



PP 168-193

AND SO BEGINS ...THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR



Advantages and Disadvantages at start of war

American Weaknesses

- Fewer soldiers
- Lack of experience and training
- Lack of quality equipment and supplies
- Lack of funds (no taxes to support)

American Strengths

- Patriotism
- European help
- Leadership of George Washington
- Geography (home turf they knew well)
- Innovative tactics/guerilla style

British Strengths

- Numbers 42k troops + 30k hired mercenaries
- Experience and training
- More Supplies and \$\$\$\$
- A real Navy!
- Native American help

British Weaknesses

- Distance (shipping troops and supplies costly)
- Lack of support in England
- Poor leadership (failed to recognize that a conventional European war would not work on American soil)

TABLE TALK

Based on the chart you just created, who do you think had the overall advantage at the start of the war?

QUICK CHECK

Raise one finger for true and two fingers for false

The Continental Army had **FEWER** but important advantages over the British

NATHAN HALE

- Connecticut soldier – sent on dangerous mission to collect info about British war plans on Long Island
- **Captured** by Britain and **executed** as a spy....
- **“I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country”**



NAVAL FORCES



- America had only a **few warships** – Britain had a **large navy** commanded by William Howe
- US focused on quick, gutsy hit and run attacks
- John Paul Jones – **“I have not yet begun to fight”**
- Help from armed **Privateers** (civilian ships with government permission to engage in battle) – **often Pirates**

TABLE TALK

- Brainstorm quickly the advantages of having a large and powerful navy.... Be prepared to share

QUICK CHECK

Raise one finger for true and two fingers for false

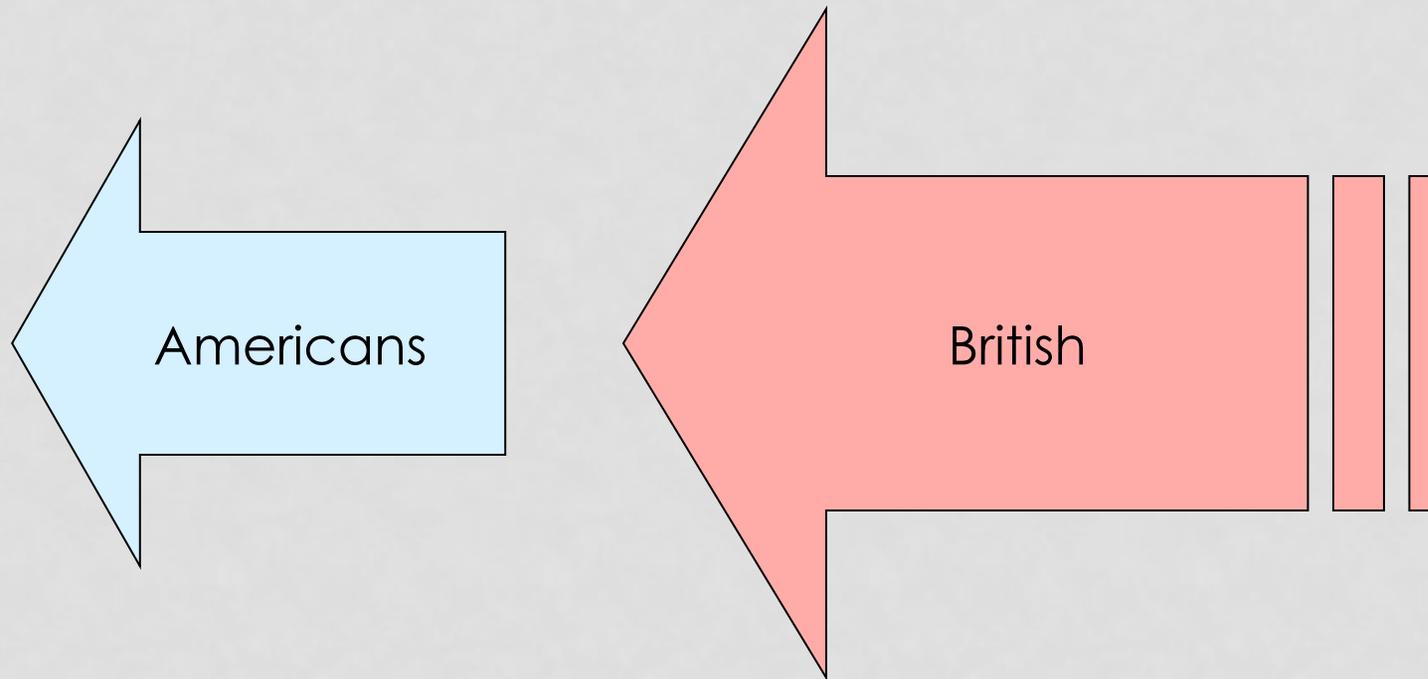
Nathan Hale said “I have not yet begun to fight”

Battle of **Long Island**, New York

George Washington expected the attack. But his troops were no match for the **British** who badly defeated the **Continental Army**

Americans	British
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20,000 poorly trained volunteers• No navy• Little equipment; few supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 34,000 professional soldiers• Navy fleet; 10,000 sailors• Well equipped; fully supplied

In a series of battles and American **retreats**, the British drove **George Washington** from New York, across New Jersey, and into **Pennsylvania**.



WASHINGTON AND THE DELAWARE



- George Washington **crossed the Delaware river** in freezing winter to launch surprise attack on **Trenton, NJ** on a cold **Christmas morning**
- Sleeping **Hessian** troops (mercenaries hired from Germany by Britain) were defeated and captured
- Huge American **victory**
- Later Washington ordered **fires lit** to make it appear as if they were staying, Washington's troops later sneak away at night to **attack Princeton, NJ** for a second **victory**



QUICK CHECK

Raise one finger for true and two fingers for false

George Washington's surprise attack on Trenton was a success

TABLE TALK

- When is breaking the rules okay?
- Do you think a Christmas morning attack is out of bounds?

BRITISH WAR PLAN IN NEW YORK



- Attack from **three directions** take NY colony and cut off New England from the rest of the colonies
- British moved too **slowly** – only one group arrived at Saratoga where the **British were defeated**
- **Battle of Saratoga** (October 1777) – **major turning point**

Casualties:

American	90 killed	240 wounded	
British	440 killed	695 wounded	6222 captured

- **Convinced other European powers** that the Americans had a chance and they should help us



KEY

- ← American forces
- ← British forces
- ★ American victories
- ★ British victories
- 🏰 Forts

40° N

N

W E

S

0 km 200

0 miles 200

Albers Conic Equal-Area Projection

FACT CHECK

Raise one finger for **answer 1** and two fingers for **answer 2**

1. The British lost at Saratoga because some of their troop divisions moved too slowly
2. The Americans lost at Saratoga because some of their troop divisions moved too slowly

TABLE TALK

- Quickly brainstorm some ways that foreign help in war would be useful

EUROPEAN HELP



- Alliance with **France** February 1778 negotiated in part by Benjamin Franklin
- France (with its allies **Spain** and **the Netherlands**) attacked **British ships** and forces throughout Europe and **the Caribbean**, kept British troops committed elsewhere
- European **volunteers** – many served with the Continental Army
- **Baron Friedrich von Steuben** – German military specialist who helped train the Continental Army at Valley Forge.

AFRICAN AMERICANS

At first, George Washington did not accept **African American soldiers**. Southern states didn't want them armed.



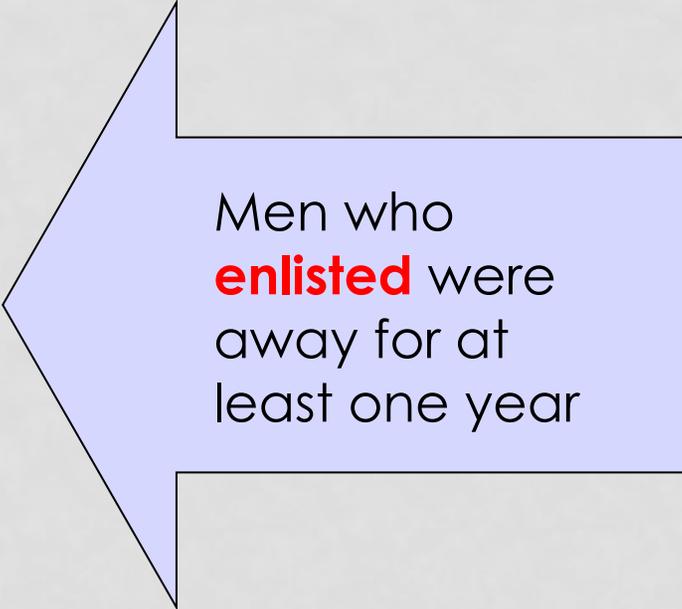
Washington reversed his policy, however, after so many African Americans began to join the **British forces** to earn wages.



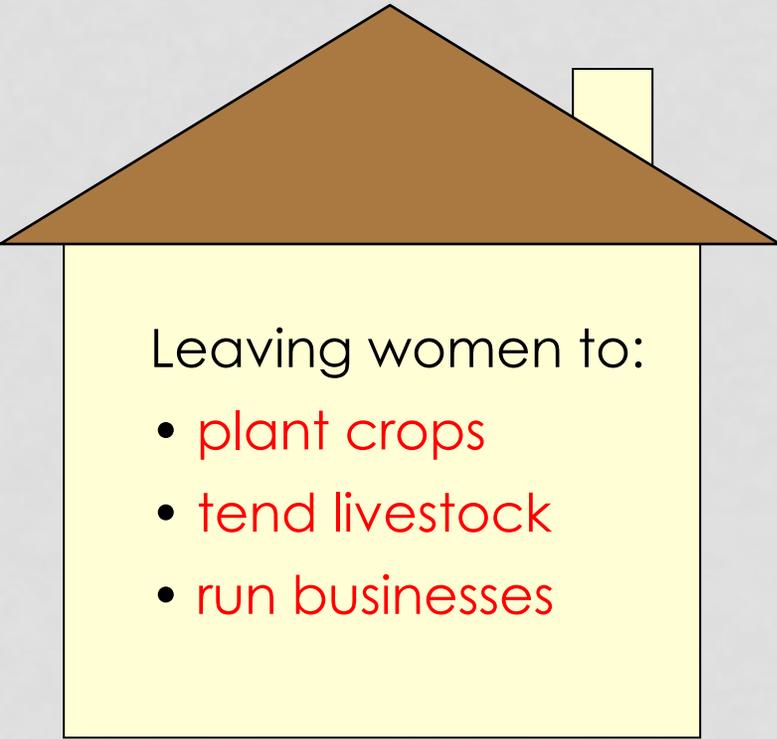
By the end of the war, more than 5,000 African Americans had fought for the Patriots. One notable example was Peter Salem, a slave who was granted his freedom after fighting at Concord and Bunker Hill

WOMEN

Women, too, were affected by the war, often taking on new responsibilities.



Men who
enlisted were
away for at
least one year



Leaving women to:

- **plant crops**
- **tend livestock**
- **run businesses**

Role of Women: Increased responsibilities at home but...

Women also provided supplies, food, and water. They cared for the wounded.

Some women went to battle with their husbands.... Molly Pitcher, stepped in to fight when her husband fell. And Margaret Corbin took her husband's place in battle after he died



TABLE TALK

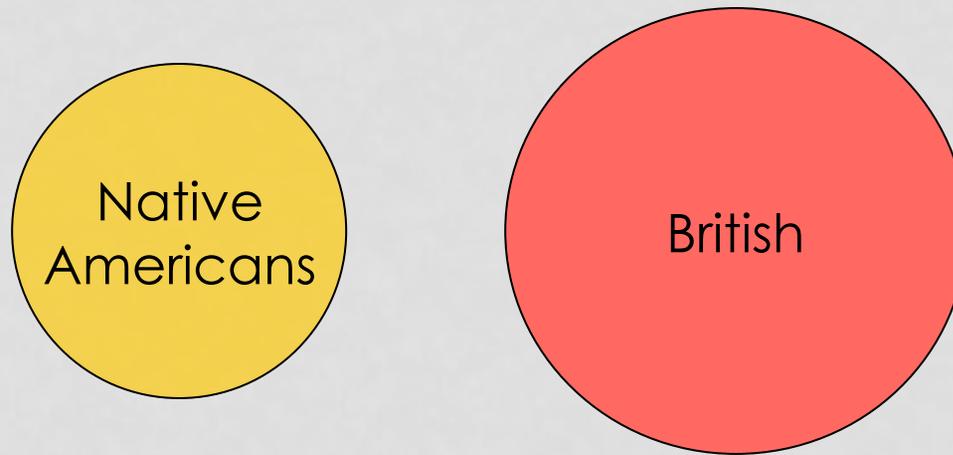
- In US forces do women serve in actual combat today?

FACT CHECK

Raise one finger for true and two fingers for false

During the revolution, African Americans and women questioned their positions in society because they wanted the same rights that white American males were fighting for

Those on the western frontier also felt the war's effects.



Most Native Americans sided with the British, fearing an American victory would bring more settlers onto their lands.

George Rogers Clark pushed west to strike British forts on the frontier.



Clark won key battles against the British and their Native American allies.



These victories allowed settlers to **remain on the western frontier.**

FACT CHECK

Raise one finger for true and two fingers for false

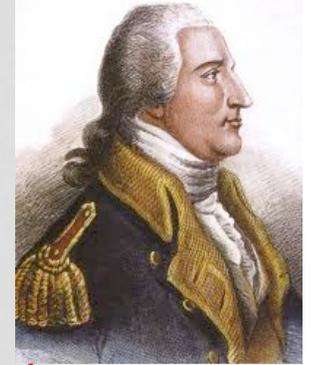
In the Revolutionary War, most native American tribes sided with the British fearing colonists desire for their lands

VALLEY FORGE

- Washington's 11,000 troops spent harsh winter of 1777-78 at a **Pennsylvania** camp called **Valley Forge**
- **Hunger and disease** killed many soldiers
- Survived and even **improved their training** thanks to **Baron Von Steuben**
- Plan spring campaign that will later win the war



BENEDICT ARNOLD



- Distinguished American officer in battle of **Saratoga**
- Became the most famous **American** traitor
- Name used synonymously with “**traitor**” today
- **War hero** who felt **overlooked** by Congress (missed promotions)
- Also had loyalist wife
- Hatched plan to give **Fort West Point** in NY over to the **British**
- Plan discovered in Sept 1780, he escaped, joined British army and **led loyalist raids** in Virginia



FACT CHECK

Raise one finger for **answer 1** and two fingers for **answer 2**

- 1 The winter at Valley Forge was a restful time for soldiers to recuperated and train
- 2 The winter at Valley Forge was brutal and many soldiers died, yet the survivors improved their training

GUERRILLA WARFARE



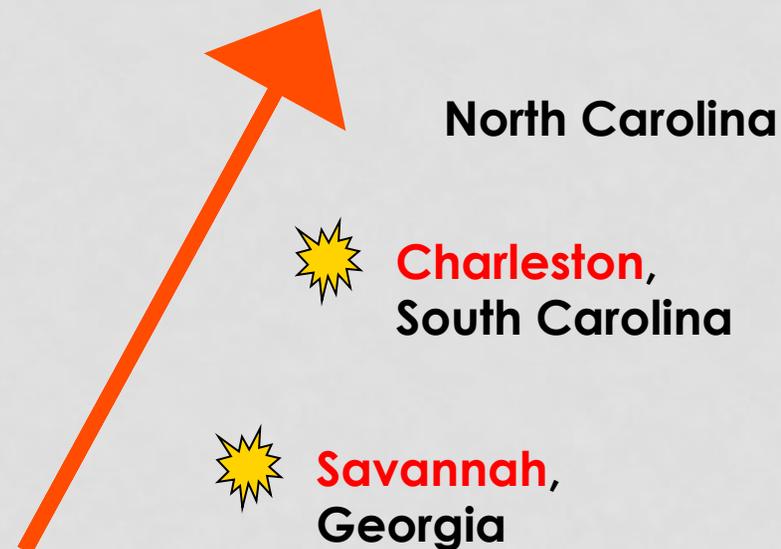
- **Non-traditional** warfare first seen in the **French and Indian War**
- Tactics included **ambushes** and **hit and run** attack
- Particularly common in the Southern battles – backcountry and swamp
- General **Nathanael Greene** commanded the southern troops
- **Francis Marion** – **the Swamp Fox**, led guerilla style attacks in southern swamps
- Watch “[Polite War](#)”

TABLE TALK

- When is breaking the rules okay?
- Do you think ambushes and hit and run attacks are out of bounds?

After losing **New England**, the British tried to win the war by **capturing the South**, then marching **north**.

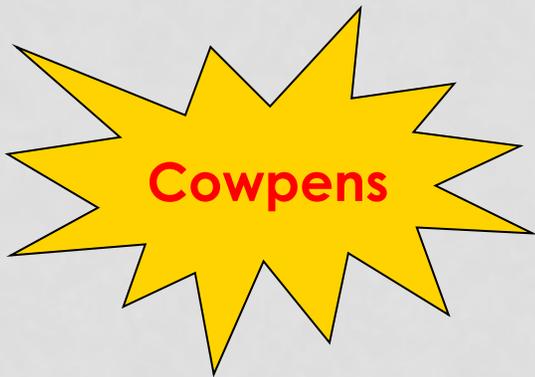
Charles Cornwallis, the British commander in the South, seemed unstoppable as he swept through Georgia and into the Carolinas.



Finally, American forces rallied at two key battles in South Carolina.



Frontier fighters defeated British and Loyalist troops atop Kings Mountain



Nathaniel Greene split his army in two; the western force under **Daniel Morgan** defeated British fighters

Revolutionary War in the South, 1778–1781



Weakened, British Gen. **Cornwallis** continued the march north, into **Virginia**.

At the same time, **George Washington** rushed to **Virginia** with American and fresh **French** troops.

FACT CHECK

Raise one finger for true and two fingers for false

After early losses in the south, the Americans won a couple of important victories at King's Mountain and Cowpens

BATTLE OF YORKTOWN VIRGINIA



- **Final battle** of Revolutionary War
- British Gen. Cornwallis moved troops onto VA **peninsula**, expecting British **naval support**
- However, the **French fleet** had chased off most British ships, so help never came
- Trapped and now **outnumbered** by American AND French troops Cornwallis **surrendered** after three weeks, having lost important positions to assaults by the French and Washington's right hand man, Alexander Hamilton
- Britain decide the war **was too expensive** to continue

Battle of Yorktown, 1781



FACT CHECK?

Raise one finger for true and two fingers for false

Alexander Hamilton – George Washington's aide-de-camp was **not** able to take an important British position called Redoubt 10.

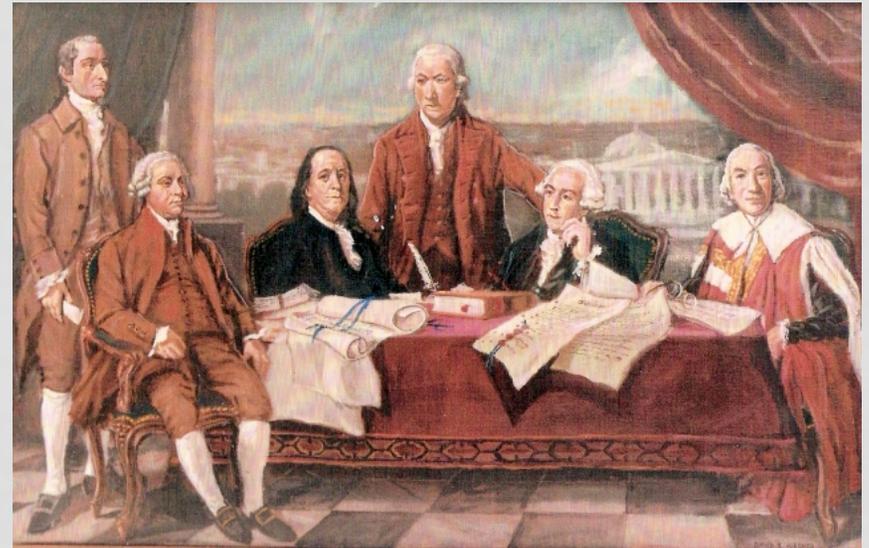


“The Storming of Redoubt 10” depicting Alexander Hamilton’s 400 men attacking and taking an important British position

TABLE TALK

- Little known fact: Gen Charles Cornwallis was sick in his tent and refused to come surrender to George Washington in person. Instead he sent his 2nd in command.
- **How do you feel about his actions?**
- BTW this is also the moment that a French military band began to play “Yankee Doodle Dandy”

TREATY OF PARIS - 1783



- Peace talks began in 1782 in Paris – **Ben Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay**
- Signed on April 15, 1783 the war was officially over after 8 years
- Britain **officially recognized the USA** as a country
- Boundaries: **Atlantic Ocean to the east** and the **Mississippi River** to the west. Canada would be the northern border and **Florida** was returned to Spain)
- Gave USA **fishing rights** in Atlantic near Canada

FACT CHECK

Raise one finger for true and two fingers for false

Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay were sent to France to help negotiate the Treaty of Paris

North America in 1783



The boundaries of the new nation were:

- Canada on the north
- the Mississippi River on the west
- Florida on the south

Florida was returned to **Spain**.

KEY BATTLES

- Boston
- New York
- Trenton
- Princeton
- Saratoga
- Savannah/Charleston
- Kings Mountain/Cowpens
- Yorktown