

The American Revolution





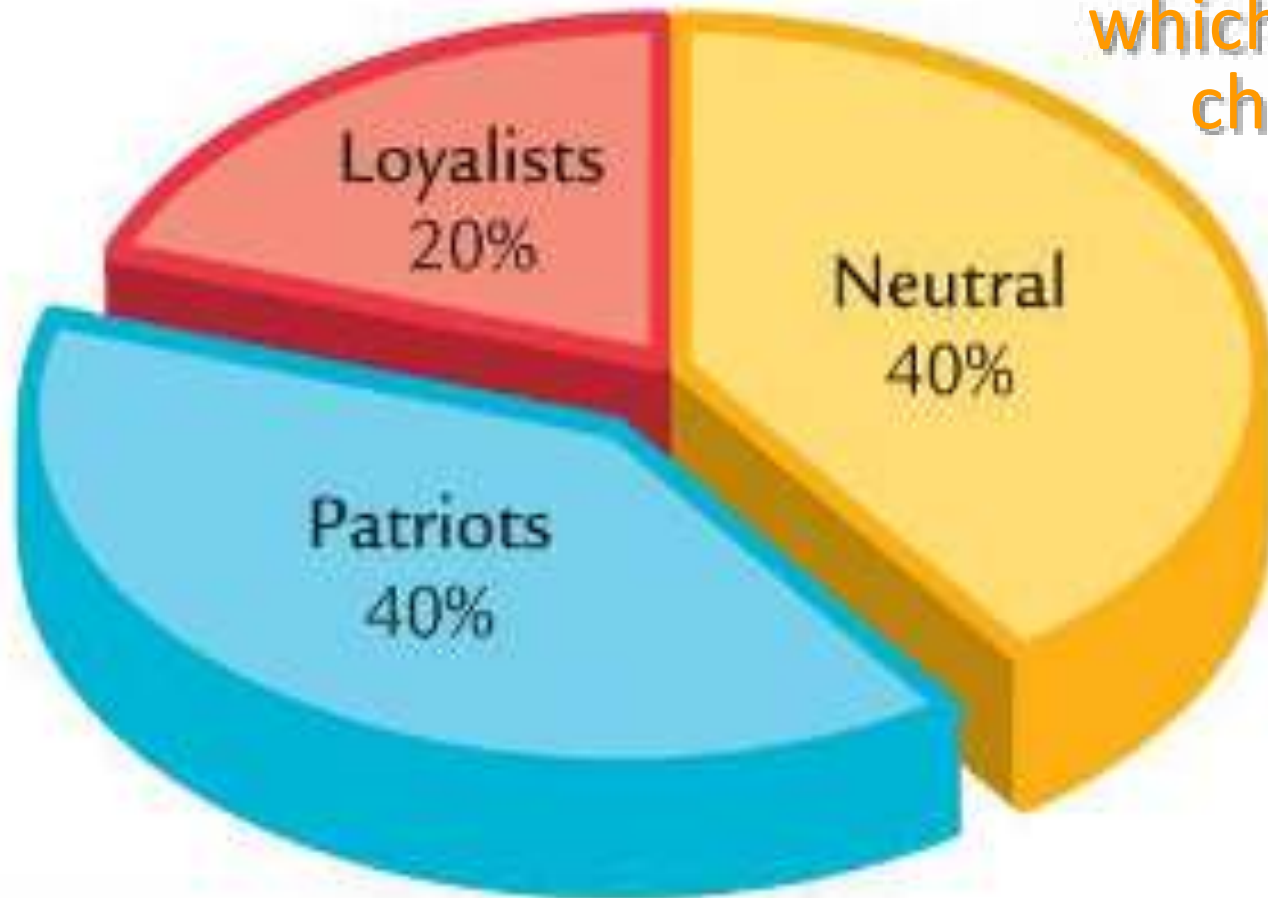
The American Revolution.

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By 1776, American colonists were divided into 3 groups

Loyalists wanted to remain British colonies

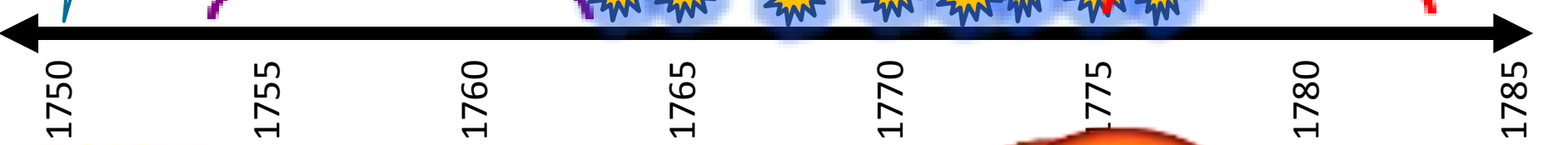
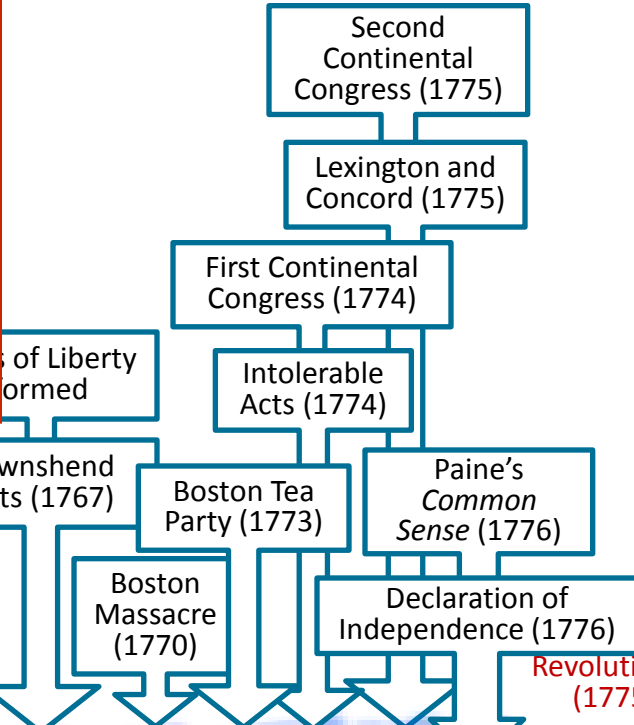
Neutrals were undecided about which side to choose



Patriots supported separation from Britain (independence)

Quick Review:

How did we get to this point?



The American Revolution was inspired by the Enlightenment

Re
co
co
Montesquieu—
separation of powers;
checks & balances

Thomas Paine's
Common Sense urged
colonial independence

Enlightenment

- People try to apply the scientific approach to aspects of society.
- Political scientists propose new ideas about government.
- Philosophes advocate the use of reason to discover truths.
- Philosophes address social issues through reason.

Enlightenment writers challenge many accepted ideas about government and society.

Spread of Ideas

- Enlightenment ideas appeal to thinkers and artists across Europe.
- Salons help spread Enlightenment thinking.
- Ideas spread to literate middle class.
- Enlightened despots attempt reforms.

Enlightenment ideas sweep through European society and to colonial America.

American Revolution

- Enlightenment ideas influence colonists.
- Britain taxes colonists after French and Indian War.
- Colonists denounce taxation without representation.
- War begins in Lexington and Concord.

Colonists declare independence, defeat Britain, and establish republic.



By July 1776,
how had
colonial
attitudes
towards
Great Britain
changed?

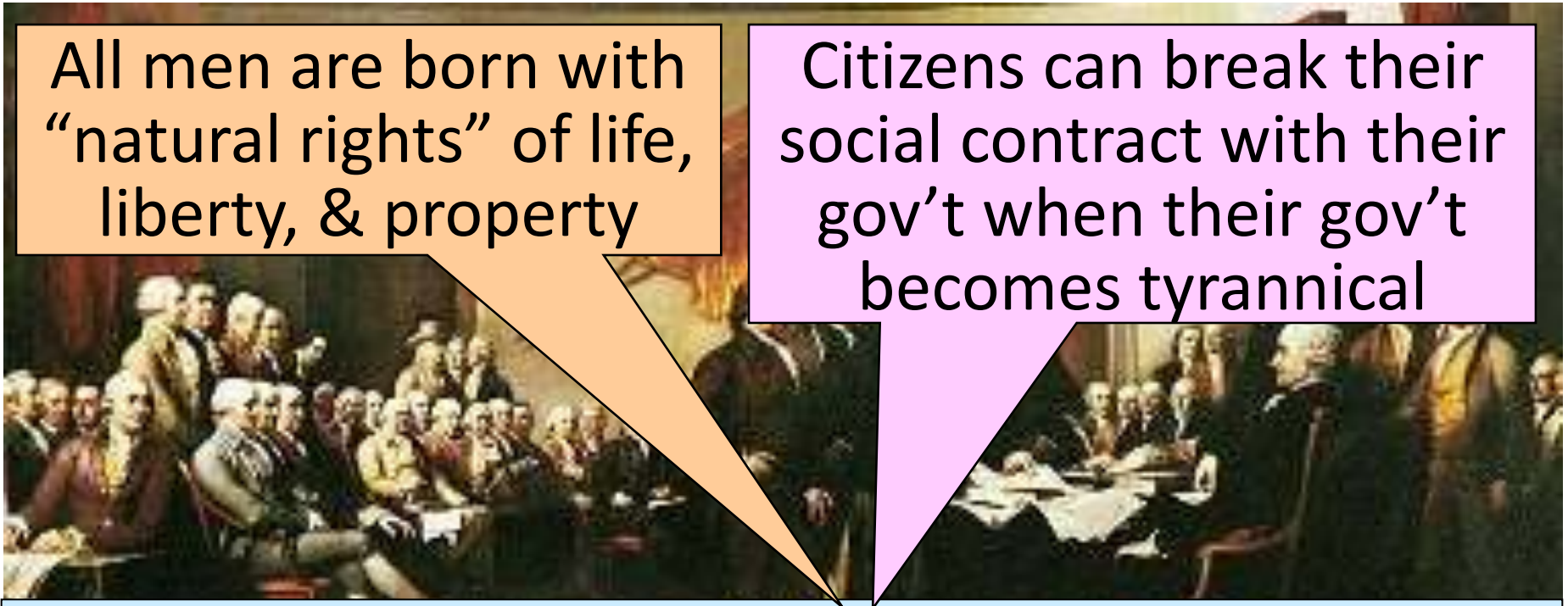
By July 1776, enough Americans were “patriots” that members of the Second Continental Congress formed a 5-man committee to draft a Declaration of Independence

Thomas Jefferson of Virginia was the principal author

All men are born with “natural rights” of life, liberty, & property

Citizens can break their social contract with their gov’t when their gov’t becomes tyrannical

It was based on the “enlightened” ideas of John Locke & explained why the colonists were rebelling



[John Locke]

- Said people have rights that are above that of the good of society.
 - They include life, liberty, and property.
 - Governments and leaders only exist to protect these rights.
 - There is no such thing as absolute power.
- The state of nature for man is freedom.



Quick Class Discussion: Based on this word cloud, hypothesize THREE major themes present in the Declaration of Independence?



Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)



Committee to draft the Declaration: Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston, & Roger Sherman

Examining Excerpts from the
Declaration of Independence:

Read each passage of the
Declaration of Independence.
Working with a partner, summarize
the main idea and write it in your
own words in the chart

Decoding the Declaration of Independence

1. We should explain why we are declaring independence
2. All people have natural rights
3. Government power comes from the people
4. If a gov't cannot protect people, then the people should create a new gov't that can
5. King George III has abused his power
6. These are the reasons we believe that the king has abused his powers
7. We have explained to the king why we are unhappy but he has ignored us and hurt us
8. Because of the king's abusive actions, we are declaring our independence as a new nation

The Declaration of Independence & Influences from the Enlightenment

course of their deliberation on the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to promote their Happiness and Security. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly we have experienced that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

These passages reveal the influence of the English philosopher John Locke. In *Two Treatises of Government* (1690), Locke argued that if a government does not allow its citizens to enjoy certain rights and freedoms, the people have a right to replace that government.

enable Rights, that ess; that, to secure ring their just power any Form of light of the People laying its foundation form, as to them Prudence, indeed, ot be changed for hath shewn that able, than to right

[Too Late to Apologize Video \(3.22\)](#)

America: The Story of Us

American Revolution (3.31)

- Watch the video from the *America: The Story of Us* series and answer these questions:
 - What advantages did the American colonists have over the British?
 - What advantages did the British have over the American colonists?
 - Why did the Americans win the Revolutionary War?

The *Declaration of Independence* was a formal demand for separation, but the Revolutionary War had already begun in 1775

Lexington & Concord

Formation of a Continental Army under George Washington

Americans were divided among Patriots, Loyalists, & Neutrals



Independence Hall

Thompson, Hancock,
Read, Dickinson,
Rutledge, McKean

Wilson



Adams, Sherman, Livingston,
Jefferson, Franklin



Colonists Choose Sides

PATRIOTS



Nathanael Greene

A pacifist Quaker, Nathanael Greene nonetheless chose to fight against the British.

"I am determined to defend my rights and maintain my freedom or sell my life in the attempt."

Charles Inglis

A clergyman of the Church of England, Charles Inglis was loyal to the king and argued against independence:

"By a reconciliation with Britain, [an end] would be put to the present calamitous war, by which many lives have been lost, and so many more must be lost, if it continues."

LOYALISTS



Quick Class Discussion

- What was the biggest advantage the American colonists had during the Revolutionary War?
- What was the biggest advantage that Great Britain had during the Revolutionary War?
- Based on this chart, who should win the war?

Military Strengths and Weaknesses

UNITED STATES	GREAT BRITAIN
Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• familiarity of home ground• leadership of George Washington and other officers• inspiring cause of the independence	Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• strong, well-trained army and navy• strong central government with available funds• support of colonial Loyalists and Native Americans
Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none">• most soldiers untrained and undisciplined• shortage of food and ammunition• inferior navy• no central government to enforce wartime policies	Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none">• large distance separating Britain from battlefields• troops unfamiliar with terrain• weak military leaders• sympathy of certain British politicians for the American cause

Revolutionary War

- When the war began, the British had a clear military advantage:
 - 400% larger & more experienced army
 - More money
 - The world's most dominant navy
 - Manufacturing to make war supplies

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R Britain under-estimated the colonial commitment to independence

To win, the British had to find & defeat the Continental Army

- Familiarity with the environment
- A commitment to win the war
- Short supply lines to their soldiers
- A defensive strategy to outlast the British

Continental Army	
Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• inspiring cause of the independence	Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none">• most soldiers untrained and undisciplined• shortage of food and ammunition• inferior navy• no central government to enforce wartime policies

GREAT BRITAIN	
Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• strong, well-trained army and navy• strong central government with available funds• support of colonial Loyalists and Native Americans	Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none">• large distance separating Britain from battlefields• troops unfamiliar with terrain• weak military leaders• sympathy of certain British politicians for the American cause

General Burgoyne march



As leader of the Continental Army, George Washington was the symbol of the American cause

He had to build a professional army & coordinate the militias

Encouraged common citizens & volunteer soldiers to support the war even when the British seemed destined to win during the early years of the revolution



American
Military:
Continental
Army,
Colonial
Militias, &
Civilians



Differing Military Strategies

The Americans General Washington



The British General Gage



As long as Britain did not defeat the Continental Army, England could not win

Revolutionary War, 1775-1778



1765	Stamp Acts	1765	Sons of Liberty founded
1767	Townshend Acts	1770	Boston Massacre
1773	Boston Tea Party	1774	

The American Revolution began at Lexington & Concord



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

1. Location: From which city did the British march to Saratoga?
2. Place: What characteristics do you see in common? Why?

Revolutionary War, 1775-1783

British victories from 1776-1777 made an American victory look impossible



Legend:

- American campaign (Blue arrow)
- British campaign (Red arrow)
- American victory (Blue star)
- British victory (Red star)

Scale:

0 100 200 miles
0 100 200 kilometers

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

1. Location: From which city did the British march to Saratoga?
2. Place: What characteristics are in common? Why do you think so?

1788	Stamp Acts	1788	Sons of Liberty
1774	Intolerable Acts	1778	Lexington and Concord; Battle of the Clouds
1775	George III rejects Olive Branch Petition	1777	American victory at Saratoga
1776	British seize New York	1779	British seize Savannah, Georgia
1777	British seize Philadelphia	1780	British seize Charles Town, South Carolina
1778	George III rejects Olive Branch Petition	1781	British reverses in the South
1781	British reverses in the South	1783	Treaty of Paris

1776 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



British Seizure & Burning of New York, 1776



Revolutionary War,

On Christmas Eve 1776, Washington gave Americans hope by crossing the Delaware River & surprising British troops in Trenton, NJ



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

1. Location: From which city did his troops to Saratoga?
2. Place: What characteristics were in common? Why do you think so?



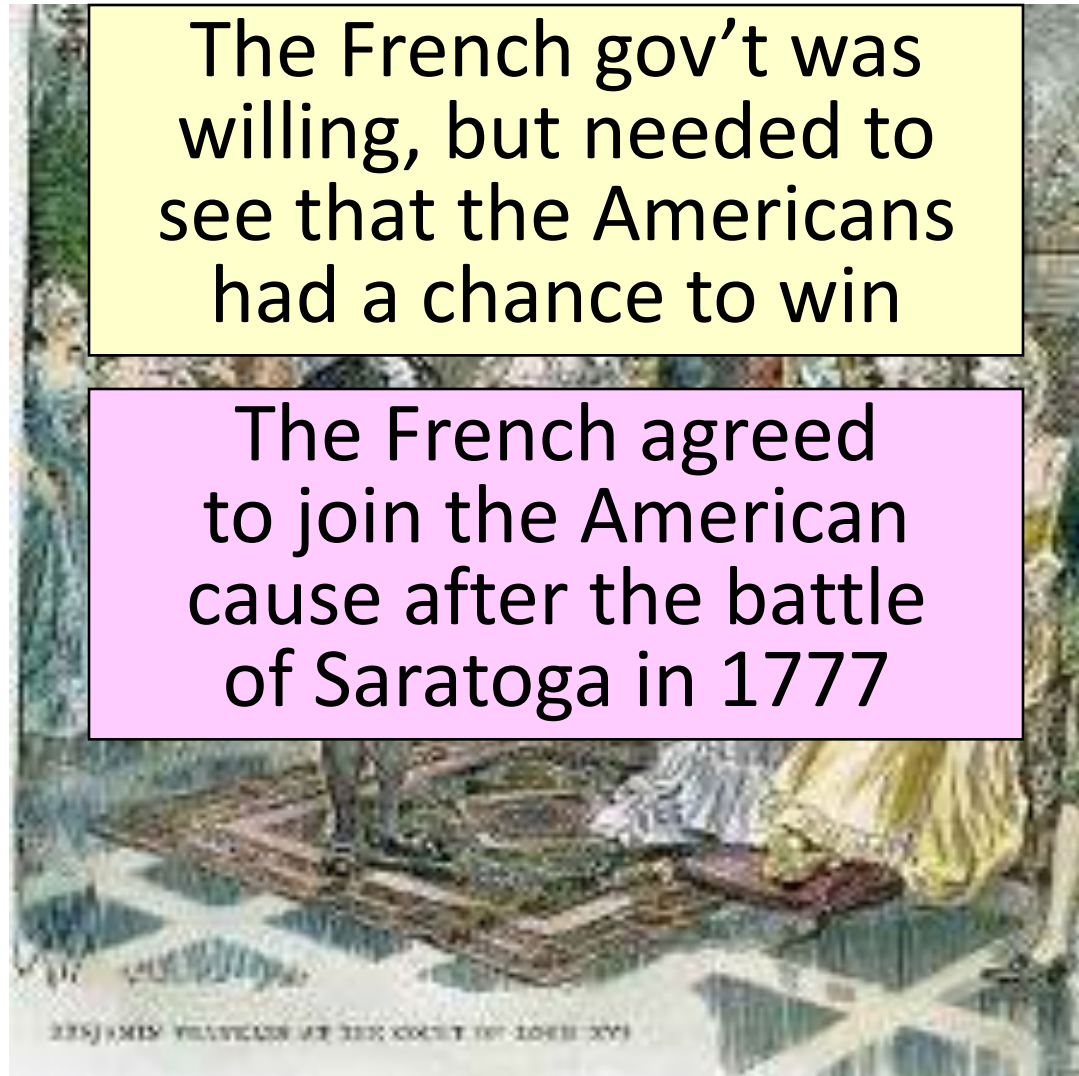
Crossing the Delaware in route to a surprise attack at **Trenton** & **Princeton**, 1776



From the beginning of the war, American diplomats, led by Benjamin Franklin, tried to form an alliance with the French

The French gov't was willing, but needed to see that the Americans had a chance to win

The French agreed to join the American cause after the battle of Saratoga in 1777



Revolutionary War, 1775-1783



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

1. Location: From which city do the roads to Saratoga?
2. Place: What characteristics are in common? Why do you think so?

The Battle of Saratoga was a turning point because France joined the Americans as an ally



The “turning point” of the Revolution: The Battle of Saratoga, 1777

After Saratoga, French general Lafayette helped train American troops while the French navy helped neutralize the British advantage on the high seas

When French troops arrived in the spring 1778, the tide of the war shifted in favor of the Americans



Marquis de Lafayette

During the winter of 1777-78, Continental Army troops nearly starved at Valley Forge, PA but Washington & Lafayette inspired & trained the troops to continue the fight



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

1. Location: From which city do the British troops travel to Saratoga?
2. Place: What characteristics are in common? Why do you think so?



Near Starvation at Valley Forge, PA in 1778



Revolutionary War, 1775



From 1778-1781, both sides traded victories, but the war finally came to a conclusion at the Battle of Yorktown

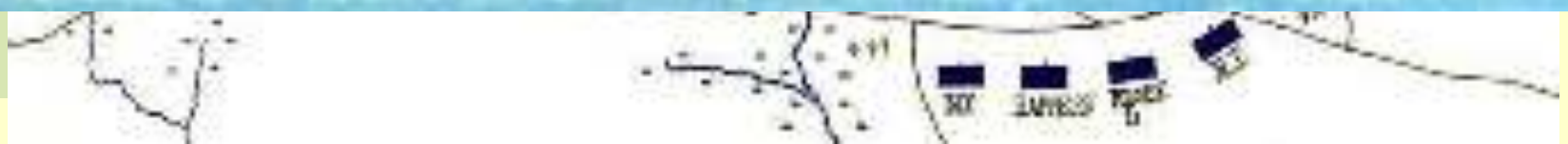
GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

1. Location: From which city did the British retreat to Saratoga?
2. Place: What characteristics are in common? Why do you think so?



1781 British surrender at Yorktown

The Battle of Yorktown



General Cornwallis surrendered
to Washington in 1781, ending
the American Revolution



Cornwallis' surrender was the
“day the world turned upside down”

The Treaty of Paris in 1783 ended the American Revolution

The treaty gave America:

Full independence

All territory east of
Mississippi River,
between Canada
& Florida

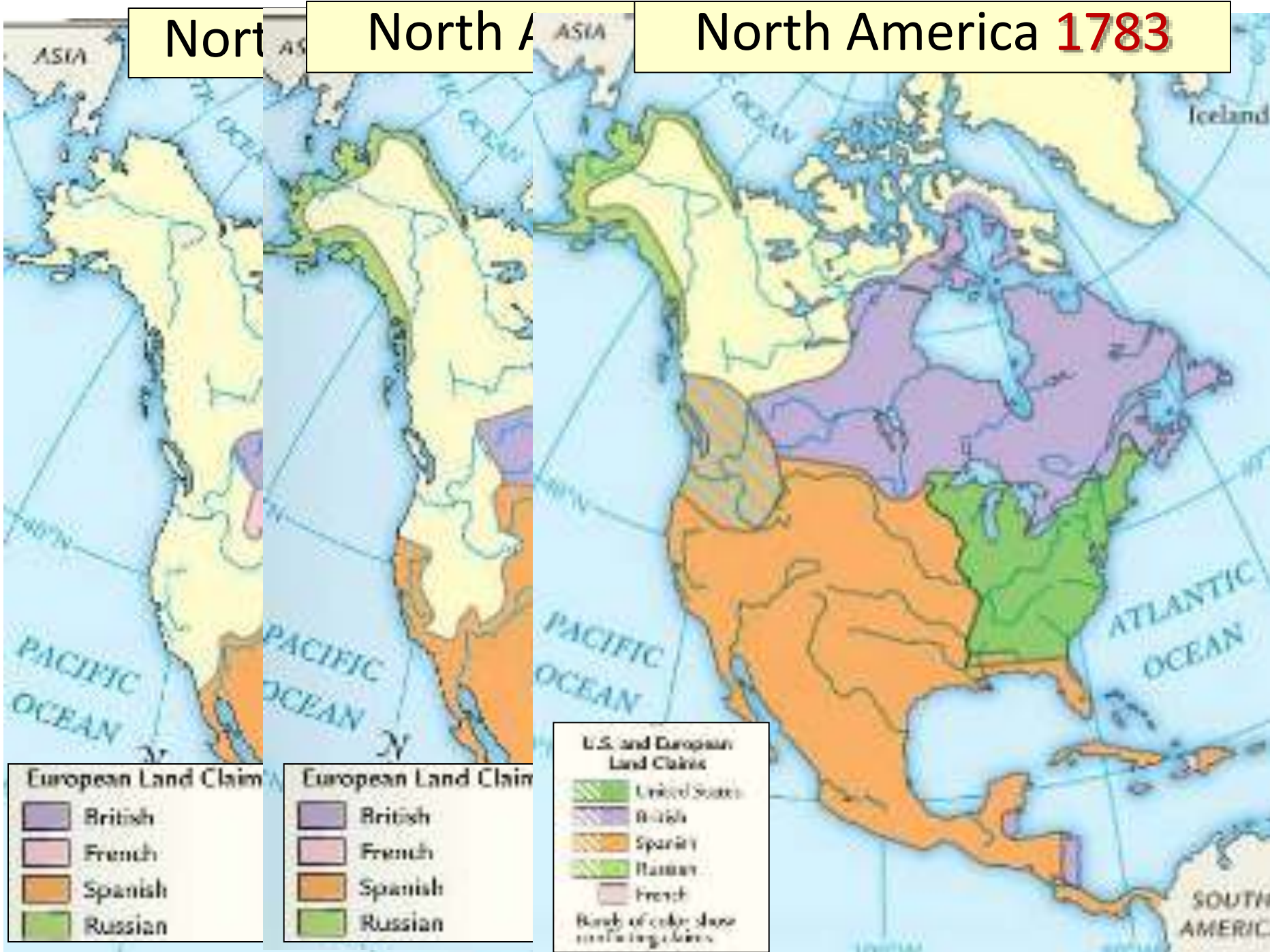
The removal of
the British army
from U.S. claims
in America



North

North /

North America 1783



European Land Claim

	British
	French
	Spanish
	Russian

European Land Claim

	British
	French
	Spanish
	Russian

U.S. and European Land Claims

	United States
	British
	Spanish
	Russian
	French

Boundary of color show conflicting claims

Crash Course #7

