

The American Revolution

How was the Continental army able to win the war for independence from Great Britain?

PREVIEW

Suppose you were choosing members of a team for the game Capture the Flag. List the three characteristics or skills you think would be most important to look for.

Suppose you have a team of Capture the Flag players who have most of the characteristics and skills you listed above playing against a team with very few of those skills. Which team do you think would win and why?

What other factors might give the team with fewer skills a chance to win?

READING NOTES

Social Studies Vocabulary

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

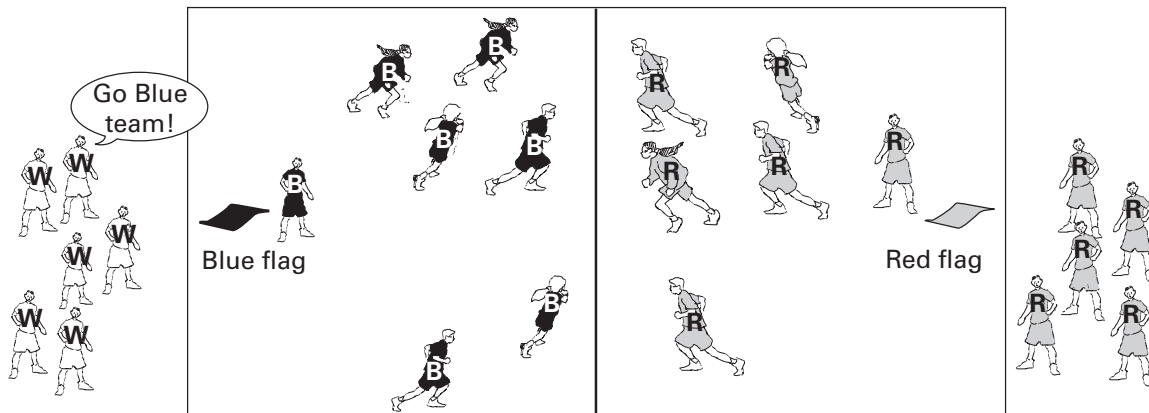
American Revolution Continental army strategy ally

Sections 1 and 2

- List at least two strengths and two weaknesses of each side at the start of the war for independence.

<p>American Strengths</p>	<p>British Strengths</p>
<p>American Weaknesses</p>	<p>British Weaknesses</p>

- Complete the sentences for the map of Round 1 of Capture the Flag.



The Blue team is smaller. It has not warmed up. It hasn't played Capture the Flag as much as the Red team, just like

The Red team is larger. It has warmed up. It has played the game more than the Blue team, just like

The Blue captain has experience playing Capture the Flag, just like

The White team cheers for the Blue team, just like

Half the Red team starts the game far from the field, just like

Section 3

1. Why did the Declaration of Independence increase Americans' motivation to fight and win the war?

2. For which group of Americans did the Declaration of Independence raise hopes as well as questions? Why?

3. What factors allowed the British to almost win the war in 1776?

4. Complete the sentences for the map of Round 2 of Capture the Flag.



The teacher tells the Blue team they will get a prize if they win. This increases their motivation, just like

Because they have more experienced players, the Red team is almost able to steal the Blue flag, just like

One Blue player is told he or she might not get a prize, even if the Blue team wins. That player must decide whether to stay on the Blue team or switch to the Red team, just like

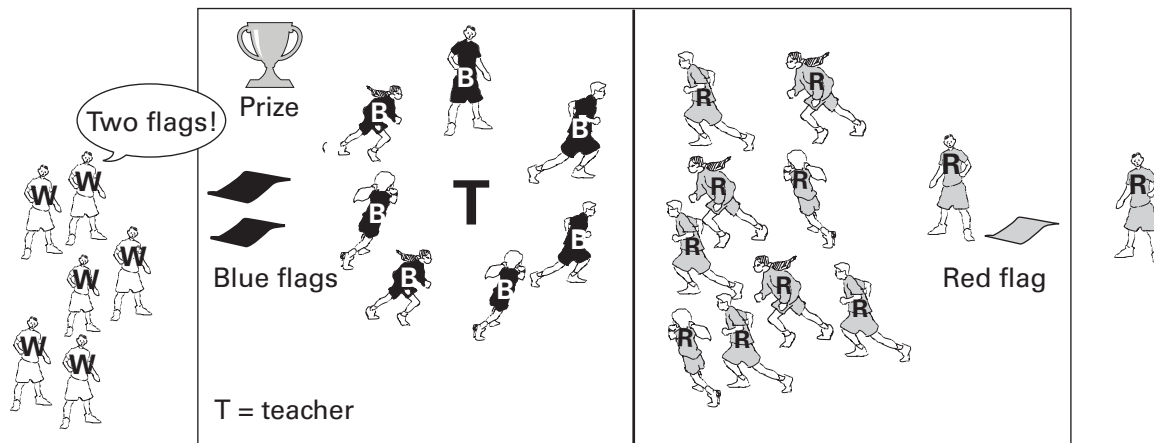
Section 4

1. In your own words, what was the message of Thomas Paine’s pamphlet *The Crisis*?

2. How were the Americans able to win such an overwhelming victory at Trenton?

3. How did victories at Trenton and Princeton affect American morale?

4. Complete the sentences for the map of Round 3 of Capture the Flag.



The teacher gives the Blue team a pep talk and encourages them to keep fighting, just like

The teacher adds a second Blue flag. This makes it harder for the Red team to win and boosts the Blue team’s morale, just like

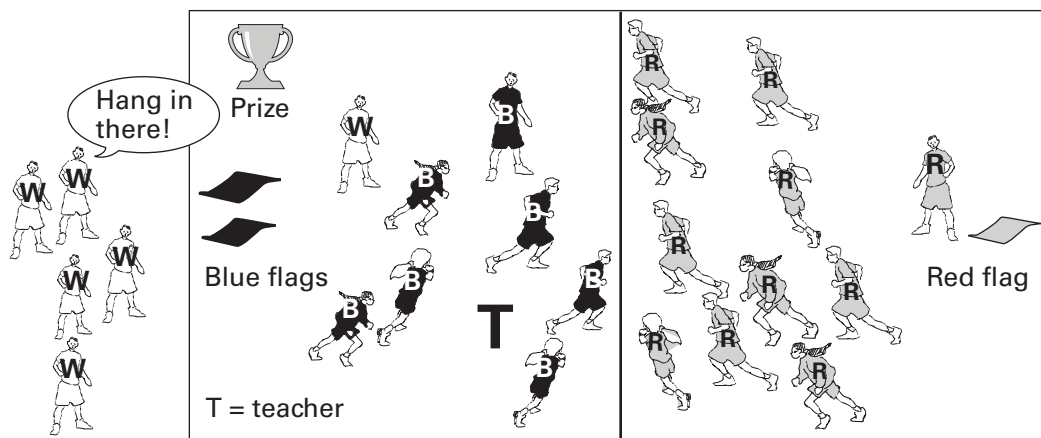
Section 5

1. As the war progressed, how did General Washington revise his military strategy?

2. Why did the American cause look more hopeful after the Battle of Saratoga?

3. Name two foreigners who were present with the Americans at Valley Forge, and explain how they helped the Americans.

4. Complete the sentences for the map of Round 4 of Capture the Flag.



The teacher tells the Blue team they do not have to capture the Red flag to win. Instead, they must keep the Red team from capturing all the Blue flags, just like

The teacher tells the Blue team that if they can hold on for one more round, they may receive help, just like

The teacher has one volunteer from the White team join the Blue team, just like

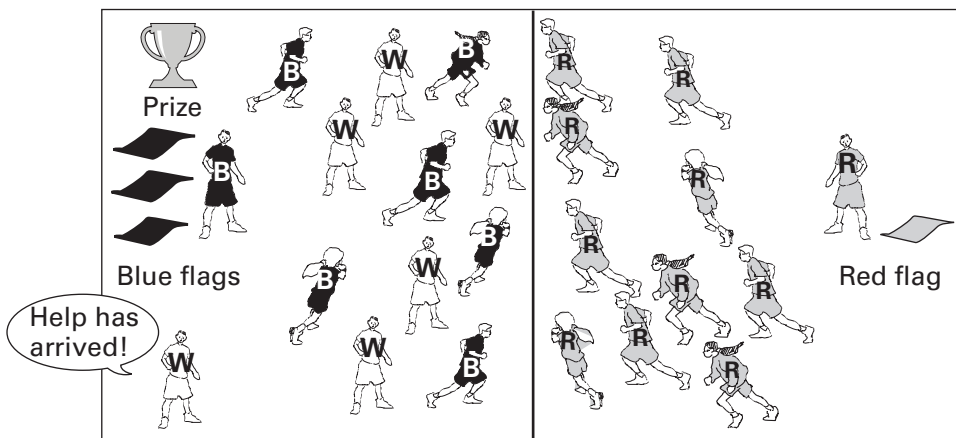
Section 6

1. What tactics did the Americans use successfully against the British in the Southern Colonies?

2. How did the success of the Continental army in the South contribute to the American victory?

3. How did the French help the Americans in the Battle of Yorktown?

4. Complete the sentences for the map of Round 5 of Capture the Flag.



The teacher adds a third Blue flag. This makes it harder for the Red team to win, just like

The White team enters the game to help the Blue team, just like

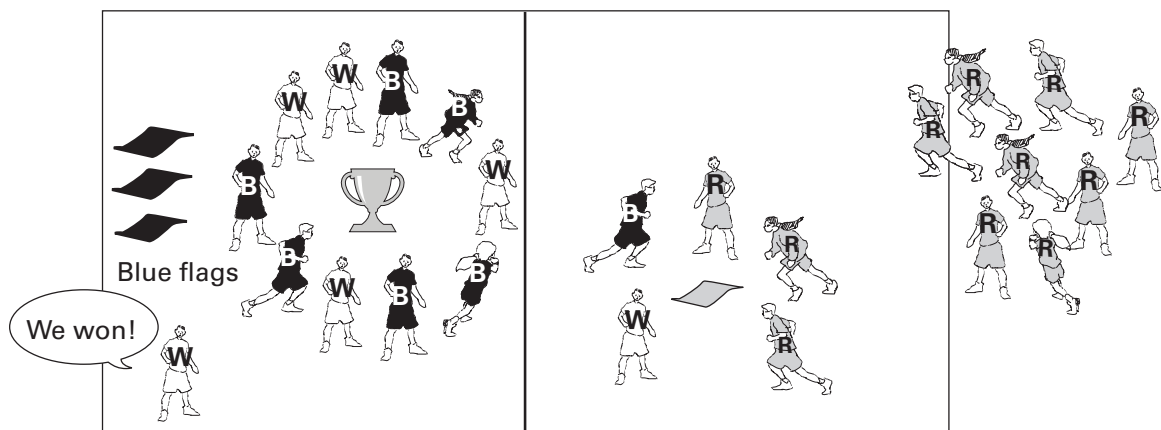
Section 7

1. How did the British people and the king respond to news of the Battle of Yorktown?

2. What were three key provisions of the Treaty of Paris?

3. Give two examples of how the American Revolution affected other parts of the world.

4. Complete the sentences for the map of the end of the Capture the Flag game.



By the end of Round 6, many members of the Red team don't want to play anymore, but some do, just like

At the end of the game, the Blue, White, and Red captains shake hands. The Blue and White teams receive their prizes. The Red captain hands over the Red flag. The Blue team promises to be nice to the Red team, just like

P R O C E S S I N G

Create a simile that shows how the Americans were able to beat the British and win the war for independence.

Step 1: Complete this sentence: *The Continental army's victory in the American Revolution was like . . .* Use one of these examples to complete the sentence, or create your own:

- the class game of Capture the Flag
- David's victory over Goliath
- the story of the tortoise and the hare
- a recent sports upset

Step 2: Create a drawing of your simile. Use clever visual details that connect your simile to the Continental army's victory in the American Revolution.

Step 3: Below your drawing, write two "because" statements to explain why your simile is like the Continental army's victory in the American Revolution.

READING FURTHER

Preparing to Write: Choosing Descriptive Words

For all of his fame, George Washington shared many qualities and emotions that we all have. Write five sentences describing George Washington. Use at least one word from the Word Bank in each sentence.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Word Bank

cautious
compassion
concern
emotional
homesick
proud
strict
uncertain
worried

Writing a Personal Letter

Soldier Joseph Plumb Martin and General George Washington were in the same place a number of times: the Battle of Long Island (1776), Valley Forge (1777–78), the Battle of Monmouth (1778), and the Battle of Yorktown (1781).

At Yorktown, a stranger stopped to talk with Martin and some other soldiers. Martin realized only later that the stranger was the great General Washington. “Had we dared,” Martin wrote, “we might have cautioned him for exposing himself so carelessly to danger at such a time.”

Suppose you had been Joseph Plumb Martin at Yorktown. What would you like to have told General Washington about your experiences in the war? What emotions would you have shared with him? Express your ideas in a short letter that the soldier might have written to the general. Your letter should clearly describe experiences and emotions related to the war. Be sure to use correct letter format and correct spelling and grammar.

Use this rubric to evaluate your letter. Make changes in your letter if you need to.

Score	Description
3	The letter clearly describes experiences and emotions related to the war. It has correct letter format. There are no spelling or grammar errors.
2	The letter describes experiences and emotions related to the war. It has correct letter format. There are some spelling or grammar errors.
1	The letter does not describe experiences and emotions related to the war. It does not have correct letter format. There are many spelling or grammar errors.