

SECTION 4

An American Victory

BEFORE YOU READ

MAIN IDEA

A strengthened Continental Army, along with European allies, helped the colonists achieve a victory at Yorktown.

READING FOCUS

1. What Revolutionary War battles took place in the West and South?
2. Why did France and other European nations assist the Americans?
3. What led to the British surrender at Yorktown?
4. How did the Revolution affect American culture?

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

George Rogers Clark
Nathanael Greene
Charles Cornwallis
Count de Rochambeau
Bernardo de Gálvez
Battle of Yorktown
Treaty of Paris

TAKING NOTES

As you read, take notes

on the major events and battles leading up to the British surrender at Yorktown. Record your notes in a graphic organizer like the one shown here. You may need to add more rows.

Major Event/Battle	Date

THE INSIDE STORY

How did a spy trick the British? Like many enslaved people, James Armistead had the last name of a slaveholder. Later, he added another name—Lafayette. In 1781 Armistead volunteered to serve with the Marquis de Lafayette, expecting to be a servant. But Lafayette realized that the young African American could do much more, and Armistead became a spy. Pretending to be a runaway, he found work in the camp of Benedict Arnold, who had become a traitor. He also won the trust of British general Cornwallis, who asked him to spy on the Americans! Armistead became a double agent. He gave accurate information to the Americans and inaccurate information to the British. His efforts helped defeat the British at the crucial battle of Yorktown.

Spying for the Revolution

In one instance, the Americans forged a fake order for reinforcements. Armistead took the crumpled paper to Cornwallis, saying he had found it on the road. It made Cornwallis think that American forces were stronger than they actually were. After the surrender, Cornwallis visited Lafayette and was very surprised to see his spy as an aide to the French general.

Lafayette admired Armistead's courage and resourcefulness. He wrote, "His Intelligences from the Enemy's Camp were Industriouslly Collected and More faithfully deliver'd." He then asked the Virginia Assembly to give Armistead his freedom. When they agreed, Armistead added Lafayette's name to his own. He became a farmer in Virginia. The two met once again 40 years later when the Frenchman returned to the United States. ■

► **James Armistead (right) spied for Continental Army commander Lafayette (left) during the last phase of the Revolutionary War.**



Revolutionary Battles in the West and South

The Revolutionary War changed in several ways after the Battle of Saratoga. The Northeast was fairly quiet, with British troops occupying New York. Washington's army—now a better, more disciplined fighting force—waited nearby. Meanwhile, the action shifted to the South and the western frontier.

War in the West In 1779 the Americans won some important victories in the area north and west of the Ohio River, largely due to the efforts of **George Rogers Clark**, a pioneer on the western frontier in Kentucky. In 1778 Clark

persuaded Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia to send an expedition to deal with the British in the West. Clark led a small force down the Ohio River. His men captured the British settlements at Fort Kaskaskia and Cahokia on the Mississippi River in present-day Illinois. Although the British held the settlement of Vincennes, the people there were French and Clark won their loyalty. In 1779 he and his men captured the fort and its commander in the Battle of Vincennes.

War in the South In 1778 the British shifted their strategy. They had expected to win the war quickly and crush the rebels. Now, instead of sending more troops and supplies, British



officials had a different strategy. They hoped that the many Loyalists in America would rise up to support them.

Because the British believed that Loyalist sympathies were strongest in the South, they planned a campaign there. However, they discovered that Patriots were as strong and determined in Virginia as in New England. Many Loyalists lived in the Carolinas and Georgia, but they were often reluctant to help.

The British also faced frequent surprise raids by small bands of Patriots. These fighters struck quickly, then disappeared into the woods. The most famous was Francis Marion, who was nicknamed the Swamp Fox for his daring raids from the Carolina marshes.

Then at King's Mountain on the border between the Carolinas, local Patriots defeated a Loyalist force. A new American commander, **Nathanael Greene**, took charge. In March 1781 Greene and Lafayette's troops met British commander **Charles Cornwallis's** army in a brutal battle at Guilford Court House, North Carolina. Cornwallis won, but British losses were so great that he stopped the campaign.

READING CHECK

Identifying the Main Idea

Why did the British decide to move the war into the South?

America's European Allies

Americans wanted recognition as a sovereign nation from Europe. European nations could also provide the Americans with money and supplies to fight the war. Gates's victory at Saratoga made a European alliance possible. France became America's strongest ally, but help also came from Spain and the Netherlands.

Alliance with France France was happy to see its old enemy, Great Britain, losing part of its empire. France also hoped that a British defeat in America would help restore French power in Europe.

At first the French government helped the Americans by sending gunpowder, artillery, and muskets. Then in 1776 the Americans sent Benjamin Franklin to France. In his fur cap and homespun coat, he became a favorite with both aristocrats and the ordinary people. Franklin was in Paris when the news of Saratoga reached there in December 1777. As a

Interactive

HISTORY CLOSE-UP

The Battle of Yorktown

General Cornwallis brought his troops to Yorktown thinking the British navy could protect him there, but he was wrong. Instead, the combined American and French forces surrounded the British, attacking them and cutting off their support. Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, 1781.



result of Saratoga and Franklin's diplomatic skill, France soon signed two treaties. One formally recognized the United States as a nation. The other promised military help.

In 1780 Lafayette helped persuade the French government to send a 6,000-soldier army to help the Americans against the British. The troops were led by a French general, the **Count de Rochambeau** (roh-shahm-BOH).

Help from Spain Spain did not become a direct ally of the Americans, but they did join the war in 1779 as an ally of France. At that time **Bernardo de Gálvez**, an experienced officer, was the Spanish governor of Louisiana. After Spain declared war, Gálvez began to attack British forts on the Mississippi and along the Gulf Coast in West Florida, which had once belonged to Spain. He went on to defeat the British in the southern cities of Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, and Pensacola.

READING CHECK

Making Inferences

Why did the Spanish want to help the Americans?



Victory at Yorktown

Washington and Rochambeau received word in January 1781 that there was trouble in Virginia. Benedict Arnold, who had been a hero for the Continental Army at Saratoga, had become a traitor. Arnold had been helping the British cause by leading British troops in raids on Patriot warehouses.

Washington was shocked and disappointed by Arnold's treachery. He sent Lafayette to Virginia to stop him. Then he and Rochambeau planned a massive march into Virginia.

After giving up his Carolina campaign, General Cornwallis moved into Virginia. But Lafayette's forces gradually forced the British to the coast. In July 1781 Cornwallis took his army to the Yorktown Peninsula in Chesapeake Bay. There they built a fort and waited for British ships to take them to Charleston or New York.

A siege at Yorktown Washington saw an opportunity to trap Cornwallis. He sent a message to Admiral de Grasse, who commanded France's Caribbean fleet. Washington asked him to establish a blockade in Chesapeake Bay (see the illustration above). The blockade would prevent British ships from rescuing Cornwallis's men.

Washington instructed Lafayette to keep Cornwallis's army trapped on the peninsula so they could not escape by land. Meanwhile, Washington and Rochambeau traveled south with a huge French and American army.

Cornwallis, with 7,000 troops, now faced a combined French and American army of more than 17,000. The **Battle of Yorktown** lasted about three weeks. With his army bombarded by land and sea, Cornwallis had little choice but to surrender. He did so on October 19, 1781, ending the fighting.

In effect, the war for independence was over, although the British still occupied several American cities. It took several years to agree on the terms of a peace treaty.

The Treaty of Paris Some royal officials still hoped that America would remain part of the British Empire. But the American diplomats, who included Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, insisted on independence.

The Americans negotiated a peace treaty with Britain. The **Treaty of Paris** was signed on September 3, 1783. In it, Britain formally recognized the United States as an independent nation. The treaty also declared the Mississippi River the western boundary of the United States. Britain agreed to leave its forts in the West. Spain and France also made peace with Britain in the Treaty of Paris. In return for its help during the war, Spain regained control of Florida.

After all the trouble caused by taxes, in the Treaty of Paris the United States now promised to pay what Americans owed British merchants. The treaty also allowed Loyalists to claim property losses.

READING CHECK Making Generalizations

What territory did Great Britain lose in the Treaty of Paris?

Revolution Changes America

The American Revolution brought many changes to American society. Politics became more democratic as more men gained the right to vote. In some states, all adult male taxpayers could vote. In others, owning any kind of property—not just land—gave a man the right to vote.

The Revolution also introduced new ideas of equality. The Declaration of Independence stated that “all men are created equal.” Americans never again wanted to be ruled by a monarch or an aristocratic upper class.

Women’s rights Equality, however, still did not include American women. The words in the Declaration of Independence applied only to white males. Even though women had done important work during the Revolution, the war did not bring them new rights. Abigail Adams had touched on the issue of women’s rights in one of her letters to John Adams. While the

Continental Congress was still debating the Declaration of Independence, she had written to her husband:

HISTORY’S VOICES

“Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands . . . If [particular] care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.”

—Abigail Adams, letter of March 31, 1776

Women did not gain rights after the war, as Adams had hoped. Married women still could not sign contracts or own property. The law stated that a married woman’s property belonged to her husband.

The slavery question The American struggle for freedom also raised questions about slavery. Many African Americans who had fought for the Patriot cause believed they had earned their freedom.

Worries over the morality of slavery were not new. Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Benjamin Rush had formed an antislavery organization in Philadelphia in 1775. Others in Pennsylvania, especially Quakers and Mennonites, had long opposed slavery. In 1780 Pennsylvania passed a law for the gradual abolition of slavery. During the 1780s the New England states also abolished slavery.

Such changes came more slowly in the South, however. Jefferson had written an antislavery section in the Declaration of Independence in 1776, but southern delegates removed it. After the war, both Virginia and Maryland made it easier to grant freedom to enslaved people. Several southern states also passed laws limiting the slave trade.

Impact on religion Before the war, many colonies had official churches that everyone paid taxes to support. Now changes came for many religious groups.

New laws endorsed a separation of church and state. In Virginia, Thomas Jefferson wrote a Statute for Religious Freedom (1786). It said that “no man shall be compelled to frequent [attend] or support any religious worship, place, or ministry.”

THE IMPACT TODAY

Culture

The Continental Congress approved the first official American flag—the symbol of the new nation—on June 14, 1777. The original flag had thirteen stars and thirteen stripes to symbolize the thirteen original colonies. Today’s flag still has thirteen stripes, but it now has 50 stars.

The state church in Virginia and Maryland had been the Anglican Church. After the war American Anglicans reorganized as the Protestant Episcopal Church. New England states kept their relationship with the Congregational Church, but outsiders no longer had to pay to support the church.

For the Roman Catholic Church, the Revolutionary War led to a certain amount of acceptance. Catholics had often faced prejudice, but the arrival of French Catholic soldiers helped change many people's attitudes.

A new nation Economically, the war left the new nation with some problems. The Revolution had cost a lot of money, and Congress had borrowed from foreign sources and American citizens. Now the money needed to be repaid.

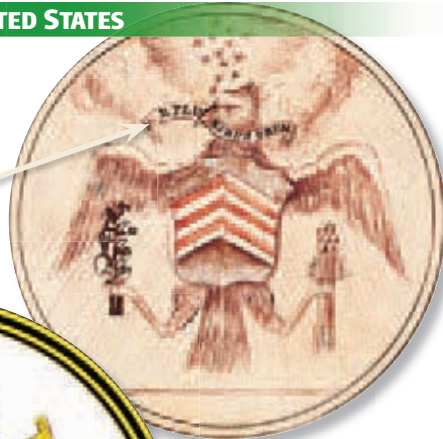
At the same time, the 13 colonies—now states—wanted to retain their sovereign power. They had just escaped one tyrannical government, and they did not want to create another. So, setting up a central government to deal with debt and other national issues was going to be complicated. Soon, the Continental Congress would meet again. This time the delegates would discuss economic issues and a new system of government.

READING CHECK Making Generalizations

How did the war affect American politics?

THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES

The Latin phrase "E Pluribus Unum" means "out of many, one." It refers to the joining of the colonies into one nation.



The bald eagle holds the olive branch of peace in one talon and the arrows of war in the other.



**Skills
FOCUS**

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

On June 20, 1782, the Continental Congress approved an official seal of the United States. The original sketch (top) and today's seal (bottom) are shown here.

Interpreting Visuals What do the symbols in the Great Seal of the United States signify?

SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT

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Online Quiz

Keyword: SD7 HP4

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Recall** In what ways did the Revolutionary War change after the Battle of Saratoga?

b. Explain What gains did Americans make in the West?

c. Evaluate Was Britain's move into the South a good idea?
- a. Recall** What kind of aid did France give to the American Patriots?

b. Make Inferences Why did other European nations choose to help the Americans against Great Britain?
- a. Identify** Who were Lafayette and Rochambeau, and what role did they play in the **Battle of Yorktown**?

b. Explain How did American forces trap Cornwallis at Yorktown?

c. Evaluate Do you think the Americans could have won the war without the help of the French?
- a. Recall** What actions regarding slavery did states take after the war?

- Elaborate** How did the war change colonial churches?
- Predict** What issues faced the new nation?

Critical Thinking

- Sequencing** Copy the chart below and make a time line of major events and battles leading up to the victory at Yorktown.

Victory at
Yorktown

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Expository** Write an answer to Abigail Adams's letter in which you give some ideas about the status of women after the Revolutionary War.

Patriots and Loyalists

Historical Context The documents below provide different views of events during the American Revolution.

Task Examine the documents and answer the questions that follow. Then you will be asked to write an essay about Patriot and Loyalist views, using facts from the documents and from the chapter to support the position you take in your thesis statement.

DOCUMENT 1

In the years leading up to the Revolution, Patriots used tactics such as tarring and feathering to humiliate British officials without causing permanent harm to them. This image, published in 1774, expressed Loyalist horror at the tarring and feathering of British tax agent John Malcolm by suspected members of the Sons of Liberty. The Tree of Liberty, a popular image among Patriot artists, is portrayed with a hangman's noose on it to represent the hypocrisy of the Patriots.



DOCUMENT 2

The Patriots took a very different view of efforts to humiliate the British. Published in 1775, this image by a Patriot artist celebrates a New York barber who half-shaved a British officer, then forced him into the street to be laughed at by observers. The officer is shown running out of the barber shop not only half-shaven but also without his wig, which all important men wore.



DOCUMENT 3

This image was published in 1779, three years into the war, and was titled “The Horse America Throwing his Master.” It shows King George III being thrown by his horse, which represents the United States. The crop used to whip the horse is shown here as having swords, bayonets, and tomahawks on the end. These were weapons used by British soldiers and their Indian allies against the Patriots. At right, a Patriot soldier marches into the scene carrying a flag with 13 stars on it.



Skills FOCUS

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

- Describe** Refer to Document 1. What was the purpose of the actions taken against John Malcolm?
 - Analyze** Why do you think the artist saw the Patriots' actions as hypocritical?
- Identify** Refer to Document 2. Why was the British officer shown as bald in addition to being half-shaven?
 - Elaborate** Why do you think the Patriots supported humiliation as a tactic against British officials?
- Identify** Refer to Document 3. What does the flag in the image represent?
 - Interpret** Do you think this image was created by a Patriot or a Loyalist? Explain.
- Document-Based Essay Question** Consider the question below and form a thesis statement. Using examples from Documents 1, 2, and 3, create an outline and write a short essay supporting your position. How did Patriots and Loyalists view the American Revolution differently?

See **Skills Handbook**, pp. H10, H28–29, H30, H31

Visual Summary: The Revolutionary Era

The Road to Revolution

- Great Britain and the American colonies clash over "taxation without representation."
- The First Continental Congress meets.
- Battle of Lexington: "The Shot Heard 'round the World"

Declaring Independence

- The Second Continental Congress meets.
- Violence continues in Boston.
- Colonists draft and sign the Declaration of Independence.

The Revolutionary War Begins

- Major battles take place in the North.
- The war turns in the colonies' favor at the Battle of Saratoga.
- Washington's troops regroup during the winter at Valley Forge.

An American Victory

- Colonists win major victories in the West and South.
- France and Spain become allies of the American colonists.
- The Battle of Yorktown ensures American victory.



Reviewing Key Terms and People

For each term or name below, write a sentence explaining its significance to the Revolutionary era.

1. Stamp Act
2. Intolerable Acts
3. First Continental Congress
4. battles of Lexington and Concord
5. Second Continental Congress
6. Loyalist
7. *Common Sense*
8. Thomas Jefferson
9. Battle of Saratoga
10. Valley Forge
11. Marquis de Lafayette
12. Treaty of Paris

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (pp. 106–113)

13. a. Identify What objects required stamps under the Stamp Act?

b. Sequence Create a brief time line of the events leading up to the battles of Lexington and Concord.

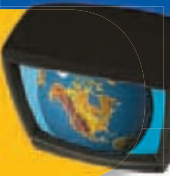
c. Analyze How did the American colonists win the Battle of Concord?

SECTION 2 (pp. 114–120)

14. a. Recall When did the Second Continental Congress meet?

b. Compare What were the arguments for war during the Second Continental Congress? What were the arguments for peace?

c. Evaluate Did the American colonies make the right decision in declaring their independence from Great Britain?

**SECTION 3** (pp. 125–130)

- 15. a. Describe** How did American women help with revolutionary efforts?
- b. Compare** What were the strengths of the Continental Army? What were the strengths of the British Redcoats?
- c. Analyze** Why was the Battle of Saratoga considered a turning point in the war?

SECTION 4 (pp. 132–137)

- 16. a. Recall** What happened at the Battle of Yorktown?
- b. Analyze** How did America's European allies help shift the balance in the Revolutionary War?
- c. Predict** The Revolutionary War brought many changes to America. How do you think those changes affected the new nation in the years after the war?

Using the Internet

- 17.** Revolutionary battle sites still exist across the eastern seaboard of the United States. Using the keyword above, do research on a significant Revolutionary War site that tourists can visit today. Then create a brochure that teaches tourists the significance of your site and encourages them to visit.

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Practice Online

Keyword: SD7 CH4

Analyzing Primary Sources

Reading Like a Historian On July 6, 1775, the Second Continental Congress issued a document called *A Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms*, which explained why the colonists were at war. Read the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow.

“We have not raised armies with ambitious designs of separating from Great Britain and establishing independent states . . . In our own native land, in defence of the freedom that is our birthright . . . for the protection of our property, acquired solely by the honest industry [work] of our forefathers and ourselves, against violence actually offered, we have taken up arms.”

- 18. Identify** Name three reasons why the colonists were at war.
- 19. Analyze** How is the position of this document different from the position the colonists later took in the Declaration of Independence?

Critical Reading

Read the passage in Section 4 under the heading “*Revolution Changes America*.” Then answer the questions that follow.

- 20.** Which of the following statements about women's rights after the Revolution are true?
- A** Married women could not sign contracts or own property.
- B** Women could vote in Massachusetts.
- C** Women were not offered higher education.
- D** Women could not vote in any state.
- 21.** In the years following the Revolution,
- A** American Anglicans reorganized as the Protestant Episcopal Church.
- B** women were given the right to vote.
- C** all men and women had the right to vote.
- D** Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

WRITING FOR THE SAT

Think about the following issue.

The British army in America was well trained and had access to many resources from Great Britain. In contrast, the Continental Army often lacked resources and was not as well trained. Nevertheless, the Americans were able to win independence from Great Britain in 1783.

- 22. Assignment** Given that the British were a well-trained, well-equipped fighting force, how were the Americans able to win independence from Britain? Write a short essay in which you develop your position on this issue. Support your point of view with reasoning and examples from your reading and studies.