



6.1 THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE	<p>On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress took the final step and DECLARED INDEPENDENCE from Great Britain. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson justified a break with England by accusing George III of TYRANNY. Asserting the ENLIGHTENMENT IDEALS OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY, Jefferson created the concept of REVOLUTIONARY REPUBLICANISM as the ideological basis for establishing the new nation's independence. The declaration's rhetoric inspired many previously undecided colonists to embrace independence and move toward establishing new republican institutions.</p>
<p>Enlightenment Ideals:</p> <p>Liberty</p> <p>Popular Sovereignty</p>	<p><i>We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness - That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government...</i></p>
WAR ON LAND AND SEA	<p>Great Britain launched a huge LAND AND SEA EFFORT to crush the rebellion. It had a much larger and better-trained army than did the Americans. However, Britain had to transport and send supplies to its army across the Atlantic Ocean. Although the British won many battles, they gained little from their victories. The American patriots could always gather new forces and fight on.</p>
<p>Saratoga</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Alliance with France</p>	<p>In 1777, the Americans won an important victory at SARATOGA, N.Y. The victory convinced France that the Americans could win the war. As a result, FRANCE WENT TO WAR AGAINST BRITAIN, its long-time enemy. France provided the Americans with the money and military equipment they badly needed to fight the war.</p>
British Defeat at Yorktown	<p>In October 1781, a large BRITISH FORCE SURRENDERED TO WASHINGTON AT YORKTOWN, Virginia. That defeat led the British government to begin peace talks with the Americans. The Treaty of Paris formally ended the war in 1783.</p>
TREATY OF PARIS	<p>The American diplomats Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay, who negotiated the peace treaty, secured favorable terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ OFFICIAL RECOGNITION of American independence and of the United States ■ TRANSFER OF ALL TERRITORY east of the Mississippi River, between Canada and Florida, to the new nation (the treaty did not recognize Native Americans as players in the war and turned over land to the United States as though it were uninhabited).
WHY THE BRITISH LOST	<p>Although small in size, generally ill-equipped, and much less experienced than the British fighting force, the AMERICAN army had the advantage of FIGHTING ON ITS OWN TERRITORY. Local militias periodically increased their numbers and the population at large generally supported the patriot cause. Furthermore, George Washington provided confident, stable military LEADERSHIP and easily earned the respect of Congress and the state governments.</p> <p>BRITISH military leadership was much LESS EFFECTIVE. To successfully quash the rebellion not only did the British have to win battles but they also had to win over the American population. This was beyond their ability. Furthermore, it was hard for the British to supply their army. The FRENCH ALLIANCE and military support worked against them. Consequently, after relinquishing power in 1775 and 1776, they were never able to regain it.</p>

<p>MULTIMEDIA QUEST</p>	<p>Explore one or more of the following web sites to learn more about the American Revolution. (Sites 1-3 are graphics intensive and are best viewed with a high speed connection. Sites 4-6 are suitable for high and low speed connections.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>1. The American Revolution Multimedia Exhibit http://www.historywiz.com/revolution.htm</p> <p>An exhibit of text, graphics, & primary sources relating to the American Revolution from the Stamp Act to Yorktown. Requires Flash, which can be downloaded from the site.</p> <p>2. Liberty! Chronicles of the American Revolution http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/chronicle/index.html</p> <p>Reports on the progress, setbacks, and successes of the American Revolution, with related topics. Includes: Boston 1774, Philadelphia 1776, Trenton 1776, Saratoga 1777, Yorktown 1781, Philadelphia 1791, Timeline of the Revolution.</p> <p>3. Virtual Marching Tour of the American Revolutionary War http://www.ushistory.org/march/index.html</p> <p>An Internet exploration of the American Revolutionary War with animated maps and graphics.</p> <p>4. Religion and the American Revolution http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/re103.html</p> <p>Describes how religion played a major role in the American Revolution by offering a moral sanction for opposition to the British.</p> <p>5. Women in the American Revolution http://rims.k12.ca.us/women_american_revolution/</p> <p>Profiles of women who contributed to the American Revolution.</p> <p>6. Spy Letters of the American Revolution http://www.si.umich.edu/spies/</p> <p>Includes a gallery of letters, stories of spies and letters, secret methods and techniques, people of the revolution, and the routes of the letters.</p>
<p>DISCUSSION QUESTION</p>	<p>What insights did you gain from your exploration of the American Revolution? You may focus on any aspect of the revolution that interests you most (e.g., revolutionary ideals, military campaigns, political or military strategies, the experiences of participants, the contributions of women, etc.)</p>