AMERICAN REVOLUTION COMPLETE UNIT PACKET

Thanks so much for your purchase! I am so grateful for your support. Please, however do not post this resource on a publicly-accessible website like a blog, Wix, Weebly, or school webpage. This allows any student to find an attached answer key. This is a violation of our Terms of Use. You are welcome to use this Google Doc version of the entire packet which can be accessed here. This version includes some links to online sources for students as well.

To print just the students pages you will want to print pages 2-10. I provide students with this packet at the beginning of the unit and allow them the full length of the unit to complete it. They can use class notes, a textbook, or online sources for all the info. A great set of online readings to use can be found starting here. Students turn in the packet at the end of the unit and I grade them as they test.

The answer key for the packet can be found at the end of this document starting on page 11.

Now you can get access to EVERY RESOURCE for US or World History through a Students of History subscription! That’s over 700 amazing resources like interactive notebooks, Google Drive pages, warm ups, projects, PowerPoints and more!

Plus:

Daily lesson plans are included for every day of the school year! They’re all available at StudentsofHistory.com!

Additional Resources on TpT:

LET’S CONNECT!

Click on these to find me on social media:

Social media logos courtesy Glitter Meets Glue Designs
Complete Unit Guide Packet

Overview
The American Revolution saw the United States win independence from Great Britain after 8 years of war and almost 20 years of varying rebellion. Colonists proclaimed “no taxation without representation” starting with the Stamp Act Congress in 1765. They rejected the authority of the British Parliament to tax them because they had no representatives in that governing body. Protests steadily escalated to the Boston Massacre in 1770, followed by the Boston Tea Party in December 1773.

The British responded by closing Boston Harbor and enacting a series of punitive laws which effectively rescinded Massachusetts Bay Colony’s rights of self-government. The other colonies rallied behind Massachusetts, and a group of American Patriot leaders set up their own government at the Continental Congress to coordinate their resistance of Britain; other colonists retained their allegiance to the Crown and were known as Loyalists.

Tensions erupted into battle between Patriot militia and King George’s redcoats at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. The conflict then developed into war, during which the Patriots (and later their French allies) fought the British and Loyalists. The Continental Congress declared King George a tyrant and they declared independence on July 2, 1776.

Battles took place across the Colonies over the next 7 years. A major turning point was when the Patriots captured a British army at the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777. Benjamin Franklin helped convince France to enter the war as an ally of the United States with a large army and navy. A combined American and French force captured a second British army at Yorktown in the fall of 1781, effectively ending the war. The Treaty of Paris was signed September 3, 1783, formally ending the conflict and confirming the new nation’s complete separation from the British Empire.

Essential Questions

a) How did the political ideas of the Enlightenment shape the American colonies?
b) How did Great Britain’s neglect of the colonists gradually lead to independence?
c) What political differences were created among the colonists concerning separation from Great Britain?
d) Were the colonists justified in resisting British policies after the French and Indian War?
e) What were the key events of the Revolutionary War?
f) What factors led to Colonial victory in the Revolutionary War?
g) How have the Declaration of Independence’s key principles grown in importance to become unifying ideas of American political philosophy?
h) Was the American Revolutionary War inevitable?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People to Know</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Concepts</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Literacy</td>
<td>8-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Vocabulary**

**Directions:** Write the definition for each word in the middle column and draw a picture to represent each in the 3rd column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Picture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patriot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyalist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redcoats</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot Heard ‘Round the World</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boycott</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blockade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guerrilla Warfare</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercenary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaty of Paris</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Geography of the Revolutionary War**

**Directions:** Complete the map of the American Revolution by coloring and labelling everything listed in the key. Then write in the name each of the colonies on the map.

**Cities**
- Boston
- Philadelphia
- New York
- Charleston

**Encampments**
- Valley Forge

**Battles**
- Lexington & Concord
- Bunker Hill
- Trenton
- Saratoga
- King’s Mountain
- Yorktown
**People to Know**

**Directions:** Use the bank of names below to identify the appropriate category for each person. For each person, identify the significant contributions that person made to the American Revolution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British Loyalists</th>
<th>American Patriots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King George III</td>
<td>Molly Pitcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Washington</td>
<td>Benedict Arnold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquis de Lafayette</td>
<td>Paul Revere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Name: _________________ | Name: _________________ | Name: _________________ |
| Contributions:             | Contributions:             | Contributions:             |

| Name: _________________ | Name: _________________ | Name: _________________ |
| Contributions:             | Contributions:             | Contributions:             |

| Name: _________________ | Name: _________________ | Name: _________________ |
| Contributions:             | Contributions:             | Contributions:             |
**Timeline of the American Revolution**

**Directions:** Place the following events on the timeline. Include the date and draw in images or symbols for at least 4 of them.

- Lexington & Concord
- Battle of Bunker Hill
- Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense” Published
- Declaration of Independence Signed
- Battle of Saratoga
- Washington Crosses the Delaware
- Winter at Valley Forge
- Colonies & France sign the French Alliance
- Battle of King's Mountain, SC
- The Articles of Confederation adopted
- Battle of Yorktown
- Treaty of Paris Signed

What event from before the American Revolution had the biggest impact on it taking place?

Which event from the war most led to the American victory?
**Key Concepts**

**Directions:** For each section, either takes notes on the required topics or answer the questions in complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patriots</th>
<th>Neutrals</th>
<th>Loyalists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Primary Source Analysis**

What is Paine’s argument here about why the United States should be independent of Great Britain?

> “Small islands, not capable of protecting themselves, are the proper objects for kingdoms to take under their care; but there is something absurd, in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island.”
> - Thomas Paine
> “Common Sense” (1775)

> “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.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness.”
> - Thomas Jefferson
> The Declaration of Independence (1776)

Why does Jefferson feel the Colonies have the right to institute a new Government?

How would marginalized groups use these words later to support other causes?
**Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 16, 1778**

Dear Sir: It is with great reluctance, I trouble you on a subject, which does not fall within your province; but it is a subject that occasions me more distress, than I have felt, since the commencement of the war; and which loudly demands the most zealous exertions of every person of weight and authority, who is interested in the success of our affairs. I mean the present dreadful situation of the army for want of provisions, and the miserable prospects before us, with respect to futurity. It is more alarming than you will probably conceive, for, to form a just idea, it were necessary to be on the spot. For some days past, there has been little less, than a famine in camp. A part of the army has been a week, without any kind of flesh, and the rest for three or four days. Naked and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery, that they have not been ere this excited by their sufferings, to a general mutiny or dispersion. Strong symptoms, however, discontent have appeared in particular instances; and nothing but the most active efforts everywhere can long avert so shocking a catastrophe.”

- George Washington
  Letter to George Clinton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How does Washington describe the conditions at Valley Forge?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What impact did this have on the Continental Army and Washington?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lafayette was a French aristocrat and military officer who fought in the Revolutionary War, commanding American troops in several battles, including the Siege of Yorktown. After returning to France, he was a key figure in the French Revolution.**

How does Lafayette feel about supporting the American Revolution & why?

How do you think his view might be based on America today?

“I would never have drawn my sword in the cause of America, if I could have conceived that thereby I was founding a land of slavery.”

– Marquis de Lafayette
  (From a letter to the abolitionist Thomas Clarkson)

In what way had the “world turned upside down” at Yorktown?

**The World Turned Upside Down**

According to legend, the British army band under Lord Cornwallis played “The World Turned Upside Down” when they surrendered at Yorktown in 1781. An excerpt from the lyrics:

Listen to me and you shall hear, news hath not been this thousand year:
Since Herod, Caesar, and many more, you never heard the like before.
Holy-dayes are despis'd, new fashions are devis'd.
Old Christmas is kickt out of Town.
Yet let's be content, and the times lament, you see the world turn'd upside down.
**VISUAL LITERACY**

**Directions:** Use the included images and captions to answer each of the questions.

**Map showing the population density of the American Colonies just prior to the Revolutionary War.**

Which Colonies had the highest population density?

How might this impact the American Revolution?

**This lithograph based on Paul Revere's famous engraving of the Boston Massacre emphasizes Crispus Attucks, the black man in the center who became an important symbol for abolitionists.**

What happened at the Boston Massacre?

Why might Attucks become a symbol for abolitionists?

**Painting showing British Redcoats at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775.**

In what way were the British uniforms ineffective?

How did this work to the Continental Army’s advantage?
1780 drawing of American soldiers from the Yorktown campaign.

How do these Continental Army uniforms differ from those of the British?

George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River on the night of December 25–26, 1776 was the first move in a surprise attack against the Hessian forces in Trenton, New Jersey.

Why were Washington and his men crossing the river?

What impact did this event have on the War?

Map showing the United States after the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783.

Based on the map, what issues might states have to figure out once the United States achieved independence from Great Britain?
**Answer Key - Vocabulary**

**Directions:** Write the definition for each word in the middle column and draw a picture to represent each in the 3rd column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patriot</td>
<td>Someone in the colonies who supported the American Revolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyalist</td>
<td>Someone in the colonies who supported staying loyal to England. Also known as a Tory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redcoats</td>
<td>Nickname given to British soldiers of the Revolution because of their bright red uniforms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot Heard ‘Round the World</td>
<td>The first shots of the Revolution that were fired at Lexington &amp; Concord and began the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boycott</td>
<td>Having ships surround an area so that no goods or people can pass through. The British blockaded the Colonies to prevent their aid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blockade</td>
<td>Strategy of refusing to purchase goods in the hopes of weakening the boycotted party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guerrilla Warfare</td>
<td>Style of fighting used by the Continental Army which included hit-and-run, surprise attacks, and ambushing the British.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercenary</td>
<td>A professional soldier hired to serve in a foreign army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaty of Paris</td>
<td>Signed September 3, 1783, formally ending the conflict and confirming America’s separation from the British Empire.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Directions: Complete the map of the American Revolution by coloring and labelling everything listed in the key. Then write in the name each of the colonies on the map. Note: A great animated map video of the Revolution can be seen here.
**People to Know**

**Directions:** Use the word bank below to identify the appropriate category for each person. For each person, identify the significant contributions that person made in history.

King George III  
George Washington  
Marquis de Lafayette  
Molly Pitcher  
Benedict Arnold  
Paul Revere  
Alexander Hamilton  
Benjamin Franklin  
Lord Charles Cornwallis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British Loyalists</th>
<th>American Patriots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Name:** _King George III__  
**Contributions:**  
- Ruler of the British Empire  
- Vilified for “taxation without representation”  
- Raised taxes to pay for French & Indian War  
- Was determined to defeat the Colonies despite his ministers’ protests | **Name:** _Benedict Arnold___  
**Contributions:**  
- Leading General in the Continental Army at the start of the war  
- Betrayed his men to ally himself with the British  
- Known as one of the most famous traitors in history  
**Region:** _Virginia / Southern___ | **Name:** _Lord Charles Cornwallis_  
**Contributions:**  
- British General during the war  
- Won a major victory at the Battle of Camden  
- Led a British campaign through the South  
- Surrendered to Washington at Yorktown |
| **Name:** _George Washington___  
**Contributions:**  
- General in charge of the Continental Army  
- Steady leadership in tough times  
- Avoided any major defeats but still lost many battles  
- Gained the complete confidence of his men | **Name:** _Marquis de Lafayette___  
**Contributions:**  
- French aristocrat who was compelled to join the Revolution  
- Young but brilliant and an able commander  
- Grew close with Washington, Hamilton, & Jefferson | **Name:** _Molly Pitcher___  
**Contributions:**  
- Nickname of a woman who helped soldiers at the Battle of Monmouth  
- Believed to be Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley  
- Brought water to men as they worked canons in battle |
| **Name:** _Paul Revere___  
**Contributions:**  
- Patriot leader from Boston  
- Leading member of the Sons of Liberty  
- His midnight ride warned of the British coming to Lexington & Concord  
- Served in the Massachusetts militia | **Name:** _Alexander Hamilton___  
**Contributions:**  
- Young immigrant from the Caribbean  
- Joined the New York militia at the start of the war  
- Senior aide to General Washington  
- Field commander at Yorktown | **Name:** _Benjamin Franklin___  
**Contributions:**  
- Elder statesman of the founding fathers  
- Helped gain the French Alliance which turned the tide of the war |
**Timeline of the American Revolution**

**Directions:** Place the following events on the timeline. Include the date and draw in images or symbols for at least 4 of them.

- Lexington & Concord
- Battle of Bunker Hill
- Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense” Published
- Declaration of Independence Signed
- Battle of Saratoga
- Washington Crosses the Delaware
- Winter at Valley Forge
- Colonies & France sign the French Alliance
- Battle of King's Mountain, SC
- The Articles of Confederation adopted
- Battle of Yorktown
- Treaty of Paris Signed

---

**What event from before the American Revolution had the biggest impact on it taking place?**

*Open to many possible student responses. The French and Indian War might be an obvious choice based on how the result (higher taxes, Proclamation of 1763) of the war led to more colonists seeking independence. Students could also select King Philip’s War as an option based on how it led to the English dominating New England as opposed to American Indians.*

---

**Which event(s) had the biggest impact on the Colonies move towards seeing independence?**

*Open to many possible student responses. The Battle of Saratoga is often cited as a turning point. The Alliance with France might be the most important event, because victory would have been very difficult without their assistance. Students could also note the leadership of George Washington as essential to America’s victory as well.*
### Key Concepts

**Directions:** For each section, either take notes on the required topics or answer the questions in complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patriots</th>
<th>Neutrals</th>
<th>Loyalists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Patriots supported independence from Great Britain</td>
<td>• Most American Colonists were undecided on the Revolution</td>
<td>• They supported Great Britain and wanted the Colonies to remain (about 20% of the population)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Committees of Correspondence persuaded neutrals to join the patriot cause.</td>
<td>• Avoided joining a side for fear of being on the losing side</td>
<td>• They often had financial ties to England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Patriots subjected Loyalists to public humiliation and violence. The patriots controlled public discourse.</td>
<td>• Sis not see the benefit one way or the other</td>
<td>• Many Loyalists found their property vandalized, looted, and burned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• After the war, many left America - About 80,000 fled to Canada or Britain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Primary Source Analysis

**What is Paine’s argument here about why the United States should be independent of Great Britain?**

Paine states that England is a small island compared to America and it is silly that such a smaller place should rule over such a larger one.

> “Small islands, not capable of protecting themselves, are the proper objects for kingdoms to take under their care; but there is something absurd, in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island.”
>  - Thomas Paine
>  “Common Sense” (1775)

**Why does Jefferson feel the Colonies have the right to institute a new Government?**

Jefferson states that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends (securing life, liberty, & happiness), it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it. To him, the King has done this so the Colonists have the right to rebel.

**How would marginalized groups use these words later to support other causes?**

Women, African-Americans and other groups used Jefferson’s words to support their cause. African Americans first to end slavery and later during the Civil Rights Movement. Women also wanted equal treatment under the law but were not receiving it when suffragists used Jefferson’s words to push for equality.

> “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.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness.”
>  - Thomas Jefferson
>  The Declaration of Independence (1776)
Head Quarters, Valley Forge, February 16, 1778

Dear Sir: It is with great reluctance, I trouble you on a subject, which does not fall within your province; but it is a subject that occasions me more distress, than I have felt, since the commencement of the war; and which loudly demands the most zealous exertions of every person of weight and authority, who is interested in the success of our affairs. I mean the present dreadful situation of the army for want of provisions, and the miserable prospects before us, with respect to futurity. It is more alarming than you will probably conceive, for, to form a just idea, it were necessary to be on the spot. For some days past, there has been little less, than a famine in camp. A part of the army has been a week, without any kind of flesh, and the rest for three or four days. Naked and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery, that they have not been ere this excited by their sufferings, to a general mutiny or dispersion. Strong symptoms, however, discontent have appeared in particular instances; and nothing but the most active efforts everywhere can long avert so shocking a catastrophe."

- George Washington
Letter to George Clinton

How does Washington describe the conditions at Valley Forge?

Washington describes the conditions at Valley Forge as miserable and deadly to his men. There is a famine and the men need provisions. They have not had any meat to eat and were freezing.

What impact did this have on the Continental Army and Washington?

Washington states that the men are patient and he admires their ability to suffer through the terrible conditions. There has not been a mutiny and Washington supported his men by being there with them. This helped the men to admire Washington and his leadership abilities continued as the war progressed.

Lafayette was a French aristocrat and military officer who fought in the Revolutionary War, commanding American troops in several battles, including the Siege of Yorktown. After returning to France, he was a key figure in the French Revolution.

How does Lafayette feel about supporting the American Revolution & why?

He seems to regret supporting America because the US continued on with slavery afterwards. He was a strong proponent of liberty and this went against his ideals.

How do you think his view might be based on America today?

Open to various student responses. They might feel that he would continue to be dismayed at the lack of equality for all people or he could be shocked at how far society has come.

“I would never have drawn my sword in the cause of America, if I could have conceived that thereby I was founding a land of slavery.”

– Marquis de Lafayette
(From a letter to the abolitionist Thomas Clarkson)

In what way had the “world turned upside down” at Yorktown?

The world turned upside down because the greatest power in the world was defeated. The sun “never set on the British Empire” as it amassed colonies across the globe. This was the first major successful revolution and it was against the powerful British Empire.

The World Turned Upside Down

According to legend, the British army band under Lord Cornwallis played “The World Turned Upside Down” when they surrendered at Yorktown in 1781. An excerpt from the lyrics:

Listen to me and you shall hear, news hath not been this thousand year:
Since Herod, Caesar, and many more, you never heard the like before.
Holy-dayes are despis'd, new fashions are devis'd.
Old Christmas is kickt out of Town.
Yet let's be content, and the times lament, you see the world turn’d upside down.
**Visual Literacy**

**Directions**: Use the included images and captions to answer each of the questions.

---

*Map showing the population density of the American Colonies just prior to the Revolutionary War.*

**Which Colonies had the highest population density?**

The Northeast colonies had the highest density. These included NJ, NY, MA, DE, and Rhode Island.

**How might this impact the American Revolution?**

Open to various student responses. They might note that these areas saw the most conflicts, they likely had the highest recruitment of soldiers for the Continental Army, and cities and towns would be most affected by the war.

---

*This lithograph based on Paul Revere’s famous engraving of the Boston Massacre emphasizes Crispus Attucks, the black man in the center who became an important symbol for abolitionists.*

**What happened at the Boston Massacre?**

A confrontation on March 5, 1770 in which British soldiers shot and killed several people while being harassed by a mob in Boston.

**Why might Attacks become a symbol for abolitionists?**

Crispus Attucks was the first man to die for the Revolution and he was African America. This helped abolitionists to show their equality and devotion to the US.

---

*Painting showing British Redcoats at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775.*

**In what way were the British uniforms ineffective?**

The bright red color made the soldiers easy to spy. It was meant to be something that would scare opponents. However, it also made them easier targets.

**How did this work to the Continental Army’s advantage?**

The red coats made the soldiers easier targets in guerrilla style warfare where the Continental Army would hit-and-run, hide behind cover, and not use traditional methods.
How do these Continental Army uniforms differ from those of the British?

Soldiers in the Continental army often had varying uniforms based on their state militia or might not have any uniform at all. This made them more difficult to spot for the British and might have helped them in battle.

George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River on the night of December 25–26, 1776 was the first move in a surprise attack against the Hessian forces in Trenton, New Jersey.

Why were Washington and his men crossing the river?

They were planning a surprise attack on Hessian forces across the river on Christmas.

What impact did this event have on the War?

It inspired many Americans to support the cause, was a major victory for the army, and helped motivate troops to keep fighting.

Based on the map, what issues might states have to figure out once the United States achieved independence from Great Britain?

The map shows many redrawn state boundaries and areas that were ceded to their states from one another. This is because the borders weren’t always defined while they were British colonies. Now that each state was joining an Articles of Confederation, they were gaining greater independence and would need to have more clearly defined borders.