

Lord Cornwallis's Catastrophe

“What we are to do after Lord Cornwallis's catastrophe, God Knows, or how anybody can think there is the least glimmering of hope for this nation surpasses my comprehension.”

—Anthony Storer, letter to a British lord after the American victory at Yorktown, 1781

◀ General Washington looks on as the British surrender at Yorktown.

Winning Independence

Objectives

- Find out how the Americans won the final battle of the Revolution.
- Learn the terms of the peace treaty with England.
- Explore the reasons that the Americans were victorious.
- Examine the effects of the American Revolution.

Reading Skill

Apply the Meanings of the Prefix *re-*
Prefixes sometimes have more than one meaning. For example, the prefix *re-* can mean “again” or “anew,” but it can also mean “back” or “backward.” You must think about the surrounding words and context in which the word is used before deciding which meaning of the prefix to apply.

Key Terms and People

Charles Cornwallis **Nathanael Greene**
guerrilla **traitor**
Francis Marion

Why It Matters After the American victory at Saratoga, the British threat to New England had ended. The British next tried to win the war by invading and capturing the South. The attempt failed and the Americans won their independence.

Section Focus Question: How did the Americans win the war and make peace?

Fighting Moves South

The British turned to the South late in 1778. Their aim was to capture some key cities, win over the local population, and then march north, acquiring one state after another.

British Advance At first, the plan seemed to work. British soldiers moved north from Florida to Georgia. In December 1778, the British took the city of Savannah. Within a month, they controlled most of Georgia.

Moving on to South Carolina, the British captured the main port, Charles Town, and then the rest of the state. The British commander, Lord **Charles Cornwallis**, then carried the war into North Carolina. It looked as if the British might be unstoppable.

To slow the British advance, Americans used guerrilla tactics. **Guerrillas** are fighters who work in small bands to make hit-and-run attacks. In South Carolina, **Francis Marion** led his men silently through the swamps. They attacked without warning, then escaped. Marion's guerrilla attacks were so efficient that he won the nickname the Swamp Fox. Other bands of guerrillas were also active.

Elsewhere in the South, Loyalist bands roamed the backcountry. They plundered and burned Patriot farms, killing men, women, and children. “If a stop cannot be put to these massacres,” wrote one Continental general, “the country will be depopulated in a few months more.”

Section 4 Winning Independence 191

Section 4

Step-by-Step Instruction

Review and Preview

Students have read about the beginning and the progression of the Revolution. Students will now learn about the Revolution's conclusion.

Section Focus Question

How did the Americans win the war and make peace?

Before you begin the lesson for the day, write the Section Focus Question on the board. (*Lesson focus: Brave militias, clever strategy, and European support combined for a colonial victory.*)

Prepare to Read

Build Background Knowledge

12

Ask students to evaluate the American and the British armies. Ask: **Which army seems to have the better chance of winning the Revolution?** Have them explain their reasoning. Use the Idea Wave participation strategy to elicit responses (TE, p. T24). (*Possible answers: The Americans, because they are receiving help from Europeans. The British, because they have a larger army and navy than the Americans.*)

Set a Purpose

- Read each statement in the Reading Readiness Guide aloud. Ask students to mark the statements as True or False.

All in One Teaching Resources, Unit 2, Reading Readiness Guide, p. 46

- Have students discuss the statements in pairs or groups of four, then mark the worksheets again. Use the Numbered Heads participation strategy (TE, p. T24) to call on students to share their group's perspectives. The students will return to these worksheets later.

Vocabulary Builder

Use the information below to teach students this section's high-use words.

High-Use Word Definition and Sample Sentence

fateful, p. 192 *adj.* having important consequences; decisive
After the **fateful** Battle of Quebec, France agreed to give up most of its North American territory.

option, p. 192 *n.* choice; possible course of action
A poor person who wanted to go to the colonies had the **option** of becoming an indentured servant.

Teach

Fighting Moves South

p. 191

Instruction

L2

- **Vocabulary Builder** Before teaching this section, preteach the High-Use Words **fateful** and **option**, using the strategy on TE p. T21.
- **Key Terms** Have students complete the See It–Remember It chart for the Key Terms in this chapter.
- Read Fighting Moves South with students using the Choral Reading strategy (TE, p. T22).
- Have students describe the Patriot strategy at the Battle of Cowpens. (*General Morgan put a small militia force in front, telling the men to fire three shots and then retreat. The British rushed forward, only to be met by charging calvary and a line of skilled riflemen.*)
- Ask: **Why did General Cornwallis move his main army to the Yorktown peninsula?** (*He thought that the British fleet could reinforce his position.*)
- Have students complete The Battle of Yorktown worksheet.

All in One Teaching Resources, Unit 2, The Battle of Yorktown, p. 50

Independent Practice

Have students begin to fill in the Study Guide for this section.

Monitor Progress

As students fill in the Notetaking Study Guide, circulate to make sure students understand how the Americans won the final battles of the Revolution. Provide assistance as needed.

Answers

Biography Quest

Benedict Arnold lived in exile from the United States in Canada and England.

✓**Checkpoint** American and French troops blocked his escape by land, and the French fleet blocked his escape by sea.

Biography Quest



Benedict Arnold
1741–1801

Why did Benedict Arnold betray the American army? Perhaps he was angry when Congress promoted several less experienced officers ahead of him. Arnold's wife also may have played a role. During the Revolution, Arnold married a woman whose family were strong Loyalists.

Whatever the reason, if you hear someone called a "Benedict Arnold," you know that person is seen as a traitor.

Biography Quest online

What happened to Arnold after the American Revolution?

For: The answer to the question about Arnold

Visit: PHSchool.com

Web Code: mvd-2064

Vocabulary Builder

fateful (FAYT fuhl) **adj.** having important consequences; decisive

Vocabulary Builder

option (AHP shuhn) **n.** choice; possible course of action

Brighter Days Patriot fortunes began to improve in October 1780. Some 900 frontier fighters defeated a larger force of British troops and Loyalists atop Kings Mountain in South Carolina.

In December 1780, General **Nathanael Greene** took over command of the Continental army in the South. Greene split his small army in two. He led 1,200 men into eastern South Carolina, leaving General Daniel Morgan with 800 men in the west.

In January 1781, Morgan won a clear victory at the Battle of Cowpens. He put a small militia force in front, telling the men to fire three shots and then retreat. The British rushed forward, only to be met by charging cavalry and a line of skilled riflemen.

American Traitor Still, the British seemed to have the upper hand in the South. In addition to Cornwallis's forces, the British had troops under the command of an American traitor, Benedict Arnold. A **traitor** is a person who turns against one side in a conflict to help the other side.

Early in the war, Arnold had fought bravely for the Patriots. But Arnold felt Congress undervalued him. He plotted to turn West Point, a key fort on the Hudson River in New York, over to the British. When the plot was discovered in September 1780, Arnold escaped. He and his Loyalist soldiers then staged a series of destructive raids in Virginia.

Final Battle Weakened by battles like Cowpens, Cornwallis headed to Virginia. That gave Greene an excellent opportunity. Over a five-month period, Patriot forces swept through the Deep South. By late summer, only Charles Town and Savannah remained in British hands.

Cornwallis then made a **fateful** mistake. He moved his main army to the Yorktown peninsula, a tongue of Virginia land poking into Chesapeake Bay. There, he thought, the British fleet could reinforce his position. But at the end of August, the French fleet arrived off Yorktown and chased off British ships.

At the same time, Washington rushed toward Virginia with American and French troops. Cornwallis found himself in a trap. American and French soldiers barred escape by land, while the French fleet blocked escape by sea. After three weeks, Cornwallis had no **option** but to surrender.

On October 19, 1781, the Americans and French lined up in two facing columns. The British marched glumly between the two columns and tossed their weapons into a large pile on the ground. The victory at Yorktown was the last major battle of the war.

✓**Checkpoint** How were Cornwallis and his troops trapped at Yorktown?

Differentiated Instruction

L1 English Language Learners **L1** Less Proficient Readers **L1** Special Needs

Create a Timeline Have students collaborate on a visual timeline of the American Revolution from the Declaration of Independence to the signing of the Treaty of Paris. Set aside a bulletin board in the

classroom for the display. The timeline should show dates and locations of significant events throughout the war. Students can illustrate important people and events with drawings.

Making Peace With Britain

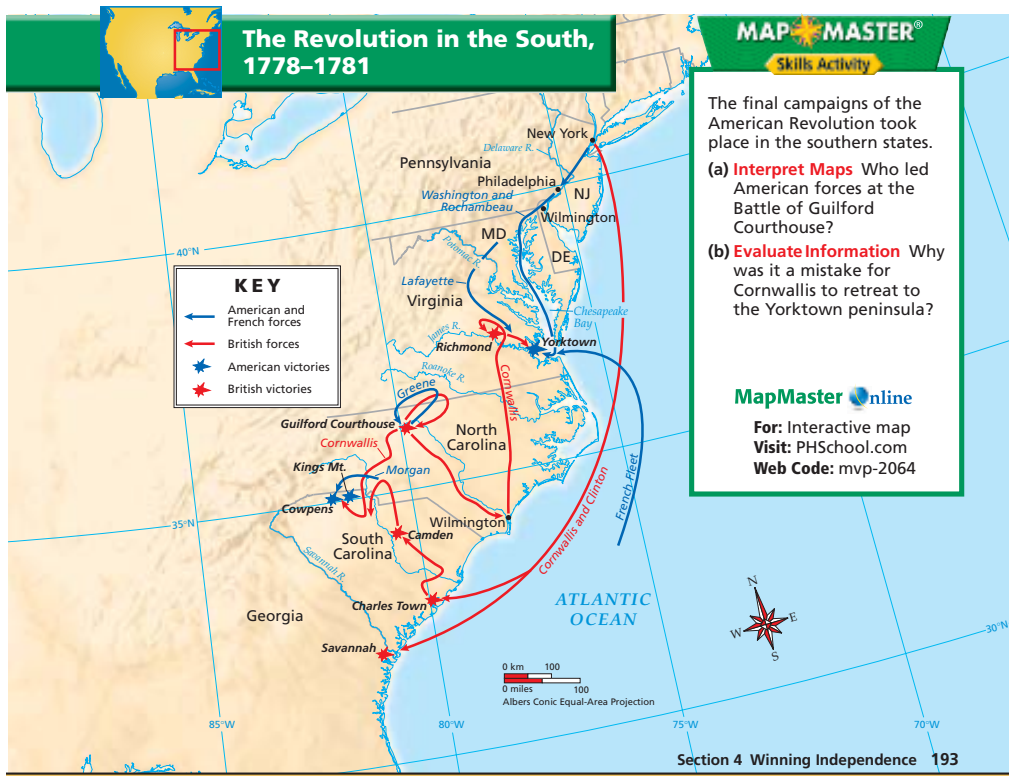
The news from Yorktown caused shockwaves in Britain. Although the king wanted to keep fighting, Parliament voted in favor of peace.

Peace talks began in Paris in 1782. The American delegation included Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. Britain was eager for peace, so the Americans got most of what they wanted.

Treaty of Paris The talks led to an agreement, the Treaty of Paris. Britain recognized the independence of the United States. The boundaries of the new nation were set at the Atlantic on the east, Canada on the north, the Mississippi River on the west, and Florida on the south. Florida itself was returned to Spain.

For its part, the United States agreed to “earnestly recommend” that the states restore rights and property taken from Loyalists during the war. However, most states ignored this pledge.

On April 15, 1783, Congress approved the treaty. The war was officially over. It had been almost exactly eight years since the “shot heard round the world” started the fighting at Lexington.



History Background

Britain’s Dilemma Because they controlled the seas, the British could land and establish bases almost anywhere along the American coast. The navigable rivers that flowed into the Atlantic Ocean provided convenient invasion routes into the interior. To win the war, the British Army had to move away from these coastal bases and rivers. Yet when it did so, it opened its

lines of communications and supply to constant attacks. British armies nearly always met defeat when they moved away from the areas where they could be supplied by ships from the homeland. These problems, a British colonel noted in 1777, had “absolutely prevented us this whole war from going fifteen miles from a navigable river.”

Making Peace with Britain

p. 193

Instruction

- Have students read Making Peace with Britain. Remind students to track the sequence of events.
- Ask: **What was the Treaty of Paris?** (*the agreement between the United States and Britain ending the American Revolution.*) Ask: **What were its terms?** (*They included a British acknowledgement of the independence of the United States, a ceding of land to the new nation, and a U.S. promise to return land and property to Loyalists.*)
- Ask: **Why do you think many loyalists had already left the United States before the Treaty of Paris?** (*Possible answer: Loyalists had left because the British troops could no longer protect them in certain areas of the United States.*)
- Have students complete the Refugees of the Revolution worksheet.

All in One Teaching Resources, Unit 2, Refugees of the Revolution, p. 51

- Have students consider why it was important for Britain to acknowledge the states’ independence. (*Possible answer: It placed the colonies on an equal footing with the well-established nation.*)

Independent Practice

Have students continue filling in the Study Guide for this section.

Monitor Progress

As students fill in the Notetaking Study Guide, circulate to make sure students understand the terms of the peace agreement with Britain. If students do not seem to have a good understanding, have them reread the section. Provide assistance as needed.

Answers

MAP MASTER Skills Activity (a) Greene (b) because the French fleet overtook his reinforcements

Impact of the Revolution

p. 195


Instruction

L2

- Have students read Impact of the Revolution. Remind students to look for answers to the Section Focus Question.
- Ask: **What was the immediate effect of the colonists' victory?** (*the creation of a new nation of 13 independent states*)
- Ask: **How did the Revolution affect other nations?** (*It inspired independence movements in France and countries in Latin America.*)


Independent Practice

Have students continue filling in the Study Guide for this section.

 **Interactive Reading and Notetaking Study Guide**, Chapter 6, Section 4 (Adapted Version also available.)

Monitor Progress

- As students complete the Notetaking Study Guide, circulate to make sure students understand the impact of the war. Provide assistance as needed.
- Tell students to fill in the last column of the Reading Readiness Guide. Probe for what they learned that confirms or invalidates each statement.
- Have students go back to their Word Knowledge Rating Form. Rerate their word knowledge and complete the last column with a definition or example.

 **Teaching Resources, Unit 2**, Reading Readiness Guide, p. 46; Word Knowledge Rating Form, p. 42

Answer

Evaluate Information Answers may vary, but students should give clear support for their reasons.

INFOGRAPHIC

Why Did the Americans WIN?

Many factors contributed to the American victory. They fell into four main groups: geographic advantages, help from abroad, patriotic spirit, and skilled leadership.
Critical Thinking: Evaluate Information What do you think was the most important reason for the American victory?



Patriotic Spirit ▲

A key asset of the Americans was patriotism. Americans were fighting to create a new nation. Many soldiers stayed in the army for years, at great financial and personal sacrifice. Leaders such as Jefferson and Adams risked their lives and fortunes to champion independence.

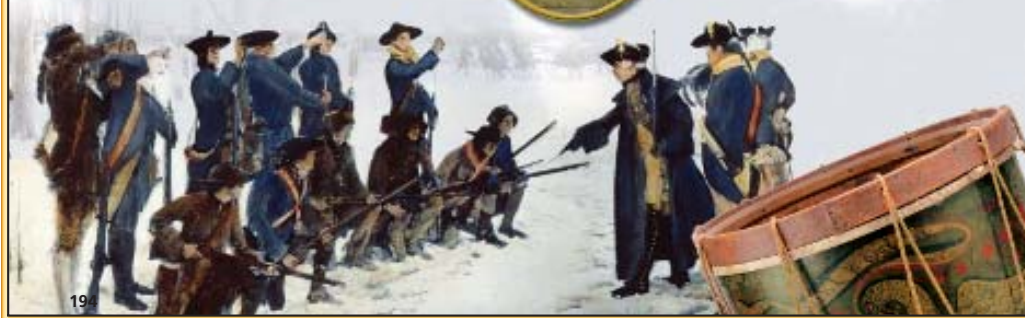
Skilled Leadership ▶

Despite great odds, George Washington (left) never gave up. Although he faced criticism in Congress, his courage and knowledge won him broad support in the army. And though his troops suffered at Valley Forge, Washington led them through hardship to victory. ▼



◀ Help From Abroad

The Americans might never have won without help from Europe. Men such as Lafayette (right) and von Steuben (below) provided military leadership and support. Money from such countries as Spain and the Netherlands was also crucial. ▼



Differentiated Instruction

L3 Advanced Readers

Write a Memo Have students research Cornwallis' decision to retreat to Yorktown. Ask them to consider whether it would have been possible for Cornwallis

L3 Gifted and Talented

to avoid defeat if he had made a different choice. Have students assume the role of an aide to Cornwallis and write a memo proposing an alternate strategy.

Washington's Farewell On December 4, 1783, Washington and his ranking officers were reunited for one last meal together at Fraunces Tavern in New York City. In parting, each man, in turn, embraced Washington. One officer wrote, "Such a scene of sorrow and weeping I had never before witnessed."

Washington wished to retire to his plantation. Soon, though, he would again be called to the aid of the nation he had helped create.

Checkpoint What was the Treaty of Paris?

Impact of the Revolution

The immediate effect of the American Revolution was to create a new nation of 13 independent states, linked by ties of custom and history. The long-term effects are still being felt today. The Declaration of Independence cemented ideas like equality and liberty in the American mind. Over time, those concepts have gained broader meanings.

The impact of American independence reached beyond the borders of the infant nation. In 1789, French citizens rebelled. Leaders of the French Revolution, including Lafayette, looked to the American example. They issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, modeled in part on the Declaration of Independence. The American Revolution also inspired later independence movements in Latin America.

Checkpoint How did the American Revolution affect France?

Looking Back and Ahead The United States emerged from the American Revolution as a proud nation—but also weak and deeply in debt. In the next chapter, you will read how the new nation met the challenge of forming a democratic government.

Apply the Meaning of the Prefix re-
The word root *belli* means "war." Apply a meaning of *re-* to determine the meaning of *rebelled*. Identify the prefix meaning that you applied.

Progress Monitoring Online
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Web Code: mva-2064

Section 4 Check Your Progress

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

- (a) **Recall** What military strategy defeated Cornwallis at Yorktown?
(b) **Apply Information** What was one important factor that contributed to the American victory at Yorktown?
- (a) **Describe** What were the provisions of the Treaty of Paris?
(b) **Identify Benefits** Why was setting the nation's western border important economically to the new country?

Reading Skill

- Apply the Meanings of the Prefix re-** Read the text under the heading "Making Peace With Britain," and find at least two words that use the prefix *re-*. Apply the meanings of the prefix to define those words.

Key Terms

- Answer the following questions in complete sentences that show your understanding of the key terms.
- What advantages did *guerillas* have against larger forces?

- Why did Americans consider Benedict Arnold to be a *traitor*?

Writing

- Once the Treaty of Paris was signed, the Americans had to address a new set of problems. Prepare a thesis statement for an essay about the challenges facing the new nation.

Section 4 Winning Independence 195

Section 4 Check Your Progress

- (a) The American and French forces trapped Cornwallis and prevented his escape by land; the French fleet arrived off Yorktown and blocked his escape by sea.
(b) One important factor in the defeat was the help of the French forces.
- (a) Britain recognized American independence and accepted American boundaries; also, Spain took East and West Florida from Britain. The United States agreed to recommend to states that Loyalists get back their rights and property.
(b) The Mississippi River, which was the western boundary, was very important for travel and trade.
- Students should correctly define two of these words: recognized, reunited, and retire.
- The guerillas could attack without warning and then escape.

Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress

Have students complete Check Your Progress. Administer the Section Quiz.

All in One Teaching Resources, Unit 2, Section Quiz, p. 57

To further assess student understanding, use the Progress Monitoring Transparency.

Progress Monitoring Transparencies, Chapter 6, Section 4

Reteach

If students need more instruction, have them read this section in the Interactive Reading and Notetaking Study Guide and complete the accompanying question.

Interactive Reading and Notetaking Study Guide, Chapter 6, Section 4 (Adapted Version also available.)

Extend

To close this lesson, have students choose partners. One partner should take the point of view of the Americans and the other should take the point of view of the British. Have students take turns reviewing the final battles of the war from each side's point of view.

Progress Monitoring Online

Students may check their comprehension of this section by completing the Progress Monitoring Online graphic organizer and self-quiz.

Answers

Checkpoint The agreement in which Britain signed over its North American holdings to the Americans.

Reading Skill *Rebelled* means "fought to overthrow a government or ruling power." *Re* means "back" or "again."

Checkpoint It inspired France to undertake a revolutionary movement of its own.

- because he plotted to turn West Point over to the British
- Thesis statements should predict several problems that the United States would face.

Chapter 6 Section 4 195