

American Revolution Era

Unit 2

A Short Summary of Unit 2

Unit 2 begins with the French & Indian War, which starts the 13 English colonies on the road to revolution because of how England started treating the colonists after the war. The war left England in debt and the government began taxing the colonists to make up that debt. This led to a variety of protests and **boycotts** that included the Boston Tea Party and the Boston Massacre because the colonists thought the government was abusing their power and violating their rights. The colonists would eventually get so frustrated with the laws and taxes that they declared their independence from England in 1776.

The rest of the unit focuses on the American Revolution and the important people, battles, and key events of the war.

Memory Verses discussed in Unit 2

1763 the King passes the Proclamation of 1763 which forbids the **colonists** from moving west of the Appalachian Mountains. (2A)

1773 The **Sons of Liberty**, a secret protest group led by Samuel Adams, react to the English tax acts by participating in the Boston Tea Party. (2B)

1775 The first battle of the American Revolution takes place in Lexington and Concord Massachusetts. (2F)

1776 Thomas Jefferson writes the Declaration of Independence. It is passed by the Second Continental **Congress** on July 4th. (2D)

1781 The American Revolution ends with the defeat of Lord Cornwallis and the British in Yorktown, Virginia. (2F)

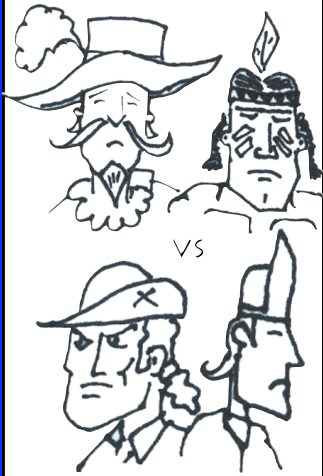
Unit 2 Color Code Key

People are written in **Blue**
Documents/Laws are written in **Red**
Glossary Words are written in **Purple**
Section Titles are written in **Green**

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2A

French & Indian War



The **French & Indian War** was a war between England & France but it was fought in the American colonies (1754-1763). American colonists sided with England. Many Native American tribes fought for the French.

What caused the war

- The French built forts in the Ohio River Valley, west of the Appalachian Mountains. English colonists wanted the land.

Results of the war

- England won, forcing the French out of the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. American settlers poured over the Appalachian Mountains, taking Indian land.
- Proclamation of 1763** - **King George III** ordered colonists not to cross Appalachian Mountains to keep peace with Native Americans.
- Quartering Act** - Colonists had to feed and house the British soldiers who were sent to keep the peace.
- The British **Parliament** passed new tax laws to pay for the war debt.

2B

Colonial protests against British laws

No Taxation without Representation!!



boycott — refusing to buy certain products as a form of **protest**.

Stamp Act 1765 (tax on paper goods) → colonists **boycott** paper goods → Stamp Act Congress → **repeal** of Stamp Act.

Townshend Acts 1767 (tax on imports, new courts to try colonists who ignored taxes) → colonists **boycott** → British soldiers stationed in Boston to enforce tax laws → 1770 **Boston Massacre** (5 colonists died) → American colonists outraged → **repeal** of Townshend Acts.

Tea Act 1773 → colonists **boycott** → 1773 The **Sons of Liberty** **protest** the Tea Act by participating in the **Boston Tea Party**. In response, the King punished the colonists by passing the Intolerable Acts.

Intolerable Acts (took over the Massachusetts government, closed the port of Boston) → **boycotts**, First Continental Congress meets.

2C

Americans choose sides

Patriots - colonists who supported independence from **Great Britain**.

Loyalists - colonists who were loyal to the King (**King George III**) as the ruler of the colonies in America.

2D

Declaration of Independence 1776



The **Declaration of Independence** is signed July 4, 1776 in Philadelphia by delegates to the 2nd Continental Congress. **The Declaration stated:**

- All men are created equal.
- they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness).
- When a government violates those rights the **citizens** have the right to **abolish** (get rid of) that government and create a new one.
- King George III has violated the rights of American **colonists**.

Then the Declaration listed **grievances** (complaints) against **King George III** and **Parliament**. (**Thomas Jefferson** wrote the Declaration)

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The American Revolution: The Continental Army ("Minutemen") vs. The British Army ("Redcoats")

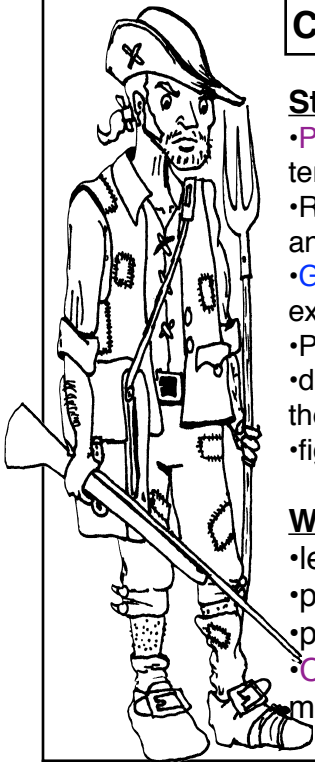
Continental Army

Strengths

- Patriot troops knew the territory
- Received help from Spain and France
- George Washington was an experienced leader
- Patriotism
- defending their liberty and their homes
- fighting a defensive war

Weaknesses

- less soldiers
- poorly trained
- poorly supplied
- Congress couldn't raise money to support the war



British Army

Strengths

- professional army of 50,000 troops
- hired 30,000 Hessian mercenaries
- recruited Loyalists, African Americans, and Native Americans
- well supplied with food, ammunition, uniforms

Weaknesses

- distance from England to America
- British people didn't support the war
- poor leadership
- fighting an offensive war



Key Events of the American Revolution



Battle of Lexington & Concord — the first battles of the Revolution, known as "The shot heard round the world." Paul Revere and William Dawes rode to warn the colonial militia (Minutemen) about the arrival of British troops to capture their arsenal. British retreated to Boston. (1775)

Battle of Trenton, NJ — General Washington led troops across the Delaware River to capture Trenton in a surprise attack after Thomas Paine's pamphlet *The Crisis* was read to inspire his troops. (1776)

Battle of Saratoga — American troops won this battle in the Hudson River Valley and forced part of the British army to surrender. A turning point in the war because France began to help with troops and money. (1777)

Valley Forge — General Washington and the American army lost Philadelphia and spent a horrible winter training in their winter camp at Valley Forge. Troops suffered from starvation, disease, and freezing cold. (1778)

Battle of Yorktown — General Washington forced the surrender of British General Cornwallis in this port town on Chesapeake Bay, with the help of French navy and army. This battle ended the Revolution. (1781)

1783 Treaty of Paris — The treaty that ended the war. Britain gave the Americans the land from the Appalachian Mountains west to the Mississippi River and also recognized American independence.

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Important people of the American Revolution

Samuel Adams — leader of the **Sons of Liberty** in Boston, a secret **protest** group that began many **protests** including the Boston Tea Party.

Thomas Paine — Englishman who wrote *Common Sense*, a pamphlet that encouraged American **colonists** to declare independence from England. Paine also wrote *The Crisis*, which encouraged Washington's soldiers before the Battle at Trenton. "These are the times that try men's souls ..."

Patrick Henry — Virginia **Patriot** who called for independence once Boston was under siege. "Give me liberty or give me death!"

Benjamin Franklin — Colonial leader in Philadelphia, representative in France during the war, inventor, published 1st political cartoon encouraging the colonies to unite against Britain.

Thomas Jefferson — Virginia delegate to the Continental Congress who wrote the **Declaration of Independence** in 1776.

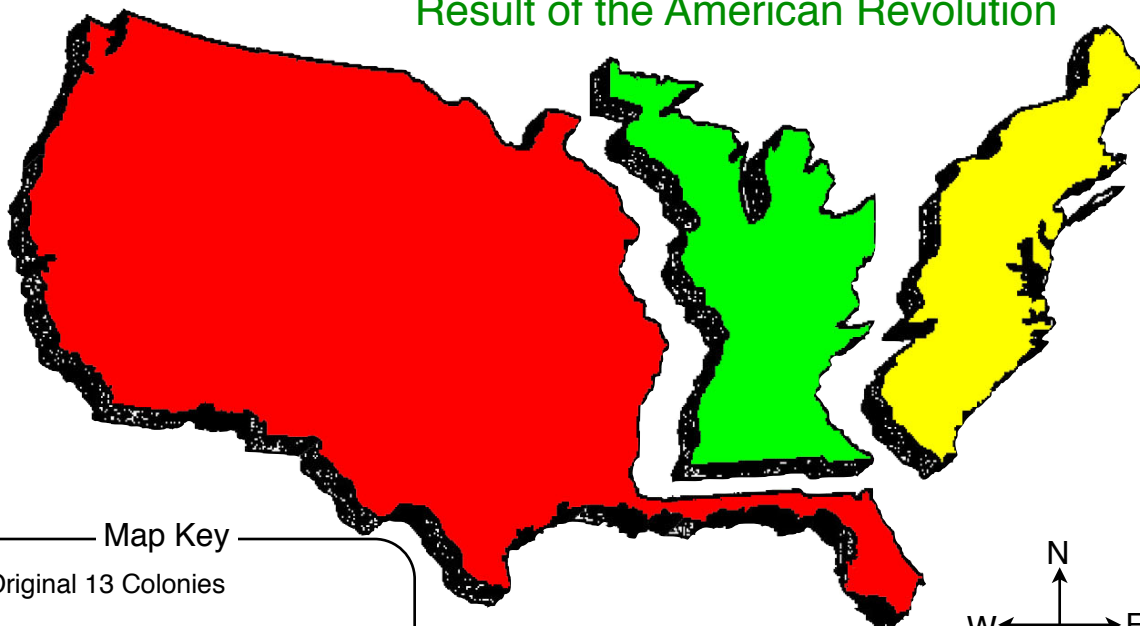
George Washington — leader of the Continental Army during the American Revolution. President of the Constitutional Convention. Would later become 1st president of the U.S.A.

King George III — King of England during the American Revolution; **Patriots** accused him of being a tyrant (a ruler that uses government power unjustly).

Lord Charles Cornwallis - British general who surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, ending the American Revolution.

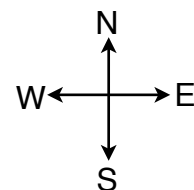
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Result of the American Revolution



Map Key

- Original 13 Colonies
- U.S. land from Treaty of Paris 1783
- Spanish Territory



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Unit 2 - American Revolution Era

Level 1 Questions

1. What was the official name of the American army during the American Revolution?
2. What battle was known as the “shot heard round the world?”
3. What country helped the Americans after the Battle of Saratoga?
4. What caused the French & Indian War?
5. What major event occurred in 1770 in which five colonist were killed by British soldiers?
6. Name two strengths of the British army had during the American Revolution.
7. Name two weaknesses of the British army during the American Revolution.
8. Name two strengths of the Continental army had during the American Revolution.
9. Name two weaknesses of the Continental army during the American Revolution.
10. Name the patriot who is famous for saying “give me liberty or give me death!”
11. What laws were passed as punishment for the Boston Tea Party?
12. Which law forbid colonists from moving west of the Appalachian Mountains?
13. What was the last battle of the American Revolution? Who won?
14. What patriot wrote *Common Sense* and *The Crises*?
15. What was the name of the secret protest group that participated in the Boston Tea Party?
16. Who was the leader of the Continental Army?
17. Which law forced colonist to house and feed British soldiers?
18. What was the last battle of the American Revolution?
19. Define *boycott*.

Level 2 Questions

1. Name Thomas Jefferson’s most important contribution during the American Revolution era.
2. Explain how the French & Indian war led to the tax acts such as the Townshend Act.
3. What were the three most important results of the Treaty of Paris?
4. What is the difference between a Patriot and a Loyalist? Which one would you have been? Explain why you would have chosen this side.
5. Who published the first political cartoon encouraging the colonies to unite against Britain? What was the cartoon a picture of? (use your textbook to find the cartoon)

Level 3 Questions

Directions: Use the index of your textbook to find and answer these questions.

1. What was the relationship between the colonists and the King like *before* the French & Indian War? (look in chapter 5 of your textbook)
2. Describe some of the ways the colonists protested the Stamp Act.
3. Who was Baron Friedrich von Steuben and how did he help the Continental Army?
4. Who was the Marquis de Lafayette and how did he help the Continental Army?
5. Answer questions 2, 3, & 4 on page 98 in your textbook.
6. Answer questions 2, 3, & 4 on page 99 in your textbook.
7. Complete 4 Word Maps from the vocabulary words from Unit 2. (the Word Map template can be found on the cover page of the Glossary section)

Essay Questions

1. Write a summary of the Unit 2 Review. Your summary should be written in your own words and explain the general story outlined in Unit 2. Your summary should be between 12-20 sentences long (at least one sentence for each section in Unit 2).
2. Pretend you are a soldier in the Continental Army. Write a letter to your little brother who wants to join the army and describe all of the hardships you have experienced as a soldier. Be sure to include your experiences at Valley Forge and at least two battles.
3. Write a scene to a play in which a Patriot and a Loyalist are arguing about whether it is right to fight against the king for independence. Your scene must present three separate arguments from the Patriot and three from the Loyalist.