

The American Revolution

- I. British Advantages
 - A. Strongest navy in the world
 - B. Experienced well trained army
 - C. Wealth of the British Empire
 - D. Larger population (9 mil. v. 2.5 mil.)
- II. British Disadvantages
 - A. Fighting in a far away land
 - B. Reliance on mercenaries &
- III. Patriot Advantages
 - A. Fighting on their own ground
 - B. Fighting for the freedom of their own land
 - C. Leadership – George Washington
- IV. Patriot Disadvantages
 - A. No navy
 - B. No regular army (soldiers served short terms before returning home)
 - C. No military experience
 - D. Weapons & ammunition were in short supply
 - E. Not everyone supported the war
 - 1. 2/5 active Patriots
 - 2. 1/5 active Loyalists
 - 3. 2/5 neutral
- V. Key Players
 - A. Samuel Adams (Massachusetts) 1 of the leaders of the war, along with John Hancock helps found the Sons of Liberty. He also organized the Committees of Correspondence.
 - B. John Hancock (Massachusetts) 1 of the leaders of the war, along with Samuel Adams helps found the Sons of Liberty
 - C. George Washington (Virginia) becomes the leader of the Continental Army
 - D. Thomas Paine – published a series of pamphlets entitled *Common Sense* that encouraged the Colonists to rebel against Great Britain. Later Publishes *The Crisis* that urges colonists to continue the fight against the British.
 - E. Thomas Jefferson (Virginia) author of the Declaration of

Independence

- F. George III – King of England during the American Revolution
- G. Second Continental Congress – Convened in May of 1775 & names George Washington commander of the Continental Army. In July of 1776 after much debate they sign the Declaration of Independence formally declaring our independence from Great Britain.

VI. War

- A. Lexington & Concord - April 1775 British soldiers attack in an effort to capture John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and to seize colonial supplies. The British win the battle at Lexington, but loose in Concord. These become the first battles of the American Revolution (Known as “The Shot Heard Around the World”)
- B. The Northern Campaigns
 1. July 1776 British army under the command of General Howe chased Washington and his men out of Manhattan and Long Island before pausing for the winter
 2. Washington's army decreases from over 20,000 to a few thousand as men quit and go home. Paine responds by writing *The Crisis* in an effort to convince Americans not to give up the fight.
 3. December 25, 1776 – Washington attacks the Hessians, German soldiers hired by the British, at Trenton capturing or killing over 1,000.
 4. Patriots win at Princeton less than a week later.
- C. British blunders
 1. Summer 1777 – Howe attacks and takes Philadelphia in an effort to end the war by capturing Congress. Congress escapes and Howe's attack wrecks the British plan to split the colonies.
 2. October 1777 – An American army under the command of Horatio Gates & Benedict Arnold crushes a British army led by General John Burgoyne taking almost 6,000 British troops captive at Saratoga.
- D. Help from Abroad
 1. The victory at Saratoga convinced the French & Spanish to join the war on the American side by donating badly needed financial

& material aid.

E. Winter

1. Valley Forge (1776 – 1778) ¼ of American soldiers died from Smallpox, Typhoid, and lack of food

F. War in the West & the South

1. February 1779 – American army captures the British town of Vincennes located in Indiana strengthening the American position in the West
2. August 1780 – British troops win at Camden, but are faced with a new type of war – guerrilla warfare.
3. September 1780 – American troops win at King's Mountain bringing increased southern support for the war.
4. October 19, 1780 American & French troops along with the French navy trap British General Cornwallis in Yorktown forcing him to surrender. This battle convinces the English that the war is too costly to pursue further

VII. Peace

- A. September 3, 1783 the Treaty of Paris was signed formally ending the war.

1. Great Britain agrees
 - a. to recognize American independence
 - b. that U.S. Territory extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River and from Canada to Spanish Florida
 - c. to withdraw their troops from American territory
 - d. American fishermen have the right to fish in waters off of the coast of Canada.
2. America agrees
 - a. that British merchants could collect debts owed by Americans
 - b. that Congress would advise the states that property taken from Loyalists was to be returned to them.