

The American Revolution

Both sides of this conflict expected the Revolutionary War to be very short lived.

- Many Patriots thought they just needed a few quick victories.
- John Adams predicted a much lengthier war.
- The deck was stacked against the colonists.

British Strengths

World's strongest navy
Experienced army
Vast wealth
High population

Colonial Weaknesses

Lacked a regular army
Weak navy
Inexperienced soldiers
Weapons/ammo were short in supply
Divided population

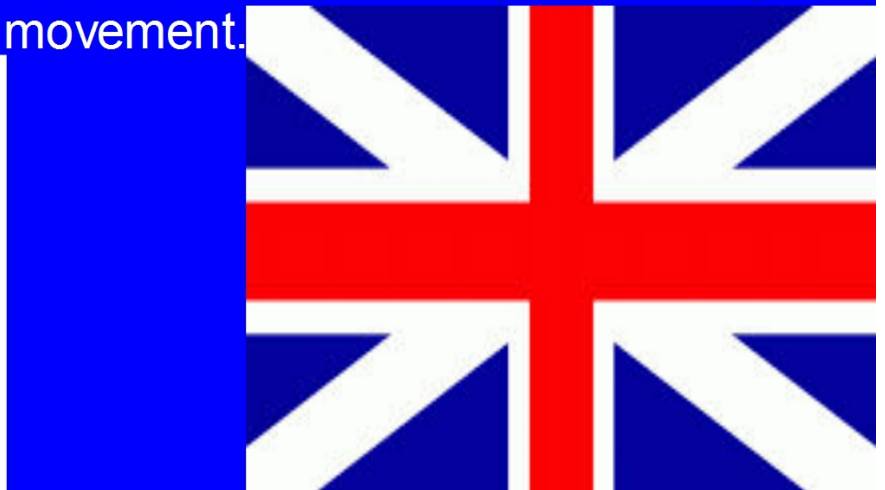
Loyalists vs. Patriots

Loyalists, or Tories, were Americans who remained loyal to Britain.

-High in number...somewhere between 1/5 and 1/3 of the population.

-Support for the British was higher in the southern colonies than the New England colonies...why?

Reasons to be a Loyalist: Member of the Anglican Church, feared disorder, depended on the British for a job, or disagreed with the independence movement.



Loyalists vs. Patriots

Some African Americans were Loyalists too...the British offered freedom in exchange for military service.

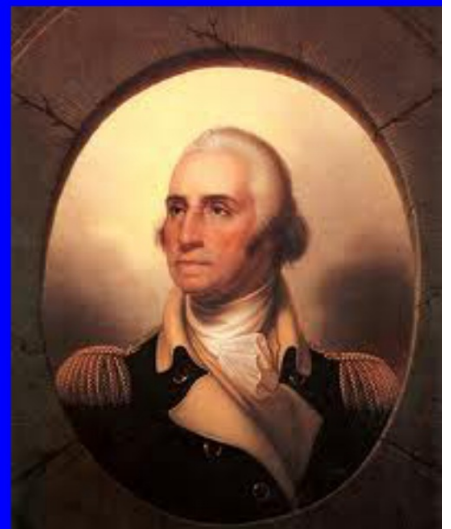
-The Americans did have a few advantages

-Home field advantage

-Fighting for a purpose

-The British relied on mercenary soldiers (Hessians)

-George Washington



Raising an Army

The Continental Congress had difficulty raising an army.

-The militia was not enough, so the Continental Army was established.

-George Washington was very instrumental in this process.

-It was difficult to find officers for the Army as well.

-Women, such as Margaret Corbin, Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley, and Deborah Sampson joined the war effort too.



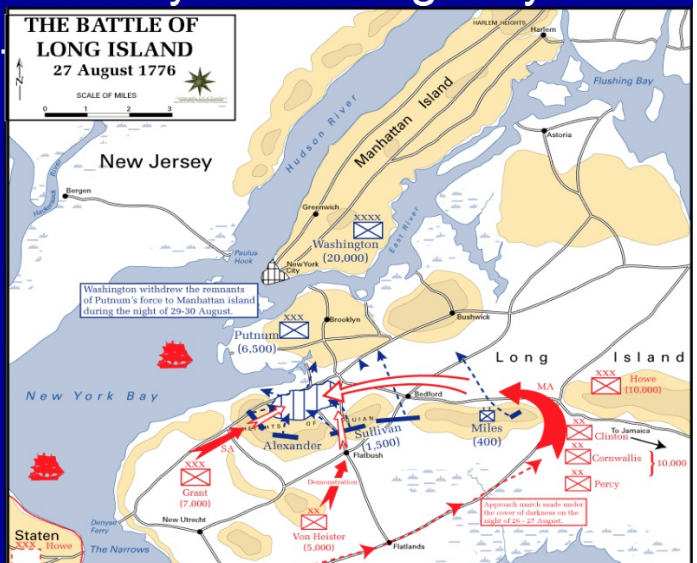
Battle of Long Island

The British were in need of a big victory.

-In 1776, they sent 32,000 soldiers to New York under General William Howe.

-Washington had less than 20,000 soldiers, but engaged the British in fighting anyway. They were crushed by the British at the Battle of Long Island.

-Nathan Hale gave his life for his country...was caught by the British spying for the Americans.



Early Troubles

The Patriot forces dwindled from 1776-1777

-Washington is fearful that the War will be lost.

-He pleads with the Continental Congress to allow African Americans to fight in the War.

-Many states began to allow African Americans to fight

-An estimated 5,000 African Americans fought with the Patriots.



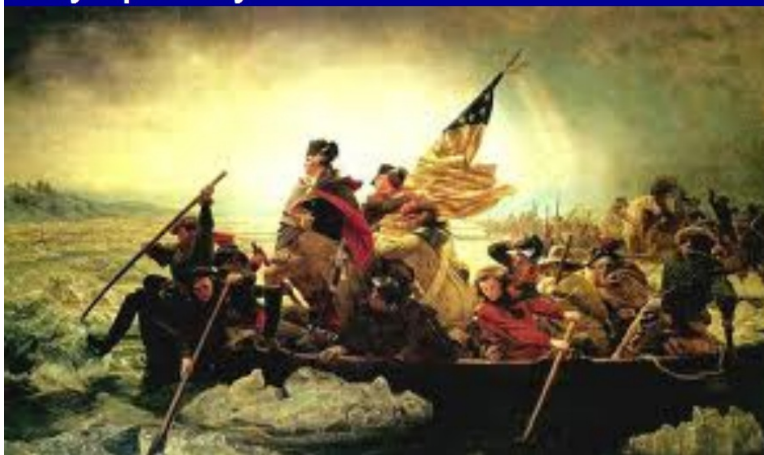
Washington Seizes an Opportunity

The British had decided to leave some troops in Princeton and Trenton, New Jersey. However, their bulk remained in New York.

-Washington was in Philadelphia, across the Delaware River from the British.

-On Christmas night, Washington crossed the river with his troops.

-The Hessians were caught off guard, and they surrendered very quickly.



The British Attempt to Respond

Obviously very frustrated over the defeat at Trenton, the British sent more forces, commanded by Lord Cornwallis to attack Washington. However, he evaded them.

- Washington ordered his men to light fires and dig trenches.
- His forces were able to circle around the advancing British forces, and drove them from New Jersey.



War in the West

Some Native Americans sided with the Patriots, but many sided with the British...they weren't as big of a threat.

-Fighting in the West was brutal...Joseph Brant led attacks in New York and Pennsylvania.

-The Patriots did have some success. They were able to seize Kaskaskia and Vincennes in Indiana. These attacks were led by George Rogers Clark.



Battles at Sea

The British Navy ran a successful blockade of the American coast.

-Prevented supplies and reinforcements from reaching the colonies.

-The Congress allowed 2,000 ships to sail as privateers.

-John Paul Jones was very successful in raiding the British.

-Captained a boat called Bonhomme Richard, fought the Serapis.



Futher Complications

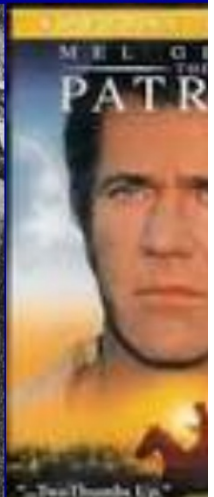
General Henry Clinton began taking control of the South.

-The British controlled much of Georgia, and set their sites on South Carolina.

-Charlestown surrendered, and General Charles Cornwallis was left in charge.

-However, he was suffering from guerilla warfare tactics that they were not accustomed to.

-One of the guerilla leaders was Francis Marion, known as the Swamp Fox.



British Retreat

Cornwallis was suffering high numbers of casualties throughout the South.

-Began to move North to Virginia.

-Sets up camp at Yorktown and awaits orders.

-The French are on their way to help the Patriots.

-Washington changed his plans to go to New York, heading to Yorktown instead.



The British Surrender

Washington and French commander Comte de Rochambeau began to march south to Yorktown.

-Met by Lafayette's troops, as well as Francois de Grasse French naval fleet.

-Surrounded the British at Yorktown

-October 9th, 1781-The French and Americans began bombarding the British.

-October 19th-Cornwallis surrenders, the Patriots take 8,000 prisoners and capture 200 guns.



Yorktown, Virginia

October 19, 1781

YORKTOWN IS WON!

Cornwallis' Sword is Delivered to American Forces

"The World Turned Upside Down"

Treaty of Paris-1783

1. United States is Free
2. Established the boundaries between American and the British.
3. Fair treatment of loyalists
4. Prisoners of War are exchanged.

