

The World Turned Upside Down

FIND OUT

- Why did fighting shift to the South in 1778?
- How did Washington force the British to surrender at Yorktown?
- What were the terms of the Treaty of Paris?

VOCABULARY ratify

Thomas Young was only 16 years old when he set out with 900 other Patriots to capture King's Mountain in South Carolina. Although most of the Patriots were barefoot, they moved quickly up the wooded hillside, shouldering their old muskets. The Patriots were determined to take the mountain from the Loyalists dug in at the top.

Whooping and shouting, Young and his comrades dashed from tree to tree, dodging bullets as they fired their own weapons. Suddenly, Thomas heard the cry "Colonel Williams is shot!"

“I ran to his assistance for I loved him as a father. He had ever been kind to me and almost always carried a cake in his pocket for me and his little son Joseph. They . . . sprinkled some water in his face. He revived, and his first words were, ‘For God’s sake boys, don’t give up the hill!’ . . . I left him in the arms of his son Daniel, and returned to the field to avenge his fate.”

The Patriots captured King's Mountain on October 7, 1780. The victory boosted morale after a string of Patriot defeats in the South.

War in the South

Scattered fighting had taken place in the South from the start of the Revolution. In February 1776, North Carolina Patriots defeated a Loyalist army at the **Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge**. This battle is sometimes called the Lexington and Concord of the South.

After France entered the war, the British focused their efforts on the South. They counted on the support of Loyalists there. Greatly outnumbered, the Patriots suffered many setbacks. In December 1778, the British seized Savannah, Georgia. They later took Charleston, South Carolina. "I have almost ceased to hope," wrote Washington when he learned of the losses.

An American traitor. In September 1780, Washington received more bad news. Benedict Arnold, one of his best generals, had joined the British. Arnold had fought

bravely in many battles. One soldier recalled that Arnold always led—never followed—his men into battle. "It was 'Come on, boys!' not 'Go on, boys!' He didn't care for nothin'. He'd ride right in."

Washington had put Arnold in command of the key fort at West Point. But Arnold was angry. He felt he had not received enough credit for his victories. He also needed money. He secretly offered to turn over West Point to the British. By chance, a Patriot patrol captured the messenger carrying Arnold's offer. Although Arnold escaped to join the British, West Point was saved.

The Patriots rally. The victory at King's Mountain in October 1780 helped rally Patriots. Slowly, the tide turned in their favor.

Several Patriots made hit-and-run attacks on the British. Francis Marion of South Carolina led a small band of men who slept by day and traveled by night. Marion was known as the Swamp Fox. He would ap-

The "Swamp Fox" and His Men Francis Marion, known as the "Swamp Fox," kept the British off guard in South Carolina. This painting by William Ranney shows Marion and his rough band of men setting out on a raid.

Geography How did Marion use the geography of South Carolina to surprise the British and avoid capture?



appear suddenly out of the swamps, attack the British, and then retreat into the swamps. His attacks kept the British off balance.

Two American generals, Daniel Morgan and Nathanael Greene, won victories in the South. Morgan was a big, bull-necked man. His company of Virginia Riflemen had served well in the Battle of Saratoga. In January 1781, he defeated the British at the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina.

Like Marion, General Greene used hit-and-run tactics. Even though Greene won few battles, his attacks wore down the British. Raids by bands of fierce backcountry Patriots, who struck often and without warning, also took their toll. The harassed British general, Charles Cornwallis, decided to move his army north into Virginia in the spring of 1781.

Victory at Last

Cornwallis set up camp at Yorktown, on a strip of land that juts into the Chesapeake Bay. He felt safe there, knowing that British ships could supply his troops from the sea.

Washington knew the area well. He realized that he could trap Cornwallis at Yorktown. While a French fleet under Admiral de Grasse sailed toward the Chesapeake, Washington prepared to march south from New York. French troops under the Comte de Rochambeau had landed in Rhode Island the previous year. Now, they joined Washington, and the combined forces rushed toward Virginia.

Meanwhile, De Grasse's fleet kept British ships out of the Chesapeake. Cornwallis was cut off. He could not get supplies. And he could not escape by sea.

Cornwallis held out for three weeks before he surrendered his army on October 17, 1781. Two days later, the defeated British turned their weapons over to the Americans. A British army band played the tune "The World Turned Upside Down."

MAP STUDY

The final battles of the Revolution were fought in the South. The Americans suffered a string of defeats between 1778 and 1780, but the tide slowly turned. Finally, trapped at Yorktown in 1781, the British surrendered.

1. Name three British victories in the South.
2. (a) Who commanded American troops at Yorktown? (b) Who commanded British troops?

3. Analyzing Information How did the French fleet contribute to the American victory at Yorktown?



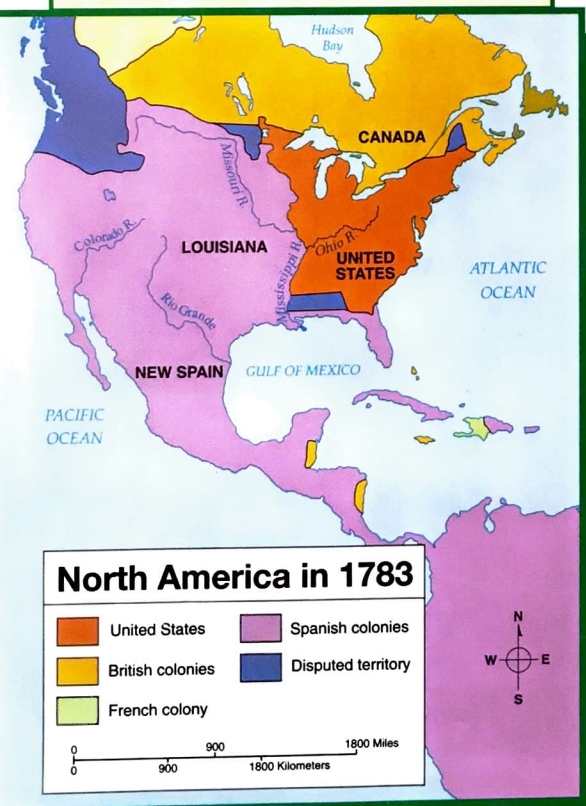
Making Peace

Americans rejoiced when they heard the news from Yorktown. In London, however, the defeat shocked the British. "It is all

MAP STUDY

Under the Treaty of Paris of 1783, Britain recognized the United States as an independent nation.

1. Which nation held land west of the new United States?
2. What natural feature formed the western border of the United States?
3. **Comparing** Compare this map with the map on page 141. (a) According to the maps, what was the major difference between North America in 1783 and in 1763? (b) Name one way in which North America was the same in 1783 and in 1763.



over," cried the British prime minister, Lord North. Left with no other choice, he agreed to peace talks.

The talks began in Paris in 1782. Congress sent Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, along with John Jay of New York and Henry Laurens of South Carolina, to work out a treaty. Because Britain was eager to end the war, the Americans got most of what they wanted.

Under the **Treaty of Paris**, the British recognized the United States as an independent nation. The borders of the new nation extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. The southern border stopped at Florida, which was returned to Spain.

On their part, the Americans agreed to ask state legislatures to pay Loyalists for property they lost in the war. In the end, however, most states ignored the Loyalist claims.

On April 15, 1783, Congress **ratified**, or approved, the Treaty of Paris. It was almost eight years to the day since the battles of Lexington and Concord.

Washington's Farewell

The Revolution had been a long and difficult struggle for the Americans. They fought a much more powerful nation that had better-armed and better-trained soldiers.



Our Common Heritage

Almost 100,000 Loyalists fled the United States after the Revolution. Among them were more than 10,000 African Americans who had supported Britain in hopes of winning freedom. They moved to Canada, England, Spanish Florida, Jamaica in the West Indies, and Sierra Leone in Africa. There, they lived as free men and women.

In the end, money, arms, and soldiers from France helped the Americans win the war. But the strength and courage of leaders like Washington played a major role in the American victory.

In December 1783, General Washington bid farewell to his officers at Fraunces' Tavern in New York City. Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge recalled the event:

“Such a scene of sorrow and weeping I had never before witnessed. . . . The simple thought that we were then about to part from the man who had conducted us through a long and bloody war, and under whose conduct the glory and independence of our country had been achieved, and that we should see his face no more in this world, seemed to me utterly [unbearable].”

All along Washington's route home to Mount Vernon, Virginia, crowds cheered the hero of American independence. The new nation faced difficult days ahead. Before long, Americans would again call on Washington to lead them.

CAUSES

- Proclamation of 1763 stops colonists from moving west
- Parliament taxes the colonies to pay British war debts
- Intolerable Acts set up harsh rule in Massachusetts

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

EFFECTS

- Colonies declare independence
- Britain recognizes United States independence
- United States borders extend to Florida and to the Mississippi River
- George Washington emerges as a leader

SECTION 5 REVIEW

1. **Locate:** (a) King's Mountain, (b) Savannah, (c) Charleston, (d) Cowpens, (e) Yorktown.
2. **Identify:** (a) Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, (b) Benedict Arnold, (c) Francis Marion, (d) Daniel Morgan, (e) Nathanael Greene, (f) Admiral de Grasse, (g) Comte de Rochambeau, (h) Treaty of Paris.
3. **Define:** ratify.
4. Why did Britain focus its efforts on the South after 1778?
5. Why was Cornwallis forced to surrender at Yorktown?
6. What were the boundaries of the United States in 1783?
7. **CRITICAL THINKING Analyzing Ideas**
Why do you think the British played “The World Turned Upside Down” when they surrendered at Yorktown?

ACTIVITY Writing to Learn

Imagine that you are General Cornwallis. In a letter to George III, describe the events at Yorktown.

Understanding Causes and Effects

In the 1770s, protests against British colonial rule quickly turned into armed resistance, then war. List two effects of the American Revolution.

- What effects do you think a British victory might have had?