



Social Studies

Chapter 8

Study Guide



Vocabulary

- **declaration** – a statement that announces an idea.
- **independence** – freedom from being ruled by someone else.
- **Loyalist** – someone who was faithful to the King of England.
- **Patriot** – a colonist who opposed British rule.
- **mercenary**– a soldier who is paid to fight for a foreign country.
- **neutral** – not taking sides.
- **retreat** – to move away from the enemy.
- **strategy** – a plan of action.
- **surrender** –to give up.
- **traitor**– someone who is not loyal
- **treason** – the crime of fighting against one’s own government.
- **victory** – the defeat of an enemy.

Key Concepts

- The main author of the Declaration of Independence was Thomas Jefferson.
- Although the Declaration of Independence stated “all men are created equal”, it was mainly referring to white men who owned land.
- Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet called Common Sense to urge his fellow colonists to support the cause for independence from Britain.
- Many African Americans became Loyalists because the British government promised them freedom. Later the Patriots used the same strategy to urge African Americans to join the Continental Army.
- During the war even colonists who were not directly involved with fighting suffered many hardships: armies destroying houses and robbing farms, family members being hurt or killed, and inflation making goods expensive and often unaffordable.

- One of Washington's strategies was to retreat from the British in order to have time to train his soldiers.
- An early victory for the Patriots was at Trenton, NJ, where the Continental Army surprised and defeated the Hessians. Washington's strategy of crossing the Delaware River at night enabled him to surprise these troops fighting for the British.
- The Battle of Saratoga was important to the Patriots. Their victory convinced the French to provide aid to the colonists.
- Baron Friedrich von Stuben, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and the Marquis de Lafayette were foreign officers who helped the patriots train and lead their regiments.
- The winter of 1777-1778 was very difficult for Washington's army as they camped at Valley Forge, however it was important. Despite great suffering, the soldiers did not give up. It gave them an opportunity to train together as an army and several foreign officers came forward as leaders of the army.
- Although Benedict Arnold was considered the hero of the Battle of Saratoga, he later turned traitor to the Patriot cause.
- The American army in the South used the strategy of retreating to keep the British army moving until the British were worn out.
- The last major battle of the Revolutionary War was the Battle of Yorktown. General Cornwallis surrendered to Washington after a week of fighting.
- The Treaty of Paris gave the American colonies independence and land up to the Mississippi River.

Essay

Be prepared to discuss:

- The strengths and weaknesses of the Continental army.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● they had a lot of countries that helped them afterwards, which are French, Spain, the Netherlands, and Russia ● they were determined to win 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They were not experienced as well as the British army. ● they didn't have as much people to fight for them as the British army did

- The comparison of how men and women experienced the Revolution. How was it the same, and how was it different?
 - Some women dressed in men's clothes and joined the army, some others spread messages of freedom writing letters, plays, and poems. Some women followed the soldiers to battle and cooked, brought water, cared for the injured. Some even fought in their husband's place if they died in battle.
 - Men joined the Continental Army and fought the British. Some lent money to help the Patriots.
 - Men and Women were both helping the Continental Army. Both lived dangerous and hard lives during the war.

- How did the French contribute to the victory at Yorktown?
 - The French Navy Ships met George Washington at Yorktown, where they helped trap the British there. They also helped fire cannons at the British day and night. They helped by having the French Navy ships blocked the way out, therefore leaving them stuck there, making them surrender.