

The Revolutionary War Begins

Chapter 4 Section 3

The Revolutionary War Begins

The Main Idea

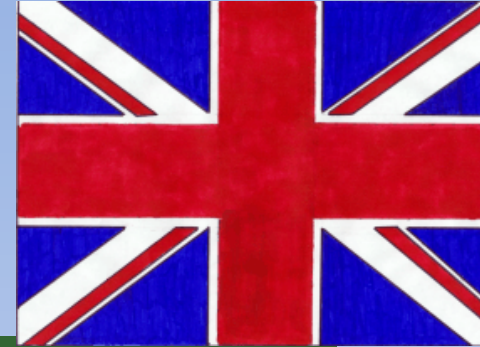
While the colonies and the British began with different strengths and weaknesses, the Revolutionary War demonstrated Washington's great leadership.

Reading Focus

- What groups of people played a part in the Revolutionary War?
- What major revolutionary battles took place in the North?
- In what ways was the Battle of Saratoga a British setback?
- How did Washington's leadership at Valley Forge influence the course of the Revolutionary War?



People behind the American Revolution



Continental Army

Strengths

- Strong military leadership
- Fighting on home territory
- Alliance with France

Weaknesses

- Small, untrained military
- Shortages of resources
- Weak central government

British Army

Strengths

- Well-trained military
- Ample resources
- Alliances with Loyalists

Weaknesses

- Fighting in unfamiliar territory
- Fighting far from home



Reasons why the American colonists believed that they would win the war.



Reasons why most people believed that England would win the war.

ADVANTAGES:

1. They were fighting for their homes, families, lives, and freedom.
2. George Washington
3. They were fighting on their home ground.
4. Ben Franklin got the French to help them.
5. Many of the English generals were afraid to make mistakes.
6. The English people would get tired of a long war.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. Poorly trained army and no navy.
2. No money to fight a war.
3. Weak, inexperienced gov't.
4. 2/3 of population were either Tories or didn't care.
5. Professional English army, Hessians, and Indians against them.
6. Poor equipment and lack of food.
7. Soldiers could leave at will.

Reasons why England believed it would win its war with America.



Reasons why England might not win the war.

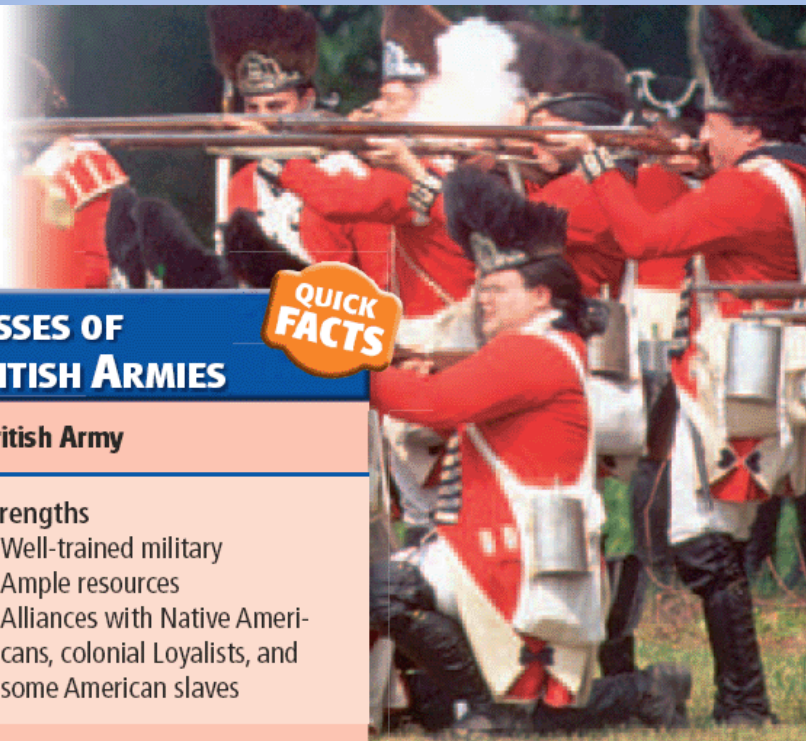
ADVANTAGES:

1. Professional army and navy.
2. Factories to make war materials.
3. \$ to feed and supply an army.
4. A government to make decisions.
5. 1/3 of the American population were Tories. 1/3 of the American population were neutral or didn't care.
6. Hessians and Indians on British side.
7. Americans were poorly supplied and trained.



DISADVANTAGES:

1. England had a 3000 mile supply line.
2. English soldiers were fighting because they were told to fight.
3. America is a large piece of land and not easy to control or conquer.
4. Many of the English generals were afraid to make mistakes.



**QUICK
FACTS**

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE CONTINENTAL AND BRITISH ARMIES

Continental Army

Strengths

- Strong military leadership
- Soldiers fighting for a cause they believed in
- Fighting on home territory

Weaknesses

- Small, untrained military
- Shortages of resources
- Weak central government

British Army

Strengths

- Well-trained military
- Ample resources
- Alliances with Native Americans, colonial Loyalists, and some American slaves

Weaknesses

- Fighting in unfamiliar territory
- Fighting far from home
- Soldiers fighting for a cause they didn't necessarily believe in

The People behind the American Revolution

Women's Roles

- Active in boycotts and other protests
- Cared for wounded in their homes
- Raised money to supply the army with food and clothing
- At home, women knit wool stockings and made bandages for the troops.
- Some melted down their pewter pots and pitchers to make bullets.
- As in all wars, women kept their homes, farms, and shops running while the men were at war.

African American Roles

- Free and enslaved fought on both sides of the war.
- Some offers of freedom in exchange for military service came from both sides.
- Continental Army's need for soldiers overcame prejudice.
- New England regiments had the most African Americans.

- African American soldiers generally received the same pay, clothing, and rations as whites.
- Most had menial duties, were kept at low ranks, and were not encouraged to re-enlist.



The Role of Native Americans

- 4/6 Iroquois helped British
- Oneidas and Tuscarora sided with the Americans
- On the frontiers, Loyalists and Native Americans sometimes fought together
- Mountains of Va , Carolinas Cherokees attacked settlements
 - Patriot militias fought back fiercely and tried to force the Cherokees to move west.

Revolutionary Battles in the North

- After his defeat in Boston, Howe returned to New York in August 1776 with a force of more than 300 ships and approximately 30,000 British soldiers.
- Rebels were offered a pardon if they would give in and promise loyalty. Washington refused.
- Howe captured Long Island and took many Americans prisoner.
- In the fall, Howe's army forced Washington to retreat from Manhattan to New Jersey.



- In European warfare, armies did not fight in the winter.
- Howe's men were in Princeton while the Hessians were in Trenton.
- Washington did not follow European warfare.
- On Christmas night 1776 he and his men crossed the Delaware River to Trenton and took the Hessians, capturing weapons and ammunition.
- They drove the British out of Princeton.



Revolutionary Battles in the North

- August 1776 English General Howe
 - Battle of New York
 - 300 ships
 - 30,000 British soldiers
- Rebels offered a pardon
- Washington refused
- Howe won Long Island
 - Took Americans prisoner
- Howe's army forced Washington to retreat to New Jersey

Retreat at Long Island



European warfare

- Armies didn't fight in winter
- Howe's men at Princeton
- Hessians in Trenton
- Washington did not follow European warfare
 - Unconventional



Continued:

- Victories at Trenton and Princeton gave Americans new hope



New Jersey

- **Battle of Trenton** won by US Dec. 26, 1776
 - Washington crossed Delaware R. Christmas night
 - Patriots attacked sleeping **mercenaries** - Hessians



Washington at Trenton



Continued:

- Gen. Charles Cornwallis tried to recapture Trenton
- Jan. 2, 1777 saw GW's campfires
- GW kept fires burning
- Darkness – GW disappeared w/ his men
- January 2, 1777 Americans defeated British
 - Battle of Princeton

Winter of 1776 -1777

- Howe captured Philadelphia stayed for winter
- Continental Congress fled the city

Winter at Valley Forge

- 1777 Washington had 12,000 men
- Camped at VF
- North of Philadelphia
- No battles
- Winter was the enemy
- 2,000 soldiers died
 - diseases
 - malnutrition

Britain's plan

- Spring 1777 cut New England off from other colonies
- July 5, 1777 Burgoyne's army recaptured Fort Ticonderoga
- August, British attacked Fort Stanwix
- One of the bloodiest battles
- American force arrived held the fort

Fort Ticonderoga



Aerial View of Fort Ticonderoga Museum, Fort Ticonderoga, N. Y.

AERIAL VIEW BY HENRY WOLF

75-81000

The Battle of Saratoga:

The British planned a 3 pronged attack to capture the Hudson River Valley and cut off New England from the rest of the colonies.

-Gen. Burgoyne would march south from Canada to take Albany.

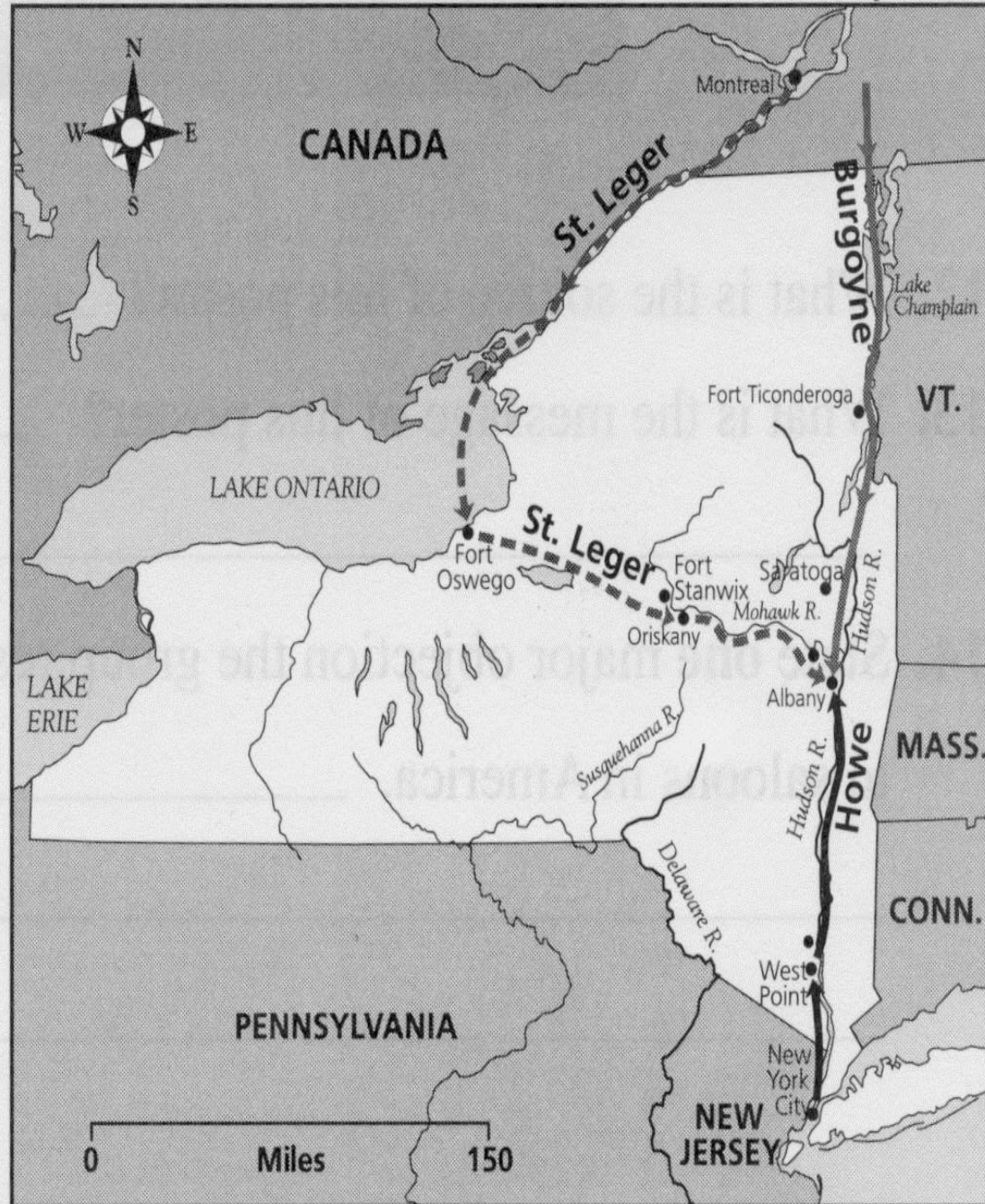
-Gen. St. Leger would march east from the Great Lakes to Albany.

-Gen. Howe would march north from NYC to Albany.

St. Leger was defeated at Battle of Oriskany. Howe never moved north.

Burgoyne was on his own and met an American army at Saratoga.

THE BRITISH PLAN FOR TAKING NEW YORK, 1777



A British Setback at Saratoga

- Burgoyne's force was now short of supplies.
- October, Burgoyne and 5,000 men were at Saratoga, New York,
- Surrounded by an American force of 17,000 under General Gates.
- October 17, 1777 surrendered
- Battle of Saratoga turning point of the Revolutionary War

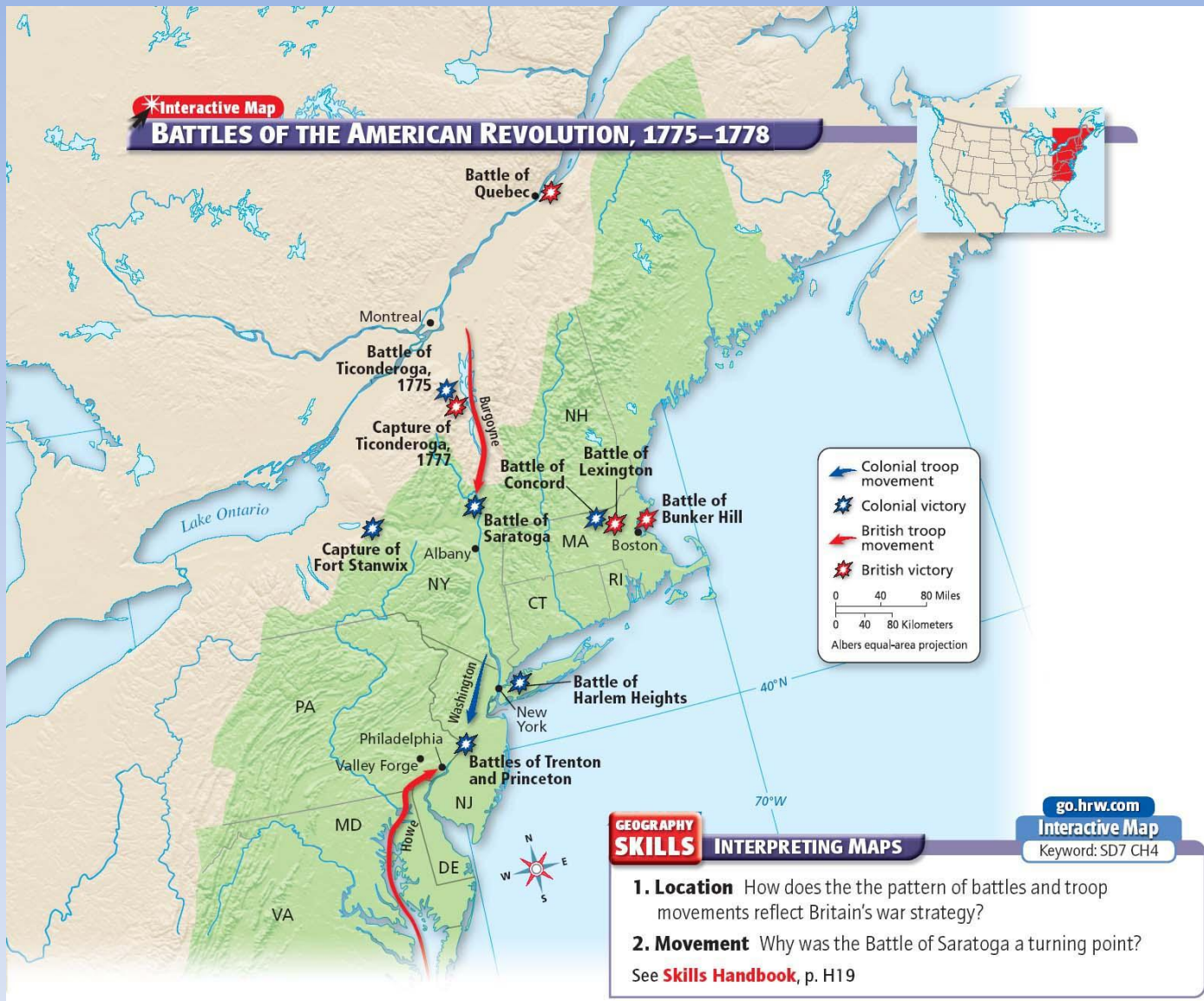
Battle of Saratoga



October 17, 1777 British forces under General John Burgoyne marched south, heading for Albany. They were crushed by Patriot forces under General Horatio Gates at Saratoga.

Interactive Map

BATTLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, 1775–1778



GEOGRAPHY
SKILLS

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Interactive Map

Keyword: SD7 CH4

- 1. Location** How does the the pattern of battles and troop movements reflect Britain's war strategy?
 - 2. Movement** Why was the Battle of Saratoga a turning point?
- See **Skills Handbook**, p. H19

Winter at Valley Forge

- 1777 Washington had 12,000 men
- Camped at VF
- North of Philadelphia
- No battles
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Money Problems

- Congress couldn't tax people
- Congress printed paper money
 - was worthless prices soared
 - known as inflation
- Resulted in food shortages at Valley Forge

Help

- European joined the Americans
- Baron von Steuben of the Prussian army drilled Washington's troops at Valley Forge.
- Marquis de Lafayette was an aide to Washington.

“Lafayette's baptism by fire” by Edward Pierce Morgan 1909



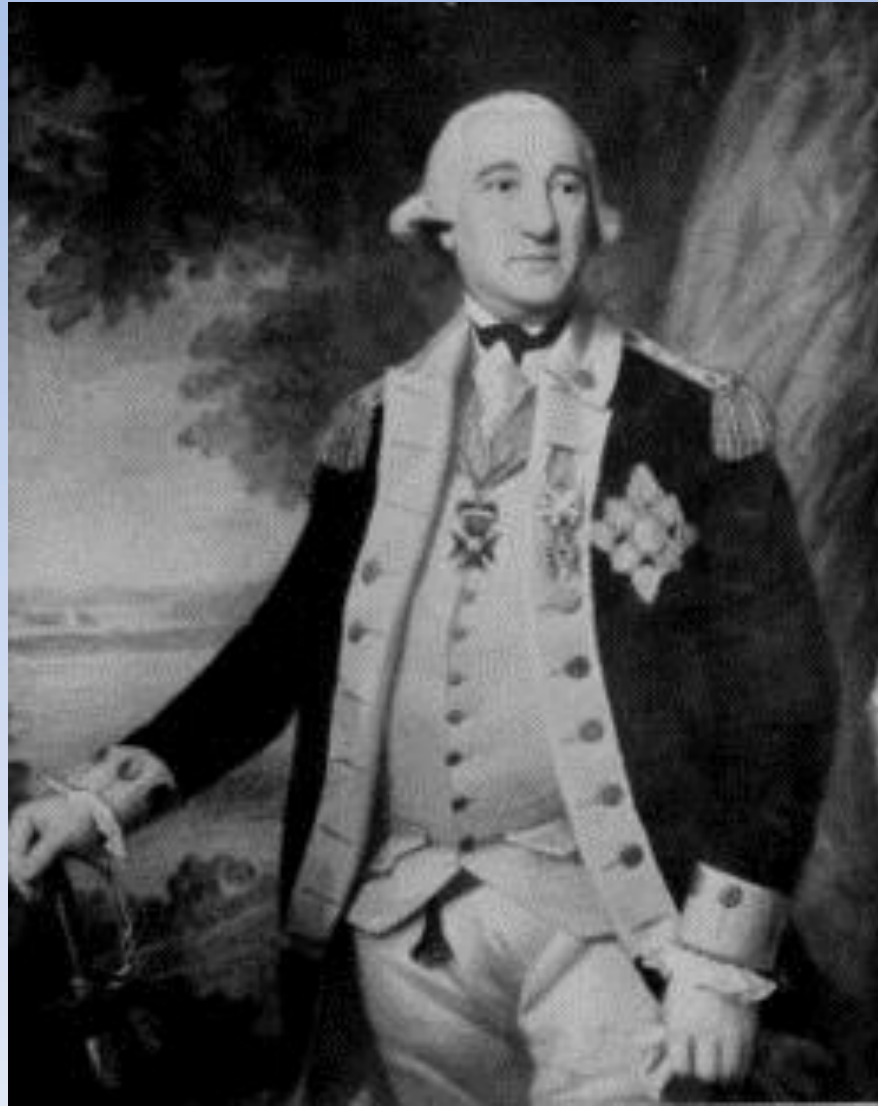
Lafayette Charles Wilson Peale's oil-on-canvas



Baron Freidrich von Steuben

- Came from Prussia
- Helped train Continental Army
- Focused on basic drills
- Only spoke German and French
- His orders had to be translated into English
- Preformed a miracle at Valley Forge

Baron Freidrich von Steuben



The Crisis Thomas Paine

- “Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”

- These are the times that try men's souls:
The summer soldier and the sunshine
patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the
service of his country; but he that stands it
now, deserves the love and thanks of man
and woman.

