

# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

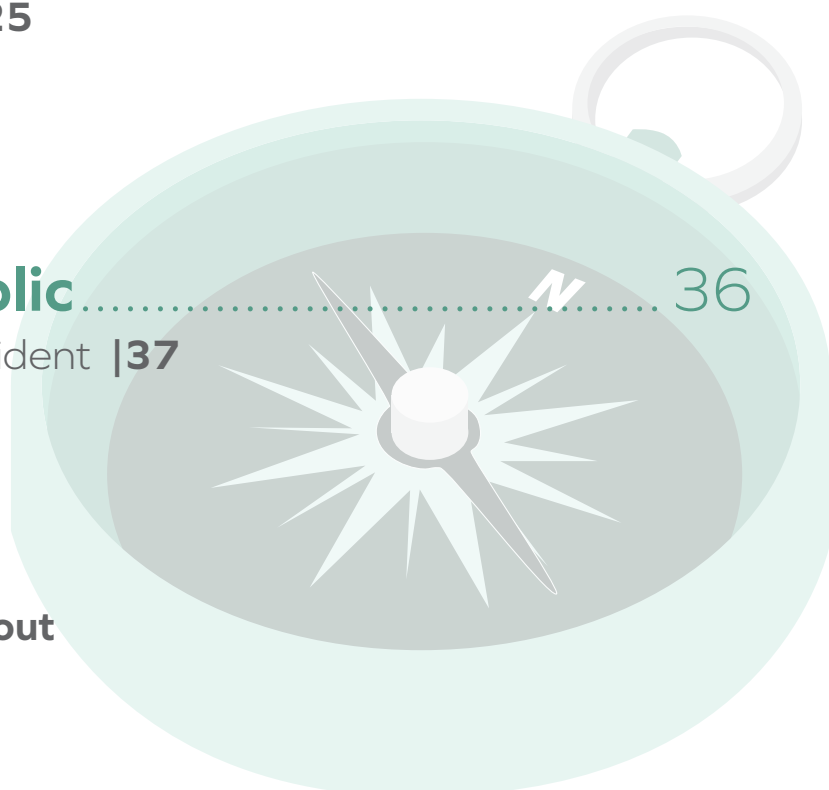
► **5th Grade** | Unit 2

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 502

## A NEW NATION

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# A NEW NATION

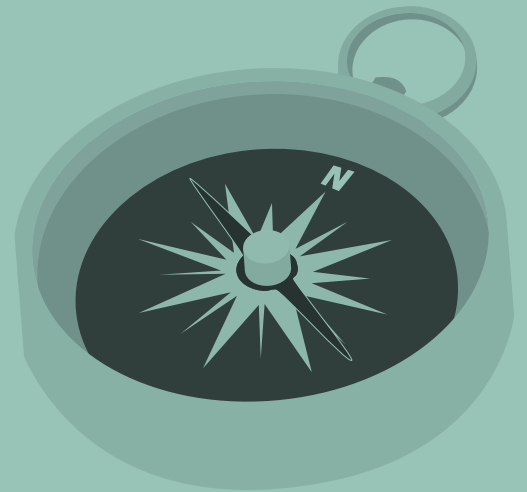
The United States of America was born on July 4, 1776, the day the Declaration of Independence was accepted by Congress. The nation was not really free, however, until after the War for Independence was fought. Americans fought for their freedom for eight long, hard years. They might have given up many times, but they did not. Britain finally granted the United States its independence in 1783 after losing two armies in America.

The war was only the beginning. After it was over, the new nation had to write a constitution that would work. It also had to start up a new government that was not like any other in the world! George Washington, who had led the American army to victory, was chosen as the nation's first president. He started the nation off right by his fairness and firmness in those first years. By God's grace, the nation was born and survived its first years.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK®. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you should be able to:

1. Name the major battles and leaders in the Revolutionary War.
2. Describe the government under the Articles of Confederation.
3. Describe the decisions made at the Constitutional Convention and the government created by the Constitution.
4. Explain how the Constitution became the government of America.
5. Describe the problems and actions of the first president of the United States.
6. Describe life in the United States when the new government began.
7. Describe the beginning of political parties and important events under the second president of the United States.





# 1. WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

The Revolutionary War lasted from 1775 to 1783. It began at Lexington in Massachusetts and ended at Yorktown in Virginia. It was fought all over the colonies.

The British should have won easily. They were a powerful nation with a large army and navy. The United States was a very weak country with a small army that was made up of men from the militia. However, God had His own plans. The British fought very poorly, and the Americans would not give up.

Finally, the French decided to help the Americans. They wanted revenge for the loss of New France. With French help, the Americans trapped and defeated a whole British army. Then, Britain agreed to end the war and give America its independence.

## Objectives

**Review this objective.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Name the major battles and leaders in the Revolutionary War.

## Vocabulary

**Study these new words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAK.

**ally** (al' ī). A nation united with another for some special purpose.

**betray** (bi trā). To be unfaithful or disloyal to.

**cannon** (kan' ən). A big gun supported by wheels or a flat base.

**colonel** (kèr' nl). Officer ranking above a major and below a general.

**promote** (prə mōt). To raise in rank or importance.

**siege** (sēj). The surrounding of a fortified place by an army trying to capture it.

**spokesman** (spōks' mən). A person who speaks for another or others.

**spy** (spī). A person who tries to get information about the enemy, usually in time of war, by visiting the enemy's territory in disguise.

**traitor** (trā' tər). A person who betrays his or her country.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /FH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

## A Bleak Beginning

**Problems.** The Revolutionary War was not a fair fight. The British had many advantages. Britain was one of the most powerful nations on earth in 1775. It had a large army and navy. It had money to hire soldiers from Germany (Hessians). Also, many Americans still did not want independence. They were loyal to the king. These people, called *Tories*, would help the British against the patriots.

Another problem was the American government. The Second Continental Congress took over as a government for all the colonies in 1776, but it had no power. It could not collect taxes, only the state assemblies could do that. (The original thirteen colonies had all become states.) Congress could only ask for money, and they often did not get it. That made it very difficult to pay the soldiers and buy supplies for them. Britain did not have that problem. Its soldiers were better paid and supplied all through the war.

However, the British had some problems too. Their generals were usually noblemen who had paid for their place in the army. Many of them were not good soldiers. They also had to get their orders from Britain which was 3,000 miles (4,839 km) away, across the Atlantic Ocean. There were no telephones. Orders from the British government could take weeks or months to reach a commander in America.

Also, the British had to defeat and control all of the United States! It was a huge land with miles of deep forests where the patriots could hide. These patriots were also fighting for their homes and their freedom. They were led by men who were clever and determined, like George Washington. They would not make it easy for the British.

**Boston.** The American army surrounded Boston after Lexington and Concord. George Washington took command of the army in July of 1775, just after the Battle of Bunker Hill. Washington was a good choice for this job. He was a rich plantation owner from Virginia. He



| The United States in 1776, including the major battles of the Revolutionary War.

had fought in the French and Indian War and the Virginia militia. He was a man that soldiers trusted, and he was a clever fighter. Washington wanted to drive the British out of Boston, but he could not until March of 1776.

A group of patriots called the “Green Mountain Boys,” led by Ethan Allen, had captured Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain in 1775. This was an important fort because the British could invade New York from Canada along the lake. (Roads were really bad in America. Traveling along rivers or lakes was much better.) Also, the patriots captured the fort’s **cannons**. Henry Knox moved almost 60 of these cannons south by sled during the winter of 1775-76. In the



spring, Washington set them up on the hills around Boston. The British realized they were in real danger and left the city.

In the meantime, another American army had captured Montreal, north of Lake Champlain. These men then tried to take Quebec and failed. General Benedict Arnold had been a part of the attack on Quebec. He retreated back to Fort Ticonderoga. In 1776, he defeated a British fleet that tried to retake the fort and the lake.

**New York.** The British army moved from Boston to New York in July of 1776. Washington was defeated at the Battle of Long Island in August, but he and his army escaped. The British also captured two important American forts near New York City. The British army then settled in New York for the winter.

An American soldier named Nathan Hale offered to get information about the British in New York City. He went over to Long Island dressed in regular clothes. He took careful notes and then tried to get back across the bay to Connecticut. He saw a boat coming that he thought might give him a lift. Unfortunately, one of the men on the boat was a member of Hale's family and a Tory. They captured him and gave him to the British. He was hung as a **spy**. He died bravely saying, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country!"

**Washington's surprise.** By the end of 1776, the American army was in trouble. They were camped in the cold outside of New York City in New Jersey, and many of the soldiers wanted to go home. Many had signed up to fight only until the end of the year. Unless George Washington could convince them to stay, he would not have an army after December 31st.

In December Washington planned a surprise for the British. After dark on Christmas night, he and the army crossed the Delaware River. It was bitterly cold, and anyone falling in the river could have died. The water was full of chunks of ice that threatened to tip the small boats. With great skill and daring the army was able to cross the river and sneak up on a Hessian camp at Trenton.

Most of the Hessians were sound asleep.

They had celebrated all day on Christmas. No one was ready for an attack, but that is what happened. The American army came at them

out of the early dawn. It was a complete surprise! In less than an hour, Washington and his men captured a thousand prisoners and many supplies.

The British tried to trap Washington after Trenton; however, Washington was very clever. He had his men leave their campfires burning, and a few men stayed in the camp making noise while the rest of the army snuck away during the night. They attacked and defeated another



| Washington's army crossing the Delaware

group of British soldiers a few miles away at Princeton. These two victories encouraged the Americans. Many new men volunteered to fight and the old ones agreed to stay. Some of them would fight for the entire war.

**Summer 1777.** The next summer went very badly for Washington. The British army in New York marched out and took Philadelphia, which was the capital of the United States at the time. Washington lost two battles trying to stop the British. However, in both battles the Americans fought well, and the army was not captured. The Congress at Philadelphia moved before the British arrived, so they were not captured either. Also, things might have been going badly in Pennsylvania, but they were going very well for the Americans in northern New York.



**Write *true* or *false* on the blank.**

- 1.1** \_\_\_\_\_ British generals were chosen for being good soldiers.
- 1.2** \_\_\_\_\_ Britain had a large army and navy.
- 1.3** \_\_\_\_\_ The American Congress could not collect taxes.
- 1.4** \_\_\_\_\_ It would not be easy for the British to capture all of the United States.
- 1.5** \_\_\_\_\_ Tories were patriots who fought for the Americans.
- 1.6** \_\_\_\_\_ The Green Mountain boys captured Fort Pitt in 1775.
- 1.7** \_\_\_\_\_ Benedict Arnold captured Quebec in 1775.
- 1.8** \_\_\_\_\_ Nathan Hale was a patriot who was hung as a spy.
- 1.9** \_\_\_\_\_ The British captured the American capital in 1777.
- 1.10** \_\_\_\_\_ Washington drove the British out of Boston with cannons taken from Fort Ticonderoga.
- 1.11** \_\_\_\_\_ Ethan Allen captured Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain.
- 1.12** \_\_\_\_\_ Benedict Arnold kept the British from retaking Lake Champlain in 1776.
- 1.13** \_\_\_\_\_ The British army could get its orders quickly and easily.



**Answer these questions.**

- 1.14** What happened at the Battle of Trenton? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.15** Why were the victories at Trenton and Princeton so important to the Americans?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.16** Who said, “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country?” \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## New Hope

**British plan.** The British came up with a good plan for the summer of 1777. They decided to attack New York from three directions. Three British armies would march to Albany in the middle of New York from the south, north, and west. Then the whole state could be captured. That would separate New England from the rest of the United States, making it difficult for the Americans to keep fighting together. It would have been a great victory, if it had worked.



| The British plan to attack New York

General Howe, who was in command in New York City, was supposed to march north. However, he was not sure of his orders, and he took Philadelphia instead. **Colonel** St. Leger came in from the west. However, he stopped when he could not capture Fort Stanwix near the city of Rome, New York. He then turned back when he heard that Washington was sending some soldiers under the command of Benedict Arnold. That meant only the British attack from the north was still going.

**Saratoga.** The British commander of the army from the north was General John Burgoyne. His men called him “Gentleman Johnny.” He liked nice clothes, good food, and parties more than fighting. He insisted on bringing *thirty wagons* full of his own things on his trip through New York.

Burgoyne’s large army was able to recapture Fort Ticonderoga easily on its way south. However, after Lake Champlain, they had to go through the wilderness. The Americans did



| Cannons at Fort Ticonderoga

everything they could to slow him down. They cut down trees in his path and dammed streams so that they flooded. As he slowly moved south, more and more men joined the American army around him. Finally, they fought two battles at Freedman’s Farm in the fall. The British were defeated both times. General Benedict Arnold did a great job for the Americans but was wounded in the leg.

Burgoyne retreated back toward Fort Ticonderoga. However, there was no way he could make it that far. The Americans surrounded him as he tried to rest near Saratoga. He realized it was hopeless and surrendered his army! It was one of the greatest American victories of the war. It was also the *turning point* of the war, the time that things started going better for the Americans.

**France.** Benjamin Franklin had been an important leader in America for years. He was a printer and inventor from Philadelphia. He had been a **spokesman** for the colonies in Great Britain for many years before 1776. He was sent to the Second Continental Congress by Pennsylvania. He was one of a group of men we call the “Founding Fathers,” men who did important work in helping our nation win its freedom and create a new government.

Benjamin Franklin was the American representative in France during the Revolutionary War. He was very popular with the noblemen and their wives there. He had been trying for a long time to get the French to help the Americans as **allies**. He finally succeeded after Saratoga. That victory convinced the French that the Americans would be good allies. They signed a treaty of friendship with the United States early in 1778.

**Valley Forge.** The wonderful news of the victory at Saratoga brought great joy to Washington in Pennsylvania. He had sent Benedict Arnold to Saratoga with some men because he had to stay and keep an eye on General Howe in Philadelphia. As winter set in, Howe stayed comfortably in the capital. Washington and his army, however, had to camp for the winter in nearby Valley Forge.

The winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge was one of the hardest things the American army had to endure during the whole war. They had to build small huts to live in. They did not have enough food, clothes, or shoes. The men were hungry, cold, and sick all winter. Many of them left bloody footprints in the snow from their half frozen, bare feet.

During that awful winter, the patriots had help from Baron von Steuben, a German soldier. All through that winter, he drilled the American soldiers on how to fight. By the spring, the men who lived were much better soldiers because of his training.

The British government was alarmed by news of the alliance between the United States and France. General Howe was ordered to move back to New York after winter ended. Washington tried to stop him. They fought a fierce battle at Monmouth Courthouse, but the British were able to get away safely. The British army moved back to New York City. Washington waited and watched from outside the city for three more long years.



| A cabin at Valley Forge



### Complete these sentences.

- 1.17** The British general who came from the north in to attack Albany in 1777 was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.18** The British plan was for General \_\_\_\_\_ to attack Albany from the south and Colonel \_\_\_\_\_ to attack from the west.
- 1.19** \_\_\_\_\_ was America's representative in France during the Revolutionary War.
- 1.20** Burgoyne surrendered his entire army at \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1.21** General \_\_\_\_\_ was an American hero at the Battles of Freedman's Farm.
- 1.22** The American army survived great suffering in the winter of 1777-78 at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.23** France agreed to become an ally of America after their victory at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.24** General Howe captured the American capital, \_\_\_\_\_, in 1777.
- 1.25** Baron \_\_\_\_\_ helped train the American army at Valley Forge.
- 1.26** In 1778 the British army in Philadelphia moved back to \_\_\_\_\_ and Washington followed them.

## American Victory

**The West.** During the Revolution, the frontier included an area called the Northwest Territory. It was the land north of the Ohio River on the east side of the Mississippi (Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin). There were many American settlers in this area when the war began. The British gave supplies to the Indians and encouraged them to attack the settlers. Something needed to be done to protect these Americans.

George Rogers Clark had an idea. He was a Virginian who had moved to the frontier. He offered to take some men who knew the wilderness and capture the important British

forts in Illinois and Indiana. This would stop the British from getting supplies to the Indians. The government of Virginia agreed and made Clark a Lieutenant Colonel in the militia.

Clark took less than 200 men west with him in 1778, but he knew what he was doing. He and his small, determined band of frontiersmen quickly captured the British forts of Kaskaskia,



| George Rogers Clark 1778 - 79



Cahokia, and Vincennes. The British recaptured Vincennes, but Clark would not let them keep it. He led his men through 180 miles of wilderness, including waist deep swamps, in the middle of winter to recapture the fort. This time, it stayed in American hands until the end of the war. The capture of the forts ended much of the Indian trouble, too.

**Benedict Arnold.** Benedict Arnold of Connecticut had been a great American soldier from the beginning of the war. He helped Ethan Allen capture Fort Ticonderoga, helped in the attempt to invade Canada, defended Lake Champlain in 1776, and was an important reason the Americans won at Freedman's Farm against Burgoyne. However, he was unhappy because he believed he had not been given enough credit for his victories nor **promoted** quickly enough. He also was greedy for money and this led him into a great sin. He **betrayed** his country.

In 1780 Benedict Arnold was in command of West Point, an important American fort in New York. He offered to turn it over to the British for a large amount of money and an officer's job in the British army. However, the man who was carrying messages to the British for Arnold, John André, was captured by the Americans. Arnold fled to the British before he could be arrested. His friends and countrymen were shocked and angered by his actions. Even today when someone is a **traitor** we sometimes call him "another Benedict Arnold."

**The South.** The British decided to try to take the south after failing in New York. At first, they did very well. They captured Savannah, Georgia in 1779 and Charleston, South Carolina in 1780, capturing 5,000 American soldiers! Using Charleston as a base, the British set up forts all over the state. An American army sent south by Congress to stop them was defeated at Camden in 1780.



| Nathanael Greene

Then, things began to change for the better.

First, the British were defeated when they tried to take North Carolina at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780. Second, Congress asked George Washington to name someone to lead an army in the south. He chose Nathanael Greene of Rhode Island. Greene had been raised as a Quaker and had been thrown out of that church when he joined the army (Quakers believe it is wrong to be a soldier). He joined the American army near Boston, after Lexington, and stayed for the rest of the war. Many people believe that only Washington was a better general among the Americans.

Greene realized he could not defeat the British in the south. He decided instead to run them until they quit. He fought battles all around the south in 1780-81. He lost all of them. However, he always killed many of the British and then got away with his army. The British simply could not get rid of him. They chased him and chased him, but he could never be trapped or stopped.

The British kept losing men and supplies. They finally had to give up. By the fall of 1781, the British had withdrawn to the cities, and the south was free again.

**Yorktown.** The battle that ended the war was fought in Virginia. British General Cornwallis had a large army in Virginia in 1781. He was ordered to go to the coast so the navy could pick up the army and move it to New York City; so he moved to Yorktown, on Chesapeake Bay, where the Americans and French trapped him.



| Cornwallis surrender at Yorktown

A large French army under General Rochambeau had come to America to fight with George Washington. A French fleet was also nearby to help them. The French navy blocked off Chesapeake Bay and stopped the British navy from reaching Cornwallis. In the meantime, Washington and Rochambeau left New York City and came south as quickly as they could. They surrounded Cornwallis at Yorktown in the fall of 1781.

The French and American armies laid **siege** to the British camp. The trapped British army finally surrendered in October. They marched out to surrender playing the tune, "The World Turn'd Upside Down." Cornwallis was too proud to surrender in person to the Americans. He pretended he was sick and sent an aide to surrender for him.

This was the last major battle of the Revolutionary War. The government of Britain was tired of fighting. It took two more years, however, for the two sides to agree on terms for ending the war. A treaty of peace was finally signed in Paris in September of 1783 after eight years of war.

**Treaty of Paris.** The Treaty of Paris gave the United States what it wanted. Britain accepted that it was a free and independent country. America was given all of the land east of the Mississippi River north of Spanish Florida and south of Canada. The new nation was even allowed to continue fishing at the Grand Banks and travel freely on the Mississippi River. In return, the Americans were supposed to try to return the land and goods taken from Tories during the war. Also, any money Americans owed to Britain was still supposed to be paid.

Thus, America won its freedom against great odds after a long, hard war. It was done with the help of the French. We could not have won at Yorktown without them. America would never forget that France had been our true friend in that hour. After the victory, however, there were still many problems. They will be discussed in the next section.



**Answer these questions.**

- 1.27** How did Benedict Arnold betray his country? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.28** Who was taking messages from Arnold to the British and what happened to him?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.29** What did George Rogers Clark do to help the Americans? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.30** What two cities did the British capture in the south in 1779 and 1780?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.31** How did the Americans win at Yorktown? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.32** How did Nathanael Greene defeat the British in the south? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.33** In the Treaty of Paris, what land did the U.S. receive?  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
What did the Americans promise to do?  
b. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.34** Did the British accept American independence? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.35** Who was General Rochambeau? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.36** How long did the Revolutionary War last? \_\_\_\_\_



**Review the material in this section to prepare for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your understanding of this section. Any items you miss on this test will show you what areas you will need to restudy in order to prepare for the unit test.

# SELF TEST 1

**Match these people** (each answer, 3 points).

- |              |       |   |                                |
|--------------|-------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>1.01</b>  | _____ | Led the Green Mountain Boys to capture Fort Ticonderoga   | a. George Washington           |
| <b>1.02</b>  | _____ | He and his army were captured at Saratoga   | b. Ethan Allen                 |
| <b>1.03</b>  | _____ | Won a brilliant victory at Trenton after crossing the ice-filled Delaware River                   | c. Nathan Hale                 |
| <b>1.04</b>  | _____ | American patriot, hung as a spy, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." | d. Benedict Arnold             |
| <b>1.05</b>  | _____ | Patriot turned traitor  | e. "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne |
| <b>1.06</b>  | _____ | Captured British forts in the Northwest Territory   | f. Benjamin Franklin           |
| <b>1.07</b>  | _____ | Drilled the American army at Valley Forge   | g. Baron von Steuben           |
| <b>1.08</b>  | _____ | French general who fought with Washington   | h. Nathanael Greene            |
| <b>1.09</b>  | _____ | America's representative in France  | i. General Rochambeau          |
| <b>1.010</b> | _____ | British general, lost his army at Yorktown  | j. General Cornwallis          |
| <b>1.011</b> | _____ | American general who freed the south by exhausting the British                                    | k. George Rogers Clark         |
| <b>1.012</b> | _____ | Captured by the Americans while carrying messages between a traitor and the British               | l. John André                  |

**Name the item or event** (each answer, 4 points).

- 1.013** America's ally in the Revolutionary War \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.014** Name the first and last battles of the Revolutionary war:  
 a. First \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Last \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.015** The name for Americans loyal to Britain \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.016** The cannons used to drive the British out of Boston came from Fort \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.017** The Americans in New York captured an entire army here after two victories at Freedman's Farm \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.018** Place of suffering for the American army in the winter of 1777-78 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.019** German soldiers hired to fight for the British \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.020** Congress that became the first government for the United States \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.021** The capital of the United States during the Revolution \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.022** British allies who attacked Americans on the frontier \_\_\_\_\_

**Write true or false on the blank** (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.023** \_\_\_\_\_ The British government had more money than the Americans during the war.
- 1.024** \_\_\_\_\_ British soldiers could get their orders from Britain quickly and easily during the war.
- 1.025** \_\_\_\_\_ The British army captured most of the American Congress when it took the nation's capital in 1777.
- 1.026** \_\_\_\_\_ America gained an important ally in Europe after the Battle of Camden.
- 1.027** \_\_\_\_\_ The Treaty of Paris gave the United States only the land east of the Appalachian Mountains.
- 1.028** \_\_\_\_\_ Americans promised to pay their debts to the British in the Treaty of Paris.

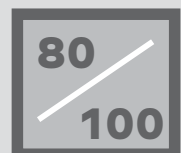
- 1.029** \_\_\_\_\_ Nathanael Greene won almost all of his battles in the south.
- 1.030** \_\_\_\_\_ The British had a large army and navy to use in the war.
- 1.031** \_\_\_\_\_ The new government of the United States had the power to raise taxes only to pay for the war.
- 1.032** \_\_\_\_\_ Many of the men in the American army agreed to stay after the victory at Trenton.

**Teacher check:**

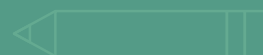
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