

The War of Independence

Part Three



Part One

Part Two

Part Three

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.



From 1776 until the war's end in 1783, the British Army fought many battles against the Continental Army.

In the early battles of the war, the professional British Redcoats were too strong for the ill-trained and ill-equipped Continental militiamen.



However, through the skilful leadership of General **George Washington**, the Continental Army became an effective fighting force.



The chronology of battles





After the Continental Army's victory at the **Battle of Saratoga** in October 1777, the American colonies made a formal alliance with France.

With increasing French support, Patriot forces slowly began to gain the upper hand in Yorktown, Virginia.

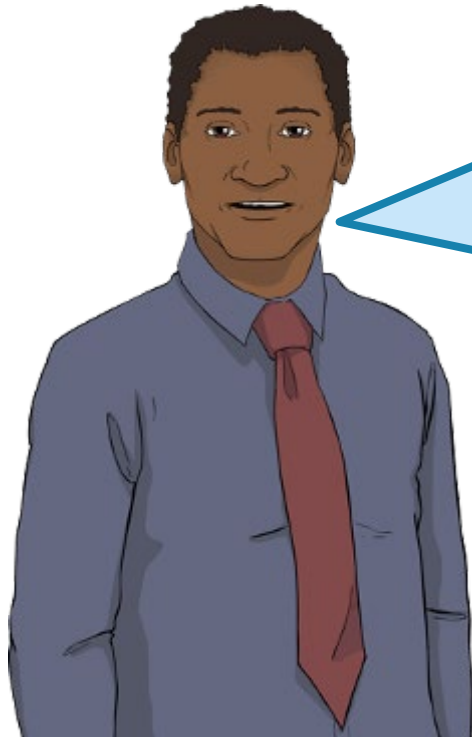
The capture of Chesapeake Bay in 1781 by the French navy trapped the top British commander **Lieutenant-General Cornwallis** in Yorktown.

Washington's army surrounded Yorktown, and Cornwallis surrendered on October 19th 1781.





Following Cornwallis's surrender, Britain still had a strong position in the North American colonies, but support for the war was declining at home.



Unhappiness at home became so strong that members of parliament forced Prime Minister North out of office in 1782. A new government, headed by Lord Rockingham, was appointed, which wanted peace with the Patriots in the American colonies.

For what reasons do you think Britain was unable to defeat the Patriots?



A major factor in Britain's defeat was the range of problems it had fighting in a foreign land.

Soldiers are far away from supplies and their government.

Soldiers will likely be less devoted than those defending their home



Troops are not as familiar with the **terrain** as the native soldiers

Native soldiers often engage in **guerrilla** tactics – this can cause a lot of damage



How important is geography as a factor for defeat?





Before the war, colonial women were influential in boycotting British goods and many began making handmade clothes.

During the war, women continued to play crucial roles, including:

- managing farms and businesses for the men fighting at the front
- caring for the sick and wounded
- supporting troops (for example, Sarah Franklin Bache led a group of women who mended soldiers' clothing)
- participating in **sabotage** missions.

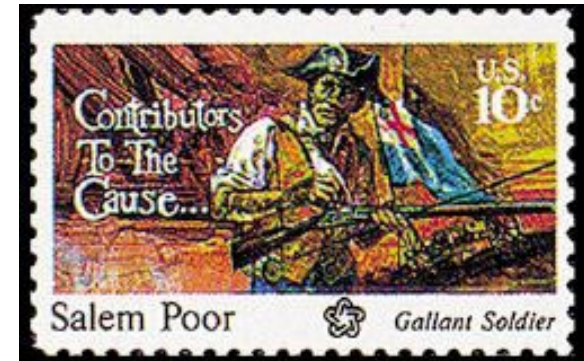




During the Revolutionary War, both the Continental Army and British forces offered freedom to black slaves in exchange for their service.

Black Americans fought in every major battle of the War. Some key figures include:

- Lemuel Haynes, who wrote a popular poem about the Battle of Lexington
- Salem Poor, who earned recognition for his heroism during the Battle of Bunker Hill
- Prince Whipple, who crossed the Delaware with Washington in 1776.

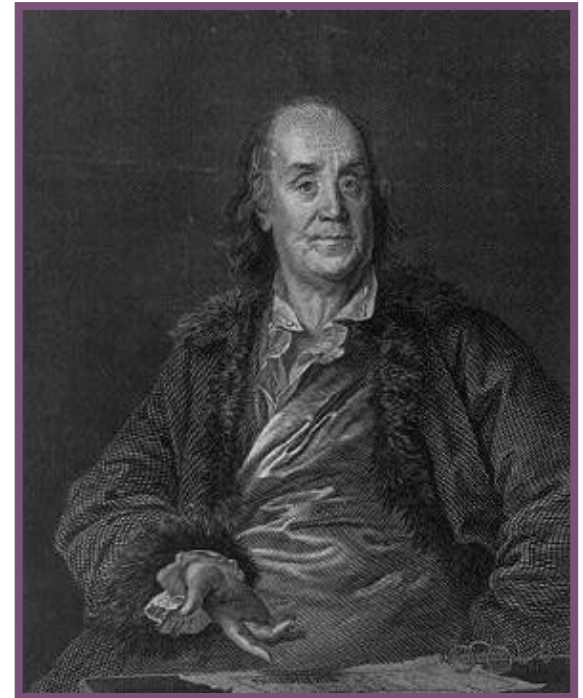




Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and John Jay were able peace negotiators for the colonies. They held their own against the European diplomats.

The Treaty of Paris, signed on September 3rd, 1783 gave:

- the Americans territory stretching to the Mississippi River
- the Spanish control of the Gulf of Mexico
- the French rule of Tobago and Senegal.



By winning the Revolutionary War, the American colonies got other nations to recognize their independence. The Colonies were now free to determine their own political system.

The colonies had inspired much of the world with their political rhetoric and their ideals of liberty and **egalitarianism**. They had fought to be free of one system of government, but many wondered what they would replace it with.



Do you think winning independence changed the colonists' lives?



Why did American colonists distrust British Redcoats after the French and Indian Wars?

Their uniforms were too colorful They were often cruel to the colonists ✓

What type of men usually sided with the Patriots?

Labourers, artisans and merchants ✓ Upper class elites

What date was the Declaration of Independence signed?

July 4th 1773

July 4th 1776 ✓

July 4th 1779

Where did British forces surrender in 1781?

New York

Yorktown ✓

Jamestown

Boston



