

Why  
War?

# The American Revolution

teacher's  
Brunch

for PowerPoint

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# The Story Thus Far

- European nations were competing with each other for:
  - World resources
  - Military strength
  - Political superiority
- Some nations were upsetting the balance of power





# Overview

- Also called War for Independence
- Started in 1775 in Lexington and Concord Massachusetts
- Caused America to separate from Great Britain
- Ended in 1783



# Major Causes

- The French and Indian War
- The Sugar Act
- The Stamp Act



## **The French and Indian War—1754**

- **Rivalry between the French and British**
- **Who will control North America?**



- **British, colonists, and Native American allies fought French and Native American allies**



## The French and Indian War—1754

- Great Britain's national debt nearly doubled during the war
- British expected Americans to help pay for protection

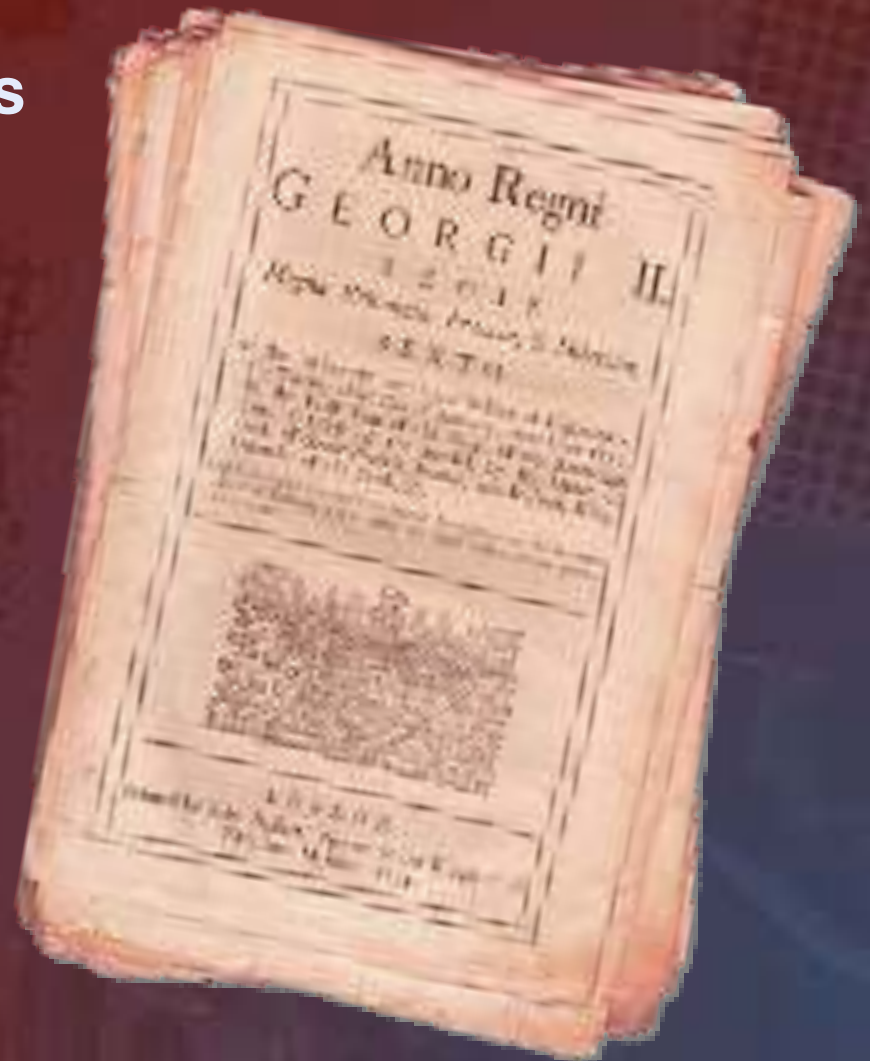


- The war lasted nine years



# The Sugar Act - 1764

- First attempt to raise income from the Colonies
- Duty on sugar and molasses not obtained from Britain
- Smuggling cases tried in Great Britain



# The Stamp Act—1765

- Official government stamp required
- First internal tax paying for British protection





# More Major Causes

- The Townshend Acts
- Boston Massacre
- Boston Tea Party
- The Intolerable Acts



# The Townshend Acts—1767

- Import duties on tea, lead, glass, and paint colors
- Money used to pay royal governors
- “No taxation without representation”



Townshend

# Boston Diary



**“Dined with three hundred and fifty Sons of Liberty, at Robinson’s, the Sign of Liberty Tree in Dorchester.... To the Honour of the Sons, I did not see one Person intoxicated, or near it.”**

**—John Adams (1769)**

Single click the speaker icon  
to hear the clip >>>>





# Boston Massacre—1770

- Crowd of colonists threaten British soldiers
- British open fire killing five Americans
- Parliament canceled the Townshend duties



# Boston Tea Party—1773

- British sold tea even more cheaply than smuggled tea
- Colonists dressed up as Mohawks



- Colonists boarded tea ships
- Tea was dumped overboard

# Tea Party Diary

**“Last Night 3 Cargoes of Bohea Tea were emptied into the sea. This Morning, a Man of War sails. This is the most magnificent Movement of all.”**

**—John Adams (1773)**





# The Intolerable Acts—1774

- Closed the Port of Boston
- American town meetings banned
- British officials in trouble sent to Great Britain for trial



# First Continental Congress



- 56 Delegates
- Included George Washington, Patrick Henry and Sam Adams
- Direct response to Intolerable Acts
- Met in Philadelphia – 1774

# Colonists Agreed To:

- Boycott British goods
- Arm themselves and form militias
- Appeal to the king





## **King George III Refused To:**

- **Allow American colonist representation in Parliament**
- **No respond to colonists' complaints and official grievances**



**King George III**

## **“The Shot Heard Round the World”**

- **American colonists stockpiled weapons in Concord, Massachusetts**
- **800 British troops marched through Lexington on the way to Concord**
- **Paul Revere: “The British are coming!”**



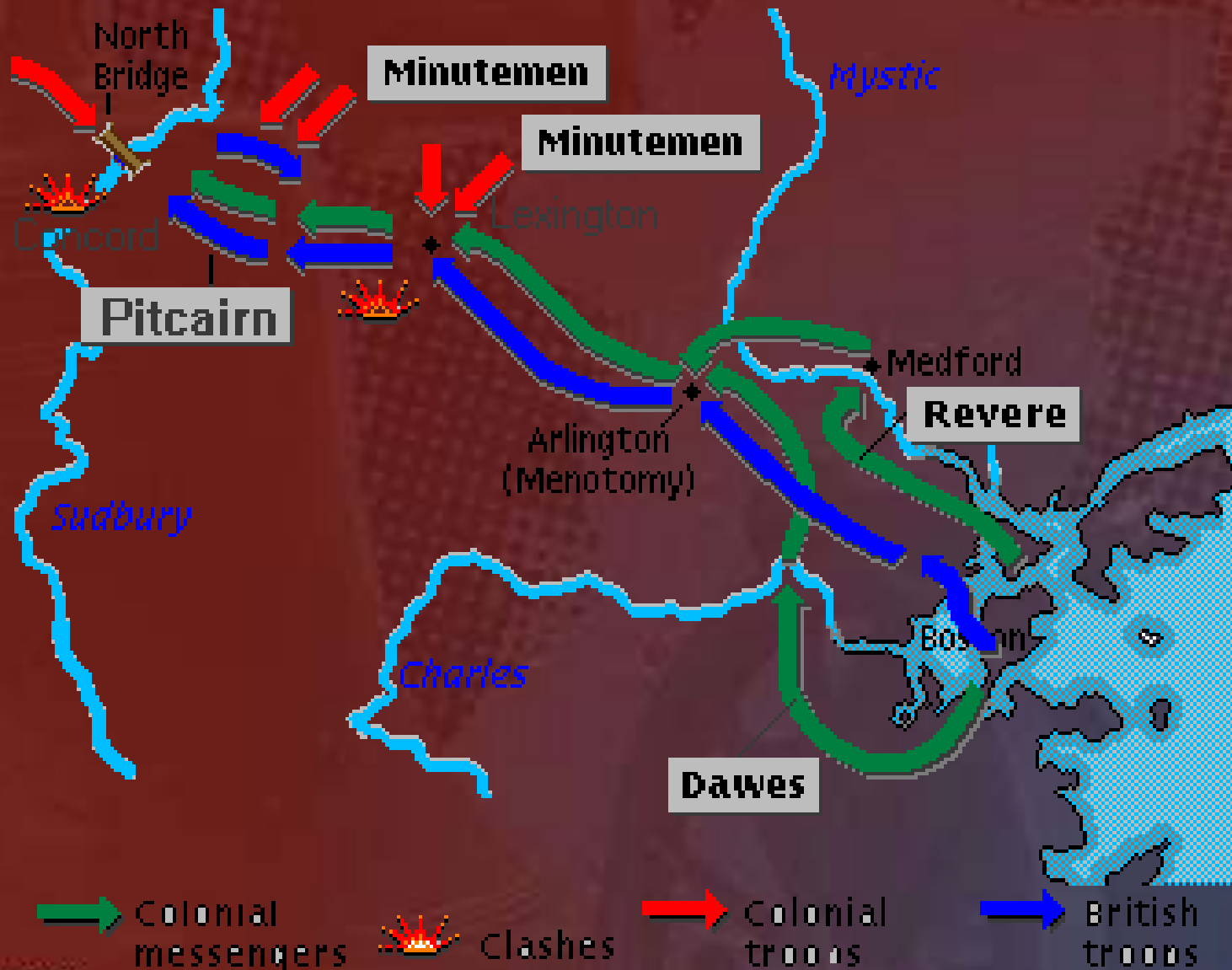
# The Armed Militia

- Known as “Minutemen”
- 70 Minutemen on the Village Green
- Known as the Battle of Lexington and Concord
- Uncertain which side fired first
- 50 Americans killed and 45 wounded or missing
- 65 British killed and 208 wounded or missing





# Lexington and Concord



# Lexington Diary

**“At 10 of the clock last night, the King’s troops marched out from the bottom of the common, crossed over to Phips Farm, marched on ’till they came to Lexington.”**



**—Timothy Newell  
(1775)**

# Lexington Famous Quote

**“Stand your ground,  
don’t fire unless  
fired upon. But if  
they mean  
to have a war, let it  
begin here!”**

**—Captain Parker**



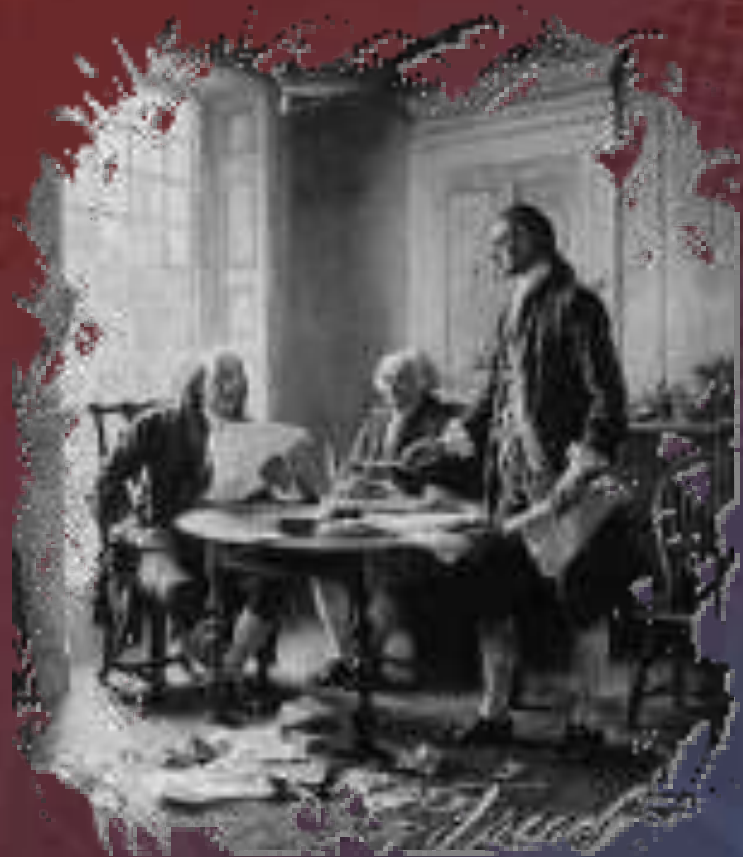
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# Second Continental Congress

- Decided to officially separate from Britain
- Committee selected to draft the reasons for separation
- Thomas Jefferson selected to write document
- Met in Philadelphia



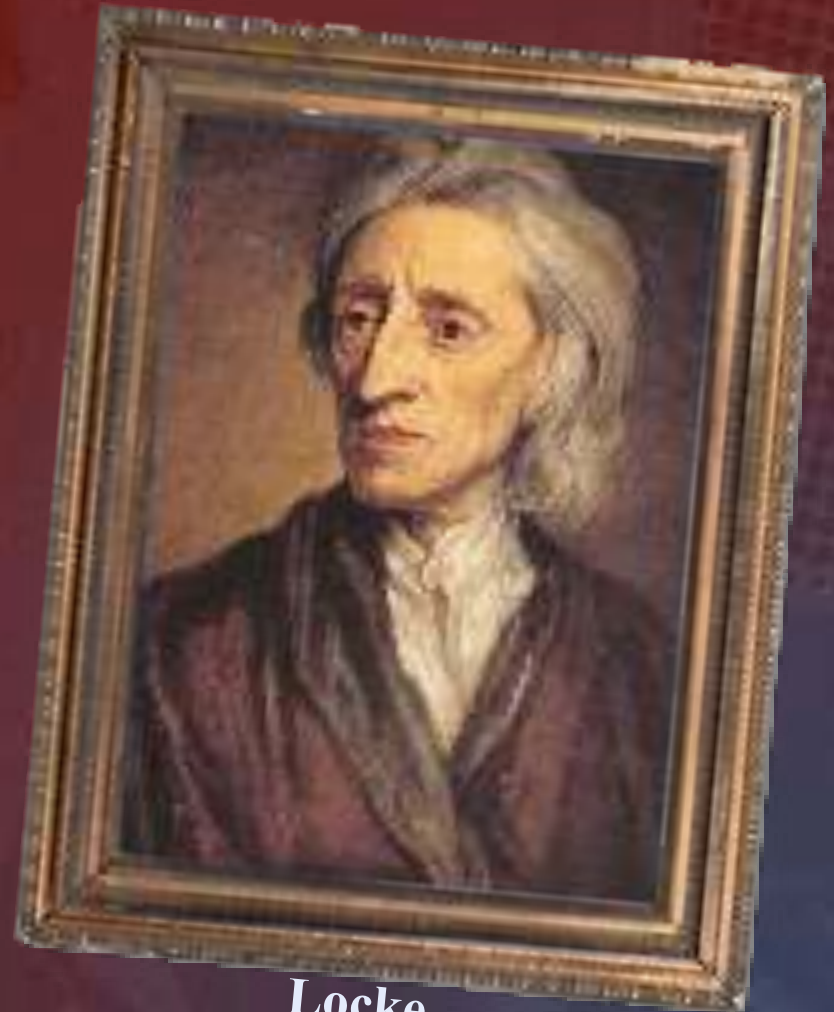
# The Declaration of Independence



- Written by Thomas Jefferson
- It is the “Birth Certificate of the United States”
- Document listed rights and grievances against King George III
- 4 parts
  1. Preamble
  2. Declaration of rights
  3. List of Grievances
  4. Resolution

## Key Quotes in the Declaration

- “We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal”
- “That they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights”
- “That among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”



Locke



# The Declaration of Independence

- John Hancock first to sign in large print
- Anyone who signed it and was caught would be hanged
- “We must all now hang together, or most assuredly we will all hang separately.”  
—Benjamin Franklin



Hancock

# Independence Diary

“There were bonfires,  
ringing bells, with other  
great demonstrations of  
joy upon  
the unanimity and  
agreement  
of the Declaration.”

—Christopher Marshall  
(1776)



# Choosing Sides

- Patriots – Supported the Revolution



- Loyalists – Americans who supported the King
- Red Coats/ Lobsterbacks – British Army



## What Happened to those who Signed?

- Five were captured by the British, though eventually released
- Approximately 12 had their homes ransacked and burned
- One lost his son in the Continental Army
- Several suffered wounds in various battles



# Revolutionary Armies – The British

- British Army most powerful in world
- Also well-equipped with weapons
- Highly trained and disciplined for war on land or high seas



# Revolutionary Armies

- Americans shot more accurately
- British carried three days provisions
- British gear weighed about 100 pounds





# Revolutionary Armies – The Americans



- Revolutionary Army knew lay of the land
- Used weapons appropriate for landscape
- Wore pieces of different uniforms
- Brown army clothing

# British Advantages

- Well-equipped
- Disciplined
- Strongest navy



# American Advantages

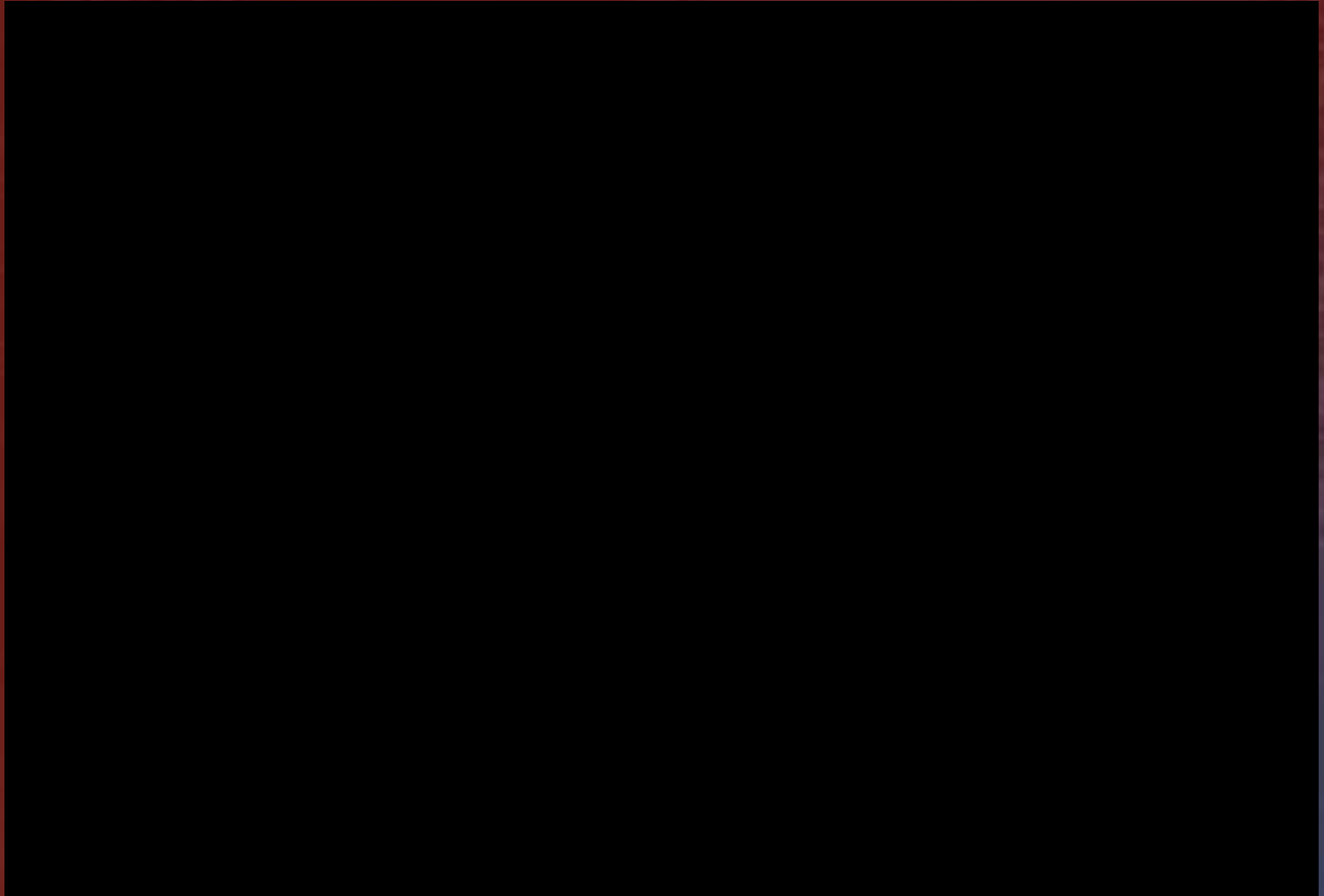
- Accuracy of the rifle
- Knowledge of the land
- Guerilla warfare tactics
- Superb command





# Patriot Video

Single click screen  
to view video:



# British Soldier Quotes

- British soldiers faced new challenges
- “Damn those Americans. They will not stand and fight.”
- “Settle your affairs at home before leaving for The Colonies; you probably won’t be coming back again.”



Single click the speaker icon  
to hear the clip >>>>



# **Military Leaders—American**

- **George Washington:  
Commander of  
Americans  
Forces**
- **Nathanael  
Greene: Top  
Strategist**
- **Henry Knox:  
Artillery Expert**
- **Benedict Arnold:  
Commander  
under  
Washington**





# British Leaders

- General Charles Cornwallis
- General John Burgoyne
- Benedict Arnold
- William Howe
- All considered America one of the worst places to serve



# Other Key Players

- France, Spain, Germany and Poland
- Hessian mercenaries from Germany
- The Marquis de Lafayette: Frenchman who supported American cause
- Huge percentage of American gunpowder came from France



Marquis de Lafayette

## Other Key Players

- **Bernardo De Galvez:** Spanish lord in Mexico
- **Baron Friedrich von Steuben:** German military commander who helped train American troops
- **Nathan Hale:** American Spy “ I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”





# The War at Sea

- Approximately 3,000 men enlisted—America made 13 Frigates
- Most, if not all, were destroyed or captured
- Colonial Navy authorized by Continental Congress October 13, 1775



# Major Battles

- Fort Ticonderoga
- Bunker Hill
- Trenton



# Fort Ticonderoga—1775

- Key strategic location in New York
- Ethan Allen and about 125 Green Mountain boys attacked fort





# Ticonderoga

- The Fort was taken without firing a shot
- British officers and women and children were captured
- Cannons were taken from Ticonderoga to Boston
- Henry Knox:  
American Army top  
artillery commander
- Major hero of  
American Revolution



# Battle of Bunker Hill - 1775

- Bunker Hill located near Boston



- Red Coats victorious in third charge
- Americans ran out of ammunition
- Moral victory for American Army

# Bunker Hill

- Costliest battle for British during whole war
- British casualties 1,054
- American casualties 441
- British began to get nervous
- Washington took command of the army two weeks after this battle





## Bunker Hill Famous Quote

**“Don’t fire until you see  
the whites of their eyes.”**

**—Israel Putnam**



# Battle of Trenton—1776



- Surprise attack the day after Christmas
- Washington crossed the Delaware
- Approximately 1000 German soldiers fighting for the British captured

# Trenton & Princeton

- American casualties were four
- German leader, Colonel Rall mortally wounded
- Washington cleared British from central New Jersey





# More Significant Battles



- Saratoga
- Winter at Valley Forge

- Yorktown
- Were blend of successes and failures for American Army



# Battle of Saratoga – 1777

- The turning point of the war
- The biggest American victory at the time
- Approximately 5,000 British surrender to Washington



## **Battle of Saratoga – 1777**

- After the American victory France changed its policies.
- Feb. 1778 France and American formed an alliance
- France declared war on Britain the next month
- Spain declared war in 1779
- Bernardo de Galvez chased British troops out of Louisiana and Florida.





# Burgoyne Diary



**“From the 20th of September to the 7th of October, the armies were so near, that not a night passed without firing...I do not believe that either officer or soldier ever slept...without his clothes...”**

**—Burgoyne Diary**

Single click the speaker icon  
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# Valley Forge – 1777-1778



- American Army out of food and clothing
- Valley Forge briefly a refuge
- Supplies ran out and many died
- Washington appeals to Congress for help
- Low point for American Army
- Any deserters are shot

# Valley Forge – 1777-1778

- Marquis de Lafayette joined Washington as an aide
- Friedrich von Steuben drilled the troops teaching them military discipline





# Albigenge Waldo



**“The army which has been surprisingly healthy hitherto, now begins to grow sickly...I am sick—discontented—and out of humor.”**

**—Albigenge Waldo (1777)**

Single click the speaker icon  
to hear the clip >>>>



# Battle of Yorktown—1781

- French blockade aided this final battle
- Escape for the British was impossible
- British General Cornwallis faced American forces approximately twice his size



John Paul Jones

# Yorktown





# Yorktown

- Approximately 8,700 British troops surrendered
- Pinned in by American and French Naval fleets
- General Benjamin Lincoln accepted the surrender sword
- British bands played “The World has Turned Upside Down”



# The Treaty of Paris

- 1783: The Treaty of Paris officially ends the Revolutionary War



# The Treaty of Paris—1783



- Officially ended the American Revolution
- Set many geographic borders, including U.S. and Canada
- Florida was returned to Spain
- British merchants must be paid for lost items
- Loyalists must be paid for lost property



# The Aftermath:

- Penalties inflicted on Loyalists
- Some Loyalists were “tarred and feathered” and put on ships bound for Canada or Great Britain



# The Articles of Confederation



- Written by John Dickson in 1777
- Ratified in 1781
- Governed Americans in 1781-1787
- Paved way for new Constitution

# Articles of Confederation Video

Single click screen  
to view video:





# Strengths

- Wage war
- Issue money
- Sign treaties (make peace)
- Set up post offices
- Appoint ambassadors
- Settle conflicts between states

# Weaknesses

- NO President (Executive)
- NO Armey
- NO Courts (Judicial)
- NO Taxing Power (monetary problems)
- No power to enforce laws (regulate trade)
- States were sovereign
- One vote per state regardless of population
- 9/13 states to pass a law
- 13/13 states to amend (make changes)

### Northwest Ordinance of 1787

- Set up rules for statehood once 60,000 people
- Outlawed slavery in new states (Northwest territories)
- Free education in new states



## Effects/Results/Outcomes

### Shays Rebellion

- Led by former Continental army captain Daniel Shay
- Farmers wanted government to stop taking their land
- Formed an army that attacked local militias
- Made Americans frightened of more uprisings.
- Showed that the Articles could not protect them.

# Concluding Thoughts



- Eight years
- Timeless impact
- Subject of countless plays and films
- Maker of heroes
- Birth of a nation

