

The American Revolution

TOPIC SUMMARY

America's fight for independence found strength in the Patriots' fervent desire for freedom. A strong navy and army gave Britain the advantage, while American forces lacked experience, weapons, and money. However, with Britain's defeat at the Battle of Saratoga, France declared war on Britain and supported the Americans with money, equipment, and troops. As the war moved west and south, Native Americans fought in support of the British, and Spain fought in support of the Patriots. Washington's successful attack on the British at Yorktown convinced the British that the war was too costly to pursue. In 1783 the Treaty of Paris was signed, marking the end of the revolution. Great Britain recognized the United States as an independent nation.

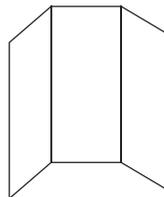
FOLDABLES[™]
Study Organizer

Summarizing Information This Foldable will help students summarize what they learn about the Revolutionary War.

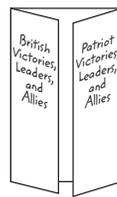
Step 1 Begin with an 11" x 17" piece of paper.



Step 2 Fold the sides of the paper into the middle to make a shutter fold.



Step 3 Label the tabs as shown.



Reading and Writing
List important battles, people, and other facts under the correct tabs.

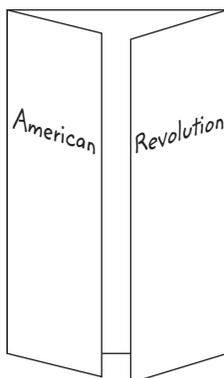
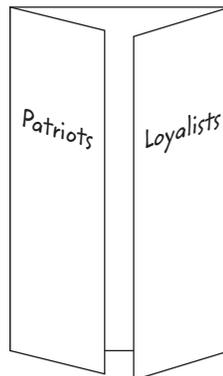
TOPIC ACTIVITY IDEAS

Role Play

Have students create the Study Foldable above and label it as shown. Have them write important facts such as battles, people, places, and other events on the correct tabs. Organize students into small groups, and have group members role-play a Patriot leader and a British leader at the Battle of Saratoga. Suggest that the students use their Foldable answers and library research to help them perform the role play. As a class, discuss the role-play choices. If you have extra time, have the students switch sides so they can see events from both perspectives.

CONTRASTING

Have students make a Foldable as shown to the right to compare the differences between the Patriots and the Loyalists during the American Revolution. Tell students to explain the alliances and challenges of the Patriots under the left tab and the alliances and challenges of the Loyalists under the right tab. The middle interior of the Foldable can be used to create a color-coded map showing different political regions.



CATEGORIZING

When students have created the front of the Foldable, ask them to open it and draw vertical lines in the left and right tab creases and a line dividing the middle interior into two columns. Label the resulting four columns The Early Years, The War Continues, The War Moves West and South, and The War is Won. Have them think about these phrases as they study their textbook and write details such as, people, places, events, terms and definitions related to each phrase.

Student Study Tip

Remind students that their notes should be concise. Notes should briefly describe the main ideas and list supporting details. Students should use key words or phrases, rather than complete sentences or paragraphs, to help them remember specific information or concepts.