

## **The Declaration of Independence, American Revolution & Treaty of Paris**

### I. The Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776)

A. By 1776, American colonists were divided into 3 groups:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ supported separation from Britain (\_\_\_\_\_)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ wanted to remain British colonies
3. Neutrals were \_\_\_\_\_ about which side to choose

B. By \_\_\_\_\_, enough Americans were “patriots” that members of the Second \_\_\_\_\_ Congress formed a 5-man committee to draft a Declaration of Independence:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of Virginia was the principal author
2. It was based on the “enlightened” ideas of \_\_\_\_\_ & explained why the colonists were rebelling

<u><i>Excerpt from the Declaration of Independence</i></u>	<u><i>What the Excerpt Means</i></u>
1. “When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another...a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”	
2. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”	
3. “To secure these [basic] rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”	
4. “That whenever any form of government becomes destructive ‘in protecting rights and responding to the people], it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government.”	
5. “The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having, in direct object, the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States.”	
6. “To prove [that England has interfered with colonial rights], let the facts be submitted to a candid world: He has refused to assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.”	
7. “In every state of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.”	
8. “We, therefore...solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states...”	

### II. The American Revolution

A. The Declaration of Independence was a \_\_\_\_\_ demand for separation, but the Revolutionary War had already begun in \_\_\_\_\_. (1) Lexington & Concord, (2) Formation of a Continental \_\_\_\_\_ under George Washington, (3) Americans were divided among Patriots, Loyalists, & Neutrals

B. When the war began, the British had a clear advantage:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ % larger & more experienced army
2. More money
3. The world’s most dominant \_\_\_\_\_
4. Manufacturing to make \_\_\_\_\_

C. But, the American colonists had:

1. Familiarity with the environment
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ to win the war
3. Short supply lines to their soldiers
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ strategy to outlast the British

D. As \_\_\_\_\_ of the Continental Army, George Washington was the symbol of the American cause:

1. He had to build a \_\_\_\_\_ & coordinate the militias
2. Encouraged common \_\_\_\_\_ & volunteer soldiers to \_\_\_\_\_ the war even when the British seemed destined to \_\_\_\_\_ during the early years of the revolution

E. The Americans & British had differing military strategies:

1. American Strategy: Outlast the British
  - a. Defend colonial lands & \_\_\_\_\_ the war
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ tactics
  - c. Make an alliance with \_\_\_\_\_
2. British strategy: Divide & Conquer
  - a. Use Loyalists, seize property, encourage \_\_\_\_\_ revolts
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ the Northern & Southern colonies
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ ports to prevent trade
  - d. As long as Britain did not \_\_\_\_\_ the Continental Army, England could not win

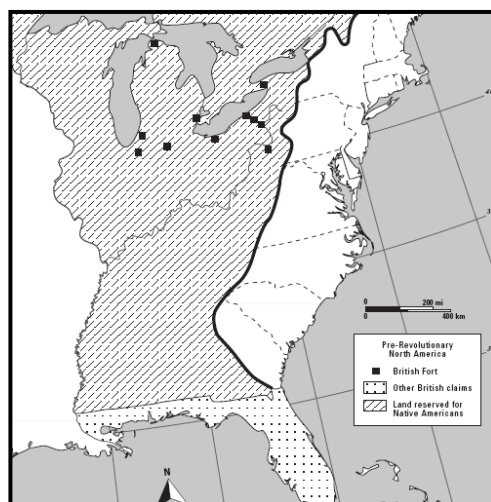
III. Fighting the Revolutionary War

- A. The American Revolution \_\_\_\_\_ at Lexington & Concord
- B. British victories from 1776-1777 made an American victory look \_\_\_\_\_
- C. On Christmas Eve 1776, Washington gave Americans hope by crossing the \_\_\_\_\_ River & surprising British troops in \_\_\_\_\_, NJ
- D. The French Alliance & Battle of Saratoga
1. From the beginning of the war, American diplomats, led by \_\_\_\_\_, tried to form an \_\_\_\_\_ with the French:
    - a. The French gov't was \_\_\_\_\_, but needed to see that the Americans had a \_\_\_\_\_ to win
    - b. The French agreed to join the American cause after the battle of \_\_\_\_\_ in 1777
  2. The Battle of Saratoga was a \_\_\_\_\_ because France joined the Americans as an ally
    - a. After Saratoga, French general \_\_\_\_\_ helped train American troops while the French \_\_\_\_\_ helped neutralize the British advantage on the high seas
    - b. When French troops arrived in the spring \_\_\_\_\_, the tide of the war shifted in favor of the Americans
- E. During the winter of 1777-78, Continental Army troops nearly starved at \_\_\_\_\_, PA but Washington & Lafayette \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ the troops to continue the fight
- F. From 1778-1781, both sides traded victories, but the war finally came to a conclusion at the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_
1. By 1781, Washington trapped the army of British General \_\_\_\_\_ between the Continental Army & the French navy
  2. General Cornwallis \_\_\_\_\_ to Washington in 1781, ending the American Revolution

IV. The Treaty of Paris, 1783

- A. The Treaty of Paris in 1783 ended the American Revolution
- B. The treaty gave America:
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. All territory east of \_\_\_\_\_ between Canada & FL
  3. The removal of the \_\_\_\_\_ from U.S. claims in America

America Before the  
Revolutionary War  
(1763)



America After the Revolutionary War (1783)



Team Members:

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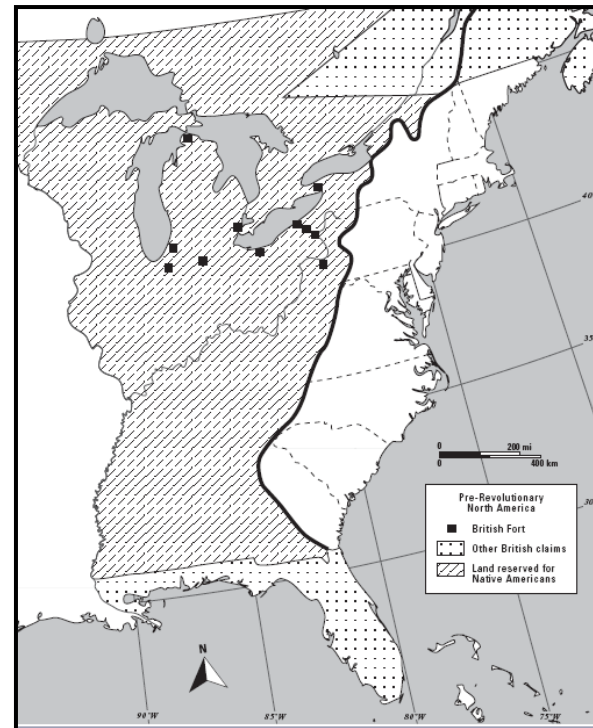
## Creating Terms of the Treaty of Paris, 1783

Overview: You are Benjamin Franklin and the year is 1783. The Revolutionary War is finally over and the Americans have won. You have been in Paris since 1776 trying to negotiate an alliance with the French and now your assignment is to negotiate the terms of peace to formally end the war. To do this, consider the following questions.

Question 1: What were the major goals of the American colonists when the Revolutionary War began? (You will need to consider what Americans wanted at the beginning to ensure that these demands are met now that the war is over).

Question 2: What major countries should be impacted by the terms of this treaty? List all the countries that played a role in the American Revolution and describe whether they should be rewarded or not for their role in the war.

Question 3: How should the North American continent be divided now that the war is over? Consider the territorial boundaries of the Europeans, American colonists, and Native Americans. Use the map to help consider territorial changes.



Question 4: After considering each of the above questions, list 3-5 terms that you feel should be included in this treaty.