A Nation Emerges

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

Highlights of the American Revolution

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| Event | Summary | Significance |
| Lexington & Concord (1775) | ***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.*** | ***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)*** |
| Battle of Bunker Hill (1775) | ***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*** | ***Deadliest battle of the war.***  ***Technically, a British victory, but the militiamen proved that they were a force to be reckoned with.*** |
| Battle of Trenton (1776) | ***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.*** | ***After a string of defeats, this American victory was an important boost in morale.*** |
| Battle of Saratoga (1777) | ***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.*** | ***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.*** |
| Valley Forge (Winter 1777-1778) | ***Washington and his Continental Army fought to stay alive in the winter camp at Valley Forge, PA with a shortage of food and supplies.*** | ***More than 2000 soldiers died.***  ***Survivors didn’t desert.***  ***Became a symbol of the perseverance and dedication of American soldiers.*** |
| Battle of Yorktown (1781) | ***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.*** | ***Last major battle of the War for Independence.***  ***Americans shocked the world by defeating the British.*** |
| Treaty of Paris (1783) | ***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.*** | ***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.*** |