

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* stirred the emotions of colonists and rallied many to the Patriot cause.

- ▶ Thomas Paine is called one of the Founding Fathers of the United States.



I have heard it asserted by some, that as America hath flourished under her former connection with Great Britain, that the same connection is necessary towards her future happiness, and will always have the same effect. Nothing can be more ① fallacious than this kind of argument. ② We may as well assert that because a child has thrived upon milk, that it is never to have meat, or that the first twenty years of our lives is to become a precedent for the next twenty. But even this is admitting more than is true; for I answer roundly, that America would have flourished as much, and probably much more, had no European power had any thing to do with her. ③ The commerce, by which she hath enriched herself, are the necessaries of life, and will always have a market while eating is the custom of Europe.

But she has protected us, say some. That she has engrossed us is true, and defended the continent at our expense as well as her own, is admitted; and she would have defended Turkey from the same motive, ④ viz. the sake of trade and dominion. ⑤

Alas! we have been long led away by ancient prejudices, and made large sacrifices to superstition. We have boasted the protection of Great Britain, without considering, that her motive was INTEREST not ATTACHMENT; that she did not protect us from OUR ENEMIES on OUR ACCOUNT, but from HER ENEMIES on HER OWN ACCOUNT, from those who had no quarrel with us on any OTHER ACCOUNT, and who will always be our enemies on the SAME ACCOUNT. Let Britain wave her pretensions to the Continent, or the Continent throw off the dependence, and we should be at peace with France and Spain, were they at war with Britain.

Analyzing Primary Sources

Cite specific evidence from the document to support your answers.

1. **Analyze Style and Rhetoric** In the first paragraph, how does Paine paint a picture that everyday people could understand?
2. **Analyze Style and Rhetoric** Why does Paine capitalize words in the last paragraph?

Reading and Vocabulary Support

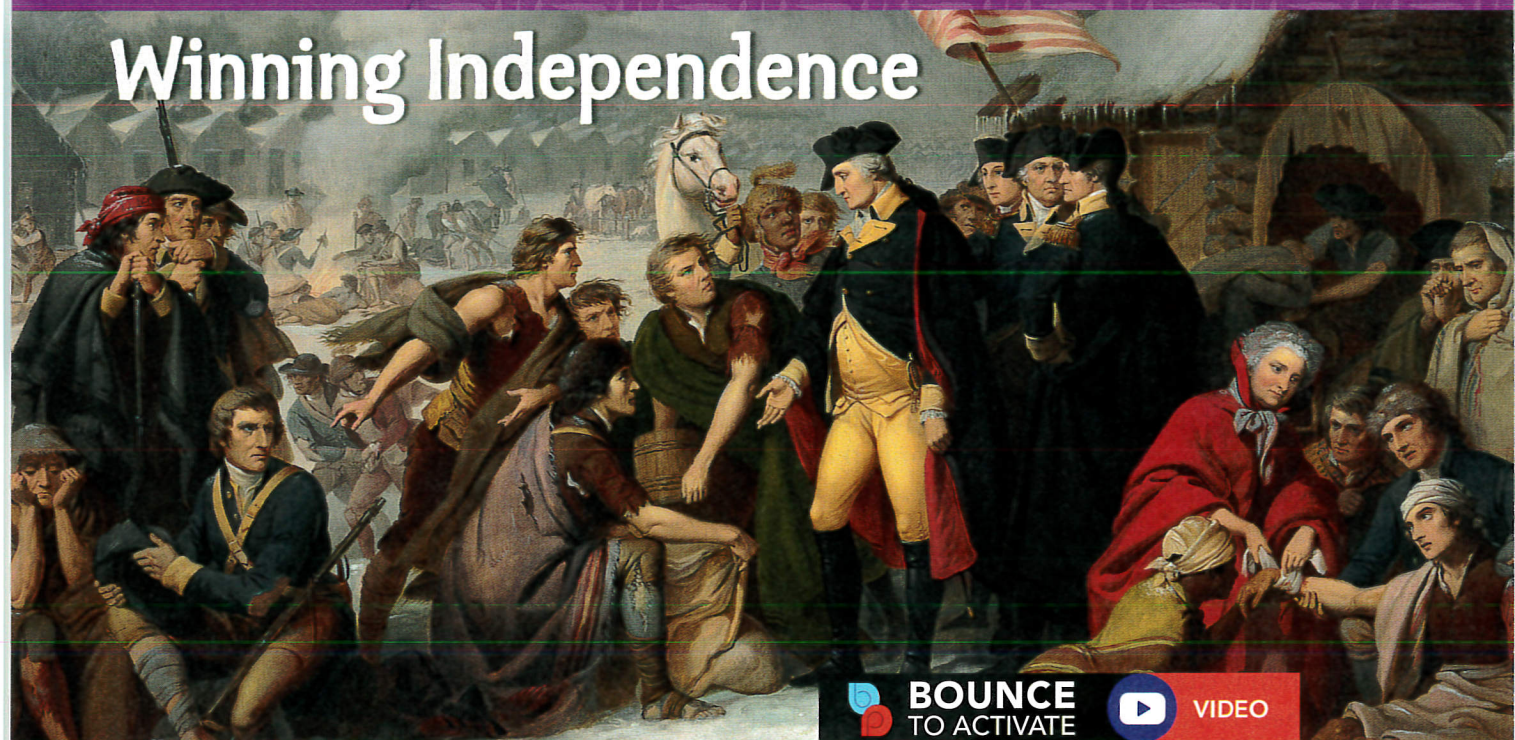
- ① *Fallacious* means "false."
- ② To what is Paine comparing the colonies?
- ③ What argument against independence does Paine refute in the first paragraph?
- ④ *Viz.* means "namely."
- ⑤ What argument against independence does Paine refute in the second paragraph?

Quest CONNECTIONS

Thomas Paine makes an argument for separating from Britain. Which argument might convince you to join the Patriot cause? Record your findings in your  Active Journal.

LESSON 5

Winning Independence



BOUNCE
TO ACTIVATE



VIDEO

GET READY TO READ

START UP


Examine the painting of George Washington and Martha Washington with troops at Valley Forge. Write a sentence telling what being a soldier in the war may have been like.

GUIDING QUESTIONS


- What roles did women and African Americans have in the war?
- How did the war progress until it ended at Yorktown?
- What did American colonists gain from winning the war?

TAKE NOTES

Literacy Skills: Sequence

Use the graphic organizer in your  Active Journal to take notes as you read the lesson.

PRACTICE VOCABULARY

Use the vocabulary activity in your  Active Journal to practice the vocabulary words.

Vocabulary

cavalry siege
guerrilla ratify

Academic Vocabulary

cease
sustain

Once France had agreed to support the Americans, the Netherlands and Spain also joined in the war against Britain. France, the Netherlands, and Spain all provided loans to the United States.

Europeans Aid the Colonies

On the southwestern frontier, Americans received help from New Spain. In the early years of the war, Bernardo de Gálvez (bayr NARDO day GOLL vess), governor of Spanish Louisiana, favored the Patriots. He secretly supplied medicine, cloth, muskets, and gunpowder to the Americans.

When Spain entered the war against Britain in 1779, Gálvez took a more active role. He seized British forts along the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. He also drove the British out of West Florida. Galveston, Texas, is named after this leader.

Foreign Individuals Contribute After France began to aid the United States, even before other European nations agreed to help the United States, individual volunteers had been coming from Europe.

They wanted to join the American cause. Some became leading officers in the American army.

The Marquis de Lafayette (mar KEE dah lah fay ET), a young French noble, convinced France to send several thousand trained soldiers to help the Patriot cause. Lafayette, who fought at Brandywine, became one of Washington's most trusted friends.

From the German state of Prussia came Friedrich von Steuben (STOO bun), who helped train Washington's troops to march and drill. Von Steuben had served in the Prussian army, which was considered the best in Europe.

Two Polish officers also joined the Americans. Thaddeus Kosciuszko (kosh CHUSH ko), an engineer, helped build forts and other defenses. Casimir Pulaski trained **cavalry**, or troops on horseback.

READING CHECK **Identify Main Ideas** In what ways did Europeans help the American war effort?

Winter at Valley Forge

The victory at Saratoga and the promise of help from Europe boosted American morale. Washington's Continental Army began preparing for the winter of 1777–1778 by building a makeshift camp at Valley Forge.

Conditions at Valley Forge were difficult, but the soldiers endured. About 2,000 huts were built as shelter. Several soldiers were improperly dressed, although many did have proper uniforms. As the winter wore on, soldiers also suffered from disease, a common problem in military camps. An army surgeon from Connecticut wrote about his hardships:

Primary Source

"I am sick—discontented—and out of humor. Poor food—hard lodging—cold weather—fatigue—nasty clothes—nasty cookery. . . . There comes a bowl of beef soup, full of burnt leaves and dirt. . . ."

—Albigeance Waldo, *Diary*, December 14, 1777

As news of the hardships at Valley Forge spread, Patriots from around the nation sent help. Women collected food, medicine, warm clothes, and ammunition for the army. Some women, like Martha Washington, wife of the commander, went to Valley Forge to help the sick and wounded.

INTERACTIVE

Foreign Aid Plays a Role

Analyze Images The winter at Valley Forge was hard on Washington's soldiers. **Classify and Categorize** Which details in the illustration show the cause of hardships soldiers suffered?





Analyze Images The Marquis de Lafayette, George Washington, and their troops spent the winter at Valley Forge training for upcoming battles. **Draw Conclusions**

Do you think the winter experienced by the Continental Army at Valley Forge weakened or strengthened it? Why?

INTERACTIVE

Notable People of the American Revolution

The arrival of desperately needed supplies was soon followed by warmer weather. The drills of Friedrich von Steuben helped the Continentals to march and fight with new skill. By the spring of 1778, the army at Valley Forge was more hopeful. Washington could not know it at the time, but the Patriots' bleakest hour had passed.

 **READING CHECK** **Identify Supporting Details** How did people help the soldiers at Valley Forge?

How Did Women Contribute to the War Effort?

When men went off to fight in the Revolution, women took on added work at home. Some planted and harvested the crops. Others made shoes and wove cloth for blankets and uniforms. One woman, Betsy Hagar, worked with blacksmith Samuel Leverett repairing cannons and guns for Patriot soldiers after the Battle of Concord.

Supporting the Army Many women joined their husbands at the front. They cared for the wounded, washed clothes, and cooked. Martha Washington joined her husband whenever she could. Some women achieved lasting fame for their wartime service.

Betsy Ross of Philadelphia sewed flags for Washington's army. Legend claims that she made the first American flag of stars and stripes.

A few women even took part in battle. During the Battle of Monmouth in 1778, Mary Ludwig Hays carried water to her husband and other soldiers. The soldiers called her Molly Pitcher. When her husband was wounded, she took his place, loading and firing the cannon.

Women’s Rights and the Revolution As women participated in the war, they began to think differently about their rights. Those women who had taken charge of farms or their husbands’ businesses became more confident and willing to speak out. The Revolution established important ideals of liberty and equality. In later years, these ideals would help encourage women to campaign for equal treatment—and eventually to win it.

READING CHECK Identify Supporting Details

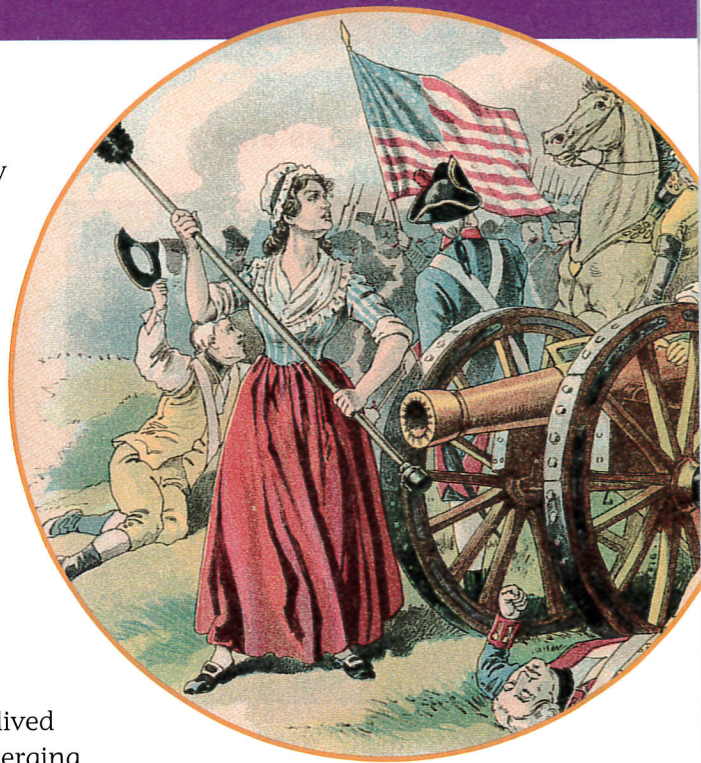
How did many women assist the Revolutionary War effort?

How Did African Americans Serve in the War?

By 1776, more than a half million African Americans lived in the colonies. This large racial group was quickly emerging as part of the American identity due to African American contributions during the Revolution. At first, the Continental Congress refused to let African Americans, whether free or enslaved, join the army. Some members doubted the loyalty of armed African Americans. The British, however, offered freedom to some enslaved men who would serve the king. Washington feared that this would greatly increase the ranks of the British army. In response, Washington changed his policy and asked Congress to allow free African Americans to enlist.

Deciding to Fight About 5,000 African Americans, from all the colonies except South Carolina, served in the army. Another 2,000 served in the navy which, from the start, allowed African Americans to join. At least nine African-American minutemen saw action at Lexington and Concord.

Some African Americans formed special regiments. Others served in white regiments as drummers, fifers, spies, and guides.



▲ Mary Ludwig Hays, known as Molly Pitcher for carrying water to soldiers during battle, helped fight for independence.

5 BIOGRAPHY
Things to Know About

PHILLIS WHEATLEY

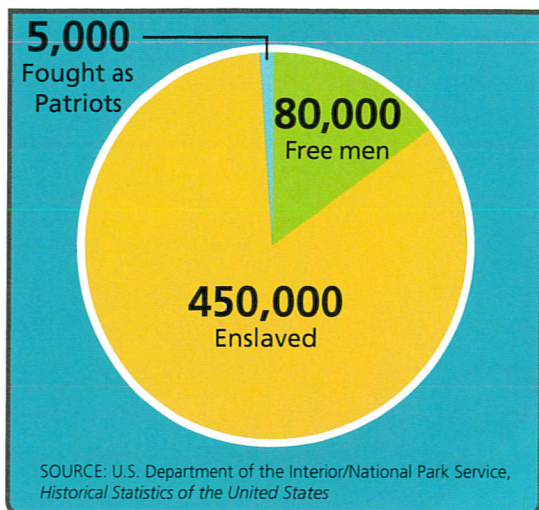
Poet 1753–1784



- Was first published African American female poet
- Born in West Africa; kidnapped and sold into slavery in Boston at age 7
- Mastered English, Greek, and Latin
- Wrote famous poem, “To His Excellency General Washington”
- Became a social success on London trip and later was freed

Critical Thinking What events during the war may have moved Wheatley to write a poem to General George Washington?

African Americans and the Revolution



Analyze Graphs This circle graph shows the African American population engaged in the Patriot cause. **Draw Conclusions** What does this data tell you about the status of African Americans during the Revolution?

African Americans like Wentworth Cheswell served the Patriot cause from the start. A New Hampshire schoolmaster, Cheswell was a free African-American man who, like Paul Revere, rode all night from Boston to warn his community that the British were on the march. He later enlisted in the army to help fight at Saratoga.

Enslaved African Americans faced more difficult choices. If they joined the American army or continued to work on Patriot plantations, the British might capture and sell them. If they tried to flee to the British army to gain freedom, they risked being hanged by angry Patriots.

Belief in Freedom Yet, many slaves did flee their masters, especially those who lived near the coast. The British navy patrolled the coast. One British captain reported that “near 500” runaway slaves offered their services to him. Toward the end of the war, several thousand enslaved people sought freedom by following British troops through the Carolinas.

African-American Patriots hoped that the Revolution would bring an end to slavery. After all, the Declaration of Independence proclaimed that “all men are created equal.” The promise of the natural rights professed in the Declaration motivated African Americans to try to secure these rights.



▲ At the Battle of Wyoming in 1778, Loyalists and American Indians, allied with the British, killed 360 colonial settlers in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania.

Some white leaders also hoped the war would end slavery. James Otis wrote that “the colonists are by the law of nature free born, as indeed all men are, white or black.” Quakers in particular spoke out strongly against slavery.

During the American Revolution, several states moved to make slavery illegal, including Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania. Other states also began to debate the slavery issue.

READING CHECK Identify Main Ideas What difficult consequences did many enslaved African Americans face when choosing sides in the American Revolution?

American Indians Choose Sides

At first, both sides tried to persuade American Indians to stay out of the conflict. However, as the war spread to American Indian lands in the West, the Americans and British both tried to win the support of American Indian groups. In the end, the British were more successful in creating alliances. They convinced many American Indians that a Patriot victory would mean more white settlers crossing the Appalachians and taking their lands.

In the South, the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw supported the British. The British encouraged the Cherokee to attack dozens of settlements. Only after hard fighting were Patriot militia able to drive the Cherokee back into the mountains.

Fighting was equally fierce on the northern frontier. In 1778, Iroquois forces led by the Mohawk leader Joseph Brant joined with Loyalists in raiding settlements in Pennsylvania and New York. The next year, Patriots struck back by destroying dozens of Iroquois villages.

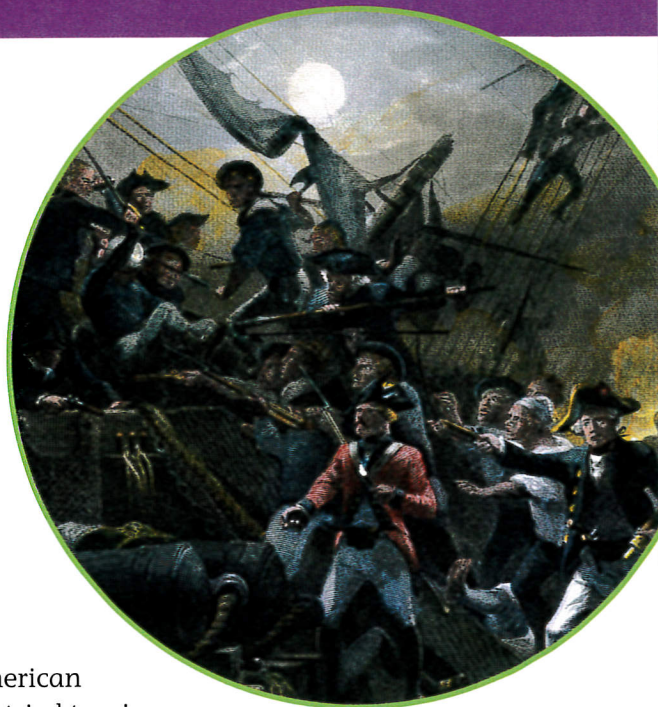
Farther west, in 1778, George Rogers Clark led Virginia frontier fighters against the British in the Ohio Valley. With help from Miami Indians, Clark captured the British forts at Kaskaskia and Cahokia near the Mississippi River.

He then plotted a surprise attack on the British fort at Vincennes. Clark’s small force spread out through the woods to make their numbers appear greater than they really were. The British commander surrendered Vincennes in February 1779.

READING CHECK Identify Main Ideas Why were the British generally more successful at becoming allies with American Indian groups?

Fighting for Independence at Sea and in the South

At sea, the Americans could do little against the powerful British navy. British ships blockaded American ports, which were oftentimes important supply routes for Patriot troops and towns. From time to time, however, a bold American captain captured a British ship.



Analyze Images Captain John Paul Jones shouts orders to his crew during battle aboard his ship *Bonhomme Richard*. Jones and his crew captured the British warship *Serapis*. **Infer** What can you infer about the character of John Paul Jones from the caption and the illustration?



Analyze Images Benedict Arnold, although a traitor, was an able general for the Continental Army. **Identify Cause and Effect** What effect did Arnold's treason have on the British army that welcomed him?

The greatest American sea victory took place in September 1779 in Britain's backyard, on the North Sea. After a hard-fought battle, Captain John Paul Jones captured the powerful British warship *Serapis*. Jones was one of many important military leaders who contributed to the American cause during the war.

Battles in the South The South became the main battleground of the war in 1778. Sir Henry Clinton, the new British commander-in-chief, knew that many Loyalists lived in the southern backcountry. He hoped that Loyalists would join the British troops.

At first, Clinton's plan seemed to work. In short order, beginning in December 1778, the British seized Savannah in Georgia and Charleston and Camden in South Carolina. "I have almost **ceased** to hope," wrote Washington when he learned of the defeats.

Patriots and Loyalists Clash In the Carolina backcountry, Patriots and Loyalists launched violent raids against one another. Both sides burned farms and killed civilians.

After 1780, attacks by British troops and Loyalist militia became especially cruel. As a result, more settlers began to side with the Patriots. As one Loyalist admitted, "Great Britain has now a hundred enemies, where it had one before."

Momentum Shifts Toward the Patriots Two able American generals helped turn the tide against the redcoats. The main British army was led by General Charles Cornwallis.

In 1780, General Nathanael Greene took command of the Continental Army in the South. Using his knowledge of local geography, Greene engaged the British only on ground that put them at a disadvantage.

In January 1781, General Daniel Morgan won an important victory at Cowpens, South Carolina. Morgan divided his soldiers into a front line and a rear line. He ordered the front line to retreat after firing just two volleys. The British, thinking the Americans were retreating, charged. They moved into the fire of Morgan's second rank. In this way, the Americans won the Battle of Cowpens.

Greene and Morgan combined their armies when they fought Cornwallis at Guilford Courthouse, near present-day Greensboro, North Carolina. The battle was one of the **bloodiest** of the war. Although the Americans retreated, the British **sustained** great losses.

Adapting Tactics to Geography Known as the Swamp Fox, Francis Marion of South Carolina led a small band of militia that used **guerrilla**, or hit-and-run, tactics to harass the British. Marion's band took advantage of the region's environment, appearing suddenly out of the swamps, attacking quickly, and retreating swiftly back into the swamps.

Academic Vocabulary

cease • v., to stop or end
sustain • v., to undergo

READING CHECK **Identify Supporting Details** What did a superior navy allow the British to do?

A Decisive Win Brings the War to a Close

Cornwallis abandoned his plan to take the Carolinas. In the spring of 1781, he moved his troops north into Virginia. He planned to conquer Virginia and cut off the Americans' supply routes to the South.

Benedict Arnold's Betrayal The British had achieved some success in Virginia, even before the arrival of Cornwallis. Benedict Arnold was now leading British troops. Arnold captured and burned the capital city of Richmond and other towns.

Arnold had turned traitor to the American cause in September 1780, while commanding West Point, a key fort in New York. The ambitious general was angry because he felt that he had not received enough credit for his victories. He also needed money. Arnold secretly agreed to turn over West Point to the British. The plot was uncovered by a Patriot patrol, but Arnold escaped to join the British.

Arnold's treason and his raids on towns in Connecticut and Virginia enraged the Patriots. Washington ordered Arnold to be hanged. However, he was never captured.

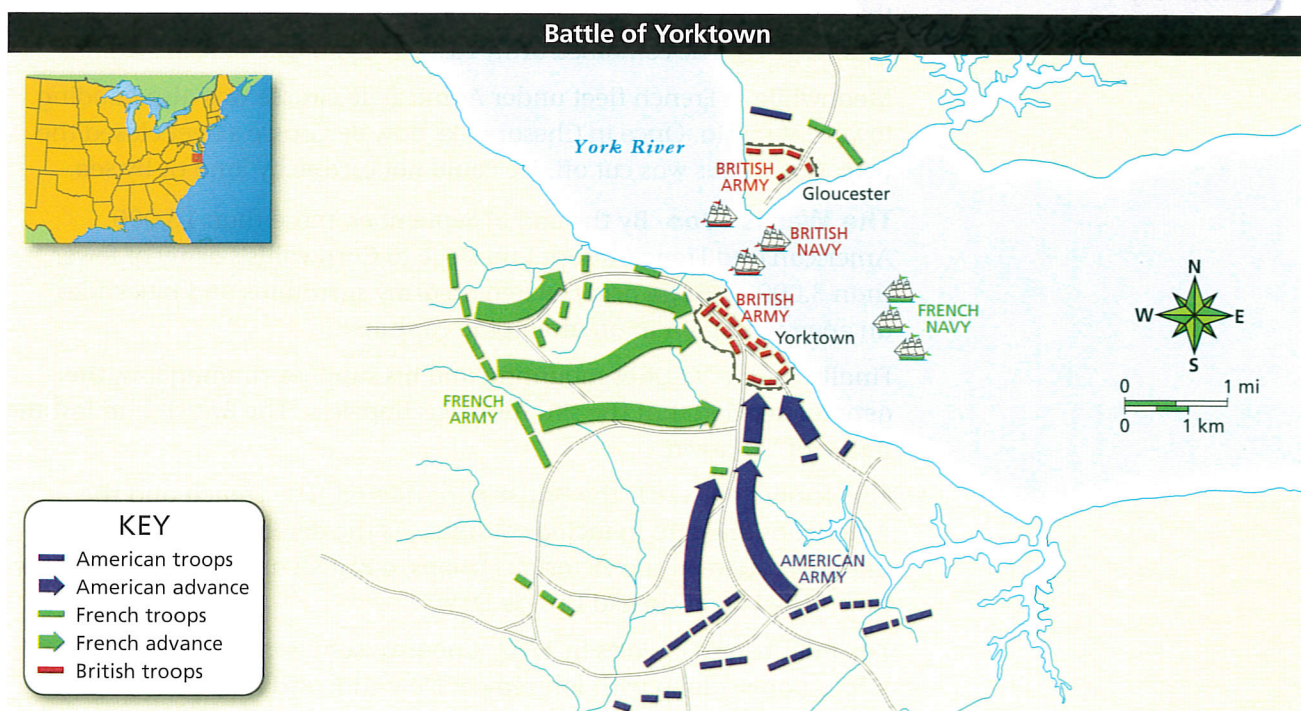
The British Are Trapped at Yorktown Cornwallis hoped to meet with the same kind of success in Virginia that Arnold had achieved. At first, things went well. Cornwallis sent Loyalist troops to attack Charlottesville, where the Virginia legislature was meeting. Governor Thomas Jefferson and other officials had to flee.

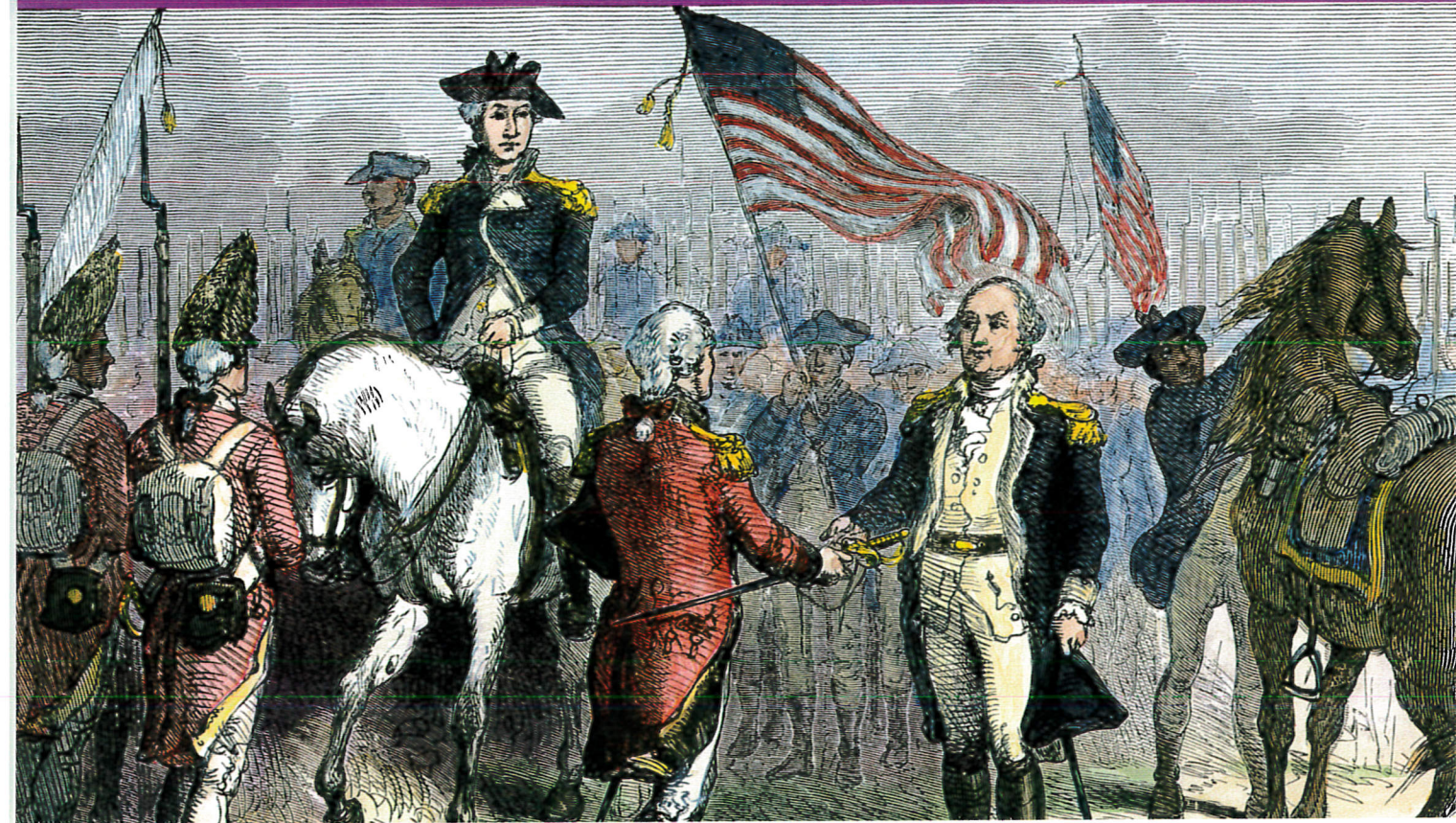
American troops under Lafayette fought back by staging raids against the British. Lafayette did not have enough troops to fight a major battle. Still, his strategy kept Cornwallis at bay.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

The last battle of the war was fought in the Chesapeake Bay region.

1. **Location** Why was Cornwallis's position a problem for his troops?
2. **Summarize** What role did the French and American navies play in the Battle of Yorktown?





▲ Yorktown was a stunning victory for the American and French armies. As troops gathered to accept the formal British surrender, Cornwallis, claiming illness, did not attend the ceremony.

Then, Cornwallis made a mistake. He disregarded an order from Sir Henry Clinton to send part of his army to New York. Instead, he retreated to Yorktown peninsula, a strip of land jutting into the Chesapeake Bay. He felt confident that British ships could supply his army from the sea.

Washington saw an opportunity to trap Cornwallis on the Yorktown peninsula. He marched his Continental troops south from New York. With the Americans were French soldiers under the Comte de Rochambeau (roh shahm BOH). The combined army rushed to join Lafayette in Virginia.

Meanwhile, a French fleet under Admiral de Grasse was also heading toward Virginia. Once in Chesapeake Bay, de Grasse's fleet closed the trap. Cornwallis was cut off. He could not escape by land or by sea.

The War Is Won By the end of September, more than 16,000 American and French troops laid siege to Cornwallis's army of fewer than 8,000. A **siege** occurs when an army surrounds and blockades an enemy position in an attempt to capture it.

Finally, with casualties mounting and his supplies running low, the general decided that the situation was hopeless. The British had lost the Battle of Yorktown.

On October 19, 1781, the British surrendered. The French and the Americans lined up in facing columns. As the defeated redcoats marched between the victorious troops, a British army band played the tune "The World Turned Upside Down."

The talks began in Paris in 1782. Congress sent Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, along with John Jay of New York and Henry Laurens of South Carolina, to work out a treaty.

Because Britain was eager to end the war, the Americans got most of what they wanted.

Under the Treaty of Paris, the British recognized the United States as an independent nation. It extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. The northern border of the United States stopped at the Great Lakes. The southern border stopped at Florida, which was returned to Spain.

For their part, the Americans agreed to ask the state legislatures to pay Loyalists for property they had lost in the war. In the end, most states ignored Loyalist claims.

On April 15, 1783, Congress **ratified**, or approved, the Treaty of Paris. It was almost eight years to the day since the battles of Lexington and Concord.

READING CHECK **Identify Cause and Effect** What were the results of the Treaty of Paris?

Explaining the American Victory

Geography played an important role in the American victory. The British had to send soldiers and supplies several thousand miles from home. They also had to fight an enemy that was spread over a wide area. The Americans also were familiar with the local geography.

Help from other nations was crucial to the American cause. Spanish forces attacked the British along the Gulf of Mexico and in the Mississippi Valley. French money helped pay for supplies, and French military aid supported American troops.

Did you know?

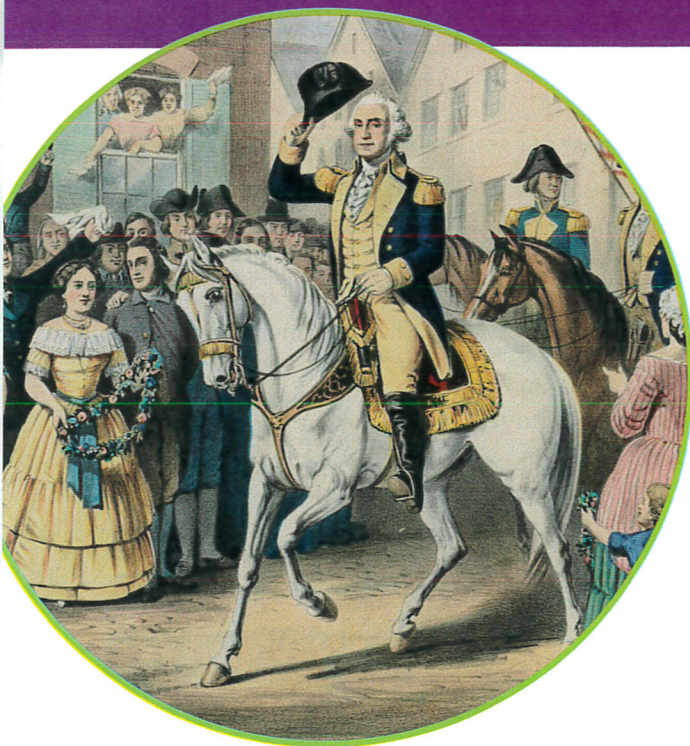
On losing the war, King George III said, "America is lost! . . . it is to be hoped we shall reap more advantages from their trade as friends than ever we could derive from them as Colonies."

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

After the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the new United States gained some territory.

1. **Movement** In what direction do you think new U.S. immigrants would move when they looked for land to farm?
2. **Cite Evidence** How did the Treaty of Paris of 1783 change the balance of power in North America?





Analyze Images Here, Washington rides in triumph through the streets of New York City. **Identify Supporting Details** What details in the image help to show George Washington as an important military figure?

Throughout the war the colonists benefited from their ability to unify for a shared American cause. The American Revolution inspired people of many different racial and minority groups as well as social classes to fight for the same American ideals of freedom and rights. Ideals from the Revolution would help define the American identity. Patriotism was another important factor in the American victory. Soldiers were fighting for their homes and their beliefs.

Gradually, Washington's inexperienced troops learned how to drill, how to march, and how to fight the British. Perhaps most important was Washington himself. By the end of the war, the general's leadership and military skills were respected by Americans and British alike. In December 1783, General Washington, before resigning, bid farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York City. Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge recalled the event:

Primary Source

"Such a scene of sorrow and weeping I had never before witnessed. . . . We were then about to part from the man who had conducted us through a long and bloody war . . ."

—Benjamin Tallmadge, Memoir


READING CHECK **Summarize** What were the main reasons for the American victory?

Lesson Check

Practice Vocabulary

1. How did allies benefit the Americans?
2. How did **guerrilla** tactics benefit the Americans?

Critical Thinking and Writing

3. **Understand Effects** How did Europeans aid the American cause?
4. **Draw Conclusions** Why did many people believe that the Declaration of Independence justified an end to slavery?
5. **Summarize** How was General Cornwallis defeated at Yorktown?
6. **Identify Cause and Effect** How did the American Revolution develop the concept of natural rights?
7. **Writing Workshop: Write an Introduction** Write a short paragraph in your  Active Journal that introduces the thesis of your essay about the American Revolution.