

The American Revolution

Essential Question: How did the American Revolution develop and conclude?

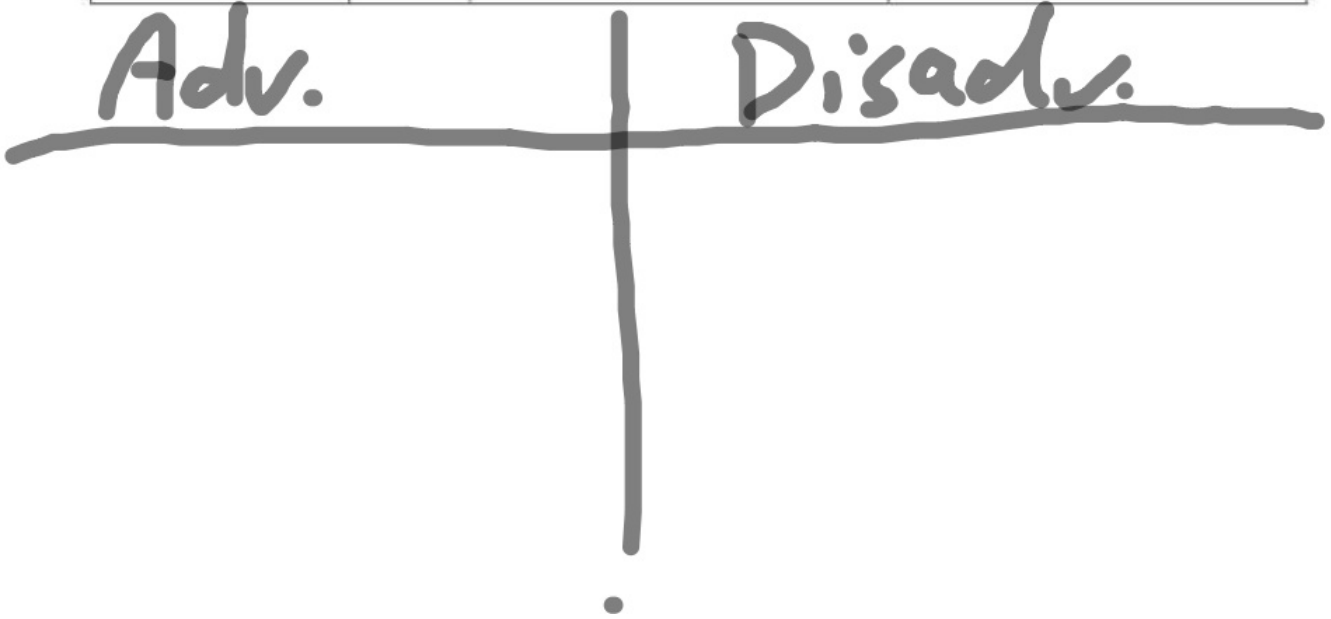
Key Figures/Events	What/who was it?	Why was it important?
Treaty of Paris 1783		
Role of Marquis de Lafayette		
Valley Forge		
Washington as a military leader		
Role of Ben Franklin		
Crossing the Delaware		
Yorktown		
Role of Lord Cornwallis		

From the Timeline, Write about 3 events you think had the greatest impact on America and why.

Event	Date	Impact you think it had on America	Why you think it was important

Adv.

Disadv.



Timeline of the Revolutionary War

1754-1763

The French and Indian War

1763

Oct. 7 Proclamation of 1763

1764

April 5 The Sugar Act

1765

March 22 The Stamp Act

March 24 The Quartering Act of 1765

1767

June 29 The Townshend Acts

1770

March 5 The Boston Massacre

1773

May 10 The Tea Act

Dec. 16 The Boston Tea Party

1774

March 31 Boston Port Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts"

June 2 Quartering Act of 1774, one of the "Intolerable Acts"

Sept. 5-Oct. 2 The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia and issues Declaration and Resolves

1775

March 23 Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech

Apr. 18 The Rides of Paul Revere and William Dawes

Apr. 19 Minutemen and redcoats clash at Lexington and Concord "The shot heard 'round the world."

May 10 Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys seize Fort Ticonderoga

May 10 The Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia

June 15 George Washington named Commander in Chief

June 17 Battle of Bunker Hill: The British drive the Americans from Breed's Hill

July 3 Washington assumes command of the Continental Army

1776

Jan. 15 Paine's "Common Sense" published

July 8 The Declaration of Independence is read publicly

Aug. 2 Delegates begin to sign The Declaration of Independence

Sept. 15 The British occupy New York City

Sept. 16 Generals George Washington, Nathanael Greene, and Israel Putnam triumphantly hold their ground at the Battle of Harlem Heights

Nov. 16 The Hessians capture Fort Mifflin, NY

Nov. 20 Lord Cornwallis captures Fort Mifflin from Nathanael Greene

Dec. 26 Washington **crosses the Delaware** and captures Trenton from Hessians

1777

Jan. 3 Washington victorious at Princeton

July 27 **Lafayette** arrives in Philadelphia

Aug. 6 The Redcoats, with Iroquois support, force the patriots back at Oriskany, NY, but then have to evacuate

Sept. 11 The British win the Battle of **Brandywine, Pennsylvania**

Oct. 7 Burgoyne loses second battle of Freeman's Farm, NY (at Bemis Heights). This is part of the "Battles of Saratoga."

Oct. 17 Burgoyne surrenders to American General Gates at Saratoga, NY

Dec. 19 Washington's army retires to winter quarters at **Valley Forge**

1778

Feb. 6 The United States and France sign the **French Alliance**

March 7 British General William Howe replaced by Henry Clinton

June 19 Washington's army **leaves Valley Forge**

Aug. 8 French and American forces besiege Newport, RI

1779

1780

May 12 British capture Charleston, SC

July 11 French troops arrive at Newport, RI, to aid the American cause

Aug. 6 Patriots defeat Tories at Hanging Rock, SC

Aug. 16 British rout Americans at Camden, SC

Sept. 25 Benedict Arnold's plans to cede West Point to the British discovered

Oct. 14 Washington names Nathanael Greene commander of the Southern Army

1781

March 15 British win costly victory at Guilford Courthouse, NC

April 25 Greene defeated at Hobkirk's Hill, SC

May 15 British Major Andrew Maxwell cedes Fort Granby, SC to patriot Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lee

June 6 Americans recapture Augusta, GA

June 18 British hold off Americans at Ninety Six, SC

Sept. 8 Greene defeated at Eutaw Springs, SC

Sept. 15 French fleet drives British naval force from Chesapeake Bay

Oct. 19 Cornwallis surrounded on land and sea by Americans and French and surrenders at Yorktown, VA

1783

Sept. 3 The United States and Great Britain sign the Treaty of Paris

Marquis de Lafayette

When a Frenchman, Marquis de Lafayette learned of the struggle of the Americans in their endeavor to secure their independence he resolved to come to the colonies to aid them in their efforts as a volunteer. He also persuaded several French officers to come with him.

Eventually he landed near Charleston, South Carolina, June 13, 1777, and when the leaders learned of his mission they welcomed him very hospitably. Later in the summer he came to Philadelphia and the Congress welcomed him as he came to serve without pay and also as a volunteer. Since he represented the highest rank of French nobility and his motives were so patriotic in the American cause, the Congress commissioned him a Major General. Later in the summer he met General Washington and a friendship developed between the two men which lasted as long as Washington lived. Early in 1780 Lafayette's hard work with the French government resulted in the success of sending French troops to aid Washington and additional needed supplies.

TREATY OF PARIS 1783



What was it?

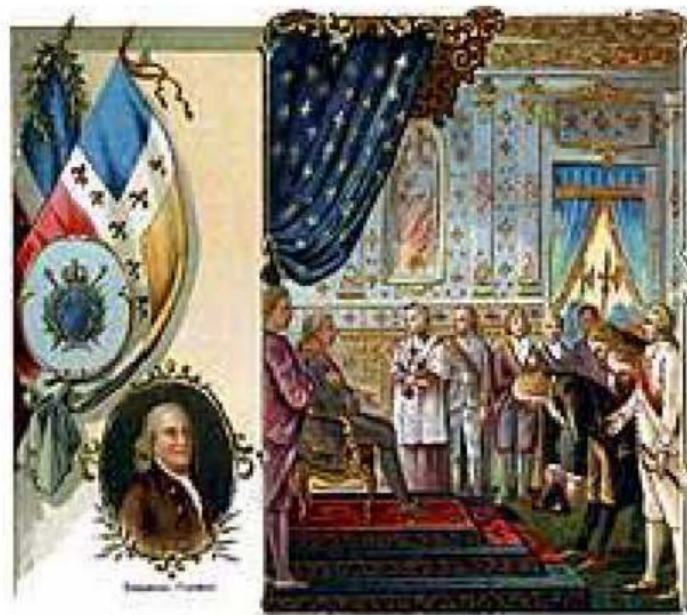
Treaty that officially ended the Revolutionary War on September 3, 1783.

Why was it important?

- Britain recognized the independent nation of the United States of America.
- Britain agreed to remove all of its troops from the new nation.

BEN FRANKLIN/FRENCH ALLIANCE

France's interest in the American fight for independence stemmed from France's humiliating defeat during the French and Indian War at the hands of its ancient enemy, England.



Thanks to Benjamin Franklin's excellent diplomatic skills, a treaty was quickly signed between France and the United States in 1777, as seen in this picture.

A French military force arrived in the United States in 1780. As was demonstrated at the Battle of Yorktown, the **FRENCH ALLIANCE** was decisive for the cause of American independence.

- 1. What did Ben Franklin do?**
- 2. Why was that important?**

Winter at Valley Forge



Letter from George Washington to Continental Congress, December 23, 1777

...I am now convinced, beyond a doubt, that unless some great ...change suddenly takes place ...this Army will ...starve, dissolve, or disperse, in order to obtain subsistence in the best manner they can; rest assured Sir this is not an exaggerated picture, and that I have abundant reason to support what I say.

Discuss why you think Valley Forge was important. Write it on your organizer.

LORD CORNWALLIS

Cornwallis received orders in 1781 to locate and fortify a base for the Royal Navy on the Virginia coast. Selecting Yorktown, his army began building fortifications. Seeing an opportunity, Washington raced south with his army to lay siege to Yorktown. Cornwallis expected Major General Clinton to sail from New York with a relieving force had decided to remain in Yorktown rather than march south to the Carolinas. Cornwallis hoped to be relieved by Clinton or removed by the Royal Navy, however after the French naval victory at the Battle of the Chesapeake he was trapped with no choice but to fight. After enduring a three-week siege, he was forced to surrender his 7,500-man army, effectively ending the American Revolution.



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George Washington as a Military Leader



Letter from George Washington to Marquis de Lafayette, June 25, 1778

Sir: You are immediately to proceed with the detachment commanded by General Poor and form a junction, as expeditiously as possible, with the detachment under the command of General Scott. You are to use the most effectual means for gaining the enemy's left flank and rear, and giving them every degree of annoyance. All Continental troops that are already on the front lines will be under your command, and you will take such measures, in concert with General Dickinson as will cause the Enemy most loss in their march;

What does the letter tell us about what type of military leader Washington was?

Why was it important for him to be a good leader?



WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE

British forces occupied Boston and New York.

It was Christmas, and the Hessians on the other side of the Delaware River, in New Jersey, were drunk and tired.

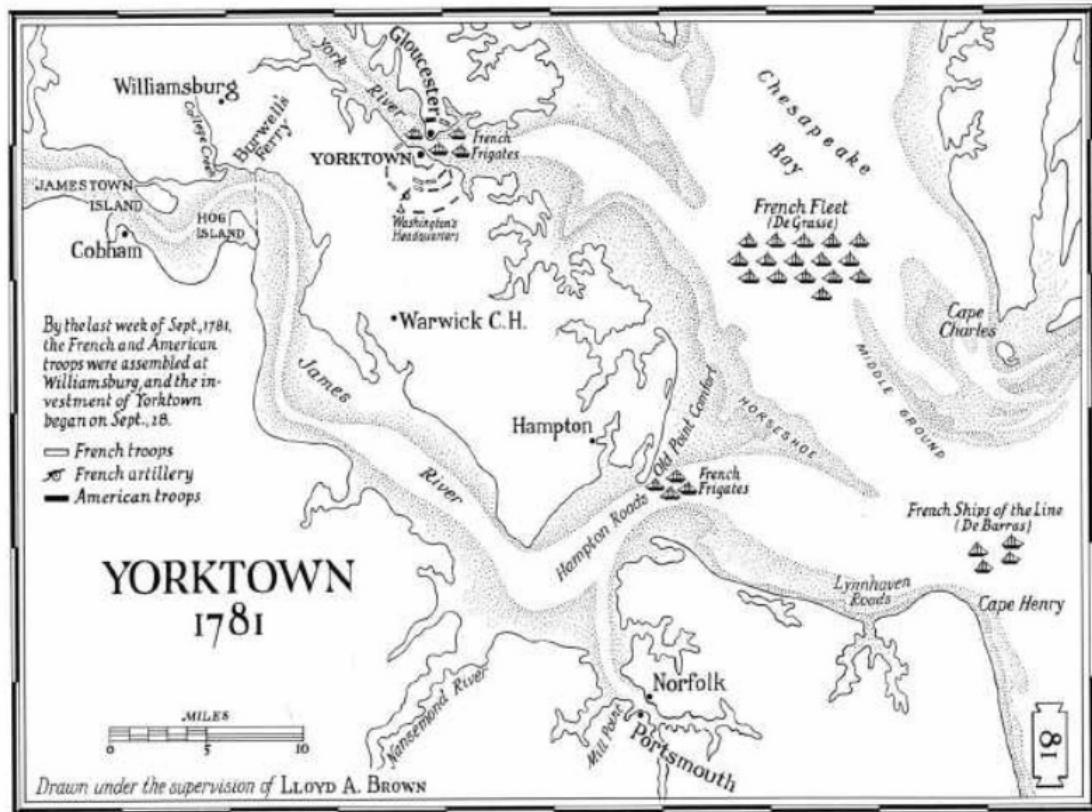
Washington waited until nightfall to achieve maximum surprise.

The boats carrying the 2000 American soldiers barely made it across because of ice in the river. They made it to shore, regrouped, and marched toward Trenton, where the Hessians were camped.

Colonial forces surprised the Hessians, sending them running from cover. The whole affair lasted only 45 minutes, and 900 Hessians were taken prisoner. The tired, hungry Americans also found food, supplies, and ammunition.

Building on their success, the Americans marched onward, toward Princeton, where they defeated the British a few days later. These two victories drove the British out of New Jersey and gave American people a tremendous sense of achievement and gave the army a reason to keep fighting.

- 1. What was the reason for crossing the Delaware River?**
- 2. Why was it important?**



One of the main reasons that the Americans won this battle was that Yorktown was located on a peninsula on the Chesapeake Bay. The siege began on September 6, 1781. George Washington had about 17,000 men at his command. The Americans and the French surrounded them. This allowed the soldiers and cannons to slowly come closer to Yorktown.

The British were unable to get resources and food was scarce. The British would have been able to bring in resources by water, but the French did an excellent job of cutting off the Chesapeake Bay so the British couldn't get in. The British were essentially sealed off from absolutely everything. General Cornwallis had no choice but to surrender his huge army of 9,000 men on October 17, 1781. This battle ended the Revolutionary war.

1. What happened at Yorktown?
2. How did the Americans win?



The American Revolution

Lexington and Concord



- **What is it?**
- British are marching toward Concord to raid colonial arsenal
- Minutemen attack British soldiers on their march back to Boston
- **Why is it significant?**
- First shots of the war!

Battle of Bunker Hill

- **What is it?**
- British continue to try to push up the hill, colonists kill them until they run out of ammunition
- **Why is it significant?**
- Deadliest battle
- Over 1,000 British killed
- Shows the Americans' lack of resources



Washington crosses the Delaware



- **What is it?**
- Surprise attack on Hessians (German mercenaries) on Christmas at night, Americans win
- **Why is it significant?**
- Gave the Americans a reason to keep fighting; improved morale



Marquis de Lafayette and French assistance



- **Who is he?**
- French officer who helps the Americans fight
- The French provide Americans with supplies and troops
- **Why is it significant?**
- French assistance helps Americans win the war



Battle of Saratoga



- **What is it?**
- Battle in New York
- American strategy: wear down the British
- Americans force British surrender
- **Why is it significant?**
- Turning point of the war
- decreased British numbers and morale



Role of Benjamin Franklin



- **What is it?**
- He goes to France and asks them for help
- **Why is it significant?**
- The French decide to help – their assistance helps the Americans win the war



Valley Forge



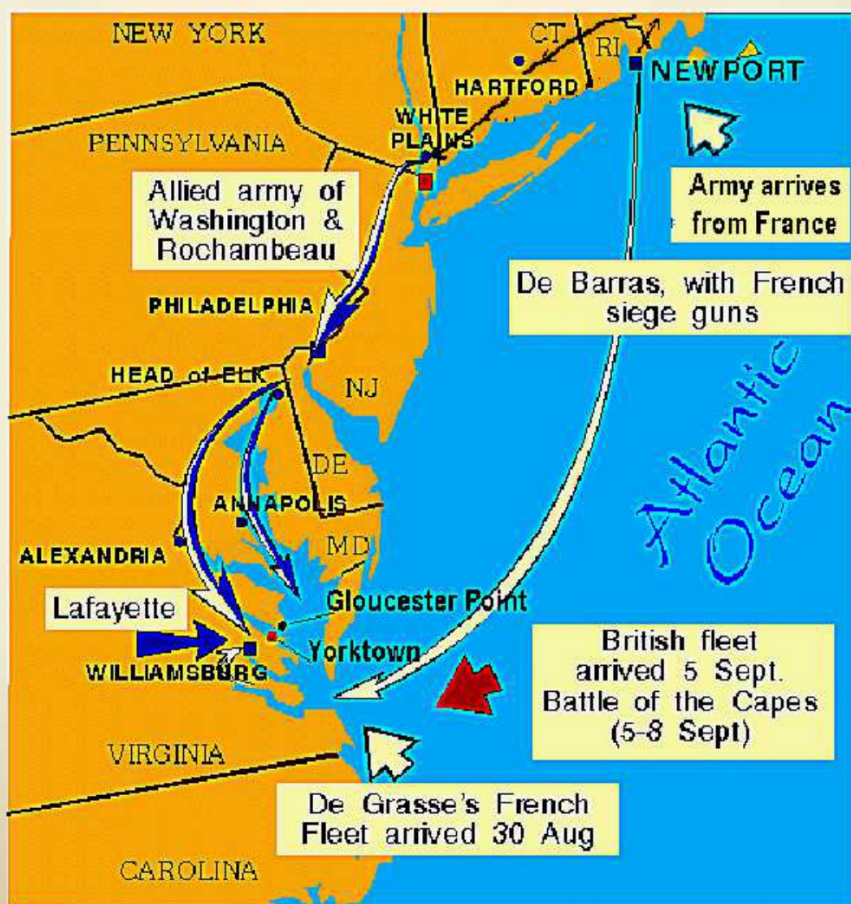
- **What is it?**
- Where the Americans soldiers “wintered”
- Little food, low morale
- **Why is it significant?**
- Baron von Steuben, a Prussian officer, comes and trains the American troops



Yorktown



- **What is it?**
- Final battle
- Americans and French trap the British because of the peninsula
- **Why is it significant?**
- Cornwallis surrenders, Americans win!



Lord Cornwallis



- **Who is it?**
- British commander at Yorktown
- **Why is it significant?**
- He allows his army to be trapped and surrenders to the Americans





Treaty of Paris, 1783

- **What is it?**
- Treaty officially ending the American Revolution
- **Why is it significant?**
- The British acknowledge American independence and remove all troops from U.S.

George Washington as a Military Leader



- Inspired the troops, he fought with them
- Made important strategic decisions – getting help, surprise attacks, wearing the British down



Challenges the Americans Faced



- Unprofessional army
- Lack of supplies
- Lack of pay
- Fewer troops
- Fewer officers

American Advantages



- Familiar with the land
- Passionate soldiers (fighting for a cause)
- Good leadership

