

Chapter **7** Section 1 (pages 193–199)

# The Early Years of the War

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last chapter, you read about the events that led the colonies to declare independence from Britain.

In this section, you will read how Americans were forced to choose whether to support the Patriots or the British.

## AS YOU READ

Use this chart to take notes on the early battles in the Revolutionary War.

Battle	Date	Outcome

## TERMS & NAMES

**George Washington** The commander of the Continental Army

**mercenary** A professional soldier hired to fight for a foreign country

**strategy** An overall plan of action

**rendezvous** A meeting

**Battles of Saratoga** The series of conflicts that led to the surrender of the British general Burgoyne and his troops at Saratoga

## Americans Divided; Creating an Army

(pages 193–195)

**What** difficulties did George Washington face as commander of the Continental Army?

The issue of separating from Great Britain split Americans. Between 20 and 30 percent were Loyalists. About 40 to 45 percent were Patriots. The rest were *neutral*. Patriots and Loyalists came from all walks of life. Both sides came from all parts of America. New England and Virginia had many Patriots. Northern cities and the South had many Loyalists. The war also divided Native Americans and African Americans.

In 1775, **George Washington** took command of the Continental Army. It was hard for him to raise an army. At first, the Continental Army was formed from state *militias*. These were made up of untrained

volunteers. Later, men enlisted in the army. At first, their terms of service were short. Congress did not give the army enough supplies.

Martha Washington and other women helped the army. They cooked, did laundry, and nursed sick or wounded soldiers. Some women, like Mary Hays—called “Molly Pitcher”—helped fight. Washington’s main goal for his army was to survive. He needed to win some battles and avoid a big defeat.

### 1. Why was George Washington’s job as commander of the Continental Army difficult?

## Struggle for the Middle States

(pages 195–196)

### *How did the Continental Army attract new recruits?*

One British goal was to conquer cities on the coast. That way, their navy could bring them troops and supplies. Then they would march inland.

In July 1776, Britain's General William Howe arrived in New York with a large army. It included Hessian **mercenaries**, or soldiers hired to fight for a foreign country. The two armies fought to take New York. By December, the American army had to retreat. It crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. The winter weather was hard on the badly supplied Americans. The soldiers' spirits were low. Thomas Paine wrote pamphlets urging them to keep fighting.

George Washington wanted a quick victory. On December 25, he led his troops back across the Delaware River. They surprised and defeated the Hessians at Trenton. The Americans gained needed supplies. They won again at Princeton a few days later. This showed that Washington was a good general. His army began to attract new *recruits*.

### 2. What was the result of the Continental Army's early victories?

## Britain's Strategy; Battles Along the Mohawk

(pages 196–198)

### *What was the British army's overall plan of action in the Revolutionary War?*

The British had a **strategy**, an overall plan of action. It was to seize the Hudson River valley so they could cut off New England from other states. The plan called for three British armies to meet at Albany, New York. Burgoyne and his troops would come from Canada. St. Leger and his troops would come from Lake Ontario. Howe and his troops would come from New York City.

Burgoyne had problems that slowed his journey to Albany. Yet, he still looked forward to the **rendezvous**, or meeting, with the others. But Howe decided to try to capture Philadelphia and George Washington. He defeated Washington and took Philadelphia. But he did not capture Washington. Nor did he go to Albany.

St. Leger's troops included Iroquois led by the Mohawk chief Joseph Brant. On their way to Albany, St. Leger's army tried to capture Fort Stanwix. It was in the Mohawk River valley in New York. In August 1777, American general Benedict Arnold led a small army up the Mohawk River. To scare the British, Arnold spread a rumor that he had a large army. St. Leger believed the rumor and fled quickly. He left behind cannon and supplies. He did not go to Albany.

### 3. What was the British strategy in the Revolutionary War?

## Saratoga: A Turning Point

(pages 198–199)

### *Why did Benedict Arnold betray the Americans?*

Burgoyne's army was running out of supplies. A raiding party went to see what it could find. New England troops beat the raiders at the Battle of Bennington. It took place in August of 1777. Even so, Burgoyne's army headed toward Albany. On the way, it met an American army led by General Gates. They met near Saratoga, New York. There, the Americans had built **fortifications**. Burgoyne's army tried to break through so it could go on to Albany. At the same time, General Arnold led an attack on the British at a nearby farm. But he didn't defeat them.

A few weeks later, Arnold led more charges against the British. The Americans forced Burgoyne's forces to retreat. The British went to a former camp at Saratoga. The Americans surrounded them and fired on them day and night. Burgoyne surrendered. This series of conflicts is called the **Battles of Saratoga**.

Saratoga had two results. Arnold felt that Congress had not given him enough reward for his actions. He grew bitter. He also married a Loyalist wife. In time, he became a **traitor** to the American army. Also, the victory at Saratoga was a turning point in the war. It caused European nations to think that the Americans might win. Several nations decided to help America.

### 4. Why did Benedict Arnold turn traitor?

## The War Expands

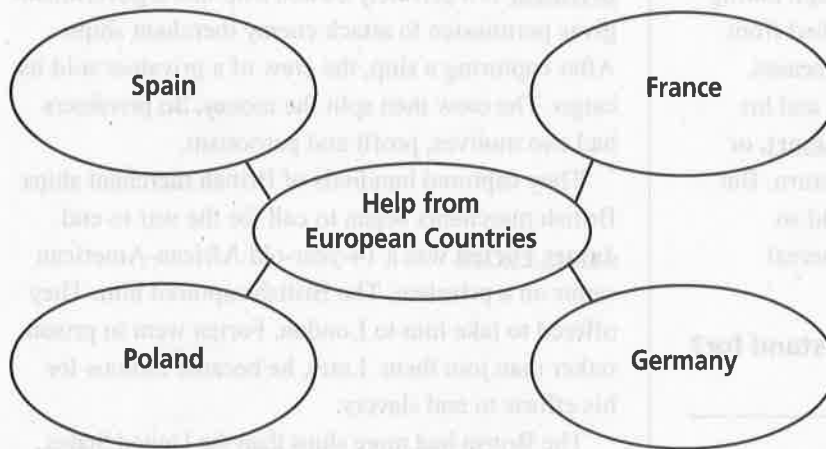
### BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about early battles in the Revolutionary War.

In this section, you will learn why and how the Revolutionary War spread to the sea and the frontier.

### AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on how European allies helped the Americans during the Revolutionary War.



### Help from Abroad; Europeans Help Washington (pages 200–202)

**How** did the Europeans help the American army?

In the fall of 1776, Congress sent Benjamin Franklin to Paris. His job was to ask France to become an **ally** of the United States. An ally is a country that agrees to help another country achieve a common goal. France was bitter over losing the French and Indian War. The French wanted *revenge* against Britain. So they decided to help the American colonies gain their freedom.

News of the victory at Saratoga reached France. Then France agreed to become America's ally. The French king recognized U.S. independence. He signed two treaties of alliance with the United States. France sent funds, supplies, and troops to America.

In 1779, France persuaded its ally, Spain, to help the Americans, too. The Spanish governor of Louisiana captured Natchez and Baton Rouge. These were British forts in the Mississippi Valley. Then his army took

Mobile. In 1781, it took Pensacola in West Florida.

By entering the war, France and Spain forced the British to fight several enemies on land and sea. The British had to station troops in many places. Spain gained new land for its empire in North America.

Several army officers from Europe helped America. The **Marquis de Lafayette** was a French nobleman who served in Washington's army. He commanded an army division. He fought many battles. His men loved him because he shared their hardships and bought them warm clothes. He also persuaded the French king to send French troops to help the United States.

The Germans Baron de Kalb and Baron von Steuben also helped the American army. Kalb died fighting for the Americans. Steuben taught American soldiers how to march. He also taught the use of weapons, such as the **bayonet**, a long knife attached to the end of a gun.

### TERMS & NAMES

**ally** A country that agrees to help another country achieve a common goal

**Marquis de Lafayette** A French nobleman who volunteered to serve in Washington's army

**bayonet** A long steel knife attached to the end of a gun

**desert** To leave military duty without intending to return

**privateer** Privately owned ship that a wartime government gives permission to attack an enemy's merchant ships

**James Forten** A 14-year-old African-American sailor who later became famous for his efforts to end slavery

**John Paul Jones** Continental officer and commander of the *Bonhomme Richard* who won the most famous sea battle of the war

### 1. In what ways did the Europeans help Washington's army?

#### Winter at Valley Forge (pages 202–203)

##### Why was Valley Forge important?

In late 1777, Britain's General Howe forced Washington to retreat from Philadelphia. That winter, Washington and his army camped at Valley Forge. They were short on supplies. The men suffered very much. Because of that, Valley Forge stands for the great hardships the Americans lived through during the war. At Valley Forge, many soldiers died from *malnutrition*, exposure to the cold, and diseases.

In spite of the hard times, Washington and his soldiers did not quit. Some soldiers did **desert**, or leave military duty without planning to return. But most of the army stayed together. They did so because they loved their country and General Washington.

### 2. What did Valley Forge come to stand for?

#### War on the Frontier (pages 203–204)

##### What did George Rogers Clark do in the Revolutionary War?

In 1777, a 24-year-old man named George Rogers Clark wanted to defend the Western *frontier* from the British. He persuaded the governor of Virginia that he was right. Clark raised an army. He and his men captured British posts in the West. They captured Kaskaskia on the Mississippi River. Then they took a fort at Vincennes in present-day Indiana. Clark's victories gave Americans a hold on a large region. It stretched between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River.

### 3. How did George Rogers Clark defend the Western frontier?

#### War at Sea; A Naval Hero (pages 204–205)

##### What role did privateers play in the Revolutionary War?

By 1777, there was war at sea. Britain had about 100 warships off the American coast. This let Britain control the Atlantic trade routes. But American privateers attacked British merchant ships. A **privateer** is a privately owned ship that a government gives permission to attack enemy merchant ships. After capturing a ship, the crew of a privateer sold its cargo. The crew then split the money. So privateers had two motives, profit and patriotism.

They captured hundreds of British merchant ships. British merchants began to call for the war to end. **James Forten** was a 14-year-old African-American sailor on a privateer. The British captured him. They offered to take him to London. Forten went to prison rather than join them. Later, he became famous for his efforts to end slavery.

The British had more ships than the United States. Even so, the Continental Navy scored many victories against Britain. **John Paul Jones** was a U.S. officer who commanded the *Bonhomme Richard*. He won the most famous sea battle of the war. He defeated a larger British warship. Jones's success against the best navy in the world made the British angry. But it inspired Americans.

### 4. How did privateers help the Americans in the Revolutionary War?

Chapter **7** Section 3 (pages 206–210)

# The Path to Victory

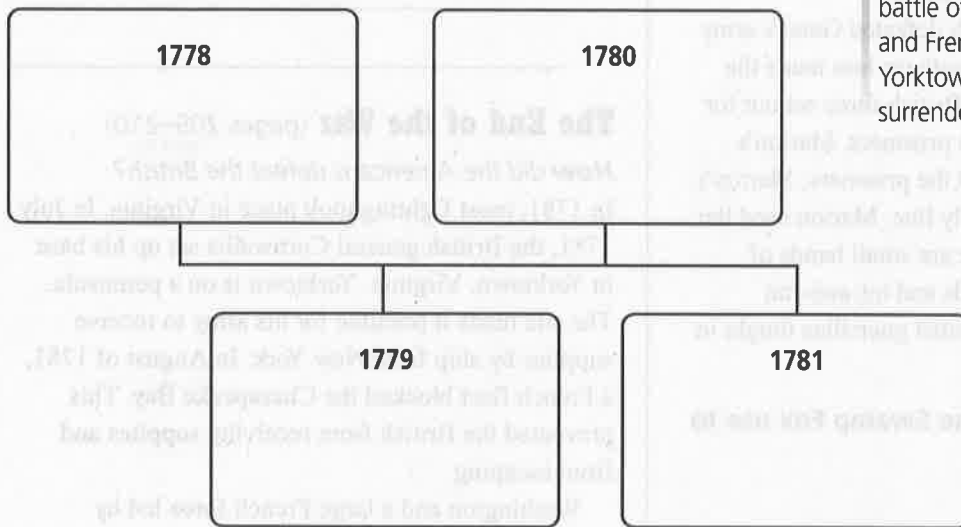
## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about how the Revolutionary War expanded to the frontier and the sea.

In this section, you will read how the Americans won the Revolutionary War.

## AS YOU READ

Use this time line to take notes on the Revolutionary War in the South.



## TERMS & NAMES

**Lord Cornwallis** British general who led an army in Camden, South Carolina

**guerrillas** Small bands of fighters who weaken the enemy with surprise raids and hit-and-run attacks

**pacifist** Opposed to war

**Battle of Yorktown** The last major battle of the war, in which American and French troops bombarded Yorktown and forced Cornwallis to surrender his army.

## Savannah and Charles Town

(pages 206–207)

### What caused the British to invade the South?

The British believed that most Southerners were Loyalists. So in 1778, the British decided to invade the South. After three years of fighting, the British had not won the war. They had captured many Northern cities. But they could not control the countryside. The British thought that if they gained territory in the South, Southern Loyalists would hold it for them.

There were two other reasons the British moved the war to the South. They expected large numbers of Southern slaves to join them because the British promised slaves their freedom. Also, Britain's West Indian colonies were close to Southern seaports. British troops were stationed in the West Indies. If the

British captured Southern ports, they could move troops between the two regions.

In 1778, the British captured Savannah, Georgia. From there, they conquered most of Georgia. In 1780, a British army trapped American forces in Charles Town. Five thousand Americans had to surrender. This was most of the Southern army. It was the worst disaster of the war for the Americans.

### 1. Why did the British move the war to the South?

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## The Swamp Fox and Guerrilla Fighting (page 207)

**How** did the Swamp Fox help the American army? After the loss at Charles Town, General Gates formed a new Southern army. It headed for Camden, South Carolina. Its job was to fight the British forces led by **Lord Cornwallis**.

The American army met a band of Patriots. Their leader was Francis Marion, the “Swamp Fox.” He told Gates about the swamplands along the coast of South Carolina. Gates sent Marion to destroy boats on the Santee River. This would stop the British from sending messages to Charles Town.

In August 1780, the British defeated Gates’s army near Camden. This second Southern loss made the Americans feel low. A small British force set out for Charles Town with American prisoners. Marion’s band attacked them and freed the prisoners. Marion’s men also cut the British supply line. Marion used the methods of **guerrillas**. These are small bands of fighters who use surprise raids and hit-and-run attacks. Both Patriot and Loyalist guerrillas fought in the South.

### 2. What methods did the Swamp Fox use to defeat the British?

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## The Tide Turns (page 209)

**Why** did the tide turn against the British?

In the South, some battles were brutal. One such battle was Kings Mountain. In it, the Americans killed almost 1,000 Loyalist and British soldiers. Many were killed after they gave up. The killings were in revenge for earlier British cruelty.

After Gates’s defeat at Camden, Washington put General Nathanael Greene in charge of the Southern

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army. Greene had been a Quaker. Most Quakers are **pacifist**, or opposed to war. Greene’s church cast him out because he believed in the war against Britain.

The British had the edge because of superior firepower. So Greene avoided full-scale battles. Instead, American forces let the British chase them around the countryside to wear them out. Fighting dragged into its sixth year. Opposition to the war grew in Britain.

### 3. What caused the tide to turn in favor of the Americans?

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## The End of the War (pages 209–210)

**How** did the Americans defeat the British?

In 1781, most fighting took place in Virginia. In July 1781, the British general Cornwallis set up his base in Yorktown, Virginia. Yorktown is on a peninsula. The site made it possible for his army to receive supplies by ship from New York. In August of 1781, a French fleet blocked the Chesapeake Bay. This prevented the British from receiving supplies and from escaping.

Washington and a large French force led by General Jean Rochambeau came from the North. They trapped Cornwallis on the peninsula. In the **Battle of Yorktown**, the American and French troops bombarded Yorktown. Cornwallis surrendered his 8,000 men. Yorktown was the last big battle of the war. British leaders had to resign.

### 4. How did the Revolutionary War end?

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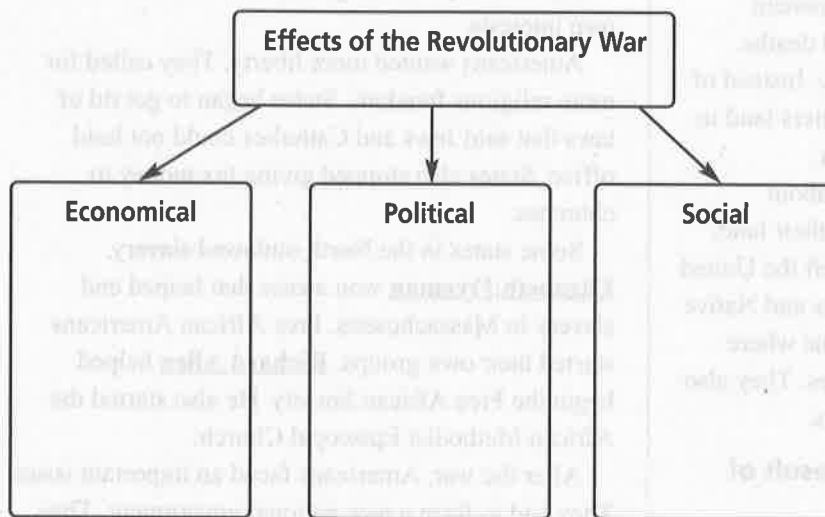
# The Legacy of the War

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the end of the Revolutionary War. In this section, you will read how the new nation faced issues and an uncertain future.

## AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on the effects of the Revolutionary War.



## TERMS & NAMES

**Treaty of Paris of 1783** Peace treaty that ended the Revolutionary War

**republicanism** Government in which the people rule

**Elizabeth Freeman** An African-American woman who sued for her freedom in a Massachusetts court and won

**Richard Allen** An African-American preacher who helped start the Free African Society and the African Methodist Episcopal Church

## Why the Americans Won (pages 211–212)

**What** were America's strengths during the war?

The Americans won independence even though they faced many obstacles. They lacked training, experience, supplies, and weapons. The British forces ranked among the best trained in the world. They had experience and supplies. Yet, the Americans had four advantages over the British. 1) They had better leadership. 2) They received foreign aid. 3) They knew the land better than the British did. 4) They were more motivated.

**1. Name four advantages the Americans had in the war against Britain.**

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## The Treaty of Paris (pages 212–213)

**What** was the Treaty of Paris of 1783?

The **Treaty of Paris of 1783** was the peace treaty that ended the Revolutionary War. It included the following six conditions. 1) The United States was an independent nation. 2) Its western boundary was the Mississippi River. Canada was the northern boundary. Spanish Florida was the southern boundary. 3) The United States would receive the right to fish in the Atlantic Ocean off Canada's coast. 4) Each side would pay its debts to the other. 5) The British would return any slaves they had captured. 6) Congress would tell the states to return property they had seized from Loyalists.

Neither country lived up to the treaty. Americans did not repay prewar debts to British merchants. They did not return Loyalist property. The British did not return slaves. The British did not give up forts in the Great Lakes area.

**2. What were the conditions of the Treaty of Paris?**

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**Costs of the War** (page 213)

*What were America's costs of the war?*

An estimated 25,700 Americans died in the war. About 1,400 were missing. About 8,200 were wounded. Many of the wounded had permanent disabilities. The British had about 10,000 deaths.

Many surviving soldiers had no money. Instead of back pay, the government gave some soldiers land in the west. Many sold their land to get cash.

The war left the nation with a debt of about \$27 million. Thousands of Loyalists lost their land. Between 60,000 and 100,000 Loyalists left the United States. These included African Americans and Native Americans. Most Loyalists went to Canada where they created new towns and new provinces. They also brought English traditions to French areas.

**3. What had Americans lost as a result of the war?**

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**Issues After the War** (pages 214–215)

*How did the war change Americans' ideas about government?*

The American Revolution was not just a war. It was also a change in ideas. Before the war, Americans had wanted their rights as English citizens. But after declaring independence, Americans gave up that goal. They adopted the idea of **republicanism**. This idea stated that instead of a king, the people would rule. The government would gain its authority from the citizens. It would be responsible to them. People would have to place the good of the nation above their own interests.

Americans wanted more liberty. They called for more religious freedom. States began to get rid of laws that said Jews and Catholics could not hold office. States also stopped giving tax money to churches.

Some states in the North outlawed slavery. **Elizabeth Freeman** won a case that helped end slavery in Massachusetts. Free African Americans started their own groups. **Richard Allen** helped begin the Free African Society. He also started the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

After the war, Americans faced an important issue. They had to form a new national government. They needed one that would protect citizens' rights and economic freedoms.

**4. How did Americans' goals for government change after declaring independence?**

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*I. Name four advantages the Americans had in the war against Britain.*

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**Glossary/After You Read****fortification** Built-up earthen wall**frontier** A region that is not settled**malnutrition** Lack of enough healthful food**militia** A group of citizens trained to be soldiers**neutral** Not favoring either side in a conflict**recruit** A newly enlisted member of the armed forces**revenge** To get back at someone**traitor** A person who helps his or her country's enemies**Terms & Names****A.** Choose the letter of the term or name that correctly fits the description or definition.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Professional soldiers hired to fight for a foreign country are called  
a. recruits.      c. mercenaries.  
b. militias.      d. traitors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The series of conflicts that led to the surrender of the British General Burgoyne are known as the  
a. Battles of Saratoga.      c. winter at Valley Forge.  
b. war on the frontier.      d. Battle of Bennington.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A French nobleman who volunteered to serve in Washington's army was  
a. Joseph Brant.      c. Baron von Steuben.  
b. Benjamin Franklin.      d. Marquis de Lafayette.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Continental officer and commander of the *Bonhomme Richard* who won the most famous sea battle of the Revolutionary War was  
a. George Washington.      c. William Howe.  
b. John Paul Jones.      d. George Rogers Clark.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox," weakened the British with surprise raids and hit-and-run attacks with small bands of fighters known as  
a. guerrillas.      c. allies.  
b. pacifists.      d. frontiersmen.

**B.** Write the letter of the name or term that matches the description.

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|----------------------------|--------------------|
| a. James Forten            | f. republicanism   |
| b. bayonets                | g. rendezvous      |
| c. desert                  | h. pacifist        |
| d. Treaty of Paris of 1783 | i. ally            |
| e. strategy                | j. Lord Cornwallis |
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. An overall plan of action
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A meeting
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A country that agrees to help another country achieve a common goal
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Long steel knives attached to the ends of guns

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. To leave military duty without intending to return
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. A 14-year-old African-American sailor who later became famous for his efforts to end slavery
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. British general who led the armies in the South and surrendered at Yorktown
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Person opposed to war
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Peace treaty that ended the Revolutionary War
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The idea that the people, not a king, should rule government

**Main Ideas**

1. Why was Saratoga a turning point in the Revolutionary War?

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2. Why were France and Spain willing to help the United States fight the British in the Revolutionary War?

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3. How did the Revolutionary War expand to the Western frontier and the sea?

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4. What were three reasons that the Americans defeated the British in the South?

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5. What were four issues facing the United States after the war?

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**Thinking Critically**

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1. Would the Revolutionary War have had a different outcome if European countries had remained neutral? Explain your answer.
- 2. Do you think the costs of the war were worth the outcome of the war? Why or why not?