

The image features a central black scroll-shaped frame with white decorative flourishes. Inside the frame, the words "American Revolution" are written in a white, dotted, serif font. The background is a collage of patriotic-themed patterns: a banner at the top with yellow, red, and grey segments (some with white polka dots or gold glitter), a red horizontal band, and a bottom section with a red and grey zigzag pattern and red glitter.

American
Revolution

Vocabulary

1. Revolt
2. Heckling
3. Militia
4. Patriots
5. Loyalist
6. Enlisting
7. Continental Congress
8. Commander in chief
9. Parliament
10. Patriot
11. Enlisting
12. Treaties

REVOLTI!

Have your parents ever asked you to do something, and you REALLY didn't want to do it? If this has happened to you before, then you have an idea of how Great Britain's 13 American colonies felt in the 1700's...

Background Information

Since 1607, people had been leaving the motherland to come to America for a variety of reasons which included:

1. Religious freedom
2. Economic gain
3. A new life

While many of these colonists had their differences with Britain, most still considered themselves loyal subjects of the crown.

The Fuel for the Fire

Starting around 1763, after the French and Indian War, conflict increased between Britain and the colonies. Great Britain had fought the war to drive the French from the continent and had come away victorious, but with HUGE war debts.

The Argument

*Parliament felt the colonies should help pay the war debts.

However, the Americans resisted, claiming that they should not be taxed because they had no representation in Parliament. The American colonist wanted to have some say in the government if they were going to pay taxes.

REVOLT!

War didn't happen right away. First there were protests and arguments. Then some small skirmishes between the colonists and the local British army. Things just got worse and worse over the course of years until the colonies and Great Britain were at war.

A plan that failed...

The British offered a plan to let the colonists elect representatives to Parliament, but the colonists rejected the plan. The colonists believed that they would never have enough votes to wield any real power. This caused conflict between the colonists and Britain to escalate until an armed revolt broke out on April 19, 1775.

Planning for Battle

In Boston, people kept the colonists in a constant state of agitation against British rule. Groups of armed colonists prepared to fight if necessary. They stored gun powder and other supplies in Concord, which was a village northwest of Boston.

Revolutionary War Timeline

1. **Battle of Lexington & Concord**
April 9, 1775
British soldiers quietly marched out of Boston. When they arrived in Lexington, the minutemen were waiting. As they faced each other, a shot rang out and the revolution began

4. **Evacuation**
March 17, 1776
The British evacuate Boston, taking a thousand Loyalists with them to Nova Scotia.

2. **Continental Congress Meets**
May 1775
The continental congress meets in Philadelphia to draw up war plans. It establishes an army and appoints George Washington commander-in-chief.

5. **The Declaration**
July 4, 1776
The Declaration of Independence is signed in Philadelphia

3. **Battle of Bunker Hill**
June 17, 1775
The Americans make a bold stand in Charlestown, Massachusetts. The British win the battle, but they suffer huge casualties.

6. **Defeat**
August 1776
The British gain control of New York City after defeating Washington's troops.

Revolutionary War Timeline

7. Washington's Surprise

December 25-26, 1776

Washington & some 400 poorly equipped soldiers cross the Delaware River & surprise the British & their Hessian mercenaries at Trenton, New Jersey, giving the Americans new hope.

8. Brandy Wine Creek

August 1777

British general Howe defeats Washington's troops at Brandy Wine Creek & Germantown, PA. The proceed to capture Pennsylvania.

9.

Saratoga

October 17, 1777

British General Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga, New York, ending a British effort to separate New England from the other colonies. **Turning point in the war!**

10. Treaty Signing

February 1778

The Americans sign military & political treaties with France, bringing Britain's longtime enemy into the war on their side.

11. Valley Forge Winter

Winter 1778

Washington & his troops spend an extremely harsh winter at Valley Forge, Pa.

12. Neither Side Wins

June 28, 1778

A clear victory at the Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey, but the British give up on holding the North and turn their attention to the South, where there are more Loyalists.

Revolutionary War Timeline

13 **British Gain Control**
1780
They gain control of Georgia & South Carolina, but fail to take North Carolina. British General Cornwallis fights his way to Yorktown, Virginia.

14 **A French Defeat**
1781
A French fleet defeats British ships coming to Cornwallis's aid and enters Chesapeake Bay, bottling up Cornwallis at Yorktown.

15 **A Surrender**
October 19, 1781
Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown.

16 **Peace Treaty**
September 3, 1783
The British and Americans sign a peace treaty at Paris, France.

17 **The End is here**
November 1783
The Continental Army is officially disbanded.

The Boston Massacre



The Date

March 5, 1770

The Place

Boston Massachusetts

Who was Involved?

A group of colonists vs British soldiers

The Tragic Event

A group of colonists began heckling some British soldiers who were guarding the customhouse. The mob threw snowballs, rocks, and chunks of ice. The soldiers began to retaliate with gunfire! 5 Colonists were killed.

The Aftermath

The future president, John Adams successfully defended the British soldiers against a murder charge. He argued that they had been provoked by an unruly mob of "rabble-rousers."

A Soldier's Life

A soldier's choices

Patriots who wanted to fight had the option of enlisting in 2 different places.

1. Washington's Continental Army
2. State militia

Enlisting

- *Boys as young as 14 could enlist with their parents permission.
- *There was no upper age limit.

Minutemen

These were special groups of militia formed prior to the Revolution.

They were ready to respond to a British attack **"in a minute."**

Loyalists

These were colonists who remained **"loyal"** to Great Britain.

- *They either joined the British army, or formed their own militias.

Continental Soldier vs British Soldier

Continental Soldier

1. They were in the continental army
2. Had to provide their own shirts, breeches, socks, and shoes.



British Soldier

1. Well dressed
2. Called redcoats because of the color of their jackets.



The Role of the Women

The army was closed to women, but a few disguised themselves as men and joined.

About 20,00 patriot women followed their husbands to war. They cooked, did laundry, and nursed the sick.

They had to take care of the financial needs, as well as protect themselves and their children when enemy soldiers were in the area.

They had to take on the mans job of planting and harvesting. They had to provide their families as well as the army with food from their farms.

Nonfarming women sometimes took over their husbands businesses.

Both loyalist and patriot women began to spy on their enemy to help their men.

Review Questions

1. What issue caused tension between the government and the colonies?
2. What was the battle that set off the beginning of the war?
3. What caused the massacre to occur in Boston?
4. What were minutemen?
5. What were the 2 armies that fought against each other in the Revolutionary War?
6. What date was the Declaration of Independence signed?
7. What event was called the “turning point of the war?” When and where did this take place?

Review Questions

8. When and where was the peace treaty signed between the British and Americans?

9. What was a Loyalist?

10. What were the age qualifications on who could enlist in the army?

11. Describe a difference between a continental army soldier and a British soldier.

1. What were women expected/asked to do during the war? Give at least 2 examples.