

Teacher-made Study Guide for the AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Advantages of the Americans

- ~ Fighting on their own land, so they knew the land and would fight to protect their homes and families
- ~ Were tough, used to hardships and struggle
- ~ Had support close at hand - civilians, women, spies, and supplies were all right nearby
- ~ Some great leadership - politically (Adams, Franklin, etc.) and militarily (Washington)
- ~ Got help from key allies, especially France
- ~ They believed in their cause, and would fight til the death for it!

BUT... America had no navy, a poor army, little experience, few supplies, and no money

Advantages of the British

- ~ Britain was the world's superpower
- ~ Its military was the best in the world . . . a powerful, well-trained, disciplined and organized army, and the best navy anywhere
- ~ It was an empire, not a struggling, brand new country, so it could buy what it needed
- ~ Britain had its allies, too, in America that didn't agree with the patriots

BUT ... Britain was arrogant and didn't believe America could win. It also had long supply routes (had to ship its supplies and men from home, an ocean away

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Also known as the Revolutionary War
the Revolution
the War for Independence

Dates: 1775-1783

Sides: the British vs. the Americans (colonists)

Winner: the Americans

Started with the Battles of Lexington and Concord
in Massachusetts in April 1775



When things between Britain and the colonists
didn't improve,
the Second Continental Congress wrote the
Declaration of Independence
July 4, 1776



Britain refused to let America become independent,
so all-out war began . . .

Continental Army lost New York to the British and
retreated across New Jersey, across the Delaware River
to Pennsylvania in December, 1776

On December 25-26, 1776, the Continental Army crossed back over the Delaware River and won a victory over the Hessians (Britain's allies) at Trenton. This began . . .



Five long years of battles from Canada to Georgia. George Washington was in command and fought a very "smart" war. Benjamin Franklin got France to join on America's side (Britain and France were long-time, bitter enemies) and bring its navy as well as its resources



France did bring its navy . . . *and Spain!* (France and Spain hated Britain!). Many battles were fought on land and sea with both sides winning at times. Britain is still the more powerful army.



But . . . France and Spain attacked Gibraltar in 1779. Gibraltar is the "gateway" to the Mediterranean Sea and was owned by Britain. Britain had to decide where to put its greatest power and defense . . . Europe or America.



Washington was fighting a great war in America... smart & patient



The British Army under Lord Cornwallis got trapped on the coast of Virginia at Yorktown with Washington's army blocking by land and the French fleet blocking by sea. A siege lasted for about a month until Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, 1781. Britain's prime minister and advisors resigned & the new ones wanted peace with America.



Britain's people & King George III's advisors were turning against a long war in America



Britain knew that staying strong in Europe was more important than holding on to America



Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783 giving America its independence and all the land east of the Mississippi River from Canada to Florida