

# CHAPTER 8

# The American Revolution 1776-1783

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Focus

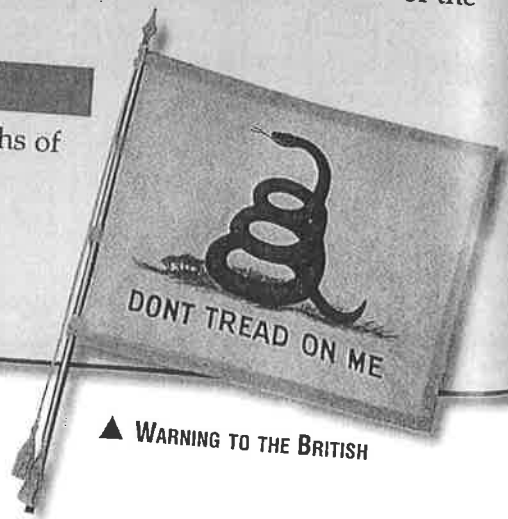
In 1776 many Americans already saw the colonies as independent states. Now, after years of bickering with King George III and the British Parliament, they were determined to establish their independence. Declaring independence would be easy. Achieving it would be much more difficult.

### Concepts to Understand

- ★ What steps the colonists took to secure and protect American democracy
- ★ How conflict and cooperation contributed to the success of the American Revolution

### Read to Discover . . .

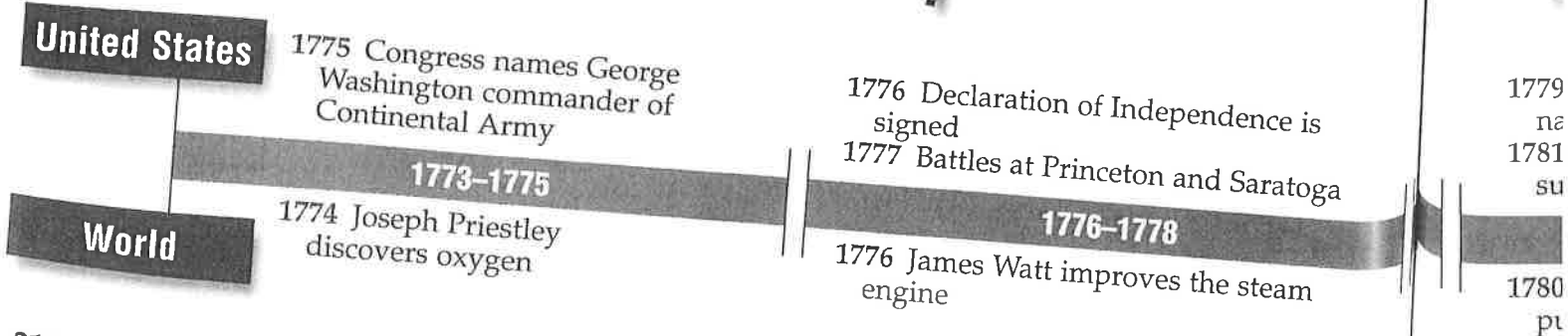
- ★ the weaknesses and strengths of the British and American military forces.
- ★ the outcome of the American Revolution.



▲ WARNING TO THE BRITISH

**Journal Notes**

Imagine you are responsible for raising money to help the American troops in the Revolution. As you read this chapter, record what you think the soldiers might need to help them get through the war.





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◀ LIBERTY BELL

**History**  
AND  
**ART**

***Washington Crossing the Delaware***

by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze, 1851

Painted in Dusseldorf, Germany, this memorable painting shows General Washington and his troops crossing the Delaware River. Washington's surprise attack allowed the Continental Army to have an easy victory over the British.

John Paul Jones defeats British fleet  
British General Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown



India's first newspaper is published

1783 Treaty of Paris signed

1783 Spain, Sweden, and Denmark recognize the independence of the United States of America

# Declaring Independence

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Read to Learn . . .

- ★ why the Second Continental Congress is considered to be the first government of the colonies.
- ★ how one person's writing moved Americans to support independence.
- ★ how the Declaration of Independence divided the nation.

### Terms to Know

- ★ Olive Branch Petition
- ★ Continental Army
- ★ *Common Sense*
- ★ Declaration of Independence
- ★ preamble
- ★ Loyalist
- ★ Patriot

### People to Meet

- ★ Ethan Allen
- ★ Benedict Arnold
- ★ Thomas Paine
- ★ Thomas Jefferson

### Places to Locate

- ★ Lake Champlain
- ★ Bunker Hill



◀ REVOLUTIONARY WAR DRUM

**M**ud-spattered and tired, Caesar Rodney returned to Philadelphia on the afternoon of July 2, 1776. He arrived just in time for the vote. When the roll call reached his Delaware delegation, Rodney stood up and said:

“As I believe the voice of my constituents [voters] and of all sensible and honest men is in favor of independence and my own judgment concurs [agrees] with them, I vote for independence.”

## ★ The Second Continental Congress

Caesar Rodney had been elected a delegate to the **Second Continental Congress**. The First Continental Congress had met in 1774 to protest the Intolerable Acts and other British policies that the colonists disliked. Then the delegates had hoped that King George would receive their protests. They agreed, however, that if he did not respond, a second congress would meet the next spring. This congress would act as a central government and put together an army for the colonies' defense.

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## The Olive Branch Petition

As the colonists had feared, King George ignored their protests. The Second Continental Congress gathered according to plan in Philadelphia in May 1775. Most colonists and most members of the congress wanted the colonies to remain part of Great Britain. They wanted to rule themselves through their own legislatures, however.

With very little optimism left, the delegates drafted another letter to the king in one last attempt for peace. The letter, called the **Olive Branch Petition**, assured the king that most of the American colonists were still loyal to Great Britain and to him.

As they waited for a reply, the congress went about the business of governing. They understood now that their only option might be war with Great Britain. With this in mind, they organized an army. This was something new for the colonies. Up to this time, they had relied on local militias that defended their own small regions.

The new army, called the **Continental Army**, would represent and defend all the colonies. The delegates named George Washington, himself a member of the congress, commander of the army. Washington left Philadelphia to take charge of the colonial forces around Boston.

### Washington's Army

Washington's newly formed Continental Army lacked discipline and training. Washington also had trouble finding recruits for the army. Most soldiers wanted to stay with local militias to protect their own homes, families, and land. Those who did join had to enlist for several years. The pay was not always regular, and there were often shortages of food and clothing. At its largest, the Continental Army included about 15,000 to 20,000 soldiers.

While the American forces were poorly equipped compared to the British, they did have some significant advantages over their opponents. They were well acquainted with the countryside. They knew how to survive in the wilderness, and they believed in their cause of freedom. Most important, Washington was a brilliant leader. He was America's greatest asset, even though he lost more battles than he won.

## The British Army

Great Britain had an army of nearly 50,000 soldiers and the most powerful navy in the world. Its soldiers were well trained and led by officers with battle experience. To add to the strength of its army, the British hired professional German soldiers, called **Hessians**, to fight for them.

The British did suffer some disadvantages. In America, the British troops would be far from home and in unfamiliar territory. They would have to travel 3,000 miles (4,827 km) across the Atlantic Ocean to reach the colonies. They would be fighting an army hiding in the wilderness. The swamps, thick forested hills, and rapidly flowing rivers would be additional obstacles that the British troops did not expect.

## ★ The Green Mountain Boys

While the congress organized the new army and discussed military plans, small bands of rebel colonists attacked British outposts. **Ethan Allen**, a Vermont blacksmith, led one well-known group of rebels, the **Green Mountain Boys**.

On May 10, 1775, Allen and his followers joined forces with **Benedict Arnold** and his band of 400 soldiers from Boston. Together, they attacked **Fort Ticonderoga** (TY•kahn•duhr•OH•gah), a British outpost on New York's **Lake Champlain**.



**History  
AND  
ART**

**DEATH OF GENERAL WARREN AT THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL** by John Trumbull, 1786  
A moral victory, the Battle of Bunker Hill showed that the untrained American militia could stand up against the professional British army. **Where did most of the fighting take place for the Battle of Bunker Hill?**

Arnold and Allen wanted to take the enemy by surprise. Their strategy called for them to work quietly, without being seen or heard. While the British soldiers slept, Allen and his group crawled through a broken wall and entered the British fort. The victory gave the rebels a valuable supply of ammunition and 50 cannons. They tied the cannons, which weighed 2 to 6 tons (1.8 to 5.4 t) each, to sleds and dragged them by oxen about 200 miles (322 km) to Boston.

### ★ The Battle of Bunker Hill

Even before Washington reached Boston, militia from all parts of New England began to surround the city. They wanted to keep a close watch on British troops there. British General **Thomas Gage** ordered his troops to set up cannons on Dorchester Heights, a high point just

outside of Boston. Gage aimed to drive out the rebel forces.

After learning of the British plan, American Colonel **William Prescott** led 1,200 soldiers to fortify the area. His troops marched to **Breed's Hill** and nearby **Bunker Hill**. There they dug trenches and prepared their defense.

On June 17, 1775, about 2,000 British soldiers, dressed in full uniform and carrying heavy packs, struggled up Breed's Hill. The Americans had very little ammunition. They knew that every shot must be accurate. They could not waste a single one. With this in mind, American commanders gave the orders, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."

The British fell by the hundreds in two unsuccessful attacks. Finally, on the third charge, the Americans ran out of gunpowder and retreated.

Although most of the fighting took place on Breed's Hill, this battle later

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became known as the **Battle of Bunker Hill**. More than 1,000 British were killed or wounded. The Americans suffered only about 400 casualties. The British claimed victory as the Americans retreated. The battle, however, stood out as a moral victory for the Americans because the untrained militia had stood up to the British army.

Washington reached Boston by mid-summer and began to train his army. When the cannons from Fort Ticonderoga arrived that winter, his soldiers placed them on Dorchester Heights. In March 1776, the British left Boston.

## ★ Declaring Independence

As the colonists had feared, King George III refused to honor their protests. The king saw the colonists as troublemakers and sent more troops to stop their rebellion. This action, along with the continued fighting in the colonies, led more and more Americans to favor breaking ties with Great Britain. Encouraging the move toward freedom was the writer and journalist **Thomas Paine**.

### *Common Sense*

Paine had been in America only a few years when he wrote the pamphlet *Common Sense*. Published in January 1776, it declared that the American colonies received no benefits from their mother country, which was intent on exploiting them. Paine questioned some of the ideas that were basic to British society, such as the concept of a king and queen. He even referred to King George III as “the Royal Brute of Great Britain.” Paine called on colonists to use common sense and become independent of Great Britain.

“The period of debate is closed. Arms, as a last resort, must decide the

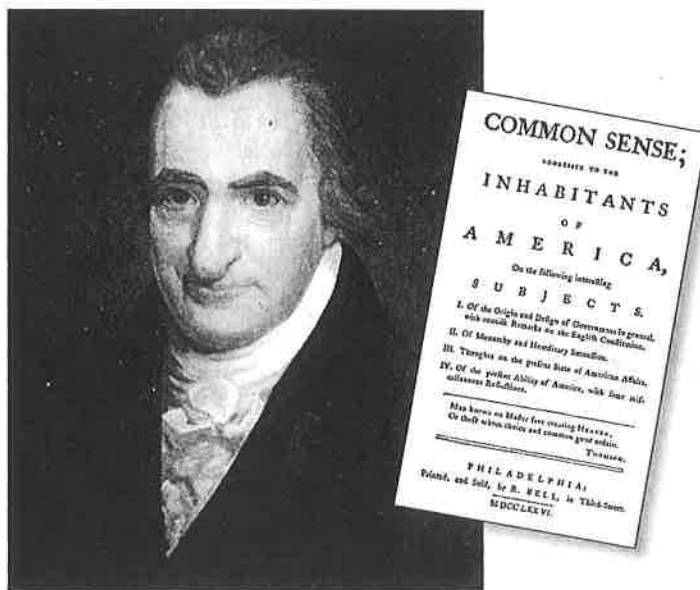
contest. . . Everything that is right or reasonable pleads for separation.”

Almost half a million copies flooded the colonies. As Paine intended, his words stirred the colonists to action. *Common Sense* showed them that the time had come to formally declare independence. In Paine’s words, “The sun never shined on a cause more just.”

### Lee’s Resolution

The desire for independence grew. The congressional delegates, perhaps most of all, sensed the mood of the people and knew the time was right. On June 7, 1776, delegate **Richard Henry Lee** introduced a resolution to declare independence from Great Britain:

“ . . . [T]hese United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.”



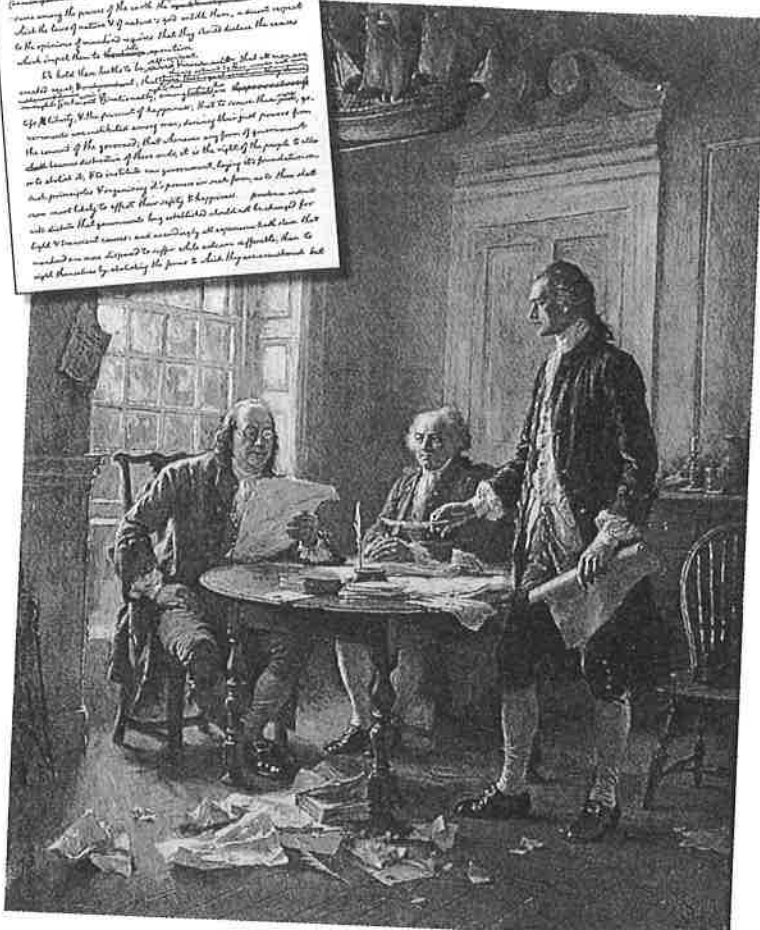
**Picturing History** ▲ **THOMAS PAINE** Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* was significant in persuading colonists towards the idea of breaking away from Great Britain. **How did Paine refer to King George III in his pamphlet?**

◀ DRAFT OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

*The Declaration by the Representatives of the United States in General Congress assembled*

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence in this and in all other cases, shall dictate the most proper Measures to be adopted. In extending the light of Liberty, we must not forget to assist the oppressed — to bind up the wounds of Society with the sacred cords of Union and Amity — and to endeavor to secure the Blessings of Liberty with Safety to all.



**History AND ART**

▲ **DRAFTING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE** by J.L.G. Ferris Thomas Jefferson prepared the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, while Benjamin Franklin and John Adams made suggestions. **Who introduced the resolution to declare independence?**

Lee's dramatic and important words demonstrated the seriousness of the resolution. The congressional delegates had to consider it carefully. If it passed, there would be no turning back. If they agreed, each one would be a traitor in Great Britain's eyes. The penalty for treason was death. Was independence worth such a horrible price?

Supporters of Lee's resolution believed that it was. They formed a committee to prepare a formal declaration of independence. The members of the committee were **Thomas Jefferson** (Virginia), **Benjamin Franklin** (Pennsylvania), **John Adams** (Massachusetts), **Robert Liv-**

ington (New York), and **Roger Sherman** (Connecticut).

After some debate the delegates chose Thomas Jefferson to write the declaration. Although shy by nature and a poor public speaker, Jefferson was well-known as an able writer. Jefferson gave his first draft to Benjamin Franklin. After a few changes, they submitted it to Congress.

**The Final Decision**

On July 2, 1776, more than a year after the first battle of the American Revolution, the Second Continental Congress adopted Lee's resolution. Two days later, on July 4, 1776, the delegates officially approved the Declaration of Independence.

**John Hancock**, president of the Second Continental Congress, signed the document first. As he did, he purposely wrote in large, bold letters, saying King George

“... can read my name without spectacles, and may now double his reward of £500 for my head.”

Word of the new declaration spread slowly through the colonies. As the news reached them, people gathered to listen. Crowds cheered, rang bells, and—although gunpowder was in short supply—fired guns in celebration.

**The Declaration of Independence**

In the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson wrote about a new, representative form of government to be put in place and carried out by the nation's people. Jefferson was influenced by the philosophy of Great Britain's **John Locke**.

The Declaration included four parts. The first part is called the *preamble*. It is an introduction that explains why the Continental Congress drew up the Declaration. The members thought that when a colony breaks its ties with the mother country, its reasons should be explained.

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The second part, the Declaration of Rights, lists the rights of the citizens. Jefferson wrote:

“ We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. ”

The Declaration goes on to explain that in a republic, people form a government to protect their rights. Jefferson wrote that a government should be based “on the consent of the governed.” Like Locke, Jefferson believed that if a government takes away the rights of the people, it is the people’s responsibility to overthrow that government.

The third part of the Declaration lists the colonists’ complaints against the British government. The final section declares that the colonies are “free and independent states” with the full power to make war, to form alliances, and to trade with other countries.

The colonists promised to fight to defend their freedom. Now, however, the colonists no longer fought for their rights as British citizens. They fought as the citizens of a new nation.



◀ EDITORIAL CARTOON PROMOTING COLONIAL UNITY, c. 1754

## Loyalists and Patriots

Americans throughout the colonies faced a choice. Would they support the move toward independence or continued rule by Great Britain?

The nation was divided. The **Loyalists** supported ties with Great Britain. On the other side were **Patriots**, who favored separation from Great Britain. Both groups included dedicated men and women eager to support their positions and to change the minds of their opponents. The struggle between the Patriots and Loyalists grew as bitter as the struggle between the rebels and the British.

After seeing the success of the pamphlet *Common Sense*, some Loyalists wrote and distributed pamphlets of their own. Other Loyalists, called **Tories**, concentrated on preparing for the fight that was sure to come. Emotions ran high among colonists on both sides. Yet, a large number of men and women took neither side, content to wait and see what would happen.

## ★ SECTION 1 REVIEW ★

### Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Ethan Allen, Benedict Arnold, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, Lake Champlain, Bunker Hill.
2. Define Olive Branch Petition, Continental Army, *Common Sense*, Declaration of Independence, preamble, Loyalist, Patriot.
3. What did the Second Continental Congress do to prepare the colonists for war?

4. Name the two groups who had opposite views about colonial independence.

### Critical Thinking

5. Drawing Conclusions Why did it take a full year of fighting before the Declaration of Independence was written?

### ACTIVITY

6. Design a poster that encourages colonists to support the Patriots’ cause.



## SECTION 2

# The Colonies at War

### SETTING THE SCENE

#### Read to Learn . . .

- ★ how Washington defeated the Hessians at Trenton and the British at Princeton.
- ★ why the American victory at Saratoga was a turning point in the war.
- ★ how European allies helped the Continental Army.

#### Terms to Know

- ★ blockade
- ★ Battle of Saratoga
- ★ Treaty of Alliance
- ★ privateer

#### People to Meet

- ★ Nathan Hale
- ★ General Charles Cornwallis
- ★ Marquis de Lafayette
- ★ George Rogers Clark
- ★ John Paul Jones

#### Places to Locate

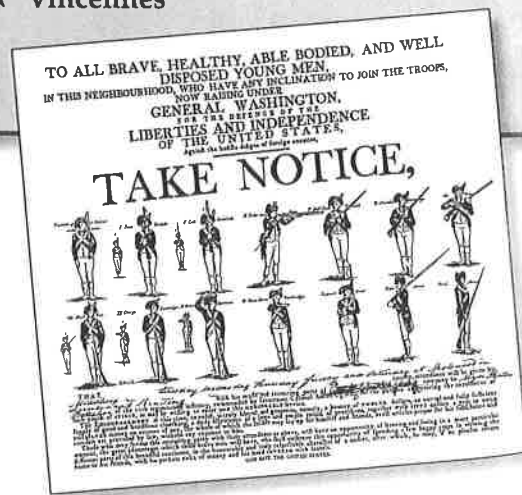
- ★ Long Island
- ★ Valley Forge
- ★ Vincennes

▶ CONTINENTAL ARMY RECRUITMENT POSTER

In a letter to King George III about the colonial rebellion, General Thomas Gage wrote, "They are now spirited up by a rage and enthusiasm as great as ever people were possessed of. . . ." Although the British were impressed with the colonists' determination, they did not believe that a ragtag, badly equipped group of rebels could beat a world power such as Great Britain. George Washington and his Continental Army would prove them wrong.

### ★ The War in the North

In the fall of 1775, the Continental Army moved into Canada hoping to win support from the French Canadians.



Richard Montgomery's forces marched from Fort Ticonderoga into Canada and captured Montreal in November 1775.

Meanwhile, Benedict Arnold led his troops through the wilderness of Maine, where they encountered blizzards and freezing temperatures. Supplies were short and they survived by eating anything they could find—bark, candles, and even shoe leather. Still, they continued on to Quebec and stormed the walled city on New Year's Eve, 1775.

The attack proved unsuccessful. Montgomery was killed, and Arnold was wounded. Not willing to give up the siege, Arnold's troops remained outside Quebec for the next few months. While the harsh winter continued, many soldiers died of starvation and disease. When the long winter ended and spring arrived at last, Arnold's soldiers were tired, hungry, sick, and depressed. When British reinforcements arrived in May, the troops admitted defeat. Canada would remain in British hands.

### Dorchester Heights

The Battle of Bunker Hill left the British short of forces and supplies. To wait for fresh supplies and reinforcement troops, the British decided to stay in Boston during the summer of 1775.

Washington reached Boston in mid-summer in 1775 and began to train his troops. On March 4, 1776, he placed the cannons from Fort Ticonderoga on Dorchester Heights and aimed them at the city. British General William Howe realized he could not force the Americans to leave. Two weeks later, the entire British army and 1,500 Loyalists evacuated Boston by ship. General Howe moved his troops north to Halifax, Canada, leaving Boston under American control.

After the British retreated to Canada, King George set up a blockade of all the ports in the colonies, to prevent goods and people from moving in and out of the area.

### ★ The New York Campaign

In June 1776, General Howe and his troops returned from Canada. This time they moved into New York City, which Howe viewed as an ideal location. From here he could easily march troops south to Philadelphia or north into New England. By overtaking New York City, he also could split the Northern and Southern colonies.

### The Battle of Long Island

In an effort to defend New York, Washington moved about 19,000 troops south to Long Island. The untrained recruits proved no match for Howe's professional soldiers. To make matters worse, Washington had no navy to challenge the British in New York Harbor.

Washington tried to predict where the British troops would come ashore. He divided his army, sending 10,000 soldiers to Long Island and the rest to Manhattan. In August of 1776, Howe chose to land at Long Island.

During the Battle of Long Island, Washington's troops fought bravely, but at least 1,500 were killed, injured, or taken prisoner. The Americans were not able to hold New York, and for many weeks, Washington himself was in danger of being captured. Washington told his troops, "I will not ask any man go further than I do. I will fight so long as I have a leg or an arm."

Finally, Washington led his army on a retreat into New Jersey. He then crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. In

### ★★★ AMERICA'S FLAGS ★★★



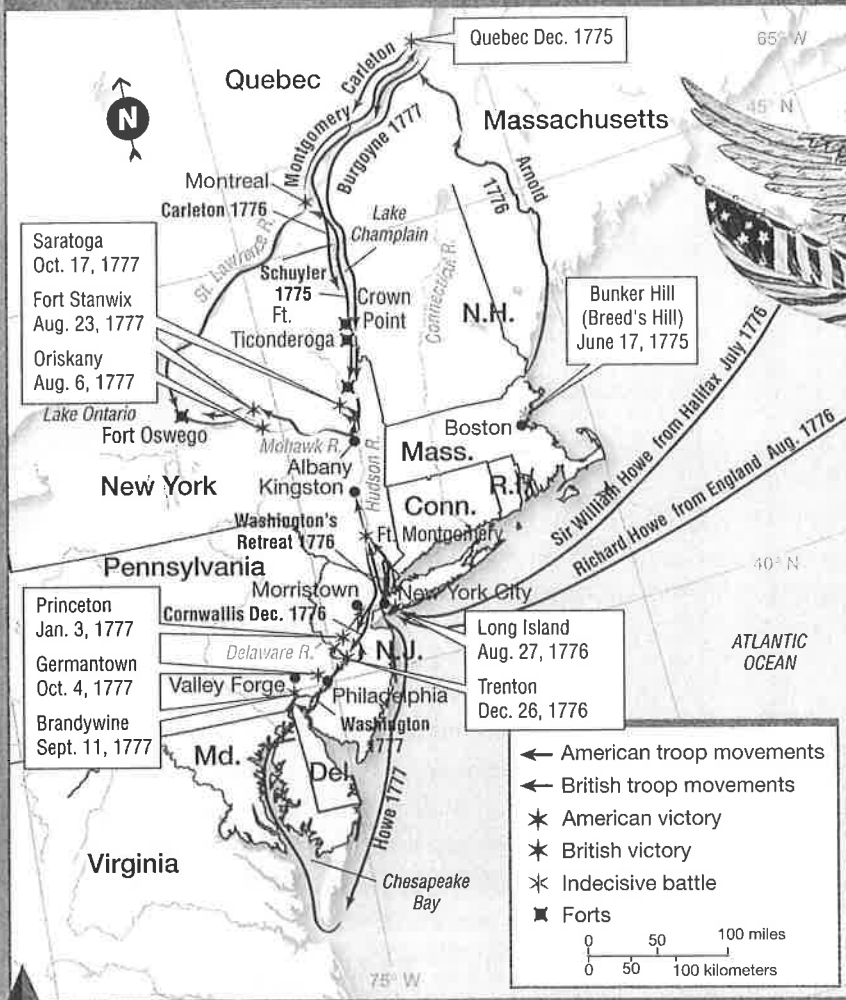
**First Stars and Stripes, 1777-1795** After the Declaration of Independence, the British flag lost its meaning

as a part of the United States flag. Thus the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, designed the first Stars and Stripes. It determined that "the Flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation."

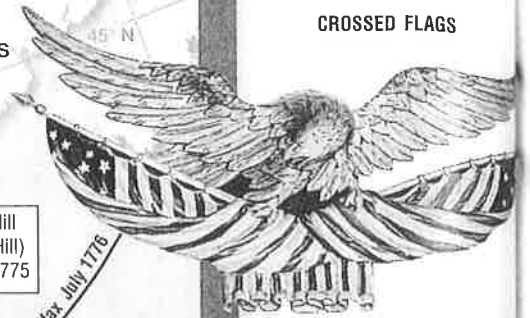
For Americans past and present, the color red symbolizes courage, white purity of ideals, and blue, strength and unity of the states.

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## The Revolutionary War in the North, 1775-1777



▼ EAGLE AND  
CROSSED FLAGS



**Location** British and American forces fought many battles in the North. The American victory at Saratoga marked a turning point. **Who won the battle of Long Island?**

the end Washington lost New York, but he managed to escape the British. The British held New York City until the war ended seven years later.

### Spying on the Enemy

Spying was common during the war. When captured, spies were labeled as traitors and typically sentenced to death by hanging. The threat of death, as horrible as it was, did not prevent some dedicated Patriots from spying for their country.

**Nathan Hale**, a 24-year-old American lieutenant, spied for George Washington during the New York campaign. He disguised himself, slipped behind enemy lines, and returned with information. Soon after, the British caught him. They swiftly condemned him to death. Hale's reported last words reflect his patriotic spirit:

“ I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

## ★ Victories at Trenton and Princeton

When Washington and his troops retreated from New York and crossed the Delaware into Pennsylvania, they were in desperate shape. Washington was so depressed that he wrote to his brother, "I think the game is pretty near up." His soldiers were tired and hungry. Some, sensing defeat, gave up and left for home.

The Continental soldiers never seemed to have enough food. The meat was often rotten, so they sprinkled it with salt to cover the bad taste. Hard, dried peas and moldy, stale bread were common.

In his despair, Washington came up with a daring strategy. He planned to launch a surprise attack on the British camp at **Trenton**, New Jersey. As his troops prepared for battle, Washington ordered Thomas Paine's new pamphlet *The Crisis* to be read to them. It offered these words of encouragement:

“ 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 every man and woman. ”

### Surprise Attack

On December 25, 1776, the British soldiers, consisting mostly of Hessians, had gathered in their camps at Trenton to celebrate the Christmas holiday. That cold and stormy night Washington led 2,400 soldiers across the icy Delaware River. Under cover of darkness, all 2,400 managed to cross unseen. The next morning, Washington and his troops swept down on the sleeping Hessians. Within an hour and a half, the Hessians surrendered.

When British General Howe learned of the defeat at Trenton, he sent **General Charles Cornwallis** to pursue Washington and his troops. Washington, however, turned the situation to his advantage and defeated the British at **Princeton**, New Jersey, on January 3, 1777. Achieving another victory gave the Continental Army hope and confidence.

## ★ Turning the Tide

Great Britain's losses left that country's officials puzzled. Embarrassed by its mistakes, the British military asked **General John Burgoyne** to stop the Americans. He drew up a plan to gain control of the Hudson River valley in New York. If successful, the strategy would benefit the British by cutting New England off from the rest of the colonies.

### The Battle of Saratoga

According to the plan, three armies would move on Albany, New York, at the same time. General Burgoyne would lead an army south from Montreal, Canada, into New York. General Howe's army would sail up the Hudson River from New York City. **Colonel Barry St. Leger** would move his forces from Lake Ontario eastward across the Mohawk Valley.

Although well-planned, the British campaign failed miserably, largely because the three commanders neglected to notify each other of changes in the original attack strategy. British General Howe decided to attack Philadelphia rather than meet Burgoyne at Albany. Benedict Arnold and his men stopped St. Leger at Fort Stanwix and turned him back. Burgoyne's troops were the only British forces to reach the Hudson River valley near Albany.

On the way, Burgoyne recaptured **Fort Ticonderoga** and fought other small battles, losing close to 1,000 soldiers. Not

until Burgoyne reached the town of Saratoga, New York, did he learn that the other commanders would not be there to assist him.

Three weeks later, the Americans attacked Burgoyne in the *Battle of Saratoga*. The British army lost hundreds of soldiers. When they tried to retreat to Canada, Americans surrounded them. The Americans blocked every possible path to safety. On October 17, 1777, Burgoyne was forced to surrender, reporting the first major defeat of the British army. The Americans took at least 6,000 British soldiers as prisoners.

### **The Treaty of Alliance**

Until the American victory at Saratoga, neither France nor any other country had been willing to openly support the colonists. The victory made clear that it was possible for the Americans to succeed. In February 1778, French King Louis XVI signed the Treaty of Alliance, assuring the Americans of the support they desperately needed.

### **Brutal Winter at Valley Forge**

Before French aid reached America, Washington's army had to endure the harsh winter of 1777–78 at **Valley Forge**, Pennsylvania. The American soldiers had little protection from the freezing temperatures. Shoeless and dressed in rags, they huddled together inside flimsy tents until they could build small log huts. When complete, each dirt-floor hut measured

about 14 feet by 16 feet. In spite of the small size, about 12 soldiers lived in each hut.

The soldiers slept on either the cold muddy hut floors or the straw mattresses that were usually crawling with lice. Food consisted mostly of firecakes, which were thin strips of dough made from a mixture of flour and water. Soldiers suffered from disease and frostbite. One soldier commented that the barefoot troops "might be tracked by their blood upon the rough, frozen ground." By spring, as many as 2,500 American soldiers had died from disease, exposure to the cold, and lack of food.

The long winter finally came to an end, and by spring, the troops were in better spirits. French aid had arrived, the streams and rivers ran with fish, and many soldiers who had left the camp sick returned healthy. Once again Washington began making battle plans.

### **★ Help From Europe**

Throughout the American Revolution, Europeans provided help in the form of money and military expertise.

**Baron Friedrich von Steuben**, a Prussian soldier, spent the winter at Valley Forge helping Washington train the troops. He used his military experience to teach the Continental soldiers how to work together as a unit. From him, the soldiers learned how to make advances, how to retreat, how to carry their weapons, and how to use their bayonets. Von Steuben's great sense of humor helped keep the troops in good spirits.

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## *Footnotes to History*

**General Burgoyne's Second Career** General John Burgoyne was fired from his post after being defeated at the Battle of Saratoga. Fortunately, he had another career to fall back on; Burgoyne was a successful playwright. His comedy, *The Heiress*, was very popular in England and was translated into several foreign languages as well.



**History  
AND  
ART**

▲ *THE MARCH TO VALLEY FORGE* by William B.J. Trego, 1883 While waiting for French aid, American soldiers spent a brutal winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The long winter was costly, causing the death of many American soldiers. **What were the conditions of the living quarters at Valley Forge?**

The **Marquis de Lafayette** (LAH•fee•EHT), a young French soldier, fought with Washington in Pennsylvania. He became an American general at the age of 19. Lafayette enthusiastically supported the American cause. He received no payment for his military service, but fought out of love for America.

Others throughout Europe felt the same desire to fight for the American cause. **Thaddeus Kosciuszko** (kawsh•CHUSH•KOH) came from Poland and used his experience as an engineer to build trenches and forts for the Americans. **Casimir Pulaski**, also from Poland, trained and organized the first American cavalry—troops on horseback.

**Bernardo de Gálvez**, governor of Spanish Louisiana, helped the Americans even before Spain entered the war. He secretly provided supplies during the early years of the Revolution. After Spain entered the war in 1779, Gálvez's troops defeated the British at Baton Rouge and Natchez. His army then marched throughout the Gulf

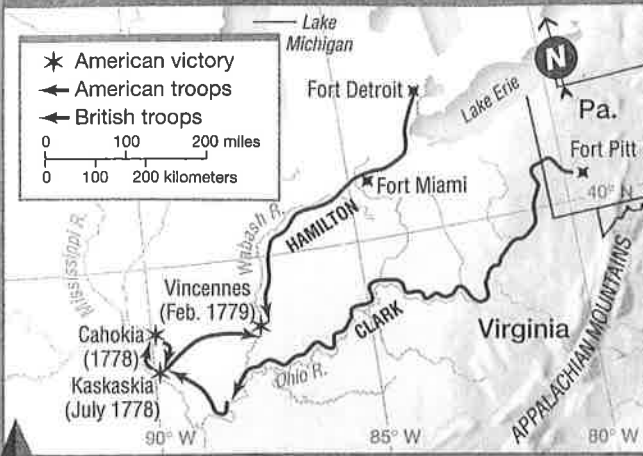
Coast area, capturing British forts at Mobile in 1780 and Pensacola in 1781. His campaigns diverted British troops from other war fronts.

## ★ The War in the West

The war continued to rage throughout the colonies. While Washington and his troops fought in the East, the British recruited Native Americans to help them in their frontier campaign farther west. At first, Native Americans did not want to take sides. Later, however, most joined the British, believing an alliance with them would help to turn back the white settlers moving onto their land.

Fighting broke out in the Ohio Valley as British and Native American forces began their invasion of frontier settlements. In 1778 **George Rogers Clark** of Virginia led volunteers on a raid against the British in the Ohio Valley. He captured British forts at Kaskaskia and Cahokia with the help of

## The Revolutionary War in the West, 1778–1779



### Map Study

Region In 1778 and 1779 the Revolutionary War spread west of the Appalachian Mountains. **What victories did the American forces win in the West?**

a group of Native Americans known as the **Miami**. Then Clark made a surprise attack on the British fort at **Vincennes**, in present-day Indiana. In February 1779, after marching more than 100 miles (161 km) through rain and icy weather, Clark's forces captured Vincennes. The loss weakened the British in the Ohio Valley.

## ★ The War at Sea

Congress established the Continental Navy in 1775. Its few ships, however, had little effect on the outcome of the war. To protect their ports, the colonists were forced to rely on armed private ships called **privateers**.

### John Paul Jones

In 1779 an American warship, the *Bonhomme Richard*, won a surprising victory in one of the war's most famous sea battles. The conflict began when the ship's daring captain, **John Paul Jones**, sailed to the coast of Great Britain and attacked the British warship *Serapis* in the North Sea.

For awhile it looked as though Jones and his crew would be lost. In the fierce battle, cannonballs tore through the *Bonhomme Richard*. Seeing that the heavily damaged ship had caught fire, the British commander demanded that Jones surrender. The American captain's reply was strong and determined. "I have not yet begun to fight!" With that, his sailors boarded the *Serapis* and, fighting one-on-one, defeated the British.

Later John Paul Jones became known as the "Father of the American Navy." His heroism in the face of a bigger and better-equipped British fleet inspired Americans.

## ★ SECTION 2 REVIEW ★

### Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Nathan Hale, General Charles Cornwallis, Marquis de Lafayette, George Rogers Clark, John Paul Jones, Long Island, Valley Forge, Vincennes.
2. Define blockade, Battle of Saratoga, Treaty of Alliance, privateer.
3. Why did General Howe base his troops in New York City in June 1776?
4. How did the American victory at Saratoga help the Continental Army?

### Critical Thinking

5. Understanding Point of View Why would Native Americans be interested in the outcome of the American Revolution?

### ACTIVITY

6. Imagine that you had friends at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777–1778. Make a list of five things you would send to them to help them get through the winter.

## Financing the War

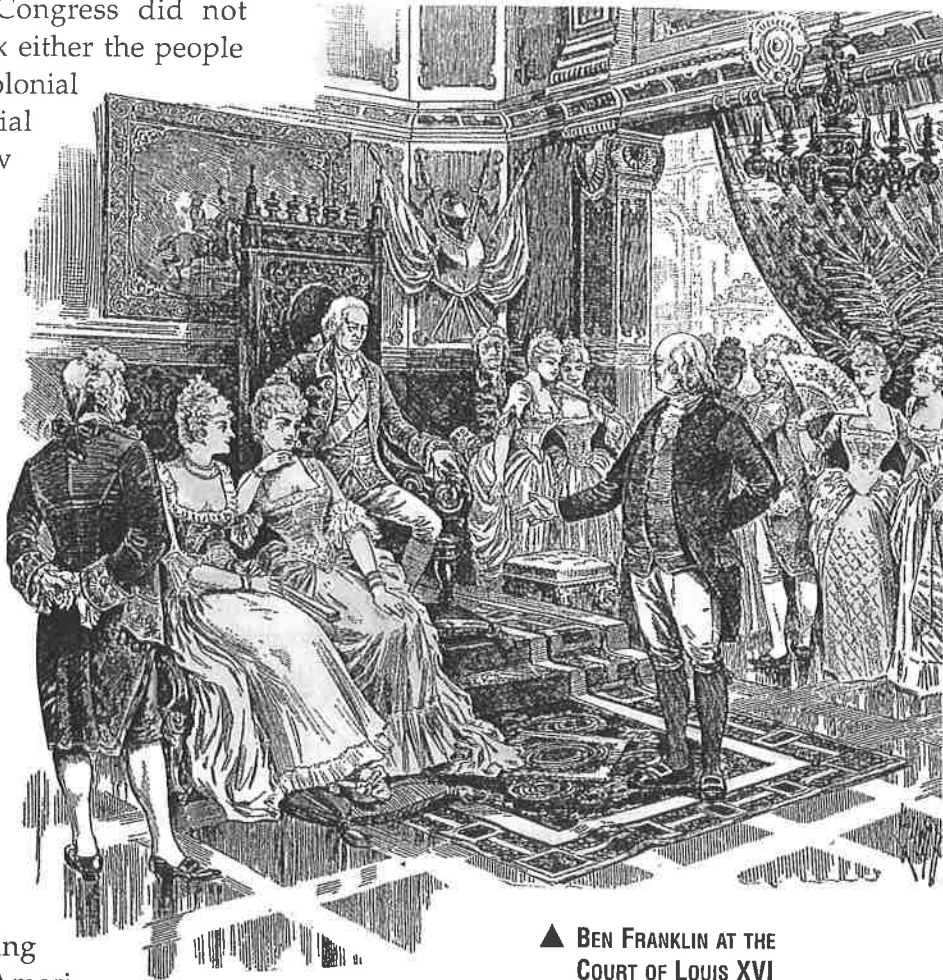
The Continental Congress did not have the power to tax either the people or the individual colonial governments. Colonial leaders wondered how they would pay soldiers and buy food and supplies.

In 1775 the congress began to print large amounts of paper money called **Continental dollars**. So many were issued that they soon became worthless because there was no gold or silver to back them in the colonial treasury.

The congress turned to Great Britain's enemy, France. As ambassador to France, **Benjamin Franklin** convinced young King Louis XVI that the Americans could not lose the war.

Secretly at first, then openly later, the French government gave huge sums of money to the Americans. France not only helped the colonies but it also encouraged Spain and the Netherlands to give financial aid to the colonies.

A few wealthy American businesspeople also dug deep in their pockets to save the Revolution with loans. Citizens loaned the congress money in exchange for bonds, or certificates that could later be cashed in for the full amount of the loan plus interest.



▲ BEN FRANKLIN AT THE COURT OF LOUIS XVI

### Making the Economics Connection

1. Why did the Continental Congress have trouble raising money in the colonies?
2. Why was France willing to help the Americans finance the war?
3. What are bonds and why were they important?

### ACTIVITY

4. Design a poster encouraging Patriots to buy bonds to support the war effort.



## SECTION 3

# The War Moves South

### SETTING THE SCENE

#### Read to Learn . . .

- ★ why the British shifted their focus to the South.
- ★ why the British had trouble defeating the small bands of Patriot raiders.
- ★ what role African Americans and women played in the war.

#### Terms to Know

- ★ Battle of Cowpens
- ★ pension

#### People to Meet

- ★ Frances Marion
- ★ Peter Francisco
- ★ Salem Poor

#### Places to Locate

- ★ Kings Mountain
- ★ Moore's Creek Bridge
- ★ Savannah
- ★ Charleston



◀ BENEDICT ARNOLD

About 1,200 Loyalists were killed, injured, or taken prisoner during the fierce fighting on top of **Kings Mountain**, in South Carolina in 1780. James Collins, a 16-year-old Patriot soldier, recalled the attack this way:

“ We soon attempted to climb the hill, but were fiercely charged upon and forced to fall back. . . . We tried a second time. . . . We took to the hill a third time. The enemy gave way. ”

With the capture of Kings Mountain, the Patriots scored a needed victory for the Americans in the South.

### ★ War in the South

Until 1778 only a few isolated conflicts had broken out between Patriots and Loyalists in the South. In one battle on February 27, 1776, Patriot forces crushed a Loyalist uprising at **Moore's Creek Bridge**, North Carolina. Although a small battle, its impact was great. Loyalists found the defeat discouraging, while the Patriot cause gained strength and popularity.

The British turned their attention to the Southern colonies when France entered the war in 1778. The British believed they had more support in the South and thought that support would help them to win more battles there. For almost three years the British marched through Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia without suffering a major defeat. On December 29, 1778, they

captured the port city of Savannah, Georgia. Charleston, South Carolina, fell to the British on May 12, 1780.

### Arnold Joins the British

General Washington became disheartened by the heavy losses in the South. At the same time, news of another loss added to his despair. Benedict Arnold, one of Washington's most trusted generals, had been caught spying for the British.

In 1780 Arnold tried to turn the American fort at West Point over to the British. When Arnold tried to deliver a message to the British, three Patriots intercepted it. They gave Washington the evidence in Arnold's own handwriting. Arnold became a general in the British army.

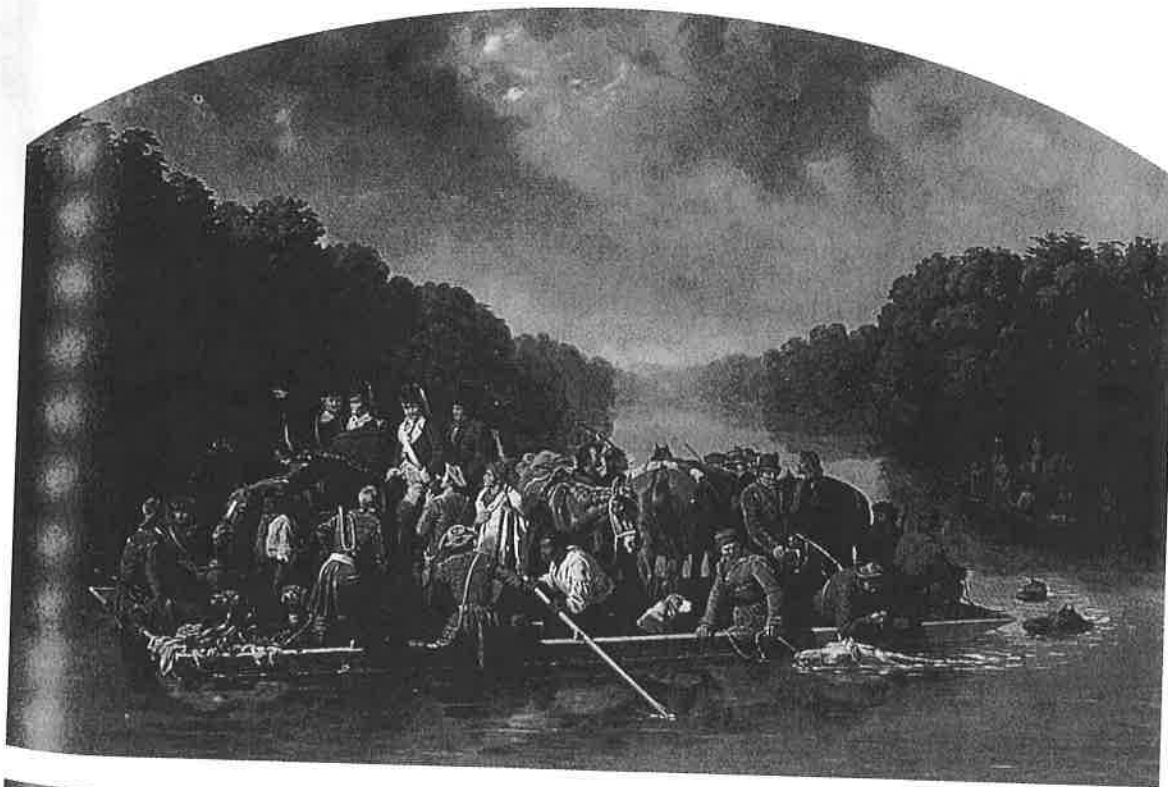
### Patriot Raids

Here and there throughout the South, American victories helped to brighten

the outlook for the colonists. South Carolina Patriots felt angry about the defeat at Charleston. Looking for revenge, many of them took the situation into their own hands by forming bands and raiding British camps in the countryside. Hit-and-run raids, similar to the Patriots' attack on Kings Mountain, worked well for them in the South. The Patriot raiders were skilled hunters, trained since childhood to use their rifles. They knew the land and could easily survive in the wilderness.

### The "Swamp Fox"

Francis Marion, known as the "Swamp Fox," led one band of organized raiders. A quiet man, Marion was known for his imaginative war tactics and for his success in battle. Marion led his troops in quick strikes, cutting off enemy supplies and supply routes, and



History  
AND  
ART

▲ *THE "SWAMP FOX" AND HIS MEN* by William Ranney, c. 1850 Francis Marion, known as the "Swamp Fox," kept the British guessing by leading his troops on quick surprise raids. This painting shows Swamp Fox and his men setting out on an attack. **What are two possible reasons Francis Marion was called "Swamp Fox"?**

then running away. Marion usually struck at night, taking advantage of the darkness to surprise unsuspecting British troops.

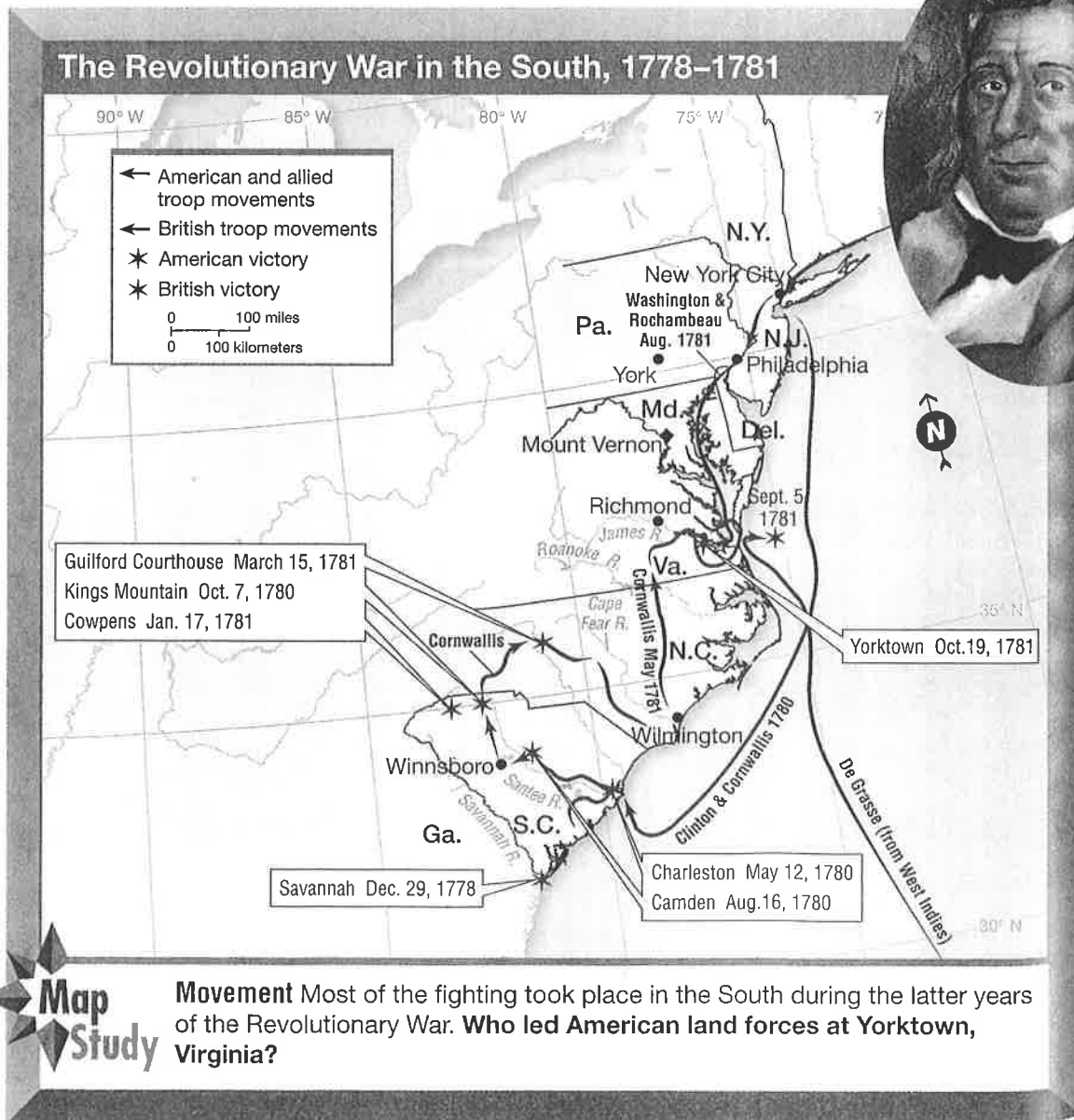
Marion never stayed at the same camp more than once. His scouts perched in treetops and signaled the troops with shrill whistles. Whenever Marion and his troops came to a bridge near enemy lines, they covered the bridge with blankets to soften the sound of the horses' hooves as they crossed. Marion's raids helped keep the British off balance.

## The Battle of Cowpens

Two other daring generals, **Daniel Morgan** and **Nathaniel Greene**, won battles for the Patriots in the South. On January 17, 1781, Morgan defeated the British in South Carolina at the **Battle of Cowpens**.

Greene used tactics similar to Marion. His hit-and-run raids kept the British off guard. Greene, considered by some to be Washington's best general, wrote of his experiences, "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again." Following the Patriot victory at Cowpens, Greene's forces joined Mor-

► PETER FRANCISCO



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gan's, with hopes of crushing Cornwallis's weakened force. On March 15, 1781, the armies met in a bloody battle known as the  **Battle of Guilford Courthouse**  in North Carolina. Although Cornwallis drove the Patriots from the battlefield, the Americans badly battered his troops.

### Biography ★★☆☆

#### **Peter Francisco, Hero at Guilford Courthouse**

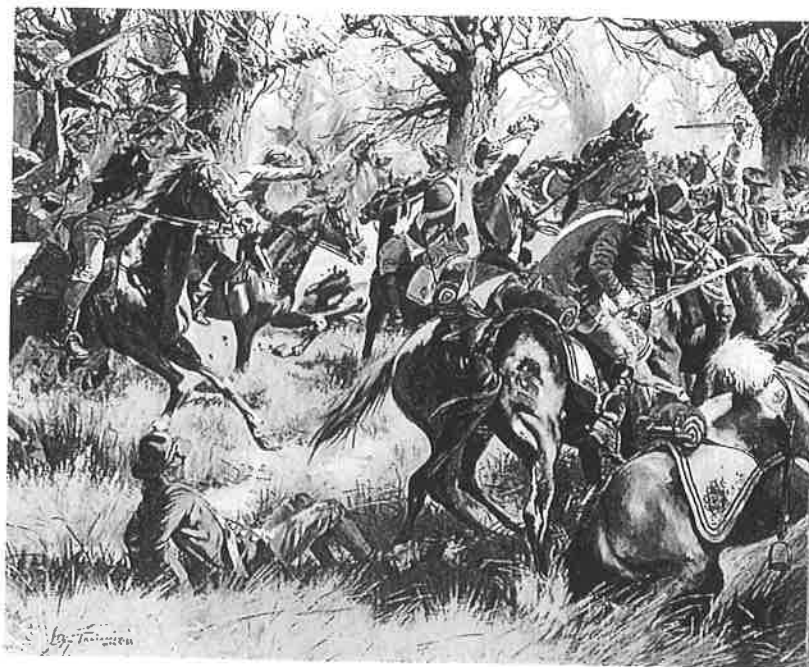
A monument at Guilford Courthouse marks the site of a charge made during a famous battle. The monument is known as the Francisco Monument. Born in the Portuguese Azores, as a young child **Peter Francisco** was taken from his family and abandoned on a dock in Virginia.

When the Revolution began, 16-year-old Francisco joined the Virginia militia and fought in many battles. Most accounts indicate that he was quite large, standing 6-feet 6-inches tall and weighing 260 pounds. Armed with a huge sword at Guilford Courthouse, Francisco killed 11 British soldiers.

Seriously wounded by a British bayonet, Francisco collapsed and was left for dead on the battlefield. He recovered and rejoined the troops for the Yorktown campaign. Francisco had earned a reputation for bravery and dedication to the revolutionary cause. ★★☆☆

#### ★ **African Americans and the War**

When the American Revolution began, the population of the colonies was approximately 2.5 million. More than a half million were African Americans. Slaveholders were afraid to give guns to either enslaved or free African Americans. In November 1775 orders went out to discharge all African American soldiers in the Continental Army.



### Picturing History

▲ **BATTLE OF COWPENS** Led by General Greene and General Morgan, American forces defeated the British at the Battle of Cowpens. **What fighting tactics did General Greene use against the British?**

#### **Both Sides Encourage Enlistment**

Soon after, the British offered enslaved persons their freedom in return for military service. Enslaved African Americans signed up in great numbers. According to one estimate, nearly 1,000 enslaved persons joined the British and gained their freedom.

The Americans, meanwhile, found themselves in need of troops. Realizing that great numbers of African Americans were fighting for the British, American policy changed to encourage the enlistment of those who were free or enslaved.

In reality, African Americans had been involved in the Revolution from the beginning. One of the first Americans to die for the revolutionary cause was African American **Crispus Attucks**, who was killed at the Boston Massacre on March 5, 1770. Many more would follow in his footsteps.

In all about 5,000 African Americans served as soldiers, minutemen, scouts,

# Linking Past and Present

## Women in War

*During the American Revolution, women often served as secret agents, or accompanied troops as cooks, medics, laundresses, and guides. Some also fought in combat. Today, women have more active roles in the military.*

## Then

### Soldier Without Her Name

In 1782 **Deborah Sampson** dressed in men's clothing, borrowed the name of her brother Robert, and joined the



◀ **DEBORAH SAMPSON**

guards, sailors, spies, laborers, fifers, and drummers in the Continental Army. **Jack Sisson** participated in a bold raid on British military headquarters in Newport, Rhode Island. **James Armistad** served valiantly as an American spy, working out of the headquarters of General Lafayette.

At least 12 African Americans, including **Caesar Bacon**, **Cuff Whittemore**, **Peter Salem**, and **Salem Poor**, fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill. American commanders singled out Salem Poor for his skill and valor. Fellow soldiers reported that he "behaved like an experienced officer, as well as an excellent soldier." They recommended that the Continental Congress recognize and honor him for his bravery.

Continental Army. She knew that she could fight as well as any man, but because she was a woman, the army would not permit her to join. Still, she fought in many battles and was wounded twice.

## Now

### On Land, On Sea, In the Air

Today, women no longer have to disguise themselves in men's clothes in order to serve their country in the armed forces. They can enlist in any of the armed forces and move up the ranks just like their male counterparts. Women now make up almost one-fifth of the



▲ **U.S. NAVY OFFICERS**

United States military forces. They serve on warships, fly jet fighters, and command their own units. Although women still do not fight in hand-to-hand combat, about 90 percent of today's military jobs are open to women.

## Fighting for Freedom

The idea of fighting for freedom was particularly meaningful to the colonial African Americans. By the end of the war, some enslaved African Americans had gained their freedom. As a result of the war efforts of African Americans, Northern states such as Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania attempted to end slavery in their states.

The African Americans who returned to the South after serving in the Continental Army did not find an end to enslavement, however. Even though Virginia and other states passed laws giving freedom to ex-soldiers, most slaveholders did not free them.

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## ★ Women and the War

Women also contributed to the war effort. With the men away on the battlefield, many women took on the responsibility of running the family farms and businesses. Other women followed their husbands to the army camps. There they cooked, sewed, carried ammunition, or served as nurses.

Some supported the war effort by making soap, gathering rags for bandages, and making coats and shirts to keep the soldiers warm through the winter. Because of a shortage of metal, many women melted down their pewter pitchers and cups for bullets.

A few women took part in battles. Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley spent seven years at her husband's side in battle. The soldiers called her "Moll of the Pitcher," or **Molly Pitcher**, because she carried water pitchers to the soldiers. She also helped the wounded and assisted the men at the cannons.

During the New Jersey Battle of Monmouth in 1778, McCauley's husband was wounded. She took his place on the battlefield, operating the cannon and firing at the British. The American government recognized her valiant service more than 40 years later and granted her a \$50 per year pension, or payment for the military service she had performed. One year later Mary McCauley died.



### Picturing History

▲ **AFRICAN AMERICANS FIGHTING IN THE WAR** Many African Americans fought for the Continental Army and gave their lives during the Revolutionary War. **Why did the American policy change, allowing African Americans to fight in the war?**

Women played other roles, as well. Lydia Darragh worked as a spy for the Continental Army. Mercy Otis Warren helped the war effort by writing newspaper articles in support of the Revolution.

## ★ SECTION 3 REVIEW ★

### Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Francis Marion, Peter Francisco, Salem Poor, Kings Mountain, Moore's Creek Bridge, Savannah, Charleston.
2. Define Battle of Cowpens, pension.
3. What skills helped the Patriot raiders to defeat the British?
4. How did women contribute to the war effort?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Determining Cause and Effect** Why did the Continental Army stop enlisting African Americans and then change its policy?

### ACTIVITY

6. Design a symbol or logo that captures the spirit and determination of the Patriot raiders in the South.

## SECTION 4

\*\*\*\*\*

# Victory at Yorktown

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Read to Learn . . .

- ★ how France helped to end the war.
- ★ how General Washington defeated the British at Yorktown.
- ★ the terms of the Treaty of Paris.

### Terms to Know

- ★ compromise.
- ★ Treaty of Paris

### People to Meet

- ★ Admiral François de Grasse

### Places to Locate

- ★ Yorktown
- ★ Chesapeake Bay



► AMERICAN MILITIAMAN

In 1781 the British generals were confused and in disagreement over their next move. France's entry into the war had complicated matters for them. After a series of victories over the British navy, the French had won command of America's Atlantic coast. The British saw France's presence there as a challenge to their control of the sea.

### ★ The Final Battle

Following the Patriots' hit-and-run attacks in the South, General Cornwallis led his 7,500 troops north to **Yorktown**, Virginia. Yorktown was on a peninsula formed by the James River and **Chesapeake Bay**. Cornwallis thought this would be an excellent location. From here, he could receive supplies from British ships. In addition, he thought the site provided a safe haven for his army.

Cornwallis, though, was unprepared for the confrontation that would soon occur. On August 29, 1781, the commander of the French fleet, **Admiral François de Grasse**, anchored 29 warships in Chesapeake Bay. His fleet blocked the entrance and prevented Cornwallis from getting supplies. The blockade also kept Cornwallis from escaping by sea. At the same time, Washington's army and 7,000 French troops led by **General Jean de Rochambeau** (ROH•SHAM•BOH) hurried from New York to Virginia. By September 14 they had reached the peninsula. Meanwhile, additional forces led by Anthony Wayne and the Marquis de Lafayette converged on Yorktown.

The armies and the French navy trapped Cornwallis. Every route of escape by land and by sea had been blocked. British forces tried to rescue Cornwallis's army but could not penetrate the French

and American lines. On October 17, 1781, Cornwallis wrote to General Washington, requesting a cease-fire. Two days later the British officially surrendered.

### Surrender at Yorktown

On October 19, British and American troops met outside of Yorktown, along the river. The drums grew quiet as the two sides faced each other. General Washington waited to accept General Cornwallis's sword in the gesture of surrender. Cornwallis, however, was not there. Instead, he had named General Charles O'Hara to act in his place.

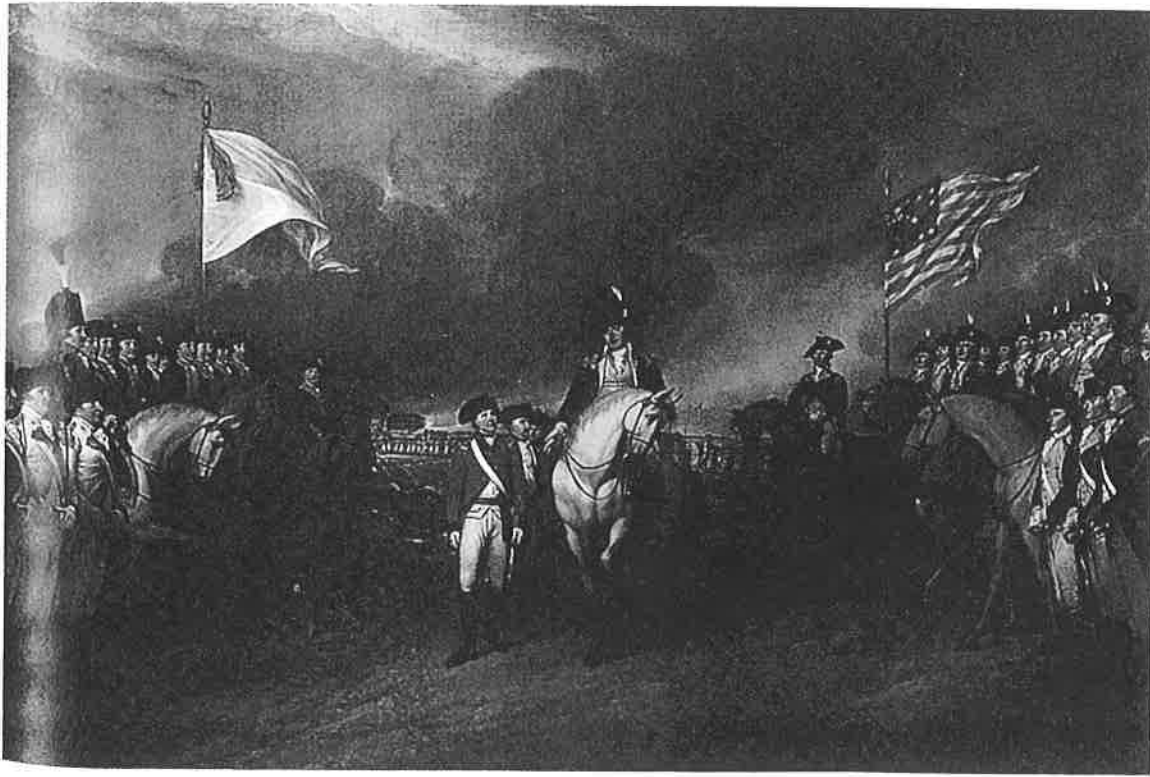
Learning of the substitution, Washington selected General Benjamin Lincoln to represent the Americans. This was a generous tribute to Lincoln, whose troops had been defeated in the battle at Charleston. Lincoln accepted O'Hara's sword and

then directed the British troops to stack their weapons and return to Yorktown.

As the 7,000 British soldiers turned over their weapons to the Americans, the British band played a sad tune titled "The World Turn'd Upside Down." The British were dismayed. The Americans were jubilant. Washington's ragtag army had beaten King George's mighty forces. Although the war was not quite over, a major battle had been won, and the Americans knew victory was theirs.

### ★ The Road to Peace

When news of the surrender reached London, British prime minister Lord North exclaimed, "It is all over!" Parliament voted North out of office. Next, the two sides had to sit down and negotiate a peace agreement.



History  
AND  
ART

▲ **SURRENDER OF LORD CORNWALLIS AT YORKTOWN** by John Trumbull 1824 Trapped by American and French forces, General Charles Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. The victory would guarantee America's freedom from Great Britain. **Who represented the American forces at the surrender?**



## Treaty of Paris

Delegates from the Continental Congress, including John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams, traveled to Paris to meet with the British and work out the details of the treaty. It took almost two years for American and British peacemakers to reach a **compromise**, or an agreement acceptable to both sides. Finally, on September 3, 1783, the two sides signed the **Treaty of Paris**.

The treaty stated that Great Britain would acknowledge the independence of the colonists and remove its troops from American soil immediately. In addition, the treaty set new boundaries for the United States. The new territory included all the land west of the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River. It extended from Canada in the north to Florida in the south. Great Britain returned Florida to Spain.

According to the treaty, the Americans agreed to ask state legislatures to pay Loyalists for property they lost in the war. Most states ignored the claims.

## Washington's Farewell

With good reason Patriots throughout the colonies celebrated their victory as the

last of the British troops left New York. General Washington, at the head of his troops, rode triumphantly into the city. The nation owed a great debt to Washington. His unwavering dedication, discipline, and superior judgment helped to win the American Revolution.

In December of 1783, Washington addressed his troops in a final farewell at Fraunces Tavern in New York City. Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge recorded Washington's words:

“With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. . . . I cannot come to each of you, but shall feel obliged if each of you will come and take me by the hand.”

Tallmadge said every officer in the room marched up to the departing general. “Such a scene of sorrow and weeping I had never before witnessed.”

When the war ended, Washington returned to his home at Mount Vernon, Virginia, where he planned to live quietly with his family. The war was over and independence had been won. Still, Washington knew there would be great challenges ahead for the young and promising country.

## ★ SECTION 4 REVIEW ★

### Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Admiral François de Grasse, Yorktown, Chesapeake Bay.
2. Define compromise, Treaty of Paris.
3. How did France help the Americans defeat the British at Yorktown?
4. How did the land boundaries of the colonies change as a result of the Treaty of Paris?

### Critical Thinking

5. Predicting Consequences What do you think would have happened if France had not entered the war?

### ACTIVITY

6. Draw a picture of a gift that you think the Continental Congress might have sent to the French government in appreciation for its help in ending the war.

# CHAPTER 8 ★ REVIEW

## Using Key Vocabulary

Use the vocabulary words below to complete the following sentences.

**compromise**

**Patriots**

**Loyalists**

**blockade**

**privateers**

1. During the American Revolution, British ships set up a \_\_\_\_\_ of colonial ports.
2. Owners of American merchant ships who volunteered to go up against the British navy were called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Colonists who sided with the British were given the name \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Continental Army was made up of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. After much discussion, American and British representatives reached a \_\_\_\_\_ and signed the Treaty of Paris.

## Reviewing Facts

1. Describe how the Declaration of Independence divided the nation.
2. Tell what actions the Second Continental Congress took to prepare the colonists for war.
3. Identify the battle that was the turning point for the Americans in the war.
4. Name the country that helped Washington defeat the British at Yorktown.
5. List the main terms of the Treaty of Paris.

## Understanding Concepts

### American Democracy

1. Describe the four parts of the Declaration of Independence.

2. Why did colonists have to break their ties with Britain in order to create a democracy?

### Conflict and Cooperation

3. What advantages did the Continental Army have that the British army did not?
4. In what roles did African Americans serve in helping the American war effort?
5. How did European aid help the Americans to win the war?

## History and Geography

Study the map showing the new territory gained as a result of the terms in the 1783 Treaty of Paris. Then answer the questions on page 243.



# CHAPTER 8 ★ REVIEW

1. **Location** What natural landmark formed the new western boundary of America?
2. **Region** What country claimed the most land in North America in 1783? What country claimed the least land?
3. **Movement** What country claimed the land north of America?
4. **Location** What country's land claims lay farthest north?

## Critical Thinking

1. **Analyzing Information** If the phrase in the Declaration of Independence, "all men are created equal," had applied to all African Americans, how would their lives have been different after the war?
2. **Drawing Conclusions** After the American victory at Yorktown, the British played "The World Turn'd Upside Down." Two lines of the song are "If ponies rode men and grass ate cows; And cats should be chased to holes by the mouse." What do you think the British soldiers were trying to express by playing this song?

## Cooperative Learning Interdisciplinary Activity: Language Arts

Do library research to learn more about the lives of American soldiers during the Revolutionary War. From your research, select either an American soldier or an American regiment. Then organize your group into two smaller groups. One group will write a biography of an American soldier or a description of an American regiment. The other group will make a poster-size, illustrated map displaying the names and geographic locations where your soldier or regiment fought. Share your work with other members of the class.

## Practicing Skills

### Writing an Outline

Review the Declaration of Independence on pages 220–223. Then complete this outline.

#### The Declaration of Independence

- I. Preamble
- II. Declaration of Natural Rights
- III. List of Grievances
- IV. Statement of Independence
  - A. Rights of colonies
    1. To be free and independent states
    2. To not have to answer to the British monarchy
    3. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Powers of colonies
    1. To levy war
    2. \_\_\_\_\_
    3. \_\_\_\_\_
    4. \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_
    1. To sacrifice our lives
    2. \_\_\_\_\_
    3. To sacrifice our sacred honor

### Writing ABOUT History

#### Using Your Journal

Using the notes in your journal, create a poster to convince colonists to contribute money to the Continental Army.