

The War for Independence

Section 1

The Stirrings of Rebellion

Terms and Names

Stamp Act Law passed by Parliament to make colonists buy a stamp to place on many items such as wills and newspapers

Samuel Adams One of the founders of the Sons of Liberty

Townshend Acts Laws passed by Parliament in 1767 that set taxes on imports to the colonies

Boston Massacre Conflict between colonists and British soldiers in which four colonists were killed

committees of correspondence A network of communication set up in Massachusetts and Virginia to inform other colonies of ways that Britain threatened colonial rights

Boston Tea Party Protest against increased tea prices in which colonists dumped British tea into Boston Harbor

King George III King of England during the American Revolution

Intolerable Acts A series of laws set up by Parliament to punish Massachusetts for its protests against the British

martial law Rule by the military

minutemen Civilian soldiers

Before You Read

In the last section, you learned how the British and their American colonists pushed the French out of North America. In this section, you will learn about the conflicts that led to the start of the American Revolution.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on the major events of the growing conflict between Great Britain and the American colonies.

THE COLONIES ORGANIZE TO RESIST BRITAIN (Pages 96–98) *Why did the colonists protest Britain's taxes?*

Tension between Britain and the colonists continued to grow. In 1765, The British Parliament passed the **Stamp Act**. This act required colonists to buy and place stamps on items such as wills and playing cards. It was the first tax that

affected the colonists directly because it was placed on the everyday goods they bought. Previous taxes had been placed only on goods coming into the country.

The new tax angered the colonists. Many boycotted British products in protest. A secret group called the Sons of Liberty played an active role in the boycott. The group was led by political activist **Samuel Adams**.

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The colonists declared that Parliament could not tax them because they were not represented in Parliament. The colonists argued that only colonial lawmaking bodies had the right to tax them.

In March of 1766, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act. However, a year later, Parliament passed the **Townshend Acts**. These laws placed taxes on even more imports and on tea. Colonists in Boston protested the new taxes with boycotts and riots. The British sent more troops to America to prevent further riots.

1. Why did the colonists feel that Parliament had no right to tax them?

TENSION MOUNTS IN MASSACHUSETTS (Pages 98–99)

Why did the king take control of Massachusetts?

In the winter of 1770, a group of Boston protesters gathered to harass some British soldiers. The soldiers fired into the group. Five Bostonians were killed. Colonial leaders called the event the **Boston Massacre**.

For a while after the shooting, both sides relaxed. Tensions, however, eventually increased again. As a result, the colonial assemblies established **committees of correspondence** to communicate with each other about various threats to American liberties.

In 1773, the British made yet another move that angered the colonists. The government gave a British company the right to all the trade in tea. Colonial merchants were angry at losing their tea business. One night, several colonists snuck aboard a British ship carrying tea in Boston Harbor. The colonists dumped all

of the ship's tea into the harbor. This event became known as the **Boston Tea Party**.

The Boston Tea Party angered **King George III**. To punish Massachusetts, Parliament passed a set of laws called the **Intolerable Acts**. Acting under these acts, Britain closed Boston Harbor and placed Boston under **martial law**, or rule by the military.

Britain's actions prompted colonial leaders to form the First Continental Congress. The group met in 1774 and drew up a declaration of colonial rights. They demanded that the colonies be allowed to run their own affairs. They agreed to meet again in 1775 if their demands were not met.

2. How did the colonists react to the Intolerable Acts?

FIGHTING ERUPTS AT LEXINGTON AND CONCORD (Pages 100–102)

What happened at Concord and Lexington?

Some New England towns began to prepare for a war against Britain. **Minutemen**, or civilian soldiers, stored guns and ammunition in secret hideaways. In 1775, the British marched to Concord, Massachusetts, to seize these weapons. Colonists, including Paul Revere, watched the troops march out of Boston. Revere rode ahead of the troops on his horse. He warned people that the British were headed for Concord.

A group of armed minutemen met the British troops as they reached the town of Lexington, Massachusetts. Someone fired a shot. The British soldiers responded by shooting into the crowd of minutemen. Several minutemen were killed, while

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others were injured. The British suffered only one casualty. The Battle of Lexington lasted only 15 minutes.

The British soldiers then marched on to Concord, where they found no weapons. On their trip back to Boston, between 3,000 and 4,000 minutemen ambushed them. The colonial soldiers killed dozens of British soldiers. The rest of the defeated

British troops returned to Boston that night.

3. How did the outcomes at Lexington and Concord differ?

Section 1, *continued*

As you read this section, trace the following sequence of events.

1a. The British Parliament passed the Stamp Act (1765) in order to...	b. Colonists responded to the act by...	c. Britain responded to the colonists by...
2a. The British Parliament passed the Townshend Act (1767) in order to...	b. Colonists responded to the act by...	c. Britain responded to the colonists by...
3a. The British Parliament passed the Tea Act (1773) in order to...	b. Colonists responded to the act by...	c. Britain responded to the colonists by...
4a. The British Parliament passed the Intolerable Acts (1774) in order to...	b. Colonists responded to the act by...	c. Britain responded to the colonists by...

The War for Independence

Section 2

Ideas Help Start a Revolution

Terms and Names

Second Continental Congress The meeting of colonial delegates that approved the Declaration of Independence

Olive Branch Petition An offer of peace sent by the Second Continental Congress to King George III

Common Sense Pamphlet written by Thomas Paine that attacked the monarchy

Thomas Jefferson Main author of the Declaration of Independence

Declaration of Independence Document that said the United States was an independent nation

Patriots Colonists who wanted independence from Britain

Loyalists Colonists who were loyal to Britain

Before You Read

In the last section, you learned about the conflicts that led to the start of the American Revolution. In this section, you will learn why the colonists declared their independence.

As You Read

Use a graphic organizer to take notes on the writing and impact of the Declaration of Independence.

THE COLONIES HOVER BETWEEN PEACE AND WAR (Pages 103–105)

What was the Olive Branch Petition?

In May of 1775, delegates from the First Continental Congress met again at what became known as the **Second Continental Congress**. During the meeting, some leaders urged independence from Great Britain. Others were not ready for independence. The Congress did create the Continental Army, however.

Congressional leaders placed George Washington in charge of the army.

In June of 1775, British troops fought against colonial soldiers near Boston in the Battle of Bunker Hill. More than 1,000 British soldiers were killed. The colonists

lost 311 men. This battle would be the deadliest of the war.

Although the colonists were preparing for war, they were hoping for peace. Most colonists still felt a deep loyalty to Britain's king, George III. They blamed the bloodshed in the colonies on the king's ministers. In July of 1775, the Continental Congress sent King George III a peace offer, called the **Olive Branch Petition**. This petition urged a return to "the former harmony" between Britain and the colonies.

King George III flatly rejected the petition. Furthermore, he issued a proclamation stating that the colonies were in rebellion. He urged Parliament to order a naval blockade of the American coast.

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1. How did King George III react to the Olive Branch Petition?

THE PATRIOTS DECLARE INDEPENDENCE (Pages 105–106)

What ideas supported rebellion?

More colonists began to object to British rule and to call for independence. Many were influenced by a pamphlet titled **Common Sense**. Colonist Thomas Paine was the author. He argued that independence would lead to a better society.

In June 1776, the Continental Congress moved closer to declaring the colonies independent. The Congress asked **Thomas Jefferson** of Virginia to write a document stating the colonies' reasons for declaring their freedom. The document became known as the **Declaration of Independence**.

The Declaration of Independence was based on the ideas of English philosopher John Locke. Locke said that people have “natural rights” to life, liberty, and property. Locke also argued that citizens form a social contract, or an agreement, with their government. If the government tries to take away people's natural rights, the people can overthrow the government.

In the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson wrote that people's rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness cannot be taken away. Government gets its power from the people, and the people can remove a government that threatens their rights. He then listed in the document the many ways that Britain had taken away the colonists' rights.

The Declaration states that “all men are created equal.” When this phrase was written, it expressed the common belief

that free citizens were political equals. However, it did not claim that all people had the same ability or ought to have equal wealth. In addition, the Declaration did not include women, Native Americans, and African American slaves. However, Jefferson's words presented ideals that would later help these groups challenge traditional attitudes.

The Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration on July 4, 1776. The Declaration of Independence thrilled **Patriots**—colonists who supported independence.

2. How did the Declaration of Independence support the notion of rebelling against Britain?

AMERICANS CHOOSE SIDES

(Pages 106–108)

Who were the Loyalists and the Patriots?

Despite the growing atmosphere of rebellion in the colonies, many colonists opposed independence. These colonists were known as **Loyalists**. They supported the British and were loyal to the king. Some loyalists felt a special tie to the king because they had served as judges, councilors, or governors. Most Loyalists, however, were ordinary people. Some felt that the British could protect their rights better than a new colonial government could. Others simply did not want to be punished as rebels.

Those colonists who supported independence were called Patriots. This group included farmers, artisans, merchants, and landowners. They wanted to be free from British rule. Others saw great economic opportunity in a new and

Section 2, *continued*

independent nation. Patriots made up a little less than half of the colonial population.

The conflict divided other groups as well. The Quakers generally supported the Patriots. However, they did not fight. They did not believe in war. Many African Americans joined the Patriots. Others joined the Loyalists because they were offered freedom from slavery. Most

Native Americans supported the British. They viewed colonial settlers as a bigger threat to their land.

3. Why did some colonists remain loyal to Britain?

Section 2, *continued*

As you read this section, trace the following sequence of events.

1774 Sept.	The first Continental Congress convenes. It agrees to meet again if problems with Britain continue.	1. What does the Continental Congress do to bring about peace?
1775 Apr.	Clashes between British soldiers and American minutemen at Lexington and Concord result in the loss of life.	2. What does the Continental Congress do to prepare for war?
May	Since problems with the British intensify, the Second Continental Congress meets.	3. What are the main ideas of <i>Common Sense</i> ?
Fall & Winter	Fighting between the British and the colonists increases.	
1776 Jan.	Thomas Paine publishes his <i>Common Sense</i> pamphlet.	4. What is the purpose of a formal declaration of independence?
July	With the increase of fighting between Britain and the colonies, the Continental Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence.	5. What are the main ideas of the Declaration of Independence?

The War for Independence**Section 3****Struggling Toward Saratoga****Terms and Names****Trenton** Battle won by the Americans in 1776**Saratoga** Battle won by the Americans in 1777**Valley Forge** Place where Washington's army spent the winter of 1777–1778**inflation** Rise in the price of goods**profiteering** Selling goods that are difficult to come by for a profit**Before You Read**

In the last section, you learned about the events that led to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In this section, you will learn about the important early battles in the War for Independence.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on the early battles of the American Revolution.

THE WAR MOVES TO THE MIDDLE STATES (Pages 114–116)**What were the important early battles?**

Shortly after the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, the colonies suffered a major defeat at the hand of the British. In late August 1776, the British army seized New York City. Its aim was to isolate New England from the rest of the colonies. George Washington tried to resist the British troops, but his soldiers were poorly prepared and equipped. The British forced Washington's army to retreat into Pennsylvania.

On Christmas night of 1776, Washington and his army struck back. They crossed the Delaware River into **Trenton**, New Jersey. In a surprise attack, the colonial army captured almost 1,000 British soldiers. Shortly afterwards, Washington's troops attempted to retake

Philadelphia—which the British also had seized. However, British troops forced the colonial army to retreat.

Late in 1777, British troops and Native Americans marched south from Canada. The Continental Army met them at **Saratoga**, New York. The colonists won the battle. Saratoga was considered a turning point of the war. The colonists' victory proved that they could compete with the larger and better-equipped British army. The victory also convinced the French that the colonists had a chance to win the war. The French were longtime enemies of the British. After Saratoga, the French recognized American independence. They also agreed to send troops and supplies.

Meanwhile, Washington and his soldiers spent a miserable winter at **Valley Forge**, Pennsylvania, in the woods outside Philadelphia. The American soldiers

Section 3, *continued*

camped there suffered from hunger and frostbite. More than 2,000 soldiers died.

1. Why was the Battle of Saratoga important?

COLONIAL LIFE DURING THE REVOLUTION (Pages 116–117)

How did the war affect American society?

The war touched all Americans. For one thing, the nation’s economy suffered. In an attempt to pay its troops, the Continental Congress printed more paper money. The more money Congress printed, the less it became worth. This caused **inflation**, which is a rise in the price of goods. In New York, for example, the price of beef and sugar doubled in one three-month period.

The Congress also struggled to supply its army with weapons. One problem was that Britain’s powerful navy controlled the

American coast. As a result, Americans had to smuggle arms in from Europe.

Some corrupt government officials took part in **profiteering**, or selling hard-to-find weapons and goods for a high price.

As colonial men went to war, many women took their husbands’ places running homes, farms, and businesses. Some women earned money washing and cooking for the troops. A few women even fought in battle.

The war also led to greater opportunity for African Americans. Thousands of slaves escaped to freedom during the war. About 5,000 African Americans served in the Continental Army. Their courage and loyalty impressed many white Americans.

2. How did the war affect different groups of Americans?

Section 3, *continued*

As you read this section, write answers to the questions about each of the Revolutionary War battles listed below.

	Who won?	Why did they win?	What were the important results?
1. New York			
2. Trenton			
3. Philadelphia			
4. Saratoga			

Summarize the difficulties faced by each group of Patriots during the Revolutionary War.

Patriots	What were some of the hardships they faced?
1. Soldiers	
2. Members of Congress	
3. Civilians	

The War for Independence**Section 4****Winning the War****Terms and Names**

Friedrich von Steuben Prussian officer who helped train American soldiers

Marquis de Lafayette French noble who helped the Americans

Charles Cornwallis British general

Yorktown Battle that gave Americans victory in the war

Treaty of Paris Treaty that officially ended the war

egalitarianism A belief in equality

Before You Read

In the last section, you learned about the early battles in the American Revolution. In this section, you will learn how the Americans won the war.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes on the major events discussed in this section.

EUROPEAN ALLIES SHIFT THE BALANCE (Pages 118–119)**What help did the Europeans offer?**

During its miserable winter at Valley Forge, the Continental Army underwent a significant change. **Friedrich von Steuben**, a Prussian officer and expert drillmaster, began to train the American troops. He helped to turn the inexperienced soldiers into a strong fighting army.

In 1778, French help began to arrive for the colonists. **Marquis de Lafayette**, a Frenchman, also offered his help to Washington's army. Along with von Steuben, he helped improve the fighting ability of the Continental Army.

1. How did von Steuben and Lafayette help the Americans?

THE BRITISH MOVE SOUTH

(Pages 119–121)

Why did the British forces move south?

In the summer of 1778, the British changed their war strategy. They shifted much of their operations to the South. British generals hoped to gain Loyalist support in the South and then fight their way back north.

At first, the British plan worked. British troops took Savannah, Georgia. The British Army, led by General **Charles Cornwallis**, then captured Charles Town, South Carolina. The British took 5,500 American soldiers as prisoners of war. The British soon had a firm hold on Georgia and South Carolina.

Washington sent General Nathanael Greene to stop the British in the South. A unit of Greene's army defeated the British at Cowpens, South Carolina, in January 1781. Meanwhile, Cornwallis continued moving north. He marched his army to Yorktown, Virginia. Yorktown lay along the

Section 4, *continued*

Chesapeake Bay. From there, Cornwallis hoped to take Virginia and then meet up with British forces in the Northern colonies.

- Why did the British move much of its military operations to the south?

THE BRITISH SURRENDER AT YORKTOWN (Pages 121–122)

How did the American forces win at Yorktown?

American and French forces decided to attack Cornwallis at **Yorktown**. As they marched in, a French naval force defeated a British fleet on the Chesapeake Bay. As a result, the Americans and French were able to surround Cornwallis’s troops—blocking both their land and sea routes. The colonial and French forces bombarded Yorktown for days. Finally, on October 19, 1781, the British surrendered. The Americans had won the war.

The next year, the Americans and British began to discuss peace terms. John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay were the American delegates to the peace talks in Paris. The Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783. Under the agreement, Britain recognized the United States as an independent nation. The British also gave America all the land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. Some provisions of the treaty promised future trouble. The treaty, for example, did not specify when the British would evacuate their American forts.

- What did Britain do as a result of the Treaty of Paris?

THE WAR BECOMES A SYMBOL OF LIBERTY (Pages 122–123)

What did the Revolution mean?

The American Revolution brought society’s different classes together. During the war, rich and poor fought alongside each other. Military leaders grew to respect their men. This togetherness brought about a feeling of **egalitarianism**—a belief in the equality of all people. Egalitarianism taught that people should be valued for their ability and effort—not for their wealth or family background.

This egalitarianism, however, applied mainly to white males. Most Africans remained enslaved. A growing number of people urged the new nation to end slavery. But Southern states opposed such an idea. They did not want to lose their laborers. The American Revolution also did not change the status of women or Native Americans. These groups still did not have the rights that white male property owners did.

Americans had rejected the British system of government, in which kings and nobles held power. In its place, they set out to build a stable republic, a government of the people. To create this republic, however, the colonists would have to address several key issues: Who should participate in government? How should the government answer to the people? How could all of the different groups’ voices be heard?

- How were the changes to American society brought on by the American Revolution limited?

Section 4, *continued*

As you read this section, trace the following sequence of events.

1. Friedrich von Steuben

2. Marquis de Lafayette

3. The Battle of Yorktown

4. The signing of the Treaty of Paris