICE FROM THE PAST*

The unfortunate soldiers were in want of everything; they had neither coats, nor hats, nor shirts, nor shoes; their feet and their legs froze till they grew black and it was often necessary to amputate them. . . . The Army frequently passed whole days without food.

Marquis de Lafayette, quoted in *Valley Forge: Pinnacle of Courage*

Because of this, the name Valley Forge came to stand for the great hardships that Americans endured in the Revolutionary War. Over the winter, the soldiers at Valley Forge grew weak from not having enough food or warm clothing. Roughly a quarter of them died from malnutrition, exposure to the cold, or diseases such as smallpox and typhoid fever.

**Camp Life in Winter**

At Valley Forge, soldiers slept in small huts, 12 men to a hut. They slept in shifts so they could take turns using the scarce blankets. The men also shared clothing. If one went on guard duty, the others lent him their clothes and stayed by the fire in the hut until he came back. Guards had to stand in old hats to keep their shoeless feet warm.

The soldiers cooked on hot stones, in iron kettles, or on portable iron braziers. Often the only food they had was fire cakes—a bread made of flour and water paste.

**Daily Life**

These iron kettles were so heavy that soldiers often threw them away on a march.
Washington appealed to Congress to send the soldiers supplies, but it was slow in responding. Luckily, private citizens sometimes came to the soldiers’ aid. According to one story, on New Year’s Day 1778, a group of Philadelphia women drove ten teams of oxen into camp. The oxen were pulling wagons loaded with supplies and 2,000 shirts. The women had the oxen killed to provide food for the men.

Despite the hardships, Washington and his soldiers showed amazing endurance. Under such circumstances, soldiers often desert, or leave military duty without intending to return. Some soldiers did desert, but Lieutenant Colonel John Brooks wrote that the army stayed together because of “Love of our Country.” The men also stayed because of Washington. Private Samuel Downing declared that the soldiers “loved him. They’d sell their lives for him.”

**War on the Frontier**

Elsewhere, other Americans also took on difficult challenges. In 1777, a 24-year-old frontiersman named George Rogers Clark walked into the office of Virginia’s governor, Patrick Henry. Clark said he had come to take part in defending the Western frontier. He lived in Kentucky, which was claimed by Virginia. Clark wanted Virginia to defend that region against British soldiers and their Native American allies in what is now Indiana and Illinois. “If a country is not worth protecting,” he said, “it is not worth claiming.”

Clark was difficult to ignore. He stood six feet tall, had red hair, and displayed a dramatic personality. He persuaded Governor Henry that he was right. The governor told Clark to raise an army to capture British posts on the Western frontier.

In May of 1778, Clark and a group of frontiersmen began to travel down the Ohio River. He recruited others on the way, until he had a force of 175 to 200. They went by boat and later on foot to Kaskaskia, a British post on the Mississippi River. They captured Kaskaskia without a fight.

Then they moved east to take Fort Sackville at Vincennes, in present-day Indiana. Earlier, a small force sent by Clark had taken Vincennes, but British forces under Henry Hamilton had recaptured it. Settlers called Hamilton the “Hair Buyer” because he supposedly paid rewards for American scalps.

In 1778, George Rogers Clark captures British outposts on the American frontier without firing a shot. Though the British retake Vincennes, Clark regains it after a short battle in 1779.

“**If a country is not worth protecting, it is not worth claiming.”**

George Rogers Clark

**GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER**  
**Interpreting Maps**

1. **Movement**  From what fort did British general Hamilton travel to Vincennes?
2. **Region**  What rivers form the boundaries of the region captured by Clark and his men?
Determined to retake Fort Sackville, Clark and his men set out for Vincennes from Kaskaskia in February 1779. Hamilton wasn’t expecting an attack because the rivers were overflowing their banks and the woods were flooded. Clark’s men slogged through miles of icy swamps and waded through chest-deep water. They caught the British at Vincennes by surprise.

When Hamilton and his troops tried to remain in the fort, Clark pretended to have a larger force than he really had. He also found a way to frighten the British into leaving. Clark and his men had captured several Native Americans, who were allies of the British and had American scalps on their belts. Clark executed some of them in plain view of the fort. He promised to do the same to Hamilton and his men if they didn’t surrender immediately. The British gave up.

Clark’s victory gave the Americans a hold on the vast region between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River. This area was more than half the total size of the original 13 states. However, Fort Detroit on Lake Erie remained in the hands of the British.

**War at Sea**

The war expanded not only to the frontier but also to the sea. By 1777, Britain had about 100 warships off the American coast. This allowed Britain to control the Atlantic trade routes. There was no way the Americans could defeat the powerful British navy.

But American privateers attacked British merchant ships. A **privateer** is a privately owned ship that a wartime government gives permission to attack an enemy’s merchant ships. After capturing a British merchant ship, the crew of a privateer sold its cargo and shared the money. As a result, a desire for profit as well as patriotism motivated privateers. The states and Congress commissioned more than 1,000 privateers to prey on the British. During the war, they captured hundreds of British ships. This disrupted trade, causing British merchants to call for the war to end.

Many men answered the privateers’ call for volunteers. Among them was 14-year-old **James Forten**, who was the son of a free African–American sail maker. In 1780, Forten signed up to sail on the **Royal Louis** to earn money for his family after his father died. When a British ship captured the **Royal Louis** in 1781, the British offered Forten a free trip to England. Reportedly, Forten refused, saying he would never betray his country. Released from a British prison after the war, Forten walked barefoot from New York to his home in Philadelphia. He later became famous for his efforts to end slavery.
A Naval Hero

Though outnumbered, the Continental Navy scored several victories against the British. An officer named John Paul Jones won the most famous sea battle.

In 1779, Jones became the commander of a ship named Bonhomme Richard. With four other ships, he patrolled the English coast. In September, Jones’s vessels approached a convoy in which two British warships were guarding a number of supply ships.

Jones closed in on the Serapis, the larger of the two warships. At one point, the Bonhomme Richard rammed the better-armed British vessel. As the two ships locked together, the confident British captain demanded that Jones surrender. In words that have become a famous U.S. Navy slogan, Jones replied, “I have not yet begun to fight!”

The two warships were so close together that the muzzles of their guns almost touched. They blasted away, each seriously damaging the other. On the shore, crowds of Britons gathered under a full moon to watch the fighting. After a fierce three-and-a-half-hour battle, the main mast of the Serapis cracked and fell. The ship’s captain then surrendered. The Bonhomme Richard was so full of holes that it eventually sank, so Jones and his crew had to sail away in the Serapis!

Jones’s success against the best navy in the world angered the British and inspired the Americans. Even so, the Americans knew that the war had to be won on land. The next section discusses the major land battles in the closing years of the war.
The Path to Victory

**MAINT IDEA**

Seeking Loyalist support, the British invaded the South—but ultimately lost the war there.

**WHY IT MATTERS NOW**

For more than two centuries, the American Revolution has inspired other people to fight tyranny.

**TERMS & NAMES**

Lord Cornwallis
guerrillas
pacifist
Battle of Yorktown

---

**ONE AMERICAN’S STORY**

Patriot Nancy Hart glared at the five armed Loyalists who burst into her Georgia cabin. Tradition says that the men had shot her last turkey and ordered her to cook it for them. Raids like this were common in the South, where feuding neighbors used the war as an excuse to fight each other. Both Patriots and Loyalists took part in the raids.

As Hart prepared the food, she planned her attack. When dinner was ready, the men sat down to eat. Seizing one of their muskets, Hart shot and killed one man and wounded another. She aimed the gun at the others as her daughter ran for help. A group of Patriots arrived and hanged the Loyalists.

As Nancy Hart’s story demonstrates, the fighting between Patriots and Loyalists in the South was vicious. In this section, you will learn why the British war effort shifted to the South and why it failed.

**Savannah and Charles Town**

The British believed that most Southerners were Loyalists. Because of this, in 1778 the British decided to move the war to the South. After three years of fighting in the North, the British were no closer to victory. Although they had captured Northern cities, they couldn’t control the countryside because they did not have enough troops to occupy it. The British believed that if they gained territory in the South, Southern Loyalists would hold it for them.

The British also expected large numbers of Southern slaves to join them because they had promised to grant the slaves freedom. Although thousands of African Americans did run away to join the British, not all of them were set free. Instead, some British officers sold African Americans into slavery in the West Indies.
Britain’s West Indian colonies were a third reason the British invaded the South. Southern seaports were closer to the West Indies, where British troops were stationed. If the British captured Southern ports, they could move troops back and forth between the two regions.

In December 1778, the British captured the port of Savannah, Georgia. Using Savannah as a base, they then conquered most of Georgia. In 1780, a British army led by General Henry Clinton landed in South Carolina. They trapped American forces in Charles Town (now Charleston), which was the largest Southern city. When the city’s 5,000 defenders surrendered, the Americans lost almost their entire Southern army. It was the worst American defeat of the war.

The Swamp Fox and Guerrilla Fighting

After that loss, Congress assigned General Horatio Gates—the victor at Saratoga—to form a new Southern army. Continental soldiers led by Baron de Kalb formed the army’s core. Gates added about 2,000 new and untrained militia. He then headed for Camden, South Carolina, to challenge the army led by the British general Lord Cornwallis.

On the way, a band of Patriots from South Carolina approached Gates. “Their number did not exceed 20 men and boys, some white, some black, and all mounted, but most of them miserably equipped,” wrote an officer. Their leader was Francis Marion, called the “Swamp Fox.” He provided Gates with helpful knowledge of South Carolina’s coastal swamplands. Gates sent Marion to destroy boats on the Santee River behind Camden. (See the map on page 209.) This would cut off British communications with Charles Town.

In August 1780, Gates’s army ran into British troops outside Camden. The Americans were in no condition to fight. They were out of supplies and half-starved. Even worse, Gates put the inexperienced militia along part of the frontline instead of behind the veterans. When the British attacked, the militia panicked and ran. Gates also fled, but Kalb remained with his soldiers and received fatal wounds. This second defeat in the South ended Gates’s term as head of an army and caused American spirits to fall to a new low.

After Camden, a small British force set out for Charles Town with a column of American prisoners. Marion’s band overwhelmed the British and freed the prisoners. Fighting from a base in the swamps, Marion’s men cut the British supply line that led inland and north from Charles Town. Marion used the methods of a guerrilla. Guerrillas are small bands of fighters who weaken the enemy with surprise raids and hit-and-run attacks. Both Patriots and Loyalists formed guerrilla bands in the South. They carried out vicious raids.
Artillery—large guns and cannon—played a key role in the American Revolution. The ability of these guns to kill and destroy from a distance made them essential in war. One witness of a battle described the destruction: “Many men were badly injured and mortally wounded by the fragments of bombs, . . . their arms and legs severed or themselves struck dead.” Most cannon used in the Revolution were made of cast bronze. During the 1700s, artillery design did not change significantly. However, artillery became more mobile (more easily moved).

After each shot, a soldier sponged the inside of the barrel. This put out sparks and cleaned away any dirt left from the last shot.

A soldier loaded the cannon with gunpowder and a cannonball. He did so by ramming them down the barrel.

Soldiers aimed the gun by turning the entire carriage. An instrument called a quadrant told them how high to raise the barrel to reach their target.

Cannon were classified by the weight of the iron ball they fired. American artillery ranged from 3-pounders to 32-pounders.

Soldiers lit the cannon by applying a red-hot wire or a tube of burning powder to a touchhole drilled through the back of the barrel, where the gunpowder lay. The gunpowder exploded, forcing the projectile out of the open end of the barrel.

In the 1700s, most cannon were accurate at ranges of up to 1,000 yards. That is the length of ten football fields laid end to end.

CONNECT TO HISTORY
1. Recognizing Effects Why would it be an advantage to an army to have mobile artillery?


CONNECT TO TODAY
2. Researching Find information about modern artillery in an encyclopedia or on the Internet. How did artillery change in the 20th century?

For more about artillery . . .
The Tide Turns

Even battles in the South sometimes turned vicious. One example was the Battle of Kings Mountain, fought on the border of North and South Carolina in October 1780. After surrounding a force of about 1,000 Loyalist militia and British soldiers, the Americans slaughtered most of them. James P. Collins, a 16-year-old American, described the scene.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

The dead lay in heaps on all sides, while the groans of the wounded were heard in every direction. I could not help turning away from the scene before me with horror and, though exulting in victory, could not refrain from shedding tears.

James P. Collins, quoted in The Spirit of Seventy-Six

Many of the dead had been shot or hanged after they surrendered. The Americans killed them in revenge for Loyalist raids and an earlier incident in which the British had butchered Americans. Kings Mountain was one of Britain’s first losses in the South. It soon suffered more.

After Gates’s defeat at Camden, Washington put a new general, Nathanael Greene, in charge of the Southern army. Greene was one of Washington’s most able officers. He had been a Quaker, but his church had cast him out because of his belief in the armed struggle against the British. Most Quakers are pacifist, or opposed to war.

Under Greene’s command, the American army avoided full-scale battles, in which the British had the edge because of superior firepower. So the American forces let the British chase them around the countryside and wear themselves out. When the Americans did fight, they did their best to make sure the British suffered heavy losses.

As the fighting dragged on into its sixth year, opposition to the war grew in Britain. As a result, some British leaders began to think that American independence would not be so bad.

The End of the War

In 1781, most of the fighting took place in Virginia. In July of that year, the British general Cornwallis set up his base at Yorktown, located on a peninsula in Chesapeake Bay. From there, his army could receive supplies by ship from New York.
Washington saw Cornwallis’s decision as a golden opportunity. In August 1781, a large French fleet arrived from the West Indies and blocked Chesapeake Bay. These ships prevented the British from receiving supplies—and from escaping. They also allowed Washington to come from the North and trap Cornwallis on the peninsula. Washington had enough men to do this because a large French force led by General Jean Rochambeau had joined his army.

Washington and Rochambeau moved south. When British ships tried to reach Cornwallis, French ships drove them back. In the Battle of Yorktown, the American and French troops bombarded Yorktown with cannon fire, turning its buildings to rubble. Cornwallis had no way out. On October 19, 1781, he surrendered his force of about 8,000.

Although some fighting continued, Yorktown was the last major battle of the war. When the British prime minister, Lord North, heard the news, he gasped, “It is all over!” Indeed, he and other British leaders were soon forced to resign. Britain’s new leaders began to negotiate a peace treaty, which is discussed in the next section.

**Vocabulary**

*bombard*: to attack with artillery
The Legacy of the War

MAIN IDEA
After the war, the new nation faced issues such as a high national debt and calls for equality.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW
To promote liberty, some states passed laws outlawing slavery and protecting religious freedom.

TERMS & NAMES
Treaty of Paris of 1783
Elizabeth Freeman
republicanism
Richard Allen

ONE AMERICAN’S STORY
In 1776, 15-year-old Joseph Plumb Martin of Connecticut signed up to fight for the Americans. He stayed with the army until the war ended. Many years later, Martin wrote about leaving the army.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST
There was as much sorrow as joy. . . . We had lived together as a family of brothers for several years, . . . had shared with each other the hardships, dangers, and sufferings incident to a soldier’s life; had sympathized with each other in trouble and sickness; . . . And now we were to be . . . parted forever.
Joseph Plumb Martin, quoted in The Revolutionaries

At war’s end, Martin and his country faced an uncertain future. How would the United States recover from the war? What issues would confront the new nation? Section 4 discusses those questions.

Why the Americans Won

In November 1783, the last British ships and troops left New York City, and American troops marched in. As Washington said good-bye to his officers in a New York tavern, he hugged each one. Tears ran down his face. He became so upset that he had to leave the room.

Earlier in the fall, Washington had written a farewell letter to his armies. In it, he praised them by saying that their endurance “through almost every possible suffering and discouragement for the space of eight long years, was little short of a standing miracle.”

By their persistence, the Americans won independence even though they faced many obstacles. As you have read, they lacked training and experience. They were often short of supplies and weapons. By contrast, the British forces ranked among the best trained in the world. They were
experienced and well-supplied professional soldiers. Yet the Americans had certain advantages that enabled them to win.

1. **Better leadership.** British generals were overconfident and made poor decisions. By contrast, Washington learned from his mistakes. After early defeats, he developed the strategy of dragging out the war to wear down the British. Despite difficulties, he never gave up.

2. **Foreign aid.** Britain’s rivals, especially France, helped America. Foreign loans and military aid were essential to America’s victory.

3. **Knowledge of the land.** The Americans knew the land where the war took place and used that knowledge well. The British could control coastal cities but could not extend their control to the interior.

4. **Motivation.** The Americans had more reason to fight. At stake were not only their lives but also their property and their dream of liberty.

**The Treaty of Paris**

As the winners, the Americans won favorable terms in the **Treaty of Paris of 1783,** which ended the Revolutionary War. The treaty included the following six conditions:

1. The United States was independent.
2. Its boundaries would be the Mississippi River on the west, Canada on the north, and Spanish Florida on the south.
3. The United States would receive the right to fish off Canada’s Atlantic Coast, near Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.
4. Each side would repay debts it owed the other.
5. The British would return any enslaved persons they had captured.
6. Congress would recommend that the states return any property they had seized from Loyalists.

Neither Britain nor the United States fully lived up to the treaty’s terms. Americans did not repay the prewar debts they owed British merchants or return Loyalist property. For their part, the British did not return...
runaway slaves. They also refused to give up military outposts in the Great Lakes area, such as Fort Detroit.

**Costs of the War**

No one knows exactly how many people died in the war, but eight years of fighting took a terrible toll. An estimated 25,700 Americans died in the war, and 1,400 remained missing. About 8,200 Americans were wounded. Some were left with permanent disabilities, such as amputated limbs. The British suffered about 10,000 military deaths.

Many soldiers who survived the war left the army with no money. They had received little or no pay for their service. Instead of back pay, the government gave some soldiers certificates for land in the West. Many men sold that land to get money for food and other basic needs.

Both the Congress and the states had borrowed money to finance the conflict. The war left the nation with a debt of about $27 million—a debt that would prove difficult to pay off.

The losers of the war also suffered. Thousands of Loyalists lost their property. Between 60,000 and 100,000 Loyalists left the United States during and after the war. Among them were several thousand African Americans and Native Americans, including Joseph Brant. Most of the Loyalists went to Canada. There they settled new towns and provinces. They also brought English traditions to areas that the French had settled. Even today, Canada has both French and English as official languages.

---

**Reading History**

B. Analyzing Causes Why do you think the Loyalists left the United States?

---

**Military Deaths in the American Revolution**

- **American Deaths**
  - 10,000 died in camp (of starvation, exposure, or disease)
  - 8,500 died in British prisons
  - 7,200 died in battle

*These figures are estimates. No figures available for French deaths.*

Sources: *World Book Encyclopedia; An Outline History of the American Revolution*
Issues After the War

The American Revolution was not just a war, but a change in ideas about government. Before the war, Americans had demanded their rights as English citizens. But after declaring their independence, they replaced that goal with the idea of republicanism. This idea stated that instead of a king, the people would rule. The government would obtain its authority from the citizens and be responsible to them.

For this system to work, individuals would have to place the good of the country above their own interests. At first, only men were allowed to take part in governing by voting or holding public office—and not even all men. However, women could help the nation by teaching their children the virtues that benefited public life. Such virtues included honesty, duty, and the willingness to make sacrifices.

As part of their liberty, Americans called for more religious freedom. Before the war, some laws discriminated against certain religions. Some states had not allowed Jews or Catholics to hold public office. After the

Free Enterprise

One cause of the Revolution was the colonists’ resentment of British mercantilism. Parliament passed laws to discourage the colonists from developing their own manufacturing and to force them to buy British goods. During the war, British economic control weakened. British exports of woolens to the colonies dropped from £645,900 in 1774 to only £2,540 in 1776. As a result, the colonists were able to make more economic choices—for example, they could choose to manufacture wool clothing.

The end of Britain’s mercantilist control allowed free enterprise to begin to develop in the United States. In a free-enterprise system, business can be conducted freely based on the choices of individuals. The government does not control the system, but only protects and regulates it.

A. Competition encourages businesses to improve goods and services and to keep prices down.
B. Property is owned by individuals and businesses.
C. The desire to make a profit motivates businesspeople.
D. Individuals, not the government, decide what to buy and what to manufacture and sell.
E. The government protects private property and makes sure businesses operate fairly.

CONNECT TO HISTORY
1. Analyzing Causes Why do you think the colonists were able to manufacture their own wool clothing during the war?

CONNECT TO TODAY
2. Comparing Think about a mall where you shop. Name examples of businesses that compete with each other. Compare the methods they use to attract customers.

For more about free enterprise . . .
war, states began to abolish those laws. They also ended the practice of using tax money to support churches.

Many people began to see a conflict between slavery and the ideal of liberty. Vermont outlawed slavery, and Pennsylvania passed a law to free slaves gradually. Individual African Americans also tried to end slavery. For example, **Elizabeth Freeman** sued for her freedom in a Massachusetts court and won. Her victory in 1781 and other similar cases ended slavery in that state. Freeman later described her desire for freedom.

**A VOICE FROM THE PAST**

Anytime while I was a slave, if one minute’s freedom had been offered to me, and I had been told I must die at the end of that minute, I would have taken it—just to stand one minute on God’s earth a free woman.

Elizabeth Freeman, quoted in Notable Black American Women

With freedom, African Americans began to form their own institutions. For example, the preacher **Richard Allen** helped start the Free African Society. That society encouraged African Americans to help each other. Allen also founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first African-American church in the United States.

The American Revolution also influenced people in other countries. The Declaration of Independence was widely circulated in France, and helped inspire the French Revolution in 1789. Revolutionaries in Latin America began to rise up against colonial powers in the late 1700s and early 1800s. By 1830, most of the former European colonies in Central and South America had won independence.

Perhaps the main issue facing Americans after the war was how to shape their national government. American anger over British taxes, violation of rights, and control of trade had caused the war. Now the United States needed a government that would protect citizens’ rights and economic freedom. In Chapter 8, you will read how U.S. leaders worked to create such a government.
TERMS & NAMES
Briefly explain the significance of each of the following.
1. George Washington
2. mercenary
3. Battles of Saratoga
4. ally
5. Marquis de Lafayette
6. John Paul Jones
7. Lord Cornwallis
8. Battle of Yorktown
9. Treaty of Paris of 1783
10. republicanism

REVIEW QUESTIONS

The Early Years of the War (pages 193–199)
1. What motives led African Americans to fight for the British? The Americans? (HI2)
2. How did women help the American war effort? (HI1)
3. What events led to the British defeat at Saratoga? (HI2)

The War Expands (pages 200–205)
4. What foreign countries helped America? How? (HI1)
5. What were conditions like at Valley Forge? (HI1)

The Path to Victory (pages 206–210)
6. What two Southern ports did the British capture? (HI1)
7. How did America’s ally France contribute to the victory at Yorktown? (HI2)

The Legacy of the War (pages 211–215)
8. For what did Washington praise his army in his farewell letter? (REP4)
9. What land did the United States acquire from Britain as a result of the Treaty of Paris? (HI2)
10. What three states outlawed slavery after the war? (HI2)

CRITICAL THINKING

1. USING YOUR NOTES: SEQUENCING EVENTS
Using your completed time line, answer the questions below. (CST2)

a. What were the main events of 1776 and 1777?
b. While George Rogers Clark was capturing Kaskaskia, what was happening in the South?

2. ANALYZING LEADERSHIP
George Washington was the most beloved American leader of his time. What qualities do you think made him such a respected leader? (HI1)

3. THEME: CITIZENSHIP
What Revolutionary leaders displayed civic virtue by putting the good of the nation ahead of their own interests? Explain your answer. (HI1)

4. RECOGNIZING EFFECTS
How did Britain’s loss in the war allow free enterprise to develop in the United States? (HI2)

5. APPLYING CITIZENSHIP SKILLS
How was the writing of The American Crisis an example of good U.S. citizenship? (REP4)

Interact with History
How did the sacrifices you discussed before you read the chapter compare with what Patriots really did?

VISUAL SUMMARY

The American Revolution (CST2)
People and Events of the Revolution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military</th>
<th>Civilian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Washington commanded the Continental Army.</td>
<td>Haym Salomon helped finance the war for America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquis de Lafayette fought for the Americans.</td>
<td>Molly Pitcher aided soldiers by bringing them water in battle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Burgoyne surrendered to the Americans at Saratoga.</td>
<td>Thomas Paine wrote The American Crisis to inspire Americans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Paul Jones won a major naval victory for America.</td>
<td>Benjamin Franklin was a diplomat to France and Britain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Rogers Clark helped hold the Western frontier for America.</td>
<td>James Forten was captured by the British but would not betray America.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, ending the war.</td>
<td>Nancy Hart defended her Georgia home against Loyalist raiders.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The American Revolution

STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENT

Use the map and your knowledge of U.S. history to answer questions 1 and 2.

Additional Test Practice, pp. S1–S33.

1. In what state was the Battle of Yorktown fought? (8.1)
   A. North Carolina
   B. Pennsylvania
   C. South Carolina
   D. Virginia

2. Which of the following describes the route of the forces led by Cornwallis? (8.1)
   A. south from York, PA to Yorktown, VA
   B. south from New York to Yorktown, VA
   C. north from Wilmington, NC to Richmond, VA
   D. north from Richmond, VA to Wilmington, NC

This quotation is from Thomas Paine discussing the Revolutionary War. Use the quotation and your knowledge of U.S. history to answer question 3.

PRIMARY SOURCE

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.

Thomas Paine, The American Crisis

3. Who is Paine referring to as “the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot”? (7.11.5)
   A. Americans who support the war only when it is going well
   B. Loyalists who never support the war efforts
   C. Americans who show continuous support for the war
   D. soldiers who perform best in good weather

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. WRITING ABOUT HISTORY
   Suppose you are a soldier at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777–1778. Write daily journal entries for one week, describing the harsh conditions of the camp and your physical and emotional state. (REP5)
   - Research Valley Forge in books or encyclopedias.
   - Try to locate primary sources such as letters, diaries, and journals of soldiers at Valley Forge.

2. COOPERATIVE LEARNING
   Working in groups, prepare a talk show in which guests discuss which side to take in the Revolutionary War. One group member should be the host. Other members should be guests. Consider some of the following guests: the wife of an American soldier, an enslaved African American, an Iroquois chief, a Quaker minister, and an employee of the British government. (REP5)

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

CREATING A MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION

Choose a major battle of the Revolution. Then use the Internet and other library resources to research that battle. Gather information that represents the American and British points of view. (REP4)
   - Locate details about the battle, as well as primary sources, such as quotations from participants on both sides. Make copies of any images you find, being careful to credit your sources.
   - Find music of the time period and sound effects.
   - Once you have collected these audio and visual materials, combine them to create a multimedia presentation.

For more about the battles . . .