

# REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Battles

1775 - 1783

# Fort Ticonderoga

- May 10, 1775
- Vermont Militia, “Green Mountain Boys,” led by Ethan Allan, captured the fort & valuable weapons
- 43 cannons & 16 mortars
- Took them to Boston

# 2nd Continental Congress

- Delegates from all 13 colonies met at Philadelphia
- Served as central gov't until 1781
- George Washington was Virginia delegate, also chosen to take charge of Patriot troops

# Continental Army

- Commander-in-chief was Washington
- Group of militia fighting for freedom

# Battle of Bunker Hill

- June 17, 1775
- Actually took place on Breed's Hill
- Battle won by British
- Colonial troops gained confidence
- Casualties:
  - British (1,000)
  - Continental (400)

# Invasion of Canada

- November & December 1775
- St. John's surrendered Nov. 2, 1775 (captured by Schuyler)
- Montreal was captured Nov. 13, 1775 (by Montgomery)
- Defeated at Quebec Dec. 31, 1775 (led by Richard Montgomery & Benedict Arnold)

# Invasion of Canada

- Colonies had hoped Canada would join the fight against Great Britain
- IT DID NOT HAPPEN
- French in Canada were happy with their treatment by Britain

# Boston

- March 1776 - Boston was free from the British
- Drove off General Howe and British with the cannons from Ticonderoga
- Colonials were led by Gen. Knox

# Colonists:

- Loyalists - colonists who remained loyal to Great Britain
- Tories - another name for loyalists, after the political party that supported the king
- Patriots - colonists that supported independence

# Colonists:

- John Adams said of the colonists:
- 1/3 - Loyalists
- 1/3 - Patriots
- 1/3 - Neutral

# Action in Carolinas

- February 1776
- British fleet hoped to conquer Wilmington, N.C. with help from loyalist troops
- Loyalists were defeated at Moore's Creek Bridge

## Carolinas (cont.)

- British then sailed to Charleston, S.C. where they were unsuccessful against a city's defenses made of palmetto logs

# “Common Sense”

- Pamphlet written by Thomas Paine
- Published in January, 1776
- Sold over 120,000 copies
- Promoted independence, very influential
- Said countries should be ruled by laws made by the people instead of those made by the king

# Declaration of Independence

- Resolution introduced by Richard Lee on June 7, 1776
- Approved by Congress July 2, 1776
- Document prepared by a committee of five: 1) Ben Franklin, 2) John Adams, 3) Robert Livingston 4) Roger Sherman 5) Thomas Jefferson

# Declaration of Independence (cont.)

- Thomas Jefferson - main author
- Signed by members of Congress, and independence declared on July 4, 1776
- News of the Declaration of Independence spread to other colonies and Europe

# Declaration of Independence (cont.)

- 1) Declared independence
- 2) Listed colonists' rights
- 3) Listed colonists' complaints against Britain
- 4) Created the "United States of America"

# New York City

- British attacked - July, 1776
- British sent 500 ships and 32,000 soldiers to fight 19,000 troops of the Continental Army
- British won
- Continental Army retreated across New York, New Jersey, and across Delaware River into Pennsylvania by late Sept 1776

## New York (cont.)

- Nathan Hale (of Conn.) caught as a spy in New York and hanged.
- “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”
- Continental Army dwindled down to 5,000 troops, but Howe DID NOT PURSUE. Howe ordered British into winter quarters.

# Mercenaries

- Mercenaries: soldiers who serve for pay in army of foreign country
- Hessians: German mercenaries, many from the state of Hesse in Germany

# Christmas Victory

- Trenton, New Jersey - Dec. 26, 1776
- Surprise attack by Washington's troops
- Famous picture of Washington crossing the Delaware River
- Victory for the Continental Army
- Great for American morale

# Another New Jersey Victory

- 8 days later, another victory of the Continental Army at Princeton, NJ
- Trenton & Princeton - very important in turning the tide in favor of Washington's forces

# British Plan to Split the Colonies

- British planned to invade New York and seize the Hudson valley with troops from 3 areas:
  - 1. Lake Ontario
  - 2. Lake Champlain
  - 3. Howe's troops from New York City

# British Plans in New York

- Gen. Howe messed up the plan by going to Philadelphia first
- Howe's British troops did capture Philadelphia by defeating Washington at the Battle of Brandywine, PA

# Saratoga

- Battle of Saratoga, NY -Sept. to Oct. 17, 1777
- Continental troops of Gen. Schuyler and Gen. Gates defeated the British troops of Gen. Burgoyne at Saratoga, NY
- Burgoyne surrendered Oct. 17, 1777

## Saratoga (cont.)

- Gen. Howe's victory at Brandywine and Philadelphia led to a **MORE SERIOUS BRITISH DEFEAT** at Saratoga

# Saratoga (cont.)

- Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga was the **TURNING POINT** in the War for Independence:
  - 1. Boost for American morale
  - 2. Defeat of major British Army
  - 3. French decided to help in the struggle

# American Allies

- 1778 - Treaty of Alliance signed by USA and France
- Ben Franklin & John Adams led the commission to France
- France contributed: Financial Aid, Equipment, Aid of Naval Fleet, Thousands of Soldiers

# American Allies (cont.)

- 1779 - Spain pledged support to colonies
- 1780 - Netherlands (Holland) joined colonies in their struggle

# Valley Forge

- Valley Forge, PA (winter 1777-1778)
- Located 20 miles from Philadelphia
- Washington's troops spent the winter at Valley Forge
- Poor living conditions: cold, windy, damp, snowy, sickness, lived in tents, no soap, itching, thousands of deserters, lack of supplies, disease, no food

# Valley Forge (cont.)

- By spring of 1778 - only 4,000 troops were left
- Only the tremendous leadership of Washington could recover from this

# Warfare at Sea

- Warfare at sea was a large disadvantage for the USA because they did not have much of a navy
- British had one of the largest and strongest navies in the world

# Warfare at Sea (cont.)

- 1775 Congress authorized formation of navy
- 1779 “Serapis” vs. “Bonhomme Richard” (American)
  - John Paul Jones: “I have not yet begun to fight.”

# Warfare at Sea (cont.)

- Privateers - privately owned vessels built to attack merchant ships (about 2,000)
- Put pressure on British merchants

# War in the West

- (1778-1779) - George Rogers Clark led an expedition against the British west of the Appalachians
- Captured Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Vincennes (Illinois)
- American control west of Appalachians, east of the Mississippi River, north of the Ohio River (area of Northwest Territory)

# Action in New Jersey

- Battle of Monmouth (Clinton vs. Washington)
- British moved to New York City
- Mary Ludwig Hays = Molly Pitcher
  - She brought water to the troops on the front lines

# War in the South

- 1779 - British control of Georgia
- 1780 - Clinton (British) captured Charleston, SC
  - Captured 5,000 American troops
  - Seized many Patriot leaders
- June, 1780 - Clinton turned over command to Charles Cornwallis
  - Clinton went to NY with 4,500 of his troops

# War in the South (cont.)

- Guerrilla Warfare: hit-and-run warfare
- Francis Marion - the “Swamp Fox”
- Kings Mountain, SC - Patriot victory
- Camden, SC - British victory

## War in the South (cont.)

- After Kings Mountain and Camden, Cornwallis led his British Army into Virginia to cut off supplies to Patriots, that were coming into the Carolinas from Virginia

# Problems of Continental Army

- 1780 - Benedict Arnold committed treason
- 1781 - Mutiny by Patriot soldiers at Morristown, NJ

# Surrender at Yorktown

- Cornwallis took his army into Virginia to a peninsula on Chesapeake Bay, at Yorktown.
- George Washington led American troops, and General Rochambeau led French troops from New York to Yorktown. They surrounded Cornwallis on land.

# Battle of Yorktown (cont.)

- A French fleet led by Admiral Francois de Grasse blocked the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay (which kept the British fleet from rescuing Cornwallis)
- Oct. 19, 1781 - Gen. Cornwallis surrendered about 8,000 soldiers & sailors

# Battle of Yorktown (cont.)

- Significance:
  - Last major battle of the war
  - Won by combined armies of French and Americans
  - French navy played a major role
- The war lasted for more than a year after

# Peace Treaty

- Last major battle (Yorktown) Oct. 1781
- Formal negotiations began Sept. 1782
- Treaty of Paris (1783) was signed on Sept. 3, 1783
- Treaty formally approved by American Congress March, 1784

# Treaty of Paris (1783) Terms:

- 1) Great Britain recognized the independence of the United States
- 2) Established US boundaries as Mississippi River (in west), Florida (in south), Great Lakes (in north), Atlantic (in east)

# Treaty of Paris Terms (cont.)

- 3) Great Britain agreed to let US fleets fish the Grand Banks off coast of Newfoundland
- 4) Asked the colonies to return property taken from loyalists

# Women in Revolution

- Main roles during the war:
  - Managed farms and shops
  - Washed, cooked, and sewed for soldiers
  - Nurses for sick and wounded

# Women in Revolution

- 1) Margaret Corbin - badly wounded “manning” a cannon. Awarded a 1/2 pension
- 2) Mary Ludwig Hays - a “water boy” at Battle of Monmouth
- 3) Phyllis Wheatley - an American slave poet

# Women in Revolution (cont.)

- 4) Deborah Sampson - served as an American soldier (won a pension)
- 5) Number 355 - American spy in New York

# African Americans & Native Americans in Revolution

- Blacks at Boston Massacre, Bunker Hill, and at Yorktown (Rhode Island regiment)
- Many Native Americans fought on both sides

# End of War

- Last British troops left New York in November, 1784
- George Washington resigned his commission as commander-in-chief on December 23, 1784
- Congress was now meeting at Annapolis, Maryland