

The American Revolution

1st Continental Congress

1. Philly, 9/5-10/26/74
2. Revolution really begins with this
3. Created the Association to Boycott British Goods
4. 1st steps toward independence but no declaration

General Gage – MA Governor

1. wanted to cut off rebellion
2. try to capture patriot guns & powder
3. try to arrest Samuel Adams & John Hancock

Minutemen – patriot farmers & townspeople drill, ready on a minute's notice

Paul Revere – early warning at Concord

One lantern – Gage coming over land

Two lanterns – Crossing Charles River

April 18, 1775

1. Revere & Billy Dawes set off for Lexington to warn Adams & Hancock
2. alert Lexington Minutemen
3. continuing to Concord, joined by Samuel Prescott (Dr.)
4. R & D arrested
5. Prescott escaped & warned Concord

Lexington:

1. 27 Minutemen gathered on the green
2. Brits try to march past them
3. unordered shot rings out
4. chaos ensues
5. Brits break ranks & return fire
6. 8 minutemen dead

Concord:

1. Concord militia ready
2. minutemen attack Brits holding bridge into Concord
3. hid behind barns, houses, stone walls, trees pouring fire upon Brits
4. Brits: 73 dead, 174 wounded
5. British retreat to Boston
6. Open warfare began
7. myth of British invincibility destroyed
8. militias from NE joined in, besieging Gage's army in Boston

Second Continental Congress

1. Philly, May 10, 1775
2. Bloodshed meant war
3. Swift action could bottle up Brits in Boston
4. Needed southern support – John Adams knew this
5. Name a southerner commander of new Continental Army
6. Washington – June 15, 1775 named commander
7. Declaration of Independence

Bunker Hill:

1. May 1775
2. British Generals join Gage:

- a. William Howe
- b. Henry Clinton
- c. John Burgoyne
3. Americans fortify Breed's Hill – can attack Boston from here
4. British determined to show might
5. full frontal attack
6. British thrown back twice
7. British finally succeed (Americans run out of ammunition)
8. more than 1,000 British soldiers killed or wounded
9. bloodiest battle of the war
10. British gained little, still bottled up in Boston

Fort Ticonderoga:

1. on Lake Champlain
2. American forces take Fort in May 1775
3. led by Ethan Allen & Benedict Arnold

Canada:

1. Congress hoped Canada would join rebellion
2. Authorized expeditions into Quebec
 - a. General Richard Montgomery took Montreal
 - b. Generals Montgomery & Arnold turn toward Quebec
 - c. Attack on Quebec (December 31, 1775) fails
 - d. Montgomery killed, Arnold wounded
 - e. American hopes for Canada end

Britain's War Efforts:

1. massive effort to conquer United States
2. Gage removed for timidity
3. Howe gets top command
4. supplement British troops
 - a. hired troops from German principalities
 - b. most came from Hesse-Kassel
 - c. Americans referred to them as Hessians

New York:

1. March 1776 – placed large cannons on Dorchester Heights
2. British evacuate Boston & ship troops to Nova Scotia
3. Land that summer, with reinforcements, in NYC
4. Washington anticipated the move
5. Congress ordered NYC be defended
6. US forces – under-trained, under-equipped & outnumbered
7. Battle of Long Island (8/27/76) – Americans defeated
8. Washington narrowly escapes
9. Battle of Washington Heights (8/29-30/76) – Americans defeated
10. Washington retreats across NJ with Gen. Cornwallis in pursuit
11. By December, GW makes it to PA
12. Howe decides to wait until spring to finish off GW & army
13. Howe scatters troops throughout NJ

Christmas 1776:

1. GW's army shrinking
2. crosses the DE River
3. strikes & defeats Hessians at Trenton
4. GW defeats British in Princeton – 1/3/77
5. Howe retreats

6. much of NJ regained

France:

1. Early in war, begin covert shipment of arms to colonies
2. did not love freedom
3. hated Britain
4. wanted to deprive Britain of colonies
5. arms vital for Americans

New British Plan:

1. Summer 1777
2. urged by Gen. Burgoyne
3. Burgoyne leads army south from Canada along L. Champlain corridor
4. Gen. Howe leads army up Hudson River
5. join at Albany
6. cut off NE, and subdue hotbed of the rebellion
7. Howe shipped his army to Chesapeake Bay
8. Hoped to capture Philly, and destroy GW's Army
9. Howe takes Philly, Congress flees west to York, PA
10. GW tries to take Philly back
11. Attack on Germantown
 - a. at first successful
 - b. failed due to thick fog
 - c. imperfect training of troops led to confusion
12. Howe in Philly, GW in Valley Forge

British strategy in the North going badly:

1. Howe ignored it
2. Burgoyne's advance slowed by obstructions
3. diversionary force of Brits & Iroquois swung east
 - a. defeated & killed Gen. Herkimer at Battle of Oriskany (8/6/77)
 - b. finally forced to withdraw to Canada

Saratoga:

1. detachment of Burgoyne's force defeated near Bennington (VT)
2. Burgoyne blocked by American Continentals & NE Militia
3. American forces led by Gen. Horatio Gates at Saratoga
4. Burgoyne attempts to break through twice (9/9 & 10/7/77)
5. turned back by brilliant battlefield leadership of B. Arnold
6. Burgoyne surrenders to Gates on 10/17/77
7. American Victory convinced France to join the war
8. Spanish join in 1779
9. Dutch join in 1780
10. England faced with world war

British Move South:

1. fewer British troops available
2. needed to depend upon loyalists
3. believed more loyalists lived in the south
4. Gen. Henry Clinton replaces Howe
5. Howe ordered to abandon Philly & march on NY
6. narrowly avoids defeat at hands of GW's army
 - a. Battle of Monmouth (6/28/78)
 - b. improved after winter's drilling at Valley Forge
 - c. drilled by Prussian nobleman Baron von Steuben
7. Clinton was to maintain NY as Britain's main base in America
8. Nov. 1778 – British easily take GA

9. May 1780 – US Gen. Benjamin Lincoln surrenders Charleston, SC
10. Clinton returns to NY
11. Cornwallis continues Southern Campaign
12. Congress sends Gen. Gates to oppose Cornwallis
13. Gates blunders at Battle of Camden, SC (8/16/80)

American Outlook:

1. bad
2. officers grumbled about pay
3. army weak
4. suffered successive mutinies among PA & NJ troops
5. Benedict Arnold
6. British seemed to be winning battle of endurance

Outlook Changes:

1. South
 - a. Cornwallis moved North to NC
 - b. Did not secure SC before moving north
 - c. American frontiersmen defeat detachment at Battle of Kings Mt., SC
 - d. American militias or guerilla bands took control in SC
 - e. Dealt with those that expressed loyalty to Cornwallis
 - f. Nathaniel Greene
 - A. ablest subordinate of GW
 - B. sent by GW to command continental forces in south
 - C. victory at Cowpens, SC (1/17/81)
 - D. near victory at Guilford Court House, NC (3/15/81)
2. West
 - a. George Rogers Clark, under state of VA
 - b. Led expedition down Ohio River
 - c. Present day Illinois & Indiana
 - d. Defeated British at Vincennes, Indiana
 - e. Secured area north of Ohio River for the US

Yorktown:

1. Cornwallis – frustrated – abandons southern strategy
2. moves north into VA
3. Clinton – angry – instructs Cornwallis to take defensive position
4. Cornwallis does so at Yorktown, VA
5. Yorktown – Peninsula in Chesapeake Bay, b/t York & James Rivers
6. GW seizes opportunity
7. French fleet controls Chesapeake Bay
8. French Army joins GW
9. seals off land approaching Yorktown
10. Cornwallis trapped
11. after 3 weeks of siege, Cornwallis surrenders (10/17/81)

War at Sea:

1. small, daring US Navy ships
2. Privateers
3. Americans preyed on British merchants
4. John Paul Jones
 - a. US Naval Leader
 - b. Captured ships
 - c. Raided British Coast
 - d. French & Spanish struck against British Empire