

American Revolution

SSUSH 4

Analyze the ideological, military, social, and diplomatic aspects of the American Revolution.

Additional Resources

- Library of Congress American Memory Timeline – American Revolution, 1763-1783 is an online resource that has various primary documents, maps, and letters from the revolutionary period. The site also features interpretive essays that provide greater context and background information for the documents.
 - <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/>

SSUSH 4 A

Investigate the intellectual sources, organization, and argument of the Declaration of Independence including the role of Thomas Jefferson and the Committee of Five.

Declaration of Independence



- Formally adopted the Declaration of Independence two days later on July 4, 1776.
- The document had been under construction since early June.
- Tension had continued to escalate in Boston between the Patriots and the British
- Increased support for Thomas Paine's Common Sense pamphlet helped embolden the American Patriots.
- June of 1776, the Continental Congress designated five delegates to write a rationale for independence.

Declaration of Independence

- The Committee of Five
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - Benjamin Franklin
 - John Adams
 - Robert Livingston of New York
 - Roger Sherman of Connecticut.
- Thomas Jefferson
 - known to be a prolific writer
 - asked by the group to write an initial draft
- After two weeks of work, Jefferson presented the draft to some of the other members of the Committee of Five for review.



Declaration of Independence



- They made only a few minor adjustments
- Document was provided to the Continental Congress on June 28, 1776
 - There were points of concern that caused more revisions to be made to Jefferson's draft.
 - There were eighty-six changes made by the Continental Congress to Jefferson's draft.
- The major revisions to the document concerned slavery.
- Some delegates from the Southern Colonies refused to sign the document because it was critical of slavery.

Declaration of Independence

- All references to slavery were consequently taken out of the document.
- Origins of the ideas contained in the Declaration of Independence:
 - Ideas of John Locke's Second Treatise of Government significantly influenced Jefferson's writing.
 - John Locke believed that all individuals naturally possess certain rights regardless of status.
 - natural rights that are unconditional, such as a person's life, liberty, and property.



Declaration of Independence

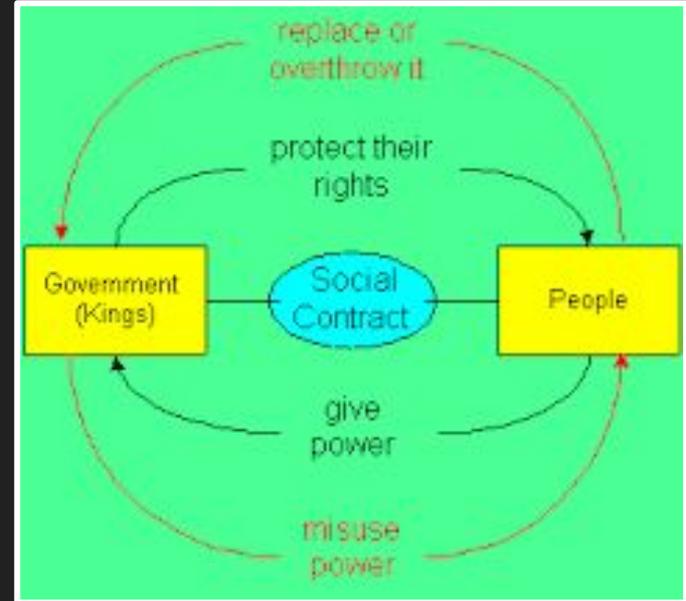


- Locke proposed that people have the right to choose their own form of government and give it power
- The Social Contract Theory forms the basis of Locke's argument.
- **Social Contract Theory**
 - Underlying philosophy for justifying colonial independence
 - Relationship between people organized in a political state and their government relies on each side's rights and responsibilities.
 - People give the government its power

Declaration of Independence

- **Social Contract Theory**

- In return the government gives the people defense of their natural rights
- The people have a responsibility to follow the laws created by the government intended to manage/protect the nation.
- If people don't follow the laws, the government will restrict their individual rights.
- If the government abuses the power given to it by the people, the people have the right to replace or overthrow the government.



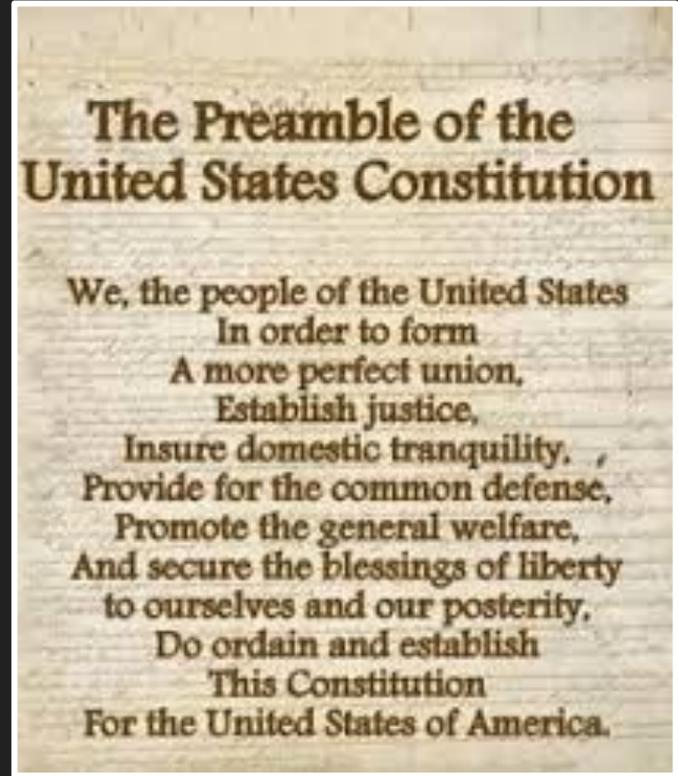
Declaration of Independence



- This social contract arrangement is the basis for colonial independence.
- The colonists believed King George III's government :
 - Violated their social contract
 - Abused its power with the implementation of unfair taxes
 - Attacks by British forces against colonial citizens
 - Restricted local colonial assemblies
- The colonists believed they were exercising their right to replace or overthrow the government that had abused the power it had been given.

Declaration of Independence

- A discussion of these rights and their protection is featured in the Declaration of Independence.
- Key ideas included:
 - Natural rights
 - The origin and purposes of government
 - The reasons why the colonists had elected to rebel against the King and Parliament.



Declaration of Independence

The Preamble of the United States Constitution

We, the people of the United States
In order to form
A more perfect union,
Establish justice,
Insure domestic tranquility,
Provide for the common defense,
Promote the general welfare,
And secure the blessings of liberty
to ourselves and our posterity,
Do ordain and establish
This Constitution
For the United States of America

Declaration of Natural Rights

"That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it... it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government and provide new Guards for their future security."

• If a government is not protecting the people's rights the people have the right AND obligation to overthrow that government and start a new one.

- The Declaration of Independence is organized into four key sections.
 - The **first** section, the **Preamble**, calls the attention of the world to the plight of the American colonists.
 - Laid out the main ideological reasons why the American colonies had chosen to, and had a right to, break away from the British government.
 - The **second** section of the Declaration of Independence is a declaration of natural rights.
 - List of rights the colonists believe they had

Declaration of Independence

- The Declaration of Independence is organized into four key sections.
 - The **third** section of the document was a list of grievances or justifications.
 - Contains 27 separate points
 - Unfair acts perpetrated by the British
 - Discussion of the Americans' unsuccessful previous attempts to get relief from Britain.
 - The **final** section of the document:
 - Declaration of independence from Britain

List of Grievances

- Here are some of the complaints:
 - *British soldiers in colonies without permission*
 - *Quartering British troops in the colonies*
 - *Not punishing these troops when they harm colonists*
 - *Cutting off the colonists' trade with the rest of the world*
 - *Taxing the colonists without their permission*

NAVIGATION ACTS

QUARTERING ACT

TEA ACT

INTOLERABLE ACTS

STAMP ACT

RESOLUTION OF INDEPENDENCE BY THE UNITED STATES

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

Declaration of Independence



- Ends with the colonists' determination that the only way for Americans to have their rights restored is to reclaim them by declaring independence from Britain
- The Declaration of Independence is a relatively short document that had critical importance to the founding of the United States.
- Distribution of Declaration and oral reading - format by which many colonists were made aware of the actions their Continental Congress had made in 1776 to permanently separate from Great Britain.

Additional Resources

- The National Archives – America’s Founding Documents Declaration of Independence has images of the actual parchment, the text, and scholarly articles explaining the document and process that was used to write it by the Committee of Five.
 - <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration>
- The Library of Congress – Primary Documents in American History has a valuable compilation of resources related to the Declaration of Independence. There is also a timeline showing the progression of events involved in producing the document. Links to the personal papers of George Washington, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson related to the Declaration of Independence are also included.
 - <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/DeclarInd.html>

SSUSH 4 B

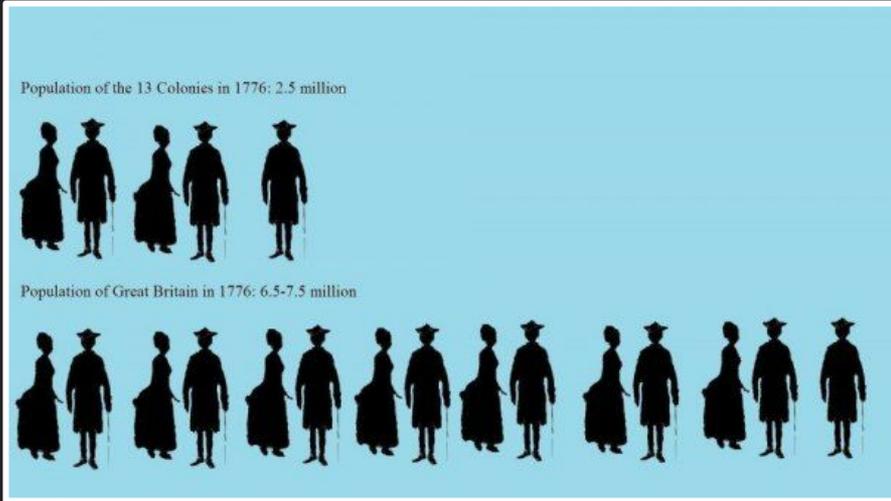
Explain the reason for and significance of the French alliance and other foreign assistance including the diplomacy of Benjamin Franklin and John Adams.

Foreign Assistance

- Americans faced the more prepared, better financed, and better equipped British military in the American Revolution.
- Americans needed to supplement their war effort
 - diplomats worked in Europe to secure help from other countries
- Benjamin Franklin and John Adams
 - spent the majority of the American Revolution in Europe working to negotiate assistance from France, Spain, and the Netherlands.



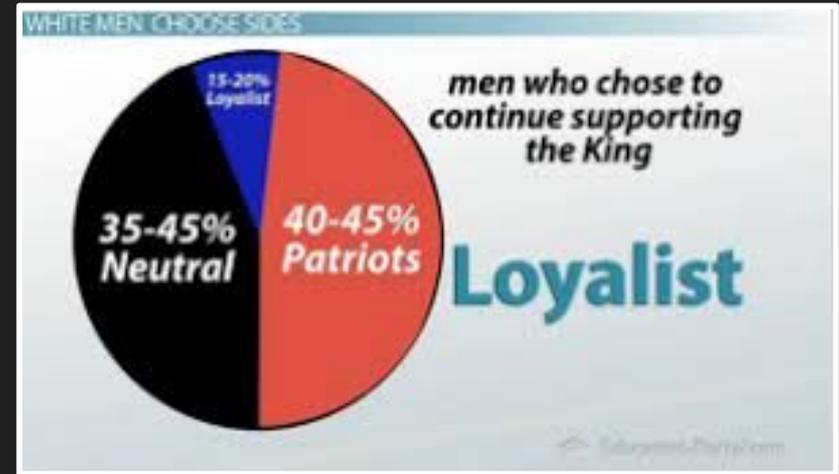
Foreign Assistance



- French ultimately provided critical military and financial assistance
- Spain and the Netherlands provided primarily financial assistance to the American cause.
- A comparison of the resources held by the British and by the colonies:
 - The population of the thirteen colonies totaled about 2.5 million (of which 500,000 were slaves) and Great Britain's population was about 8 million at the time of the American Revolution.

Foreign Assistance

- A comparison of the resources held by the British and by the colonies:
 - In addition to this smaller pool from which to draw soldiers, not all colonists supported the Patriot cause.
 - Loyalists made up about 1/3 of the colonial population.
 - British military was made up of professional soldiers who were trained and supplied far better than the newly created Continental Army.



Foreign Assistance



- Continental Congress struggled to secure resources and equip the Continental Army because the newly created government lacked money to pay for the mounting costs.
- Under the provisions of the Articles of Confederation, the Continental Congress didn't have the power to tax.
- Requests for voluntary payments from the states to the Continental Congress was their only method to generate revenue.
- The funds needed to finance the war were never fully provided by the states.

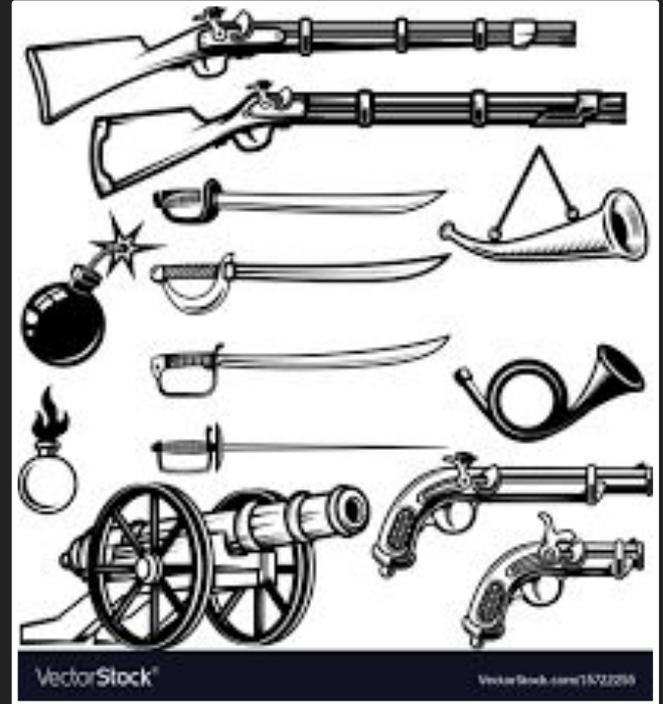
Foreign Assistance

- Given all of these obstacles, it was critical for the Continental Congress to secure alliances and financial assistance from other countries.
- France emerged as the greatest ally for the Americans during the Revolutionary War.
- Great Britain had become the dominant world power after successfully concluding the French and Indian War in 1763.
- Britain's traditional enemies (France, Spain, and the Netherlands) looked for a way to regain the advantage.

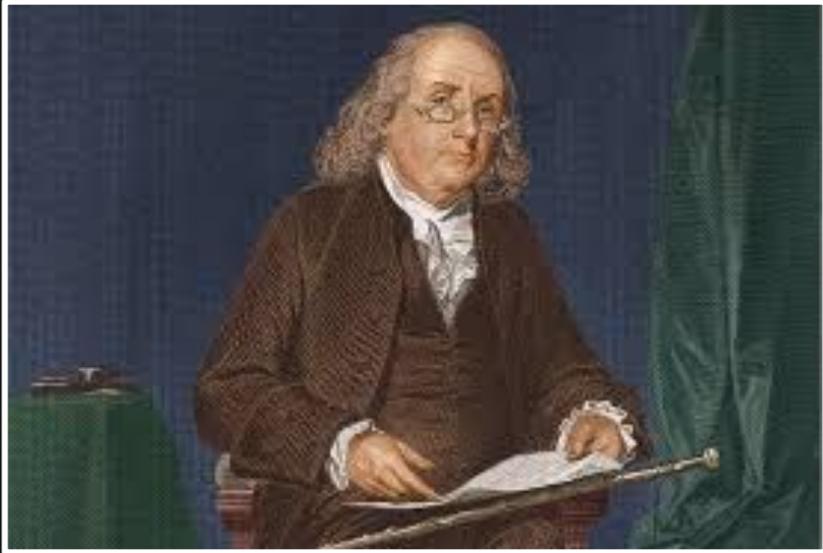


Foreign Assistance

- The French also supplied large quantities of muskets, cannons, shot and powder to Washington's forces.
- Spain and the Netherlands were also Britain's rivals and contributed substantial financial assistance to the American cause.
- After the colonists won the Battle of Saratoga - France was willing to openly support the Americans by entering the Revolutionary War
- French naval support was critical in winning the British surrender at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781.



Foreign Assistance



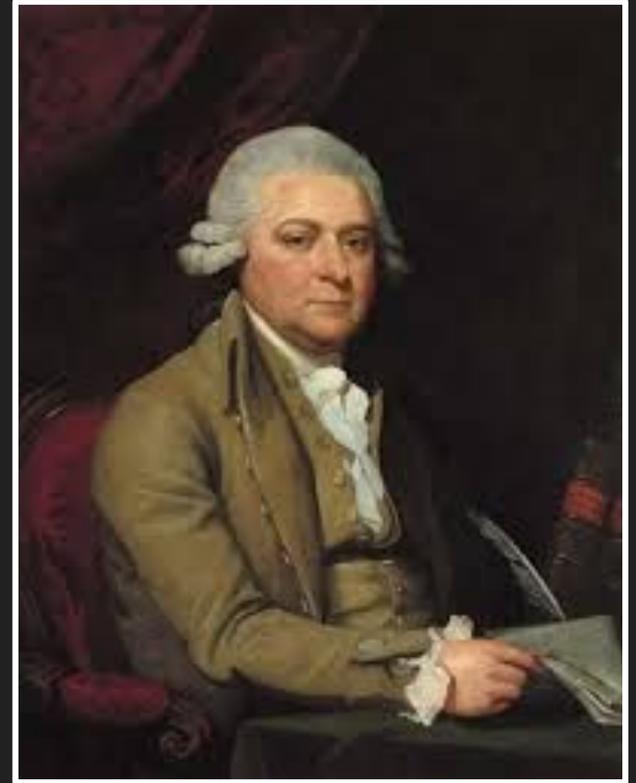
Benjamin Franklin

- Had been working in France to secure the alliance since the winter of 1776.
- Spent much of his time interacting with the upper classes and educated elements of society
 - To gain access to the French leadership
- Became very popular in France
- Known for his folksy appearance
 - wearing a fur cap instead of a fashionable wig common among the upper classes

Foreign Assistance

John Adams

- American ambassador working in Europe to secure much needed support for the revolutionary cause.
- Spent some time in France with Benjamin Franklin to help achieve the formal alliance.
- It was in the Netherlands that Adams had his greatest diplomatic impact.
 - In April of 1782 Adams secured the formal recognition of the United States and a substantial financial loan from the Dutch.



Foreign Assistance



- While in Europe, Franklin and Adams were representatives of the United States in negotiating the Treaty of Paris 1783 that settled the Revolutionary War.
- The diplomatic successes of both Benjamin Franklin and John Adams helped to:
 - secure military alliance
 - critical financial assistance from various European sources
- The United States relied heavily on the support provided to them from Britain's own European rivals.

Additional Resources

- United States Department of State - Office of the Historian “Benjamin Franklin- First American Diplomat, 1776-1785” includes a very general background of Franklin’s role in securing the French alliance during the Revolutionary War.
 - <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1776-1783/b-franklin>
- Library of Congress Exhibition – Benjamin Franklin is a collection of documents from Benjamin Franklin concerning various aspects of his involvement in the colonial cause for independence. There are documents, letters, cartoons, and broadsides from the period included in the collection of resources related to Benjamin Franklin.
 - <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/franklin/index.html>

SSUSH 4 C

Analyze George Washington as a military leader, including but not limited to the influence of Baron von Steuben, the Marquis de LaFayette, and the significance of Valley Forge in the creation of a professional military.

George Washington - Military Leader

- George Washington had developed an excellent military reputation in the French and Indian War
- Was appointed by the Continental Congress to be the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army in 1775.
- After his appointment, Washington:
 - reorganized the Continental Army
 - secured additional equipment & supplies
 - started a training program to turn inexperienced recruits into a professional military
- As a field general, Washington was not the most skilled commander.



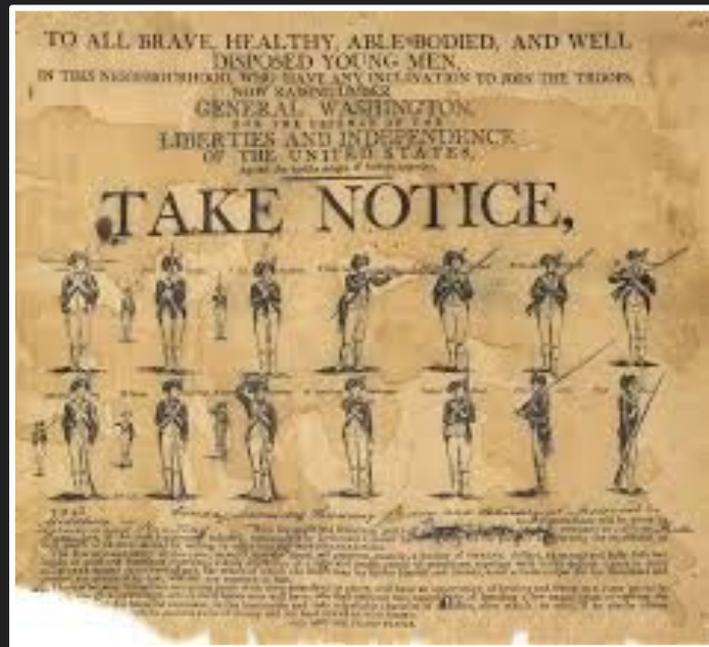
George Washington - Military Leader



- Washington's strong personality and reputation garnered him the support and respect of American soldiers.
- The Revolutionary Armies were composed of two distinct groups
 - the state militias
 - the Continental Army
- Militias were organized by each state and community
 - provided their own weapons and uniforms
- Enlistments were short term and training was poor among the militia
 - Notoriously unreliable in battle

George Washington - Military Leader

- Washington once said that militia units, “...*come in you cannot tell how, go, you cannot tell when; and act, you cannot tell where; consume your provisions, exhaust your stores, and leave you at last in a critical moment.*”
- Washington urged Congress to provide for the creation of a standing army – the Continental Army.
 - Enlistments were from 1 to 3 years
 - Pay was meager
 - Rations were short
 - Often had to scavenge to find supplies of food, fuel, and fodder
- Disease and close confinement combined with poor diet and sanitation, was often a bigger danger than the British



George Washington - Military Leader



- The Continental Army, faced with these challenges, limited their deadly effects through:
 - the work of surgeons and nurses
 - a smallpox inoculation program
 - camp sanitation regulations
- Washington's skill at maintaining his force is best shown during the winter months of 1777-1778 when the American Army was encamped for the season at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.
- In the Campaign of 1777, a British force attacked and successfully captured Philadelphia in September 1777.

George Washington - Military Leader

- Washington attempted to re-capture Philadelphia but failed.
- With winter approaching, Washington withdrew the Continental Army into a winter encampment.
- The winter weather was harsh and the soldiers lacked adequate supplies.
- The army remained intact during the trying circumstances thanks to George Washington's strong leadership.
- European soldiers such as the Prussian Baron von Steuben and the Marquis de Lafayette of France arrived at Valley Forge to assist Washington



George Washington - Military Leader



- They helped make the camp productive by training the soldiers to be more effective when fighting resumed

Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus von Steuben

- had been recommended to Benjamin Franklin by the French Minister of War as someone who would be helpful
- was especially instrumental in teaching close-order drill critical for the tactics of eighteenth century warfare.
- created a military drill manual that was written in French

George Washington - Military Leader

Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus von Steuben

- George Washington's close aide, Alexander Hamilton, translated the manual into English.
- Valley Forge essentially became a boot camp to develop the American soldiers into more knowledgeable and trained fighters.



Marquis de Lafayette

- Assisted in the professionalization and training of American forces during the winter at Valley Forge.

George Washington - Military Leader

Marquis de Lafayette



- Was a well-connected Frenchman who believed deeply in the American cause
- Volunteered to serve with Washington and helped to secure French resources
- Worked closely with Washington and was very successful and brave during many battles of the American Revolution
- The French aristocrat was a critical link between the American military and the French alliance.

George Washington - Military Leader

- George Washington was a successful military commander because he recognized his force's limitations in training and supplies.
- Forged a path to success based on the resources he had available and utilized the assistance of others supportive of the American cause.
- Washington's great leadership ability is evident in not only convincing soldiers to remain in the military, but to use the winter productively through training and assistance from the Baron von Steuben and the Marquis de Lafayette.



Additional Resources

- George Washington's Mount Vernon has a detailed collection of documents, essays, and images pertaining to George Washington's service as commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution.
 - <http://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-revolutionary-war/>
- The National Park Service at Valley Forge presents a good historical background of the location and the people involved in training the soldiers during the winter of 1777-1778.
 - <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/historyculture/index.htm>
- George Washington's Mount Vernon – also features information on both Baron von Steuben and Marquis de Lafayette. The information reveals the important relationship each had with George Washington during the Revolutionary War.
- Lafayette -
 - <http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/marquis-de-lafayette/>
- Steuben -
 - <http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/baron-von-steuben/>

SSUSH 4 D

Investigate the role of geography at the Battles of Trenton, Saratoga, and Yorktown.

The effect of Geography on Major Battles



- George Washington knew his forces' limitations
- Engagements between the Continental Army and the British were managed by Washington
 - to preserve his forces
 - prolong the war
 - wear down the enemy's will to fight
- There were three battles where Washington won decisive victories and each is considered a turning point in the Revolutionary War.
 - Trenton, Saratoga, and Yorktown
- Geography played a significant role in each battle.

The effect of Geography on Major Battles

- In all three battles, rivers were essential in the Americans' ability to trap the British and force them to surrender.

Trenton

- Washington engaged the British in quick, strong strikes and then retreated
 - way of overcoming the inadequate training of American forces
 - Illustrated by Washington's Crossing of the Delaware and subsequent Battle of Trenton on December 25 and December 26, 1776.



The effect of Geography on Major Battles

Trenton

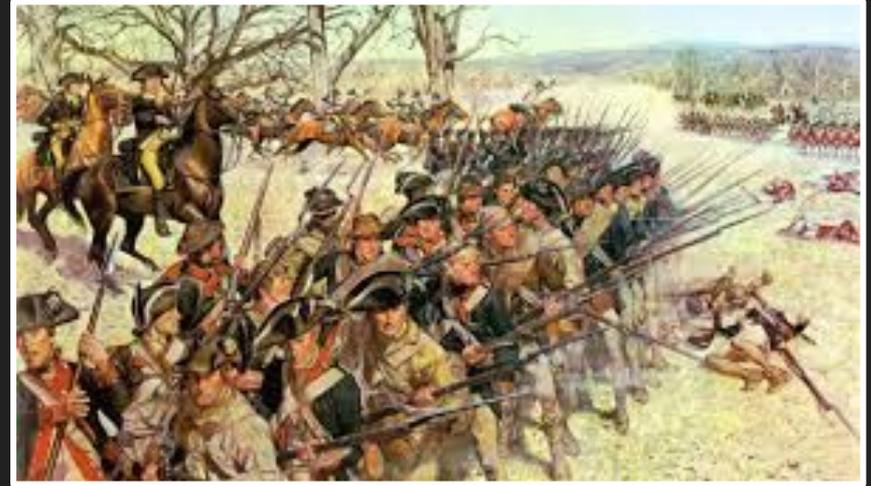


- Hessians = German mercenaries hired by the British to fight in the Revolutionary War
- Washington and the Continental Army had been forced out of New York during the late summer and fall of 1776.
- They had been forced to retreat to the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River.
- The American forces under Washington's command routed the Hessians in a surprise attack at Trenton, New Jersey.
- This decisive victory boosted the morale of American forces

The effect of Geography on Major Battles

Trenton

- Washington used the poor weather conditions and geographic challenge of a river crossing to aid him in successfully carrying out the **surprise attack at Trenton**.
- Washington led approximately 2,400 men across the icy Delaware River on Christmas night 1776.
- Increasingly poor weather conditions caused the river crossing to take far more time than Washington had planned.



The effect of Geography on Major Battles



Trenton

- The ability to surprise the Hessian mercenaries relied on the cover of darkness and a swift river crossing.
- Washington pushed forward in the early morning hours of December 26th.
- The attack was a success:
 - 1,500 Hessians were trapped - only 500 escaped
 - Only 2 soldiers in the Continental Army were killed and only four were wounded

The effect of Geography on Major Battles

Trenton

- The Hessians were caught off guard for a number of reasons.
- **First**, the Hessians camp thought the river would provide them with an extra barrier against attack.
- **Second**, the Christmas holiday was thought to be an unlikely time for military action.
- **Third**, the terrible storm on Christmas night caused the Hessians to be relaxed believed that attack would not be possible in such conditions.



The effect of Geography on Major Battles



Trenton

- Considered significant in the war because of the confidence it gave to the American soldiers who had very little success in the months prior.

Saratoga

- The Battle of Saratoga - geography contributed to the American victory.
- British plan to defeat the Americans was to take control of New York
 - would separate New England and the rest of the colonies

The effect of Geography on Major Battles

Saratoga

- If the colonies were divided, the British believed the Americans would have no choice but to end the war.
- British commander General John Burgoyne was leading his forces south from Canada
- British General William Howe was to lead another force toward the north from New York City.
- Coordinated movements of the British was intended to secure the entire New York region.



The effect of Geography on Major Battles

Saratoga



- Howe, instead of going north as planned, to assist Burgoyne, pursued control of Philadelphia.
- The British subsequently were trapped by the Americans at Saratoga, New York and forced to surrender his forces.
- The American commander who faced Burgoyne as the British moved south from Canada was General Horatio Gates.
- The British force was slowed because of the large supply convoy that traveled with Burgoyne.

The effect of Geography on Major Battles

Saratoga

- British slowly made their way from Canada toward the south - the Americans were building fortifications on the high ground around Saratoga.
- Bemis Heights is a ridge that overlooks the Hudson River Valley
- Having cannons on top of the ridge and fortified walls at the base gave the Americans control of the area.
- When British forces approached the fighting ensued.
- After weeks of intense fighting, the British were surrounded and forced to surrender



The effect of Geography on Major Battles

Saratoga



- Controlling the high ground at Bemis Heights with fortifications at the Hudson River geographically contributed to the American victory at Saratoga.
- This victory is considered a turning point
 - It signaled to France that the Americans had a chance of winning.
- The French had been reluctant of openly allying with the Americans for fear that victory was not possible.
- The victory was just what Benjamin Franklin needed in his European negotiations for alliance and support

The effect of Geography on Major Battles

Yorktown

- The American Revolution concluded with the Battle of Yorktown in Virginia.
- Britain's plan was to have General Charles Cornwallis move the war to the southern states to try to separate those colonies from revolutionary forces in the north.
- Cornwallis succeeded in a series of British victories, but the Americans were able to prevent a complete victory.
- Cornwallis pursued the Americans into Virginia but was met with heavy resistance.



The effect of Geography on Major Battles

Yorktown



- Wanting to maintain communications with Great Britain by sea, General Cornwallis retreated to the coastal town of Yorktown on the Chesapeake Bay.
- While awaiting the British fleet, his forces were surrounded by the combined French and American armies.
- In July, 1781 George Washington began moving his army toward the south from Rhode Island.
- The French Navy arrived at the Chesapeake Bay to block the British escape by sea.

The effect of Geography on Major Battles

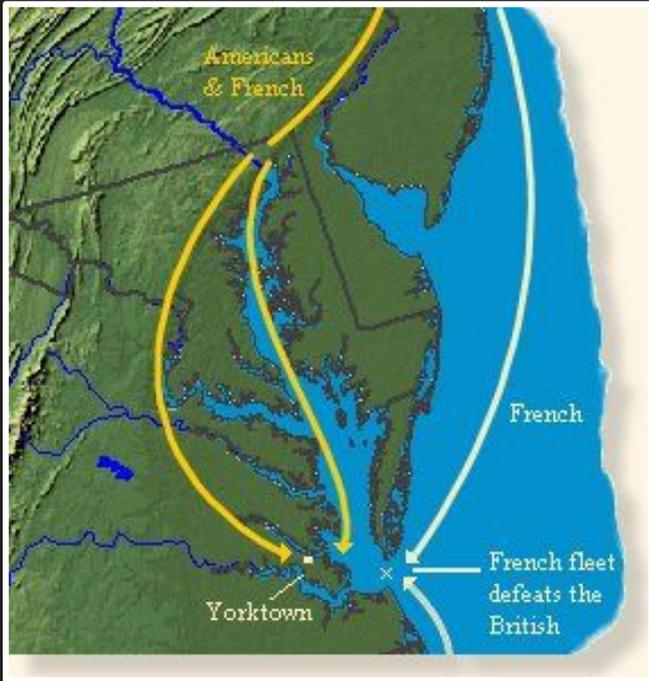
Yorktown

- The American forces surrounded the British by land at Yorktown.
- **After three weeks of fighting, the British General Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown on October 17, 1781.**
 - This victory secured the final end to the American Revolution.
- The combined effort by the American forces and French Navy were critical.
- Geography contributed to the overall victory at Yorktown because the body of water served as another line of defense.



The effect of Geography on Major Battles

Yorktown



- The French Navy was able to cut off the escape route the British would have needed to prolong the war.
- Geography played a role in the American Revolutionary War victories at Trenton, Saratoga, and Yorktown.
 - Knowing the land can assist in military strategy.
 - Controlling bodies of water and the high ground proved critical in these particular battles.

Additional Resources

- Library of Congress American Revolution, 1763-1783 features documentation and commentary on the northern front of the American Revolution. The Battles of Trenton and Saratoga are featured and documents from George Washington are included in the resources.
 - Trenton:
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/north/>
 - Saratoga:
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/turning/saratoga.html>
- George Washington's Mount Vernon has a special feature on the Battles of Trenton, Saratoga, and Yorktown. They include maps, commentary about the battles, and documents.
 - Trenton-
<http://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-revolutionary-war/the-trenton-princeton-campaign/>
 - Saratoga - <http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/battle-of-saratoga/>
 - Yorktown - <http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/yorktown-campaign/>

SSUSH 4 E

Examine the roles of women, American Indians, and enslaved and free Blacks in supporting the war effort.

The Role of Women and Minorities during the War

- Women often traveled with the soldiers
 - sometimes served as spies during the war
- Many American Indians sided with the British, some in New England supported the Patriots.
- Enslaved and free Blacks also participated in the war, often on the side of the Patriots
 - Believed that the fight for American freedom would secure rights for themselves as well.
- Military encampments often included large numbers of women.
 - Known as “camp followers” - would wash, sew, cook, and nurse the wounded and sick in camp.



The Role of Women and Minorities during the War



- Many women followed the soldiers because they were often afraid, hungry, and looking for work.
- Officers wives also would be encamped with the soldiers from time to time.
 - Martha Washington spent 52 of the approximately 103 months of the war with or near Washington.
- The number of women travelling with the American soldiers varied depending on:
 - the location
 - whether or not the military was engaged in an active campaign

The Role of Women and Minorities during the War

- There is even evidence that a few women, such as Deborah Samson, disguised themselves as men to participate in the fighting.
- The legend of “Molly Pitcher”
 - she had been giving water to the soldiers when her husband collapsed
 - she picked up his spot in firing the cannon
- “Molly Pitcher” may be a characterization of the combined realities of some women in the Revolutionary War



The Role of Women and Minorities during the War



- Other women served as spies for the Continental Army.
- The British Army frequently hired local women to clean, cook, and sew for them.
- This arrangement allowed great access to the British commanders and for eavesdropping on their plans.
- Some female spies reported directly to Patriot commanders and others sent messages stitched inside button covers or the hems of clothing.
- Their ability to inconspicuously gather information made them quite valuable to the Patriot cause.

The Role of Women and Minorities during the War

- There were also Loyalist women who acted as spies among the Patriots and reported back to the British.
- American Indians found themselves in a difficult position as the colonists were fighting the British over control of North American lands.
- Most of the western American Indians sided with the British in an effort to try to prevent further settlement in the region by American colonists
- Other American Indian groups in the east were divided over which side to support.



The Role of Women and Minorities during the War



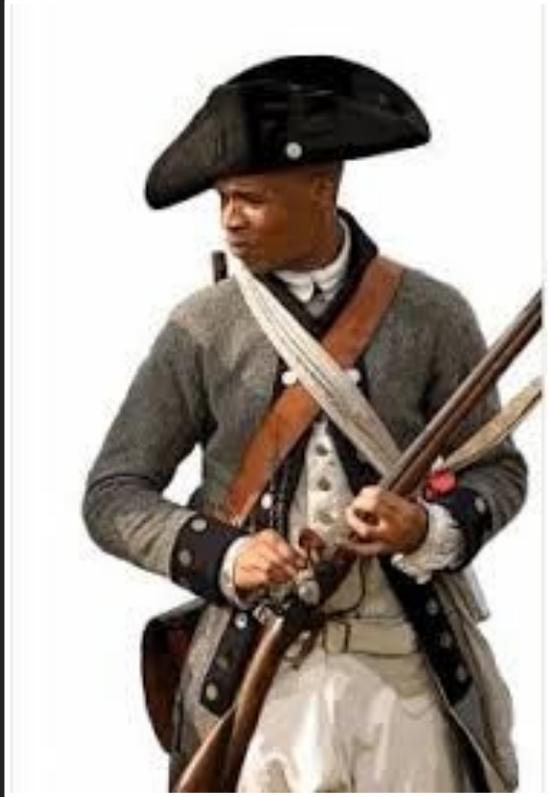
- Iroquois League was divided
 - Two tribes, the Oneidas and the Tuscaroras, supported the Patriots in the Revolutionary War.
 - The other four tribes- the Mohawks, Seneca, Cayuga, and Onondaga- sided with the British.
- The Cherokee tribe in the South also split its loyalty between the Patriot cause and the British.
- The allegiance of the small numbers of American Indians to the colonists had minimal impact on the outcome of the war.

The Role of Women and Minorities during the War

- Those who did help to fight on the side of the Americans were upset when:
 - Negotiations for the Treaty of Paris did not include American Indian representatives
 - Their lands were not protected from colonial settlement
- Enslaved and free Blacks viewed the American Revolution as an opportunity for expanding their own rights with the basis for revolution being a call to protect natural rights.
- Crispus Attucks, a Black man living in Boston, was one of the Americans killed by the British at the Boston Massacre.



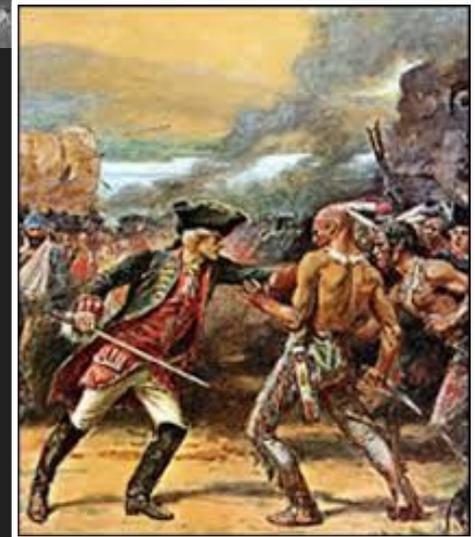
The Role of Women and Minorities during the War



- Attucks supported the Patriots in their efforts to challenge the increased British presence control over the colonial city.
- Estimates suggest at least 5,000 enslaved and free Blacks fought with the Patriots.
 - Those who fought with the Continental Army and with the colonial militia groups did not receive their freedom following the conclusion of the Revolutionary War.

The Role of Women and Minorities during the War

- Women, American Indians, and enslaved and free Blacks all contributed to the Patriot cause through volunteering to fight and through support of the military forces.
- Their sacrifices however were not rewarded or recognized in the war's 1783 Treaty of Paris settlement.
- The groups were also not extended rights by the new government of the United States even though natural rights were a primary focus of the Patriot's Declaration of Independence.



Additional Resources

- Of particular interest is the essay linked below by Holly Mayer of Duquesne University entitled, “Women and Wagoners: Camp Followers in the American War for Independence.”
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/war-for-independence/essays/women-andwagoners-camp-followers-american-war-for-indepe>
- Another essay explaining the role of enslaved and free Blacks in the Revolutionary War is the essay linked below by military historian Michael Lee Lanning entitled, “African Americans in the Revolutionary War.”
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/war-for-independence/essays/african-americansrevolutionary-war>

SSUSH 4 F

Explain the significance of the Treaty of Paris,
1783.

The Treaty of Paris 1783



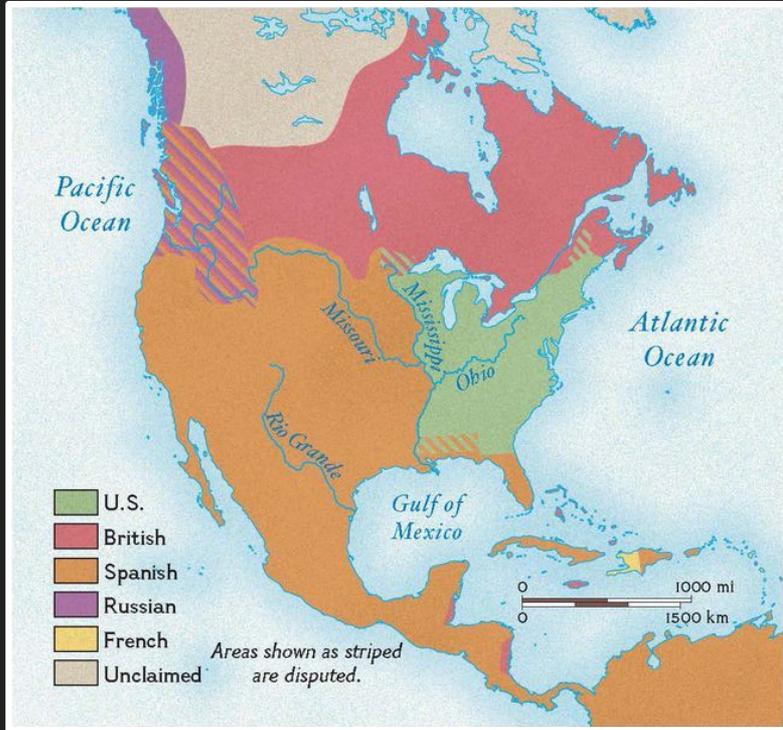
- The 1783 Treaty of Paris ended the American Revolutionary War.
 - United States won its independence from Great Britain
 - Gained possession of land stretching to the Mississippi River
- The United States sent three negotiators to represent the new nation in peace talks held in Paris.
 - John Adams
 - John Jay
 - Benjamin Franklin
- After extended discussions beginning in April 1782, a peace agreement was reached in September of 1783.

The Treaty of Paris 1783

- Provisions of the 1783 Treaty of Paris:
 - Great Britain recognized the United States as an independent nation.
 - The western boundary of the new United States was to be the Mississippi River.
 - Fishing rights off the coast of Newfoundland were guaranteed to the United States.
 - Pre-war debts owed by Americans to British merchants would be paid.
 - States would be encouraged by the Continental Congress to restore the homes, land and confiscated possessions back to Loyalists.



The Treaty of Paris 1783



- Great Britain signed separate peace treaties with France and Spain.
 - Spain reclaimed control of Florida and land west of the Mississippi River creating the boundaries of the United States.
 - Britain kept control of Canada.
 - France lost its North American lands but regained some of the lands around the world it had lost to Britain during the earlier wars.
- The 1783 Treaty of Paris is significant because it empowered the new United States with significant territorial gains beyond the Appalachian Mountains

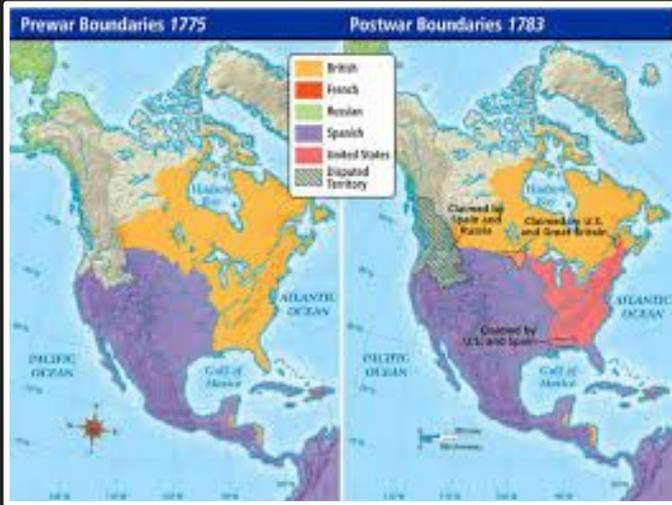
The Treaty of Paris 1783

- United States was set to establish its government
- Sought to prosper through trade of American goods
- Between the end of the American Revolution and the beginning of the Constitutional Convention, the survival of the United States was in question.
- The instability was due to the weakness of the new federal government that was created under the Articles of Confederation.
 - Most governmental power under the arrangement was purposely given to the states.



The Treaty of Paris 1783

Summary of Significance



- The American Revolutionary War formally ended.
- The British acknowledged the independence of the United States.
- The colonial empire of Great Britain was destroyed in North America.
- U.S. boundaries were established

Additional Resources

- The Library of Congress offers a Web Guide to the 1783 Treaty of Paris. Links to commentary, letters concerning the treaty from contributors, and exhibitions through digital collections are included in the compilation of resources.
 - <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/paris.html>
- Yale University's Avalon Project provides the text of the 1783 Treaty of Paris.
 - http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/paris.asp
- The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia promotes citizenship through learning about the Constitution. Their website includes an Interactive Constitution feature and a robust collection of lessons and resources for teachers.
 - <https://constitutioncenter.org>