

Name:

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8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE U.S. HISTORY

CHAPTER 4 HOMEWORK PACKET

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



3 Mental Moves per Page  
Must Use Complete Sentences

# The American Revolution

## Section 1



### MAIN IDEAS

1. The First Continental Congress demanded certain rights from Great Britain.
2. Armed conflict between British soldiers and colonists broke out with the "shot heard 'round the world."
3. The Second Continental Congress created the Continental Army to fight the British.
4. In two early battles, the army lost control of Boston but then regained it.

## Key Terms and People

**First Continental Congress** gathering of colonial leaders who were deeply troubled about the relationship between Great Britain and its colonies in America

**Patriots** colonists who chose to fight for independence

**minutemen** the members of the civilian volunteer militia

**Redcoats** British soldiers wearing red uniforms

**Second Continental Congress** meeting of delegates from 12 colonies in Philadelphia in May 1775

**Continental Army** army created by the Second Continental Congress to carry out the fight against Britain

**George Washington** the Virginian who commanded the Continental Army

**Battle of Bunker Hill** battle won by the British but with double the American losses

## Academic Vocabulary

**reaction** response

## Section Summary

### FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

Delegates to the **First Continental Congress** were worried about the relationship between Great Britain and its American colonies. The delegates debated whether violence was avoidable. They encouraged the peaceful boycott of British goods but also began preparing for war. They drafted a Declaration of Rights, but King George refused to consider it. Colonists who chose to fight for independence were known as **Patriots**.

What did the delegates debate?

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Section 1, *continued*

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**"SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD"**

On April 19, 1775, 700 **Redcoats** set out for Concord. A British general sent the soldiers to destroy a weapons storehouse they thought was there. Three colonists rode out on horseback to warn that the British were coming. Seventy armed **minutemen** waited for the British at Lexington. To this day nobody knows who fired the first shot. The British killed eight minutemen, then went on to Concord where they destroyed a few buildings. In **reaction** the minutemen fired on the Redcoats. The British suffered many casualties and were forced to retreat.

**Why did the British soldiers go to Concord?**

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**SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS**

At the **Second Continental Congress** some delegates called for war while others wanted peace. The Congress named the Massachusetts militia the **Continental Army**. The army's commander was **George Washington**. Delegates signed the Olive Branch Petition asking King George to make peace. He would not consider it.

**What was King George's response to the Olive Branch Petition?**

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**EARLY BATTLES**

On June 17, 1775, the British in Boston found colonial forces dug in on Breed's Hill. When the British crossed the harbor in boats to take the hill, the colonists opened fire. The British took the hill on their third try. But the **Battle of Bunker Hill** proved the colonists could hold their own. Soon after, General Washington took command of the Continental Army in Boston. He set up cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to fire on the British. On March 7, 1776, the British retreated from Boston.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Analyze** List several rights we have as U.S. citizens.

# The American Revolution

## Section 2



### MAIN IDEAS

1. Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* led many colonists to support independence.
2. Colonists had to choose sides when independence was declared.
3. The Declaration of Independence did not address the rights of all colonists.

## Key Terms and People

**Common Sense** a 47-page pamphlet that argued against British rule over America

**Thomas Paine** author of *Common Sense*, who wrote that citizens, not monarchs, should make laws

**Thomas Jefferson** the main author of the Declaration of Independence

**Declaration of Independence** the document that formally announced the colonies' break from Great Britain

**Loyalists** colonists, sometimes called Tories, who remained loyal to Britain

## Section Summary

### PAINE'S COMMON SENSE

*Common Sense* was published anonymously, or without the name of its author, who was **Thomas Paine**. At this time the idea that citizens should pass laws made news. As word of the pamphlet spread throughout the colonies, it eventually sold about 500,000 copies. The pamphlet made a strong case for political and economic freedom. It supported the right to military self-defense. *Common Sense* changed the way many colonists viewed their king.

Why do you think *Common Sense* was so popular?

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### INDEPENDENCE IS DECLARED

The first point argued by **Thomas Jefferson** in the **Declaration of Independence** was that all men possess unalienable rights, or rights that cannot be denied. These rights include "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Jefferson also maintained that King George III had trampled on the colonists' rights by supporting unfair laws and wrongly meddling in colonial governments. In addition Jefferson argued that the colonies had the right

Section 2, *continued*

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to independence from Britain. He believed in the Enlightenment idea of the social contract. This idea says that citizens should agree to be governed only when rulers and governments support their rights. Jefferson said that King George III had violated the social contract, so the colonies should not obey his laws.

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of the Declaration of Independence. In approving the Declaration, the Congress finally broke away from Great Britain. Today we celebrate the Fourth of July as the birthday of our nation.

Not everyone rejoiced over the approval of the Declaration. Patriots and **Loyalists** became divided. Sometimes family members were on opposite sides during the war. More than 50,000 Loyalists left the colonies during the Revolution.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Looking back, we realize that the Declaration paid no attention to many colonists. Abigail Adams, wife of delegate John Adams, tried to influence him to include women in the Declaration. It did not happen. Enslaved African Americans also had no rights under the Declaration. Slavery was legal in all colonies in July 1776. The Revolutionary War would not end the battle over slavery, even though New England states moved to end it by the 1780s.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Develop** Imagine that you are a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. Deliver a two-minute speech arguing that the Declaration should also give women and slaves rights.

**Why did Jefferson think the colonies should not obey King George III?**

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**What did some families experience during the war?**

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**Name two groups who had no rights under the Declaration.**

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## The American Revolution

### Section 3



#### MAIN IDEAS

1. Many Americans supported the war effort.
2. The Patriots both won and lost battles during the years 1775–1777.
3. France and Spain helped the Patriots fight the British.
4. The winter at Valley Forge tested the strength of Patriot troops.
5. The war continued at sea and in the West.

### Key Terms and People

**mercenaries** foreign soldiers who fought not out of loyalty, but for pay

**Battle of Trenton** a battle won by the Patriots against mercenary Hessians

**Battle of Saratoga** a great victory for the American forces in which British General John Burgoyne surrendered his entire army to American General Horatio Gates

**Marquis de Lafayette** a Frenchman who volunteered to serve in the Continental Army without pay and used his money and influence to support the Patriots

**Baron Friedrich von Steuben** a Prussian military officer who trained the Continental Army

**Bernardo de Gálvez** the governor of Spanish Louisiana, who became a Patriot ally

**John Paul Jones** a brave and clever naval commander

**George Rogers Clark** a surveyor who led the Patriots' western campaign

### Academic Vocabulary

**strategy** a plan for fighting a battle or war

### Section Summary

#### SUPPORTING THE WAR EFFORT

Life in the army was hard, but the Patriots knew they were fighting for an important cause. More than 230,000 mostly young men served in the Continental Army. After the British promised to free any slaves who fought for them, the Continental Army allowed free African Americans to serve. Women played an important role in the war by helping to supply the army and serving as messengers, nurses, and spies.

**Underline the sentence that tells how some women served the war effort.**

**Section 3, continued**

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**DEFEATS AND VICTORIES**

At first the Continental Army lost several battles. Then the Patriots won an important victory. British General Howe, who thought the rebellion would soon be over, left New Jersey in the hands of Hessian **mercenaries**. The Patriots surprised the Hessians and won the **Battle of Trenton**.

British General John Burgoyne planned to cut off New England from the other colonies. His **strategy** required perfect timing. The Patriots surrounded Burgoyne and won the **Battle of Saratoga**, which was the turning point of the war.

Circle the name of an early victory for the Patriots.

**HELP FROM EUROPE**

Britain's enemies, France and Spain, began to help the Patriots. Holland also helped the Patriots. The **Marquis de Lafayette**, **Baron Friedrich von Steuben**, and **Bernardo de Gálvez** joined the war on the Patriots' side.

**WINTER AT VALLEY FORGE**

The winter of 1777 turned brutally cold and snowy. General Washington settled his troops at Valley Forge, where they bore hardships with courage and drilled to become better soldiers.

**WAR AT SEA AND IN THE WEST**

The small Continental Navy sunk hundreds of British ships. **John Paul Jones** fought a battle with the British in which his ship took heavy damage. He fought on, and the British ship surrendered. In the West, **George Rogers Clark** led Patriots against British trading villages and Fort Sackville. Clark's campaigns hurt British support in the West.

What effect did Clark's campaigns have on the British?

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**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Elaborate** Write and perform a dialogue between two soldiers discussing their hard times at Valley Forge.



# The American Revolution

## Section 4



### MAIN IDEAS

1. Patriot forces faced many problems in the war in the South.
2. The American Patriots finally defeated the British at the Battle of Yorktown.
3. The British and the Americans officially ended the war by signing the Treaty of Paris of 1783.

## Key Terms and People

**Francis Marion** a Patriot leader who used hit-and-run attacks, known as guerilla warfare

**Comte de Rochambeau** commander of 4,000 French troops that aided the Patriot forces at the Battle of Yorktown

**Battle of Yorktown** the last major battle of the American Revolution

**Treaty of Paris of 1783** the peace agreement in which Great Britain recognized the independence of the United States

## Section Summary

### WAR IN THE SOUTH

The war in the northern colonies did not go as the British government had hoped. The northern Patriots were tough to beat. The British moved the war into the South, where they believed large groups of Loyalists would help them win. General Henry Clinton led the British troops. The British plan worked at first.

The war in the South proved especially nasty. Patriots and Loyalists engaged in direct fighting. The British wiped out crops, farm animals, and property. Georgia fell to the British. Next, the British conquered the port of Charleston, South Carolina. The Patriots failed to retake Camden, South Carolina.

Patriot General Nathanael Greene arrived to shape up the army. Meanwhile, under the leadership of **Francis Marion**, the Southern patriots used surprise attacks to cut off British communication and supply lines. The British could not capture Marion and his men.

**Why did the British move the war to the South?**

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**Underline the sentence that explains how the British army waged war in the South.**

**How did Francis Marion and his men evade the British?**

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**Section 4, *continued***

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**BATTLE OF YORKTOWN**

The Patriots were in trouble in early 1781. They had little money for paying soldiers and buying supplies. The British held most of the South as well as Philadelphia and New York.

The Continental Army began to pressure the British in the Carolinas. General Charles Cornwallis moved his 7,200 men to Yorktown, Virginia. In New York, General Washington combined his troops with French troops commanded by **Comte de Rochambeau**. Washington marched his force to Virginia in hopes of trapping Cornwallis in Yorktown.

With 16,000 soldiers, Washington's force surrounded Cornwallis. For weeks the French-American force wore down the British troops. Finally, the British surrendered. The Patriots captured 8,000 British prisoners at the **Battle of Yorktown**.

**What was Cornwallis's mistake in battle strategy?**

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**THE TREATY OF PARIS**

Britain lost most of its army at Yorktown and could not afford a new one. So Great Britain and America began peace talks. Delegates took more than two years to reach a peace agreement.

**The Treaty of Paris of 1783** gave the United States independence from Great Britain. It also created America's borders. In a separate treaty, Britain returned Florida to the Spanish. The Patriots' courage had won the Revolutionary War.

**Why might reaching a peace treaty have taken so long?**

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**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Predict** Imagine that the Patriots had lost the Revolutionary War. Help lead a class discussion on how your lives would be different today.

## The American Revolution

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### CHAPTER SUMMARY

<b>Declaration of Rights</b>	<i>led to</i>	<b>"Shot heard 'round the world"</b>
<b>Declaration of Independence</b>	<i>led to</i>	<b>Break with Britain</b>
<b>Battle of Saratoga</b>	<i>led to</i>	
<b>Battle of Yorktown</b>	<i>led to</i>	

### COMPREHENSION AND CRITICAL THINKING

As you read the section summaries, fill in the table above and answer the questions below.

**1. Recall** Which battle was the turning point of the Revolutionary War?

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**2. Identify Cause and Effect** Which battle led to the victory of the Patriot forces in the Revolutionary War?

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**3. Evaluate** Do you think the Patriots could have won the Revolutionary War without help from other countries? Why or why not?

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**4. Make Judgments** Do you think it was better to fight the British than to continue working toward a peaceful solution? Why or why not?

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