

1778
Continental Army
spends winter at
Valley Forge

1778
British seize
Savannah,
Georgia

1779
Colonel Clark
recaptures Vincennes

1780
British seize
Charleston,
South Carolina

1781
British surrender
at Yorktown

1778

1780

1782

5 Winning Independence

SECTION PREVIEW

Objectives

- 1 Explain the hardships the Americans endured during the war.
- 2 Describe the American victories in the West and South that led to an end to the war.
- 3 Summarize the impact of the American Revolution.
- 4 **Key Terms** Define: blockade; profiteering; inflation; Battle of Yorktown; Treaty of Paris (1783).

Main Idea

Americans won their independence militarily by outlasting the British in one of the longest and costliest wars in American history.

Reading Strategy

Outlining Information As you read this section, create an outline by filling in main ideas for each of the headings and subheadings.

The British lost their colonies in the end because Americans had the determination to outlast their rulers. George Washington understood this better than anyone. He never gave up, even in the face of repeated military defeats. Although Britain seized New York, Philadelphia, and almost every other important colonial city, Washington knew the secret to winning the war. The British might capture territory, he said, but they could never win the war as long as Americans were willing and able to continue fighting them.

Americans Endure Hardships

There may be no better symbol of Americans' determination to be free than the Continental soldiers who spent the winter of 1777–1778 at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania. While British troops remained warm and well-fed in Philadelphia, about 20 miles away, Patriot soldiers huddled in huts with few blankets, ragged clothing, and almost no food. Washington reported to Congress that nearly one third of his 10,000 soldiers were unfit for duty because they lacked coats or shoes.

Financing the War Part of the problem was that the Continental Congress had little real power. It asked the states to provide troops, money, and supplies, but with no taxing power it could not force them to do so.

Congress did issue paper money that the army could use to purchase supplies. Yet these bills were not backed by gold or silver, and if Britain were to win the war they would become worthless. So while Washington's army starved at Valley Forge, nearby farmers sold their crops in Philadelphia, where the British army paid in gold.

Disruptions of Trade Civilians suffered hardships, too. The British navy **blockaded**, or isolated from outside contact, the Atlantic Coast and severely disrupted American trade. Measured in the British monetary units of pounds sterling, the combined value of American imports and exports fell from about £4,600,000 in 1775 to £200,000 in 1777.

Nearly everyone felt the pinch of shortages during the war. Even necessities often were scarce. A few colonists took advantage of these shortages by **profiteering**, or selling

ECONOMIC CONCEPTS

Inflation and deflation: Inflation is a steady rise in prices; deflation is a steady drop in prices

- ▼ **The Historical Context:** Inflation, which has been described as “too much money chasing too few goods,” plagued the American economy during the Revolutionary War. As Congress printed more and more Continental dollars, and the war limited the supply of goods available to consumers, the price of goods rose.
- ▼ **The Concept Today:** Government officials, knowing that inflation could hurt economic growth, keep a close watch over consumer prices. The federal government has several tools to fight inflation, such as reducing the supply of money and limiting government spending.

scarce items at unreasonably high prices. Washington suggested that profiteers should be hanged. “No punishment in my opinion is too great for the man who can build his greatness upon his country’s ruin,” he said.

Even when goods were available, it was not always possible to purchase them. **Inflation**, a steady increase in prices over time, reduced people’s ability to buy goods. In Massachusetts, for example, the price of a bushel of corn rose from less than one dollar in 1777 to almost eighty dollars in 1779.

fought the British at Monmouth, New Jersey, and inflicted more casualties than they suffered.

Fighting in the West In the spring of 1778, Patriot militia under Colonel George Rogers Clark began fighting the British. By late summer, with the help of French settlers, Clark and his 175 soldiers had captured all the British posts in what are now Indiana and Illinois.

A few months later a British force of roughly 500, about half of them Native Americans, returned to Vincennes, a fort in Indiana. Clark then gathered nearly 200 French and American colonists and left his winter quarters near the Mississippi River. Marching through mud and icy water, the group reached Vincennes in late February 1779. After persuading most of the Indians to abandon their British allies, Clark recaptured the fort. This success strengthened the Patriots’ claim to the Ohio River valley.

The War in the South In 1779 the focus of the war shifted to the South where the British hoped to draw on Loyalist sympathies. Supported by the Royal Navy, British forces from New York seized Savannah, Georgia, in December 1778 and Charleston, South Carolina, in May 1780.

The southern phase of the Revolution was especially vicious. It pitted Americans against Americans, because Tories did much of the fighting for the British. Although many battles in the South were fought on a smaller scale than the northern engagements, they proved just as important to the war’s outcome.

In August 1780, some 2,400 British troops defeated Patriot militia and Continental Army troops at Camden, South Carolina. British general Lord Cornwallis then began a campaign to invade North Carolina. At the Battle of Kings Mountain on the Carolina border that October, the Patriots defeated an army made up entirely of Tories. About 1,000 Patriots stopped Cornwallis again at the Battle of Cowpens in the same area in January 1781.

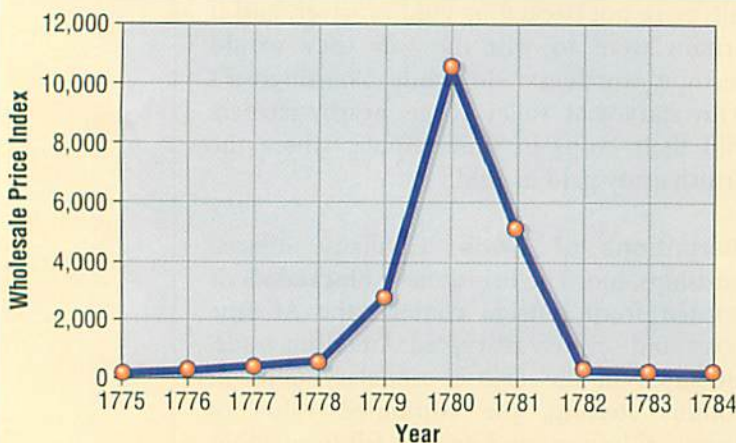
Despite the defeat, Cornwallis continued into North Carolina and defeated the Patriots at the Battle of Guilford Court House in March 1781. After stopping in Wilmington, North Carolina, to be resupplied by sea, Cornwallis advanced north into Virginia. His army was now much larger than the Patriot forces commanded by the Marquis de Lafayette.

Patriot reinforcements soon arrived, however, and Cornwallis marched his army to the coast, where it too could be reinforced with

Victories in the West and South

In June 1778, hearing that a French fleet was sailing for America, the British abandoned Philadelphia and returned to reinforce New York. Trying unsuccessfully to stop the British from reaching New York, Washington’s forces

Wholesale Price Index, 1775–1784



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970



Interpreting Graphs Economists often use a price index to demonstrate inflation. A wholesale price index measures changes in the wholesale prices of goods over time. **Economics** What caused the huge rise in prices beginning in 1778?

(6) Congress pledged to recommend to the states that the rights and property of American Loyalists be restored and that no future action be taken against them. Persecution of the Tories continued after the war, however.

The Impact of the Revolution

In 1776 the American people had declared their independence to the world, and in 1783 Great Britain accepted American independence. The effects of the Revolution would be felt in different ways by different groups of Americans, and would shape American society to the present day.

For women the Revolution did not produce any immediate gain in political or legal power. Yet experiences during the war did challenge some of the traditional ideas about women. As men set off for war, women took charge of family farms and businesses. Many women also followed their husbands and fathers into battle and cared for them.

For African Americans, the results of the Revolution were mixed. On the one hand, the Revolution promoted the antislavery cause in the North. As Abigail Adams put it, "It always appeared a most evil scheme to me to fight ourselves for what we are daily robbing and plundering from those who have as good a right to freedom as we have." Most northern states abolished slavery in the late 1700s and early 1800s. On the other hand, these states

also passed laws severely limiting the legal rights and political power of African Americans. In the South, if the Revolution brought about any change in slavery at all, that change was to make it more restrictive.

For Native Americans the war's outcome was a disaster. The power of the Iroquois League was destroyed and the nations were essentially pushed out of New York. For decades after the Revolution, Americans justified their attacks on Cherokees, Shawnees, and other southern and western Indians by pointing to these nations' support for the British.

Perhaps the greatest effect of the Revolution was to spread the idea of liberty, both at home and abroad. In 1776 the Congress had used Thomas Jefferson's assertion that "all men are created equal" to help justify a revolution. This was a radical concept in a world that had long accepted the idea of human inequality.

Jefferson, like most members of the Continental Congress, probably had no thought of applying this principle to people other than white men. However, he had set in motion a powerful idea that no one could long control. Over the next two centuries many groups in the United States, such as women and African Americans, would demand and win greater equality. At the same time, the principles for which the Patriots fought would also inspire people around the world. Indeed, in the United States and many other parts of the world, people today are still discovering the full meaning of those principles.

Main Idea CONNECTIONS

What impact did the American Revolution have on women?

SECTION 5 REVIEW

Comprehension

- 1. Key Terms** Define: (a) blockade; (b) profiteering; (c) inflation; (d) Battle of Yorktown; (e) Treaty of Paris (1783).
- 2. Summarizing the Main Idea** Summarize the hardships Americans had to overcome to win the war against Britain.
- 3. Organizing Information** Create a map of the United States that shows the territorial changes made by the Treaty of Paris (1783). Label the map to explain these changes.

Critical Thinking

- 4. Analyzing Time Lines** Review the time line at the start of the section. Which of the battles listed do you think was most important? Explain your answer.
- 5. Recognizing Cause and Effect** What powerful idea did the American Revolution set in motion? What effect did this idea have over time?

Writing Activity

- 6. Writing an Expository Essay** Write an essay in which you analyze the qualities of George Washington's leadership.

Why Study History?

To understand that . . .

You Have a Voice in Government

Lack of representation in Parliament fueled the conflicts that caused the American colonists to take up arms. Representation remains a fundamental right to Americans—a right that we can exercise by voting.

“No taxation without representation!” So strong was American colonists’ demand for a voice in government that they fought to

secure it. Representation means that we choose our public officials and expect them to express our needs and wishes.

The Patriots’ victory did not bring representation to all

Americans. Only white men who owned a certain amount of property could vote. Women, African Americans, Native Americans, and many white men had little voice in government. Expansion of vot-

ing rights to include all adult citizens occurred only after a long and painful struggle.



American colonists pulling down a statue of King George III

The Impact Today

The percentage of eligible voters has increased tremendously since our nation’s founding, yet the percentage of Americans who exercise their voting rights has declined. In the late 1800s, voter participation averaged more than 70 percent. By the 1960s it had fallen to around 60 percent. In 1996, a presidential election year, fewer than 50 percent of those eligible bothered to vote. (In non-presidential election years, voting rates are usually even lower!)

Some people say that the decline in voter participation reflects a growing unhappiness with government. According to this view,

Americans see government leaders as corrupt or powerless to deal with the nation’s problems.

Other people assert an opposite point of view. They claim that many Americans see no need to vote because they are generally satisfied with their lives and with the direction in which the nation is headed.

To reverse the decline in voter participation, people have proposed different strategies. Some want to limit the number of terms that elected officials can serve. Term limits, they suggest, would increase voters’ interest by giving voters new candidates from which to choose. Others suggest that Americans be allowed to decide more issues themselves, by voting “yes” or “no” on ballot questions instead of leaving the most important issues to elected officials.



Teenager voting in Texas

The Impact on You

Do you think that government should act decisively to increase voter participation? Imagine that a vote will be held, in your community, on a law that requires eligible voters to vote. Decide where you stand on the proposed law. Write a slogan that could be used on a poster to convince other people to support your view.

Chapter 4 Review

Chapter Summary



The major concepts of Chapter 4 are presented below. See also *Guide to the Essentials of American History* or *Interactive Student Tutorial CD-ROM*, which contains interactive review activities, time lines, helpful hints, and test practice for Chapter 4.

Reviewing the Main Ideas

Struggling for their rights and protesting against what they saw as British wrongs, colonists in the Americas demanded and won their independence from Britain.

Section 1: The French and Indian War

The war that the colonists fought against the French and Indians caused them to rethink their relationship with Britain.

Section 2: Issues Behind the Revolution

The colonists, believing they should not be taxed without representation, protested new British taxes.

Section 3: Ideas Behind the Revolution

New ideas about equality and self-government contributed to the outbreak of the American Revolution.

Section 4: Fighting for Independence

Despite considerable weaknesses, the Americans won important victories against the British between 1775 and 1777.

Section 5: Winning Independence

Americans won their independence militarily by outlasting the British in one of the longest and costliest wars in American history.



Lack of representation in Parliament fueled the conflicts that caused the American colonists to take up arms. Representation remains a fundamental right to Americans—a right that we can exercise by voting.

Key Terms

For each of the terms below, write a sentence explaining how it relates to this chapter.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Albany Plan of Union | 8. Treaty of Paris (1783) |
| 2. siege | 9. Enlightenment |
| 3. inflation | 10. Loyalist |
| 4. boycott | 11. Battle of Yorktown |
| 5. First Continental Congress | 12. mercenary |
| 6. Boston Massacre | 13. blockade |
| 7. <i>Common Sense</i> | 14. profiteering |

Comprehension

1. Describe how the French and Indian War weakened the colonists' loyalty to Britain.
2. Why did British policies in the colonies change after 1763?
3. Summarize the effects of the Stamp Act.
4. Why was foreign aid important to the Patriot cause during the American Revolution?
5. What was the purpose of the Declaration of Independence?
6. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the British at the start of the war.
7. What happened at the Battle of Bunker Hill?
8. How did the British blockade affect the colonists?

Using Graphic Organizers

On a separate sheet of paper, copy the graphic organizer below showing causes of the American Revolution. Fill in at least two examples of colonists' actions or reactions for each of the headings.

French and Indian War	New British Taxes	New Ideas about Natural Rights

Analyzing Political Cartoons ►

1. This cartoon by Benjamin Franklin appeared in several versions during the American Revolution. (a) What do the segments of the snake represent? (b) How do you know?
2. What is the message of the cartoon?
3. What makes this an effective cartoon?



Critical Thinking

1. **Applying the Chapter Skill** What problems did the British army face at Yorktown?
2. **Determining Relevance** Colonial politicians had never lobbied to send representatives to the British Parliament. Also, a majority of men in Britain were not entitled to vote for representatives in Parliament because they did not own enough property. Given these facts, do you think the colonists were justified in protesting British taxes? Explain your reasoning.
3. **Identifying Assumptions** What assumptions underlay the British decisions to raise new taxes in the colonies?
4. **Identifying Central Issues** Review the excerpt from the Declaration and Resolves of the First Continental Congress on page 99. Are the colonists asking for representation in the British Parliament?

INTERNET ACTIVITY

For your portfolio: PREPARE A SUMMARY

Access Prentice Hall's *America: Pathways to the Present* site at www.Pathways.phschool.com for the specific URL to complete the activity. Additional resources and related Web sites are also available.

Read Thomas Paine's words on the origins and design of government and summarize his views. How does society differ from government? Why does Paine consider government a "necessary evil"? What form should government take, and why? What objections does Paine have to the English Constitution?

ANALYZING DOCUMENTS ◀▶ INTERPRETING DATA

Turn to excerpt by John Locke on page 99.

1. The word *arbitrary* in this passage means: (a) weakened (b) unreasonable (c) absolute, based on one's own preference (d) careful.
2. **Which statement best summarizes the excerpt?** (a) People can dissolve a government when the ruler ignores the laws. (b) Government by an arbitrary ruler interferes with elections. (c) The common people must not act against the elected ruler. (d) Rulers will often interfere with the legislature.
3. **Writing** Find a passage in the Declaration of Independence that states an idea very similar to the idea presented in the quotation by John Locke. Explain how the two excerpts are similar.

Connecting to Today

Recognizing Cause and Effect Review the Turning Point time line on page 99. Research and write an essay on one of the last two events shown on the time line.



American Heritage®

My Brush with History

BY MARGARET HILL MORRIS

INTRODUCTION Fought in the towns and farms of the American colonies, the battles of the American Revolution dominated the lives not only of soldiers but of the unlucky civilians who lived nearby. The editors of

American Heritage magazine have selected entries from the diary of Margaret Hill Morris. Morris lived in New Jersey, site of the Battle of Princeton and other battles.

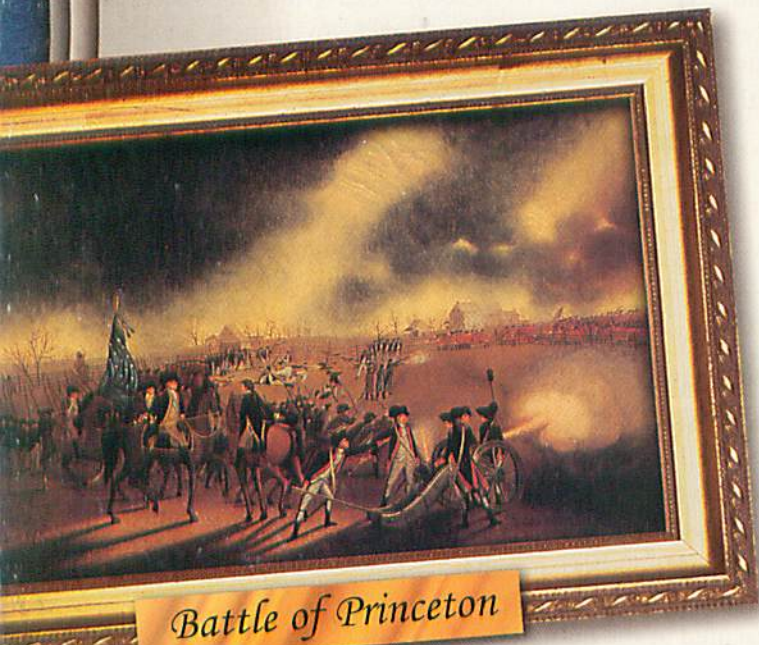


December 22, 1776: It is said Putnam with 1,000 men [600 New Jersey militia and Virginia artillerymen] are at Mount Holly. All the women removed from the town, except one widow of our acquaintance. This evening we hear the sound of much hammering at Bristol, and it is conjectured that a fortification is carrying on there. More cannon are said to be planted on the island. We hear this afternoon that the gentlemen who went last to the Count Donop [Col. Carl von Donop, Hessian] with a request that our town might be allowed to remain a neutral one, are returned, and report that he had too many affairs of greater consequence in hand to attend to them, or give an answer. I think we don't like the Count quite so well today as we did yesterday. . . .

We hear this afternoon that our officers are afraid their men will not fight and wish they may all run home again. A peaceable man ventured to prophesy today that if the war is continued through the winter, the British troops will be scared at the sight of our men, for as they never fought with naked men, the novelty of it will terrify them and make them retreat faster than they advanced to meet them; for he says, from the present appearance of our ragged troops, he thinks it probable they will not have clothes to cover them a month or two hence. . . .

Dec. 29: This morning the soldiers at the next house prepared to depart, and as they passed my door, they stopped to bless and thank me for the food I sent them, which I received, not as my due, but as belonging to my Master who had reached a morsel to them by my hands. A great number of soldiers are in town today. Another company took possession

of the next house when the first left it. The inhabitants are much straitened for bread to supply the soldiers and firewood to keep them warm. This seems to be only one of the many calamities of war.



Battle of Princeton