A Nation Emerges

Unit 2: Why do people rebel? Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Highlights of the Revolutionary War

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| **Lexington and Concord (1775)** |
| What happened?  *First Continental Congress meets. Colonists in New England towns start stockpiling weapons and gunpowder.*  *British General Thomas Gage learns about this and sends troops to Concord to seize any illegal weapons.*  *Paul Revere, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott ride out to spread the word that the British were coming.*  *“Red coats” reach Lexington first. 70 colonists line up to stop the British soldiers. 15 minute battle. Colonists: 8 dead, 2 injured – British: 1 injured.*  *British marched to Concord: 3,000-4,000 colonists assembled. “Shot heard ‘round the world”. First British soldiers killed; colonists fire from behind stonewalls and trees; British soldiers fire by the dozen.* |
| Who was involved?  *American minutemen (colonists who were ready to fight in a minute’s notice)*  *British General Thomas Gage and redcoats*  *Patriots Revere, Dawes and Prescott spread the word.* |
| Why is it significant?  *First and second battles of the War for Independence (occurred before the Declaration of Independence)*  *Colonists officially become enemies of Britain.*  *Boston and its encampment of British soldiers are now under siege (being surrounded and cutoff)* |
| Explain the corresponding image.  *This is a reconstruction of the Old North Bridge of the 1760s in Concord, Mass. It is the location of the “shot heard ‘round the world”. Here, the first British soldiers were killed during the War for Independence. It is now part of the Minute Man National Historic Park* |

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| **Battle of Bunker Hill (1775)** |
| What happened?  *British General Gage decides to strike at militiamen on Breeds Hill, north of the city near Bunker Hill.*  *2400 British soldiers are sent up the hill.*  *Colonists starting mowing down recoats before retreating.*  *British victory.*  *Colonists: 450 casualties*  *British: 100 casualties* |
| Who was involved?  *British General Thomas Gage*  *William Prescott* |
| Why is it significant?  *Deadliest battle of the war.*  *Technically, a British victory, but the militiamen proved that they were a force to be reckoned with.* |
| Explain the corresponding image.  *Bunker Hill Memorial in Charlestown.*  *American General William Prescott commanded the rebel forces in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He said, “Do not fire until you see the whites of their eyes.”* |

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| **Battle of Trenton (1776)** |
| What happened?  *During a heavy storm on Christmas night, Washington led 2400 men in small rowboats across the icy Delaware River. They marched to Trenton and surprised a garrison of Hessians (German soldiers who were paid to fight for the British). The Hessians were defeated.* |
| Who was involved?  *George Washington and American soldiers*  *General Rall and Hessian soldiers* |
| Why is it significant?  *After a string of defeats, this American victory was an important boost in morale.* |
| Explain the corresponding image.  *The New Jersey quarter depicts the George Washington’s crossing of the Delaware* |

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| **Battle of Saratoga (1777)** |
| What happened?  The British concocted at complex plan control Upstate New York and isolate New England from the Southern colonies in an effort to decisively put an end to the Revolution.  **British troops led by General John Burgoyne**, planned to drive south from Montreal to Albany, NY along the historic water route of Lake Champlain, Lake George and the Hudson River. Once in Albany, they would join forces with two other British commands, one coming north from New York City and the other coming east along the Mohawk River valley.  Two separate battles occurred.  Americans are victorious. |
| Who was involved?  British General John Burgoyne  British General St. Leger  British General Howe  American General Benedict Arnold  American General Gates |
| Why is it significant?  *The American victory demonstrated that American troops could fight a European army, on their own terms, and win. It also convinced the French to ally themselves with the Americans and declare war against England. Later, the Spanish and Dutch did the same.* |
| Explain the corresponding image.  The Boot Monument. Before Benedict Arnold was the most famous traitor in history, he was a great American soldier. He fought courageously at Saratoga and was injured on the battlefield. This statue is a monument ot him and other soldiers injured/killed in Saratoga. While it is a fact that the boot is indeed that of Benedict Arnold, the inscription does not mention him by name. |

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| **Valley Forge (Winter 1777-1778)** |
| What happened?  Washington and his Continental Army fought to stay alive in the winter camp at Valley Forge, PA with a shortage of food and supplies. |
| Who was involved?  George Washington and the Continental Army |
| Why is it significant?  More than 2000 soldiers died.  Survivors didn’t desert.  Became a symbol of the perseverance and dedication of American soldiers. |
| Explain the corresponding image.  This is a re-creation of one of the cabins that soldiers in the Continental Army lived in during the winter at Valley Forge. |

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| **Battle of Yorktown(1781)** |
| What happened?  Cornwallis planned to fortify Yorktown, VA, take Virginia and then move north to join Clinton’s forces.  Lafayette and Washington move south to Yorktown. 17,000 French and American forces surround the British in Yorktown and start bombarding them day and night for a month.  October 19, 1781: British surrender. |
| Who was involved?  Britain: Cornwallis and Clinton  American: Washington and Lafayette(French) |
| Why is it significant?  Last major battle of the War for Independence.  Americans shocked the world by defeating the British. |
| Explain the corresponding image.  This painting depicts Cornwallis surrendering to Washington. |

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| **Treaty of Paris (1783)** |
| What happened?  Peace talks began in 1782.  American and British delegates sign the Treaty of Paris in 1783, which confirmed American independence and set boundaries of the new nation. The US now stretched from the Atlantic to the Mississippi and from Canada to Florida. |
| Who was involved?  Americans: Adams, Jay and Franklin |
| Why is it significant?  The Treaty of Paris confirmed American independence and set boundaries of the new nation. The US now stretched from the Atlantic to the Mississippi and from Canada to Florida. |
| Explain the corresponding image.  This painting depicts the American delegates present at the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The painting is unfinished because the British would not sit for it. |