American Revolution Study Guide

• Causes of the Revolutionary War
  • French and Indian War:
    ▪ Great Britain and Colonists vs. French and Native Americans
    ▪ Great Britain won the war but was left with a lot of debt, which they expected the colonists to help pay.
  • Proclamation of 1763: ordered colonists not to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains.
  • Taxation without Representation: forcing people to pay taxes when they have no say in making the law that created the tax.
  • Stamp Act: A law passed by Parliament (the lawmaking part of the British government), forcing colonists to pay a tax on all printed papers (pamphlets, licenses, newspapers, playing cards, etc.)
  • Quartering Act: A law that forced colonists to allow British soldiers to stay in their homes, and provide them with supplies needed.
  • Boston Massacre: a disagreement between a group of colonists and British soldiers led to colonists throwing ice and snow at the soldiers. The soldiers fired into the angry crowd, killing 5 colonists.
  • Tea Act: forced colonists to only buy tea from the British East India Tea Company.
    ▪ Many colonists decided to boycott (protest by refusing to buy) British goods that were taxed.
  • Boston Tea Party: In protest of the Tea Act, the Sons of Liberty (a group of colonists who met to talk and act against the taxes) dressed up as Mohawk Indians and dumped tea into the Boston Harbor.
  • Intolerable Acts: (also called the Coercive Acts) a series of laws passed by Parliament to punish the colonists for the Boston Tea Party.

• Loyalists and Patriots
  • Loyalist: wanted to remain loyal to the King.
  • Patriot: colonists who opposed independence and wanted the colonies to remain under the control of the King and Great Britain.
    ▪ Benjamin Franklin: a famous patriot, who was an inventor from Pennsylvania who represented the colonies in Britain and tried to get colonists more fair treatment.

• Declaration of Independence
  • Common Sense: a booklet written by Thomas Paine that convinced many colonists to declare Independence.
  • The Second Continental Congress met and chose George Washington to be the leader of the Continental Army. They also appointed a committee of 5 men to write a Declaration of Independence.
  • The Declaration of Independence was a document first drafted by Thomas Jefferson. It declared freedom (another word for freedom is liberty) from Great Britain. The
document said that all men are created equal, and explained why the colonists deserved to free themselves from British rule.

- **Independence**: freedom from control of another country.
  - The Declaration of Independence was signed on **July 4, 1776** (we celebrate this date each year as Independence Day)
  - **Revolutionary War**
    - **Revolution**: overthrowing one government and replacing it with another.
      - **Continental Army**
        - Led by General **George Washington**.
        - Made up of volunteers (mostly farmers, merchants, and workers)
        - **Minute Men** (ready to fight at a minute’s notice)
        - Used “hit and run” tactics.
        - Fought a defensive war.
        - Used Guerilla tactics to frighten and discourage the British.
        - More determined to win, and were more familiar with the land.
      - **British Army**
        - Included British, Native Americans, Loyalists, and mercenaries.
        - Preferred to fight face to face.
        - Larger, professional army.
        - Far from home, and not as motivated to win.
  - **Battles of Lexington and Concord**:
    - **Paul Revere** made a famous ride to warn the colonists that the British were coming before these battles.
    - First battle was at Lexington (British victory)
    - Second battle at Concord (colonist victory)
  - **Battle of Saratoga**: Turning point of the War.
  - **Valley Forge**: this was the point where the colonists were closest to defeat. Many died from the freezing conditions and disease.
  - **Battle of Yorktown**: last major battle of the Revolutionary War.
  - **Treaty of Paris**: ended the Revolutionary War and recognized the United States as a new country.
    - **Treaty**: a formal agreement between two or more countries.