

BATTLE of SARATOGA

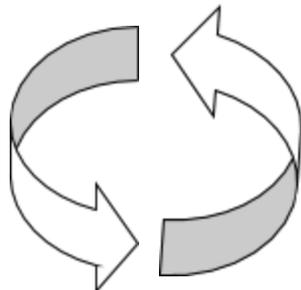
The Battle of Saratoga was the **turning point** of the Revolutionary War. It **convinced France** to **enter the war** on the **side of the Americans**.

British General John Burgoyne came up with a brilliant plan to **take all of New York** away from the **Americans**. His attack called for a meeting of three **British** forces at Saratoga, New York. Burgoyne would advance south from Canada and plan to meet at Albany, NY, with General William Howe, who was marching north from Virginia. This was a brilliant plan, Burgoyne thought, and he hoped to crush the American Northern Army.

Trouble was, it didn't work!!!!

Howe **never got the message** and went to Philadelphia instead. Also, Burgoyne's **wagons** and **cannons** became **bogged down** in thick forests. The **Patriots** had **chopped** down large **trees** and **dammed rivers** to create obstacles. Colonial militiamen attacked the Redcoats. Burgoyne found himself alone and outnumbered. Burgoyne then was stopped by **American General Benedict Arnold** at Saratoga. At the Battle of Saratoga (which was really a handful of battles), **Burgoyne surrendered** almost his entire army to **American General Horatio Gates** on October 17, 1777.

The **American victory** at Saratoga **convinced France** that **America** really did have a **chance of winning**. Soon thereafter, **French money** and **supplies** (and eventually, troops and ships) were making their way to America. The end of the war had begun.



BATTLE of YORKTOWN

The Battle of Yorktown was an **American victory** that **ended the Revolutionary War** on October 20, 1781.

British General Charles Cornwallis had met defeat in the south. His British force had been continually weakened by American General Nathanael Greene in the Carolinas. **Cornwallis** then left the Carolinas and proceeded **north to Yorktown, Virginia**, to wait for reinforcements. American Commander-in-Chief **George Washington** saw a chance to **trap Cornwallis and the British at Yorktown**. Washington ordered **Marquis de LaFayette (France)** to **block Cornwallis's escape** by land. Another French naval fleet seized control of the Chesapeake Bay, preventing British ships from rescuing Cornwallis's stranded army. Then Washington combined his 2,500 troops with the 4,000 French troops and led the force on a march to Virginia. **The Patriots surrounded Cornwallis and the British!!**

For weeks, the **fighting** steadily **wore down** the **British** troops. Faced with the prospect of no reinforcements, Cornwallis stood and fought. The **Americans**, however, **won the battle** and the war. On October 19, 1781, Cornwallis sent a drummer and a soldier with a **white flag of surrender** to Washington's camp. The Patriots took 8,000 British prisoners – the largest British army in America.

This was the **last major battle** of the war, although some minor skirmishes took place for the next two years, until the **Treaty of Paris** ended the war in 1783.



BATTLE of TRENTON

The Battle of Trenton was a famous **American** victory that began with **George Washington** "**Crossing the Delaware.**" Actually, the whole army crossed the Delaware River, which was frozen in places. It was **Christmas** night, 1776.

The Continental Army had suffered major defeats and the colonists were tired. The one-year contract for enlisting in the Army was up December 31st.

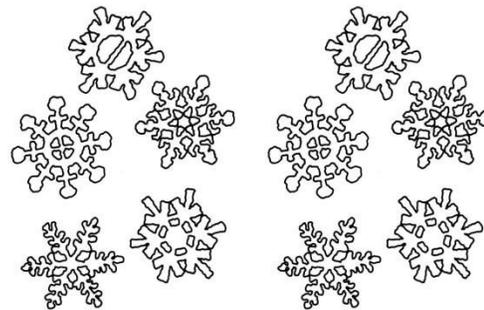
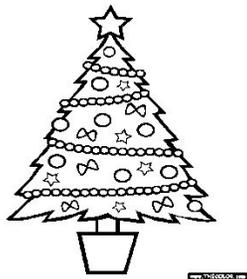
Who would want to re-enlist in this losing army?

And who would volunteer to replace the soldiers who left? Washington's army – the hope of the Revolution – was in **danger of simply vanishing.**

"These are the times that try men's souls," wrote Thomas Paine.

The colonists crossed the Delaware River from Pennsylvania to the outskirts of **Trenton, New Jersey.** The **winter storm** forced **Washington** and the colonists to row across the **ice-clogged river.** As morning broke, the Americans surprised a drunken **Hessian** force that **celebrated the holiday a little too much the night before.** The battle lasted about **45 minutes** and resulted in the Americans taking 900 Hessian prisoners. It was a **great victory** for the weary **Americans.** It was also an opportunity to **gain** some badly needed **guns** and **ammunition.**

The **energized American** soldiers **re-enlisted** in the **army.** **The Revolution was saved!!**



VALLEY FORGE

When General William Howe and his **British** troops took over Philadelphia in September of 1777, **General Washington** was **forced** to make **winter camp** about 20 miles from Philadelphia at **Valley Forge.**

It was a **miserable winter** for the 10,000 soldiers of the Continental Army **at Valley Forge.** Many **soldiers lacked shoes** and **warm clothing.** **Food** was **scarce.** **Diseases** such as **smallpox** and **typhoid fever** swept through the camp. 2,500 men **died** that winter from the **cold,** disease and **malnutrition.**

During this winter, **General Lafayette** joined the Continental Army, without pay, and impressed the troops and Washington by living under the same conditions as the soldiers.

Another important addition to the Continental Army was **Baron Friedrich von Steuben,** from **Prussia.** Von Steuben spoke no English and was brought to America by Benjamin Franklin. However, he knew how to **train an army.** Even under the hardships of the camp, he **drilled** the **soldiers** repeatedly during the winter so that by springtime the **Continental Army** had become a **strong** and **disciplined** **fighting force.**

George Washington



TREATY of PARIS

The Treaty of Paris was the official **peace treaty** between the United States and Britain that **ended** the **American Revolutionary War**. It was signed on September 3, 1783. The Congress of the Confederation ratified the treaty on January 14, 1784. King George III ratified the treaty on April 9, 1784. This was five weeks after the deadline, but nobody complained.

Writing the Treaty

The treaty was negotiated in the city of **Paris, France**. That's where it gets its name. There were **three** important **Americans** in France to negotiate the treaty for the United States: **John Adams, Benjamin Franklin**, and **John Jay**. David Hartley, a member of the British Parliament, represented the British and King George III. The document was signed at the Hotel d'York, where David Hartley was staying.

It took a long time!

After the British Army surrendered at the Battle of Yorktown, it still took a long time for an agreement between Britain and the United States to be signed. It was around a **year and a half later** that King George finally ratified the treaty!

Major Points

The three Americans did a great job in negotiating the treaty. They got **two** very **important points** agreed and signed off:

1. The first point, and most important to the Americans, was that **Britain recognize the Thirteen Colonies to be free and independent states**. That **Britain no longer had any claim on the land or government**.
2. The second major point was that the **boundaries of the United States allowed for western expansion**. This would prove important later as the US continued to grow west all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Other Points

Other points in the treaty had to do with agreements on **fishing rights, debts, prisoners of war, access to the Mississippi River**, and the **property of Loyalists**. Both sides wanted to protect their citizen's rights and possessions.

Each of the **points** is called an **article**. Today the only article that is still in force is article 1, which **recognizes the United States as an independent country**.