

New Friends

As winter approached, Washington settled his troops at Valley Forge, near Philadelphia. The weather was harsh and food was scarce. But good news was soon on its way.

During a **diplomatic** visit to France, Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane heard about an experienced German soldier named Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben. They hired him to go to America to train Washington's forces at Valley Forge. Steuben taught them how to use their weapons properly and march in formation. He even wrote a manual that the American military would use as a guide for many years.

General Gates's victory over General Burgoyne encouraged France to join the cause for American independence. France had already been secretly providing money and supplies to the American forces. In 1778, the country officially declared war and began sending ships and troops to America. Other countries soon followed France's lead. Spain entered the war in 1779, and the Netherlands joined in 1780.

A FIRSTHAND LOOK AT STEUBEN'S REGULATIONS

Baron von Steuben's *Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States* was an important guide in the early years of the U.S. military. While it is no longer used, many of its basic ideas are still important to modern military tactics. See page 60 for a link to view the book online.



Baron von Steuben improved the American forces with his training exercises.

The Americans' new allies had the resources to compete with Great Britain's huge fleet of ships. Combined with the American naval forces, they were able to keep the British busy at sea. They attacked ships off the British coasts and kept them from sailing to America.

SPOTLIGHT ON



Nathanael Greene

Before joining the military, Nathanael Greene spent many years as a member of the Rhode Island colonial legislature. He joined the Rhode Island army in 1775 and became a general a year later. Greene served directly under General Washington during the early years of the war. He was present at such conflicts as the Siege of Boston and Washington's battles across New York and New Jersey.

In 1778, Greene was made commander of the southern army. He successfully held the British forces back from conquering North Carolina and defended the southern colonies throughout the rest of the war.

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse

By early 1781, the American forces had proper training, manpower, and powerful allies. On March 15, General Nathanael Greene brought 4,500 American troops together at Guilford Courthouse in Greensboro, North Carolina. General

The American forces drove back Cornwallis at Guilford Courthouse.





Thousands of American troops surrounded Cornwallis's forces at Yorktown, Virginia.

Cornwallis and fewer than 2,000 British troops attacked. The Americans caused major damage to Cornwallis's forces while losing few men themselves. Rather than take any unnecessary losses, Greene withdrew.

The Siege of Yorktown

On August 1, Cornwallis and his men arrived in Yorktown, Virginia. Cornwallis hoped to rest his men and get additional supplies before continuing. Almost immediately, spies working under French general Lafayette saw that Cornwallis was settling in for a long stay.



Cornwallis's surrender began to bring the war to a close.

Lafayette told Washington about Cornwallis. Washington learned about the same time that a fleet of French ships and 3,000 soldiers would soon be arriving in the Chesapeake Bay. On August 19, the combined forces of Washington and French general Rochambeau began marching toward Virginia. Ten days later, the French fleet arrived at Chesapeake Bay. Meanwhile, Cornwallis waited for British general Henry Clinton to arrive with more troops and supplies.

The American and French forces arrived at Williamsburg, Virginia, on September 20. Eight days

later, they marched on Yorktown and began planning ways to get past Cornwallis's defenses. Over the next several weeks, the allied forces beat down Cornwallis. They cut off his supply routes as he continued to wait for Clinton's arrival.

By October 16, Cornwallis knew that Clinton would not arrive in time to fend off the allied attackers. He attempted to escape with his surviving forces but was foiled by a heavy rainstorm. He officially surrendered on October 19.

Though some fighting continued, the war was essentially over. News of Cornwallis's defeat reached England a little more than a month after the surrender. Upon hearing the news, the British prime minister described the situation simply and correctly: "Oh, God, it is all over."

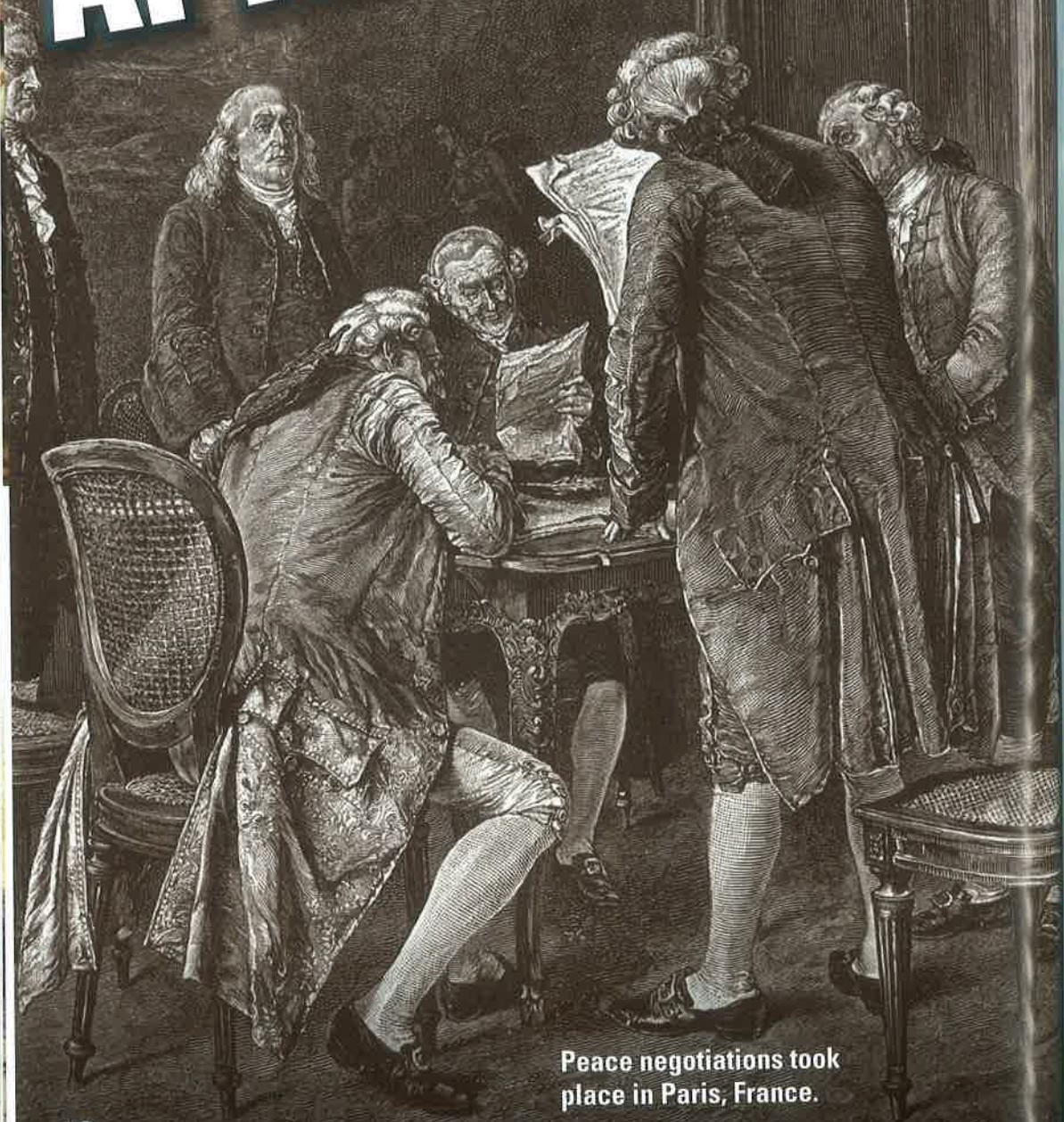
SPOTLIGHT ON



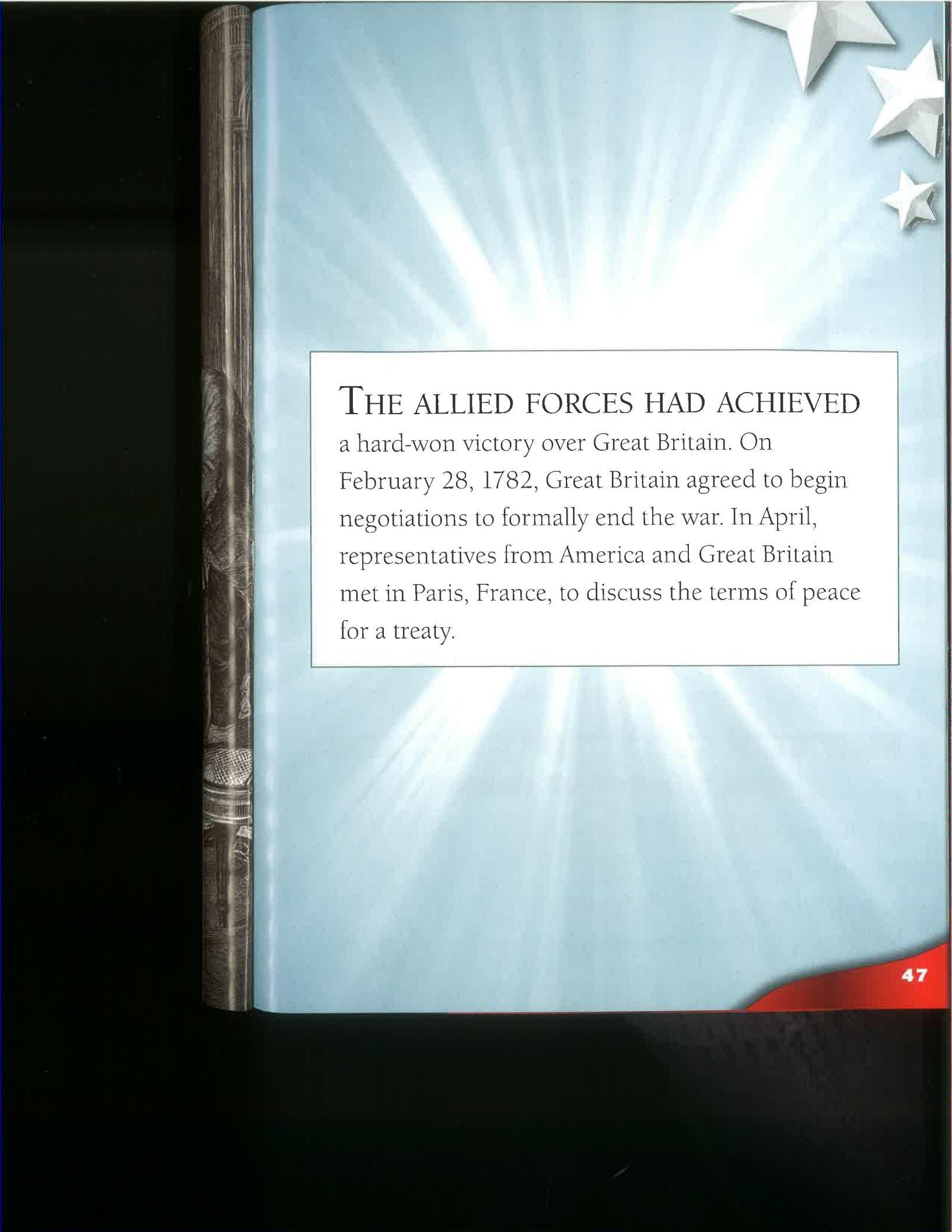
Charles Cornwallis

Born in 1738, Cornwallis enlisted in the British military when he was 18 years old. He fought in Europe during the Seven Years' War (1756–1763). He inherited his father's seat as a member of Parliament when he returned to England. Cornwallis often sided with the colonists' requests. He even voted against the Stamp Act and the Intolerable Acts. After returning to England at the end of the war, Cornwallis was made governor-general of India, which was at the time controlled by Great Britain. Later, he served as viceroy, or colonial ruler, of Ireland. He died in 1805.

AFTERMATH



Peace negotiations took place in Paris, France.



THE ALLIED FORCES HAD ACHIEVED
a hard-won victory over Great Britain. On
February 28, 1782, Great Britain agreed to begin
negotiations to formally end the war. In April,
representatives from America and Great Britain
met in Paris, France, to discuss the terms of peace
for a treaty.



Benjamin Franklin (in background) was among the American negotiators sent to Paris.

The Treaty of Paris

The Americans chose John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay to be their negotiators. The three men had two main goals to accomplish in the treaty. First, Great Britain had to recognize America as a free

A FIRSTHAND LOOK AT THE TREATY OF PARIS

Like many other important historical documents, the original Treaty of Paris is today located at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. You can view it in person or see page 60 for a link to view the document online.

and independent nation. Second, any boundaries preventing American expansion to the west would have to be removed. Borders for the newly formed American nation were set at the Mississippi River to the west, Canada to the north, and Florida to the south. Great Britain kept ownership of Canada and returned

Loyalists were forced out of the country after the war.



A VIEW FROM ABROAD

Most Americans wanted independence. But some people stayed loyal to Great Britain throughout the entire war. Many of the Loyalists were enslaved people who had escaped from their American owners. Many even fought as part of the British military. These Loyalists were treated poorly after the war. Other Americans were unwilling to forgive them for siding with the enemy. About 100,000 Loyalists left America. Most of them moved to Canada or England.





With the war over, American soldiers were able to return to their homes.

Florida back to the Spanish after having gained it in the Seven Years' War.

On September 3, 1783, the American negotiators once again met in Paris. They signed the final version of the Treaty of Paris. The war was officially over. The last British military forces in America left from New York City on November 25.

A Nation Is Born

Each of the 13 colonies had its own laws and government. When the colonies became states, each one continued to govern itself. This principle reflected the ideas in the Declaration of Independence.

Americans would not be governed by faraway rulers. Instead, they would vote for local leaders who could voice their wishes to a central government.

In 1787, leaders from each of the states came together in Philadelphia. They created the U.S.

Constitution. This document organized a federal government in which each state was fairly represented. This document has served the country for more than 200 years. It has continually granted new freedoms and rights to Americans.



Today, it might be difficult to imagine Great Britain and the United States as enemies. The relationship between the two countries was understandably rocky for the first few decades following the Revolutionary War. But they have been close allies since the early 20th century. During World War I (1914–1918), they fought on the same side for the first time. Since then, they have been allies in every major conflict that either has been involved in.

What Happened Where?

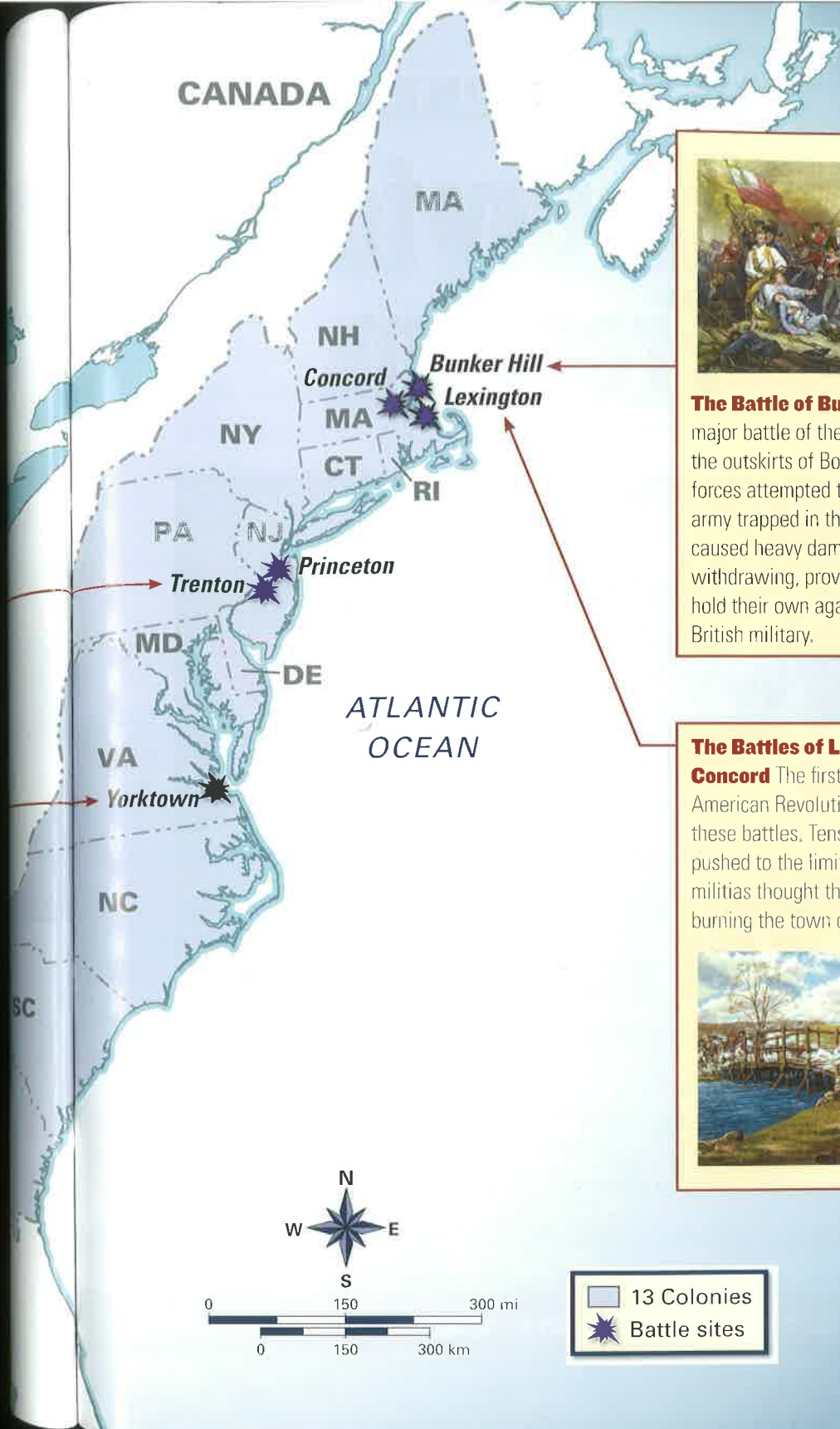


The Battles of Trenton and Princeton After losing several battles in the previous months, George Washington was able to successfully attack the British and bring his army back from the edge of defeat.

The Siege of Yorktown The Siege of Yorktown was the decisive battle of the war. By defeating British general Charles Cornwallis, American and French allies struck a crippling blow to the British military.

GA



SC



The Battle of Bunker Hill The first major battle of the war took place on the outskirts of Boston as the American forces attempted to subdue the British army trapped in the city. The Americans caused heavy damage before withdrawing, proving that they could hold their own against the well-trained British military.

The Battles of Lexington and Concord The first shots of the American Revolution were fired at these battles. Tensions were finally pushed to the limit when the American militias thought they saw British troops burning the town of Concord.



	13 Colonies
	Battle sites

THE STORY CONTINUES

The Cry for Freedom



In 2011, Libyan protestors called for leader Muammar Qaddafi to step down.

In the years since the American Revolution, many other countries have fought for the freedom to govern themselves. Some of these revolutions have been violent,

SEVERAL PROTESTING EGYPTIANS SET

just as the American Revolution was. Others were achieved with the use of more peaceful methods.

In 2011, the people of Egypt rose up in protest against President Hosni Mubarak. Mubarak had ruled the country for almost 30 years. The people voiced their unhappiness with Mubarak's leadership using demonstrations and strikes. He was forced to resign. Similar uprisings occurred in Libya, Tunisia, and other Middle Eastern countries around the same time. Even today, the spirit of revolution is alive.

Protestors in Egypt forced President Hosni Mubarak out of office.



THEMSELVES ON FIRE IN 2011.

INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUALS

Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790) helped write the Declaration of Independence and served as a diplomat in France during the war.

Thomas Gage (1721–1787) was commander in chief of the British army in America from 1763 to 1775.

Samuel Adams (1722–1803) was a politician who helped organize early resistance to British tax laws and later served on the Continental Congress.

Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau (1725–1807) was a French general who helped win the war by joining forces with George Washington at the Siege of Yorktown.

William Howe (1729–1814) was the commander in chief of the British army in America from 1776 to 1778.

Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben (1730–1794) was a German officer hired to train the American forces in proper military tactics.

George Washington (1732–1799) was the leader of the Continental army during the revolution and later became the first U.S. president.



George Washington

Paul Revere (1735–1818) was a patriot from Boston who helped establish spy and messenger networks in the colonies.

John Adams (1735–1826) was a politician who served on the Continental Congress, helped negotiate the Treaty of Paris, and became the second U.S. president.



John Adams

John Hancock (1737–1793) was an American patriot who served in the Continental Congress.

Charles Cornwallis (1738–1805) was a British general whose defeat at Yorktown brought about the end of the war.

King George III (1738–1820) was the king of Great Britain during the American Revolution.

Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826) was an American politician who served in the Continental Congress, helped write the Declaration of Independence, and became the third U.S. president.



Thomas Jefferson

Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette (1757–1834) was a French general who assisted at the Siege of Yorktown.

TIMELINE

1765

March 22
Stamp Act passed

1770

March 5
Boston Massacre

1773

December 16
Boston Tea Party



1777

September 11
Battle of Brandywine
Creek

France enters the war

Spain enters the war

1778

September 19
Battle of Saratoga

1779



1774

September 5
First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia



1775

April 19
Battles of Lexington and Concord

June 15
George Washington appointed commander in chief of the Continental army

June 17
Battle of Bunker Hill

1776

July 4
Second Continental Congress approves the Declaration of Independence

October
Battle of White Plains

December 25
Washington crosses the Delaware River

1780

The Netherlands enters the war

1781

March 15
Battle of Guilford Courthouse

October 19
General Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown

1783

September 3
Treaty of Paris signed

LIVING HISTORY

Primary sources provide firsthand evidence about a topic. Witnesses to a historical event create primary sources. They include autobiographies, newspaper reports of the time, oral histories, photographs, and memoirs. A secondary source analyzes primary sources, and is one step or more removed from the event. Secondary sources include textbooks, encyclopedias, and commentaries.

The Declaration of Independence The declaration is a formal explanation of why the colonies declared independence from Great Britain. The document can be viewed at www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration.html

Joseph Galloway's Plan of Union Pennsylvanian Joseph Galloway suggested the creation of an American parliament. You can see it at <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/v1ch7s3.html>

Paul Revere's Engraving of the Boston Massacre Revere's engraving fueled Americans' anger and was seen by thousands of colonists. The original engraving can be found at www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/ppmsca.01657/

Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States The Continental Congress approved Baron von Steuben's military handbook for use by the army. The book can be viewed at <http://books.google.com/books?id=KjNFAAAAYAAJ&prints=ec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

The Treaty of Paris The treaty formally ended the war between America and Great Britain. A copy of the treaty can be viewed at www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=6#

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- Mara, Wil. *John Adams*. New York: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2008.
- Marston, Daniel. *The American Revolutionary War*. New York: Rosen Publishers, 2011.
- Murphy, Jim. *The Crossing: How George Washington Saved the American Revolution*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2010.

Web Sites

History.com—American Revolution

www.history.com/topics/american-revolution

Watch videos and read more about the American Revolution.

National Park Service—The American Revolution: Lighting Freedom's Flame

www.nps.gov/revwar/about_the_revolution/timeline_of_events.html

Take a look at this timeline of key events.

PBS—Liberty! The American Revolution

www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/

Read about some of the most important battles of the revolution.

GLOSSARY

apprentice (uh-PREHN-tiss) a person learning a skill or trade by working with someone in the profession

colonists (KAH-luh-nists) people who settle in a new land, but continue to be ruled by the government from their old country

debt (DET) money or something else that someone owes

diplomatic (dip-luh-MAT-ik) having to do with relationships between countries

duty (DOO-tee) a tax on imported goods

fortifying (FOR-tuh-fye-ing) making a place stronger

garrisons (GA-ruh-suhnz) groups of soldiers stationed at a fortified location

imported (im-PORT-id) brought in from a foreign country

Loyalists (LOI-uhl-ists) American colonists who remained faithful to Great Britain

militias (muh-LISH-uhz) groups of people who are trained to fight but who aren't professional soldiers

pardons (PARD-uhnz) forgiveness of crimes

repealed (ri-PEELD) officially did away with something

smuggling (SMUHG-uhl-ing) importing goods illegally

sovereignty (SOV-ruhn-tee) the highest power

subjects (SUB-jekts) people who live in a kingdom or under the authority of a king or queen

treason (TREE-zuhn) the crime of betraying one's own country

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