

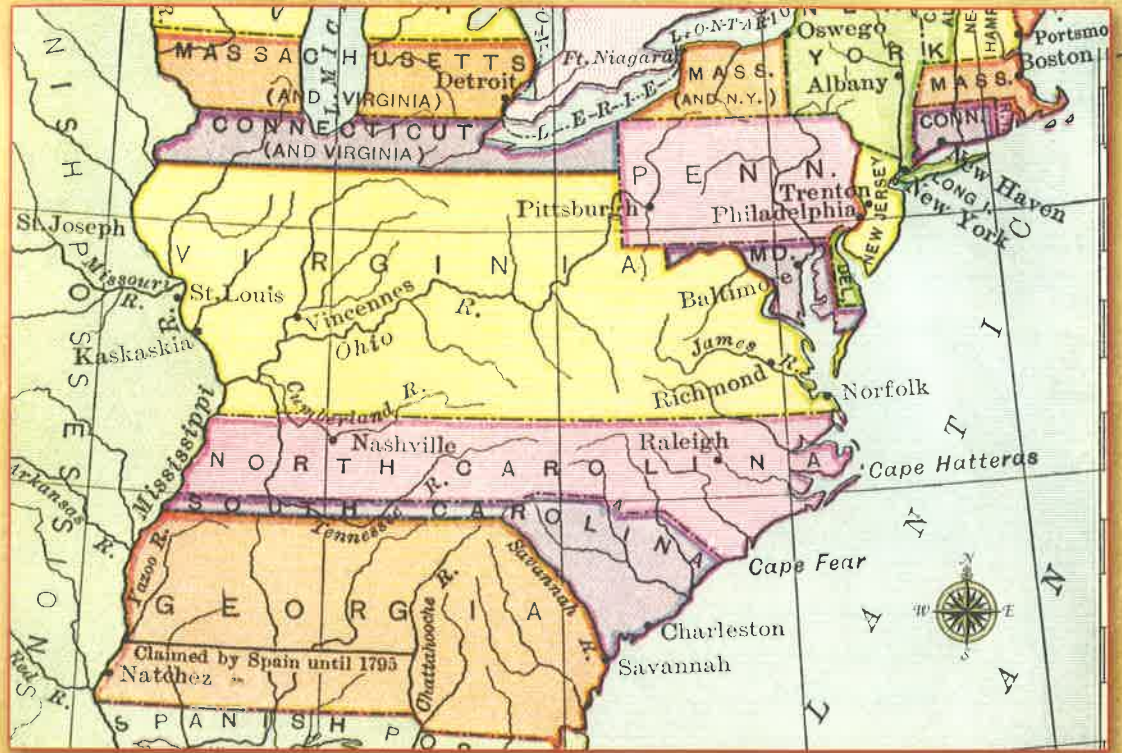
Washington was tired of losing. Washington picked a new general to fight in the South. The general's name was Nathanael Greene. Greene was a good general.

In March 1781, the British lost an important battle in North Carolina. The Patriots were beginning to win in the

South. The British plan was falling apart.

## 2. Solve This

**Soldiers in the Continental army only earned \$6.67 each month. Exactly how much would a soldier make in one year's time?**



▲ Key battles toward the end of the war took place in the Southern colonies.



## YORKTOWN

In May 1781, the British general Charles Cornwallis went to Virginia. He set up camp in Yorktown on the Virginia coast. He was waiting for more British troops and fresh supplies. It would be easy to unload supplies on the coast.



▲ At Yorktown, Cornwallis counted on getting more help from Britain.



▲ Admiral Francois de Grasse commanded the French fleet heading to Virginia.

Meanwhile, French troops had arrived to help the Patriots. The French ships headed to Yorktown. Then Washington and the French general joined their land forces. They would trap Cornwallis and his men at Yorktown.

There were already 4,000 Patriot troops near Yorktown. Together, the French and Patriot troops and the French fleet would be very strong. They would outnumber Cornwallis's troops three to one!



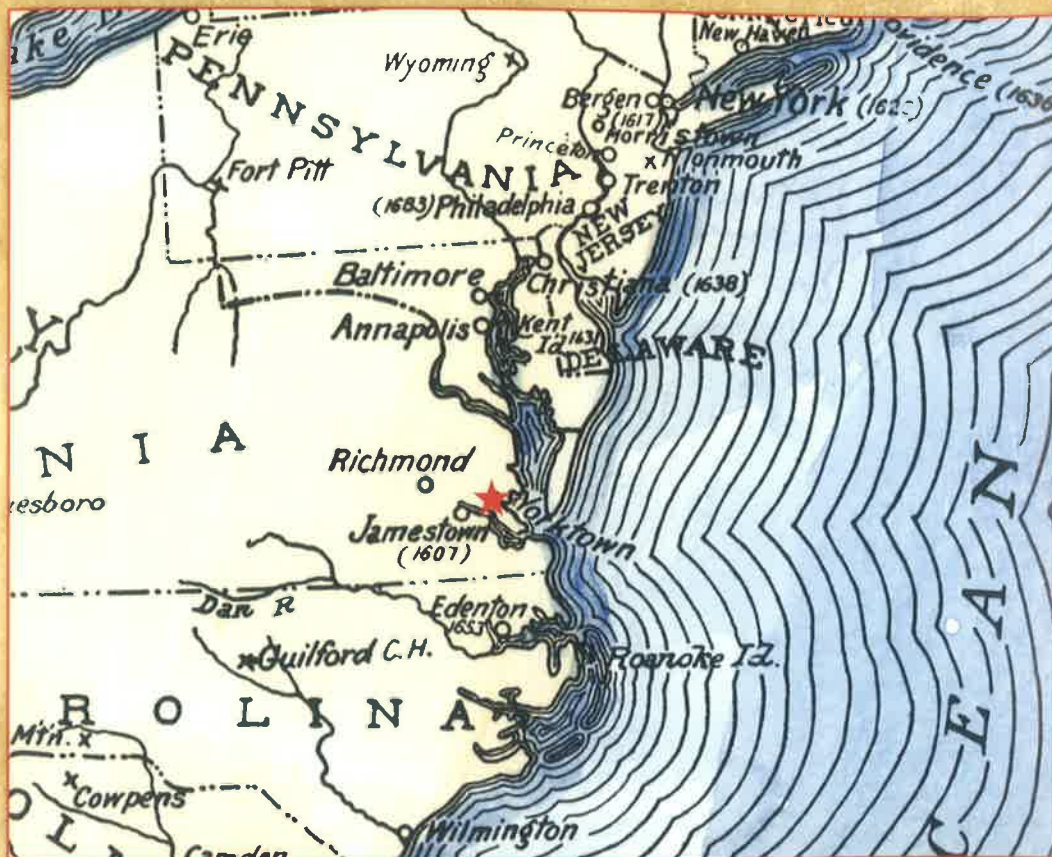
General Francois de Grasse  
led the French  
fleet heading to Virginia.

French and Patriot troops  
marched south from New York.  
The French fleet arrived in  
Virginia on August 31, 1781.

The British fleet saw that  
Cornwallis was in trouble. The

British sent ships to Yorktown  
to help him. The French fleet  
was stronger. The French  
turned away the British ships.

While, French troops  
needed to help the Patriots.  
British ships headed to  
Yorktown. Then Washington  
and French general joined  
forces. They would  
surround Cornwallis and his men  
at Yorktown.  
There were already 4,000  
British troops near Yorktown.  
The French and Patriot  
armies and the French fleet  
were very strong. They  
had a three to one  
advantage over Cornwallis's  
troops!



▲ The British and Patriot armies fought a long battle in Yorktown,  
Virginia, in 1781.





▲ When the British surrendered their weapons at Yorktown, Cornwallis did not attend. He claimed to be sick.

### VICTORY

Fierce fighting went on for weeks. The Patriots and French fired at the British all day and all night.

Finally, Cornwallis's army fell apart. Most of his men were sick or hurt. The Patriot

and French troops cut off escape by land. The French fleet sealed off escape by sea. The British were surrounded.

Cornwallis did everything he could. He knew it was the end. He finally gave up on October 17, 1781.



#### Reread

Reread pages 28–29. Name at least one way the French helped the Patriots win the war.



## TREATY OF PARIS

The Patriots could not believe it. The Patriots had captured the largest British army in the colonies. The British decided that the war was no longer worth fighting.

In June 1781, peace talks began. Benjamin Franklin

played a key role. The peace talks took more than two years.

On September 3, 1783, the British and Americans signed the Treaty of Paris in France. Britain recognized the independent United States of America.



▲ In this relief sculpture, Benjamin Franklin (standing) is about to sign the Treaty of Paris.



# CONCLUSION

The American Revolution was a long, hard war. The Patriots never gave up their dream of independence. Their courage made winning possible.

When it was over, the tired soldiers went home to their families. The British wanted to go back to England. The Patriots wanted to enjoy their new freedom.

Use the time line to review key moments in the Revolution. How did each step move the Patriots closer to winning?

## Time Line of the American Revolution

1765

March 1765:  
The Stamp Act



March 1770:  
The Boston Massacre



December 1773:  
The Boston Tea Party



September 1774:  
First Continental Congress meets.



April 1775:  
With the battles of Lexington and Concord, the American Revolution begins.



January 1776:  
Thomas Paine writes "Common Sense."



July 4, 1776:  
The Declaration of Independence is adopted.



October 1776:  
The Patriots win the Battle of Saratoga.



Winter 1777-78:  
Patriot forces winter at Valley Forge.



Spring 1778:  
France supports the Patriot cause.



October 1781:  
Patriot and French forces win at Yorktown.



September 1783:  
A peace treaty is signed, ending the war.



1783



# GLOSSARY

- boycott** (BOY-kot) to refuse to buy goods from a certain place as a form of protest (page 5)
- colony** (KAHL-uh-nee) a land claimed and ruled by a country far away (page 2)
- Continental Congress** (KON-teh-NEHN-tuhl KON-grihs) a formal meeting of representatives from the colonies (page 10)
- independence** (ihn-duh-PEHN-duhns) ruling or governing oneself (page 3)
- Loyalist** (LOY-uh-lihst) a colonist who continued to support the king of England (page 10)
- militia** (muh-LIHSH-uh) an army of regular people (page 18)
- Patriot** (PAY-tree-uht) a colonist who wanted freedom from British rule (page 10)
- protest** (PROH-tehst) a public demonstration showing that people do not agree with something (page 5)
- rebel** (REH-buhl) someone who does not obey a person in power (page 6)



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## Solve This

### Answers

1. Page 8  
about 90,000 pounds
2. Page 25  
\$80.04





**The American Revolution  
is part of a Bridges  
thematic unit:**

*The American Revolution*

Battles of the American Revolution:  
Saratoga

People of the American Revolution

**Another Bridges thematic unit  
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*Early Explorers*

Explorers of the Americas

Native Americans at the  
Time of the Explorers

The Voyages of Christopher Columbus



THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

### The American Revolution

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## The American Revolution

The United States is an independent country because of the American Revolution. Discover why the thirteen colonies decided to fight for freedom. Learn about the causes of the Revolution, its leaders, and how brave Patriots fought for a chance at liberty.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joaquin Carr writes educational books and articles for children and young people. He holds a Master's degree in English. He loves to write, sketch skyscrapers, and listen to music. He once lived in Massachusetts, not far from the site of the Boston Tea Party.



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