

## The War for Independence

Thomas Jefferson draws on Enlightenment ideas in drafting the Declaration of Independence. The colonies defeat Great Britain in the Revolutionary War.

# The War for Independence

**SECTION 1** The Stirrings of Rebellion

**SECTION 2** Ideas Help Start a Revolution

**SECTION 3** Struggling Toward Saratoga

**SECTION 4** Winning the War



## Section 1

# The Stirrings of Rebellion

Conflict between Great Britain and the American colonies grows over issues of taxation, representation, and liberty.

## SECTION

# 1 The Stirrings of Rebellion

## The Colonies Organize to Resist Britain

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### The Stamp Act

- **Stamp Act** (1765)—requires stamped paper for documents, printed items

### Stamp Act Protests

- **Samuel Adams** helps found Sons of Liberty, secret resistance group:
  - harass customs workers, stamp agents, royal governors
- Stamp Act Congress—colonies can't be taxed without representation
- Colonial merchants boycott British goods until Stamp Act repealed
- Parliament repeals Stamp Act; passes Declaratory Act same day (1766)

*Continued . . .*



NEXT

## SECTION

## 1

*continued* **The Colonies Organize to Resist Britain****The Townshend Acts**

- **Townshend Acts** (1767) levy duties on imported materials, tea
- Colonists enraged; Samuel Adams organizes boycott
- Women stop buying British luxuries; join spinning bees; boycott tea
- Customs agents seize John Hancock's ship *Liberty* for unpaid taxes
- Colonists riot; 2,000 British soldiers stationed in Boston

## SECTION

## 1

## Tension Mounts in Massachusetts

### The Boston Massacre

- Soldiers compete with colonists for shipyard jobs
- **Boston Massacre** (1770)—mob throws stones, British fire, kill five
- 1772, colonists burn customs ship; suspects to be tried in Britain
- **Committees of correspondence** discuss threat to freedom, form network

### The Boston Tea Party

- 1773 Tea Act lets East India Company avoid tax, undersell colonists
- **Boston Tea Party**—disguised colonists dump 18,000 lbs. tea in harbor

*Continued . . .*



## SECTION

## 1

*continued* Tension Mounts in Massachusetts**The Intolerable Acts**

- **King George III**, British king, is angered by destruction of tea
- 1774, Parliament passes **Intolerable Acts** as response to Tea Party
- Acts close Boston Harbor, quarter soldiers in empty homes, buildings
- General Thomas Gage puts Boston under **martial law**—rule by military
- First Continental Congress claims colonial rights, supports protests



## SECTION

## 1

## Fighting Erupts at Lexington and Concord

### To Concord, By the Lexington Road

- Civilian militia or **minutemen** begin to stockpile firearms, 1775
- Resistance leaders John Hancock, Samuel Adams hide in Lexington

### “The Regulars Are Coming!”

- 700 redcoats sent to capture leaders, destroy munitions, April 1775
- Paul Revere, William Dawes, Samuel Prescott warn leaders, townspeople

### “A Glorious Day for America”

- British shoot minutemen in Lexington; kill eight
- 3,000–4,000 minutemen ambush British in Concord, kill dozens





## Section 2

# Ideas Help Start a Revolution

Tensions increase throughout the colonies until the Continental Congress declares independence on July 4, 1776.

## SECTION

## 2 Ideas Help Start a Revolution

### The Colonies Hover Between Peace and War

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#### The Second Continental Congress

- **Second Continental Congress** meets May–June 1775 in Philadelphia:
  - debate independence
  - recognize militiamen as Continental Army
  - appoint George Washington commander
  - print paper money to pay troops

*Continued . . .*



## SECTION

## 2

*continued* **The Colonies Hover Between Peace and War****The Battle of Bunker Hill**

- British troops attack militia north of Boston, June 1775
- Costly British win: 450 colonist and over 1,000 British casualties

**The Olive Branch Petition**

- July, Congress sends **Olive Branch Petition** to restore “harmony”
- George III rejects petition, orders naval blockade



## SECTION

## 2

## The Patriots Declare Independence

### ***Common Sense***

- Thomas Paine's pamphlet ***Common Sense*** attacks king
- Argues independence will allow free trade and foreign aid
- Independence can give equal social, economic opportunities to all
- Almost 500,000 copies of pamphlet sold; convinces many colonists

*Continued . . .*



## SECTION

## 2

*continued* **The Patriots Declare Independence****Declaring Independence**

- Congress urges each colony to form own government
- Congress appoints committee to prepare formal declaration
- Virginia lawyer **Thomas Jefferson** chosen to write it
- **Declaration of Independence**—formal statement of separation

*Continued . . .*

NEXT

## SECTION

## 2

*continued* **The Patriots Declare Independence****Declaring Independence**

- Declaration, based on John Locke's ideas, lists complaints, rights:
  - people have natural rights to life, liberty, property
  - people consent to obey a government that protects rights
  - people can resist or overthrow government
- “All men are created equal” means free citizens are political equals
- July 4, 1776 delegates adopt declaration

## Americans Choose Sides

### Loyalists and Patriots

- **Loyalists**—oppose independence, loyal to Crown for different reasons:
  - work in government, unaware of events, trust crown to protect rights
- **Patriots**, almost half of population, support independence:
  - think independence will mean economic opportunity

### Taking Sides

- Groups divided: Quakers, African Americans on both sides
- Native Americans support British; colonists threaten their lands

### Section 3

# Struggling Toward Saratoga

After a series of setbacks, American forces win at Saratoga and survive.



## SECTION

## 3 Struggling Toward Saratoga

### The War Moves to the Middle States

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#### Defeat in New York

- British decide to stop rebellion by isolating New England
- 32,000 British soldiers and Hessians take New York, summer 1776
- Many of Washington's recruits killed; retreat to Pennsylvania

#### The Battle of Trenton

- Christmas 1776, Washington crosses Delaware River into New Jersey
- Washington surprises Hessian garrison, wins Battle of **Trenton**
- Eight days later, Americans win Battle of Princeton against British

*Continued . . .*



## SECTION

## 3

*continued* The War Moves to the Middle States**The Fight for Philadelphia**

- Gen. William Howe beats Washington at Brandywine, PA, summer 1777
- Howe takes U.S. capital, Philadelphia; Continental Congress flees

**Victory at Saratoga**

- Gen. John Burgoyne leads British, allies south from Canada
- Burgoyne loses repeatedly to Continental Army, militia
- Surrounded at **Saratoga**, Burgoyne surrenders to Gen. Horatio Gates

*Continued . . .*

NEXT

## SECTION

## 3

*continued* **The War Moves to the Middle States****A Turning Point**

- Since 1776, French secretly send weapons to Americans
- French recognize American independence, sign treaty, February 1778
- France agrees no peace until Britain recognizes U.S. independence

**Winter at Valley Forge**

- **Valley Forge**—site of Continental Army's winter camp (1777–1778)
- Of 10,000 soldiers, more than 2,000 die of cold and hunger



## SECTION

## 3

## Colonial Life During the Revolution

### Financing the War

- To get money, Congress sells bonds to investors, foreign governments
- Prints paper money (Continental), causes **inflation** (rising prices)
- Few U.S. munitions factories; must run arms through naval blockade
- Some officials engage in **profiteering**, sell scarce goods for profit
- Robert Morris, Haym Salomon use own credit to raise money, pay army

*Continued . . .*



## SECTION

## 3

*continued* Colonial Life During the Revolution**Civilians at War**

- While husbands fight, women manage homes, businesses
- Many women go with troops to wash, cook, mend; some fight
- Thousands of African-American slaves escape to cities, frontier
- About 5,000 African Americans serve in Continental Army
- Most Native Americans stay out of the conflict

## Section 4

# Winning the War

Strategic victories in the South and at Yorktown enable the Americans to defeat the British.

## SECTION

## 4 Winning the War

### European Allies Shift the Balance

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#### Training the Continental Army

- 1778, Prussian captain **Friedrich von Steuben** goes to Valley Forge
- Trains colonists in fighting skills, field maneuvers of regular army

#### Lafayette and the French

- **Marquis de Lafayette**—aristocrat, joins Washington at Valley Forge
- Lobbies for French troops, 1779; leads command in last years of war

## SECTION

## 4

## The British Move South

### Early British Success in the South

- 1778, British take Savannah; royal governor reinstated in Georgia
- British armies capture Charles Town, 1780—greatest victory of war
- British commander **Charles Cornwallis** smashes through South Carolina
- African Americans escape Patriot owners, join British to win freedom

### British Losses in 1781

- 1781, Cornwallis fights Daniel Morgan, Nathaniel Greene in Carolinas
- Weakened Cornwallis gets reinforcements, camps at Yorktown





## SECTION

## 4

## The British Surrender at Yorktown

### Victory at Yorktown

- French army lands in Newport, Rhode Island in 1780
- Lafayette's plan: French, Americans attack British at Yorktown
- French navy defeats British, blockades Chesapeake Bay
- American, French siege **Yorktown**, shell British for three weeks
- Cornwallis surrenders October 1781

*Continued . . .*



## SECTION

## 4

*continued* **The British Surrender at Yorktown****Seeking Peace**

- 1782 peace talks include United States, Britain, France, Spain
- American negotiators: John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay
- **Treaty of Paris** signed September 1783:
  - confirms U.S. independence
  - sets boundaries of new nation
  - ignores Native American rights
  - promises repayment of debts
  - no date set for British evacuation of forts in U.S.

## SECTION

## 4

## The War Becomes a Symbol of Liberty

### The Impact on American Society

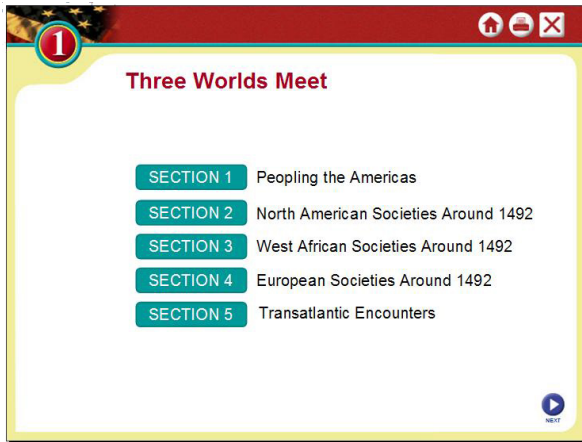
- War stimulates **egalitarianism**—belief in equality of all people
- Equality for white men; women do not gain legal or political rights
- African Americans still enslaved; those free face discrimination
- Planters in upper South debate morality of slavery; some free slaves
- Native Americans continue to be forced off their lands by settlers

### The Challenge of Creating a Government

- U.S. attempts to create government by the people, not by a king



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