

# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

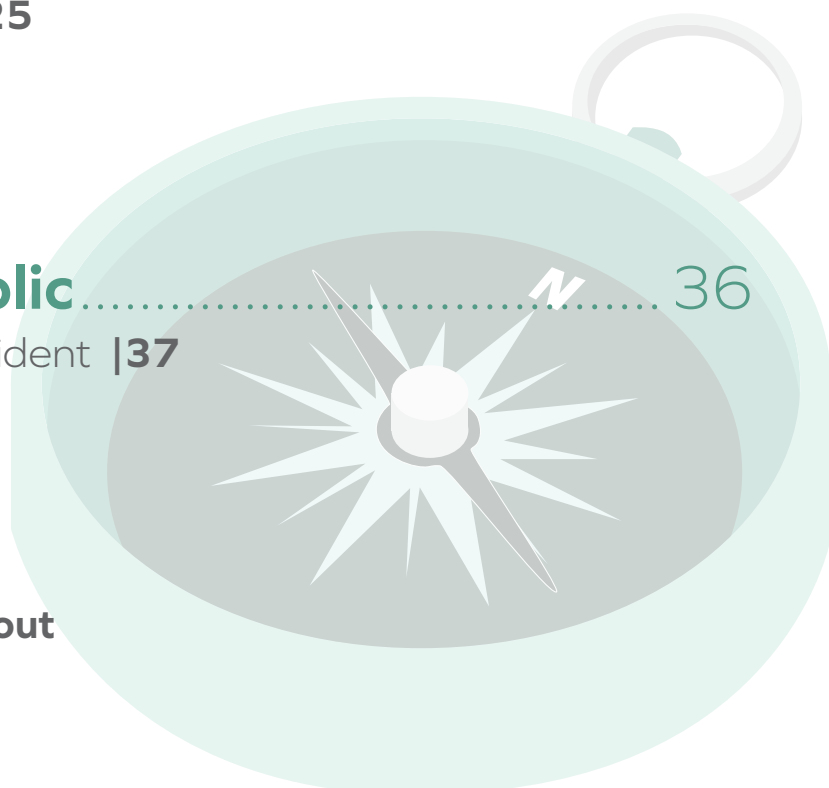
▶ **5th Grade** | Unit 2

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# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 502

## A NEW NATION

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# A NEW NATION

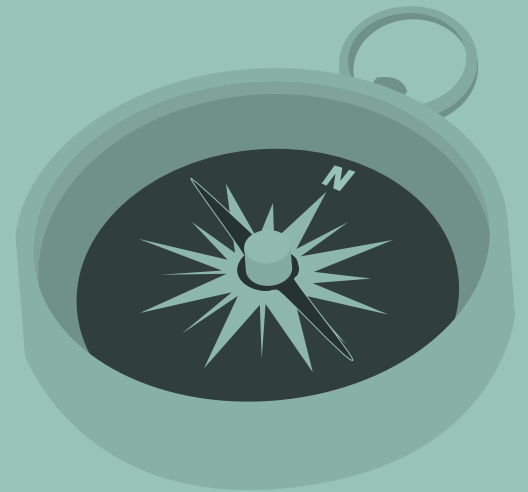
The United States of America was born on July 4, 1776, the day the Declaration of Independence was accepted by Congress. The nation was not really free, however, until after the War for Independence was fought. Americans fought for their freedom for eight long, hard years. They might have given up many times, but they did not. Britain finally granted the United States its independence in 1783 after losing two armies in America.

The war was only the beginning. After it was over, the new nation had to write a constitution that would work. It also had to start up a new government that was not like any other in the world! George Washington, who had led the American army to victory, was chosen as the nation's first president. He started the nation off right by his fairness and firmness in those first years. By God's grace, the nation was born and survived its first years.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC®. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Name the major battles and leaders in the Revolutionary War.
2. Describe the government under the Articles of Confederation.
3. Describe the decisions made at the Constitutional Convention and the government created by the Constitution.
4. Explain how the Constitution became the government of America.
5. Describe the problems and actions of the first president of the United States.
6. Describe life in the United States when the new government began.
7. Describe the beginning of political parties and important events under the second president of the United States.



# 1. WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

The Revolutionary War lasted from 1775 to 1783. It began at Lexington in Massachusetts and ended at Yorktown in Virginia. It was fought all over the colonies.

The British should have won easily. They were a powerful nation with a large army and navy. The United States was a very weak country with a small army that was made up of men from the militia. However, God had His own plans. The British fought very poorly, and the Americans would not give up.

Finally, the French decided to help the Americans. They wanted revenge for the loss of New France. With French help, the Americans trapped and defeated a whole British army. Then, Britain agreed to end the war and give America its independence.

## Objectives

**Review this objective.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Name the major battles and leaders in the Revolutionary War.

## Vocabulary

**Study these new words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAAC.

**ally** (al' ī). A nation united with another for some special purpose.

**betray** (bi trā). To be unfaithful or disloyal to.

**cannon** (kan' ən). A big gun supported by wheels or a flat base.

**colonel** (kèr' nl). Officer ranking above a major and below a general.

**promote** (prə mōt). To raise in rank or importance.

**siege** (sēj). The surrounding of a fortified place by an army trying to capture it.

**spokesman** (spōks' mən). A person who speaks for another or others.

**spy** (spī). A person who tries to get information about the enemy, usually in time of war, by visiting the enemy's territory in disguise.

**traitor** (trā' tər). A person who betrays his or her country.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʃH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

## A Bleak Beginning

**Problems.** The Revolutionary War was not a fair fight. The British had many advantages. Britain was one of the most powerful nations on earth in 1775. It had a large army and navy. It had money to hire soldiers from Germany (Hessians). Also, many Americans still did not want independence. They were loyal to the king. These people, called *Tories*, would help the British against the patriots.

Another problem was the American government. The Second Continental Congress took over as a government for all the colonies in 1776, but it had no power. It could not collect taxes, only the state assemblies could do that. (The original thirteen colonies had all become states.) Congress could only ask for money, and they often did not get it. That made it very difficult to pay the soldiers and buy supplies for them. Britain did not have that problem. Its soldiers were better paid and supplied all through the war.

However, the British had some problems too. Their generals were usually noblemen who had paid for their place in the army. Many of them were not good soldiers. They also had to get their orders from Britain which was 3,000 miles (4,839 km) away, across the Atlantic Ocean. There were no telephones. Orders from the British government could take weeks or months to reach a commander in America.

Also, the British had to defeat and control all of the United States! It was a huge land with miles of deep forests where the patriots could hide. These patriots were also fighting for their homes and their freedom. They were led by men who were clever and determined, like George Washington. They would not make it easy for the British.

**Boston.** The American army surrounded Boston after Lexington and Concord. George Washington took command of the army in July of 1775, just after the Battle of Bunker Hill. Washington was a good choice for this job. He was a rich plantation owner from Virginia. He



| The United States in 1776, including the major battles of the Revolutionary War.

had fought in the French and Indian War and the Virginia militia. He was a man that soldiers trusted, and he was a clever fighter. Washington wanted to drive the British out of Boston, but he could not until March of 1776.

A group of patriots called the “Green Mountain Boys,” led by Ethan Allen, had captured Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain in 1775. This was an important fort because the British could invade New York from Canada along the lake. (Roads were really bad in America. Traveling along rivers or lakes was much better.) Also, the patriots captured the fort’s **cannons**. Henry Knox moved almost 60 of these cannons south by sled during the winter of 1775-76. In the



spring, Washington set them up on the hills around Boston. The British realized they were in real danger and left the city.

In the meantime, another American army had captured Montreal, north of Lake Champlain. These men then tried to take Quebec and failed. General Benedict Arnold had been a part of the attack on Quebec. He retreated back to Fort Ticonderoga. In 1776, he defeated a British fleet that tried to retake the fort and the lake.

**New York.** The British army moved from Boston to New York in July of 1776. Washington was defeated at the Battle of Long Island in August, but he and his army escaped. The British also captured two important American forts near New York City. The British army then settled in New York for the winter.

An American soldier named Nathan Hale offered to get information about the British in New York City. He went over to Long Island dressed in regular clothes. He took careful notes and then tried to get back across the bay to Connecticut. He saw a boat coming that he thought might give him a lift. Unfortunately, one of the men on the boat was a member of Hale's family and a Tory. They captured him and gave him to the British. He was hung as a **spy**. He died bravely saying, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country!"

**Washington's surprise.** By the end of 1776, the American army was in trouble. They were camped in the cold outside of New York City in New Jersey, and many of the soldiers wanted to go home. Many had signed up to fight only until the end of the year. Unless George Washington could convince them to stay, he would not have an army after December 31st.

In December Washington planned a surprise for the British. After dark on Christmas night, he and the army crossed the Delaware River. It was bitterly cold, and anyone falling in the river could have died. The water was full of chunks of ice that threatened to tip the small boats. With great skill and daring the army was able to cross the river and sneak up on a Hessian camp at Trenton.

Most of the Hessians were sound asleep. They had celebrated all day on Christmas. No one was ready for an attack, but that is what happened. The American army came at them out of the early dawn. It was a complete surprise! In less than an hour, Washington and his men captured a thousand prisoners and many supplies.

The British tried to trap Washington after Trenton; however, Washington was very clever. He had his men leave their campfires burning, and a few men stayed in the camp making noise while the rest of the army snuck away during the night. They attacked and defeated another



| Washington's army crossing the Delaware

group of British soldiers a few miles away at Princeton. These two victories encouraged the Americans. Many new men volunteered to fight and the old ones agreed to stay. Some of them would fight for the entire war.

**Summer 1777.** The next summer went very badly for Washington. The British army in New York marched out and took Philadelphia, which was the capital of the United States at the time. Washington lost two battles trying to stop the British. However, in both battles the Americans fought well, and the army was not captured. The Congress at Philadelphia moved before the British arrived, so they were not captured either. Also, things might have been going badly in Pennsylvania, but they were going very well for the Americans in northern New York.



**Write *true* or *false* on the blank.**

- 1.1** \_\_\_\_\_ British generals were chosen for being good soldiers.
- 1.2** \_\_\_\_\_ Britain had a large army and navy.
- 1.3** \_\_\_\_\_ The American Congress could not collect taxes.
- 1.4** \_\_\_\_\_ It would not be easy for the British to capture all of the United States.
- 1.5** \_\_\_\_\_ Tories were patriots who fought for the Americans.
- 1.6** \_\_\_\_\_ The Green Mountain boys captured Fort Pitt in 1775.
- 1.7** \_\_\_\_\_ Benedict Arnold captured Quebec in 1775.
- 1.8** \_\_\_\_\_ Nathan Hale was a patriot who was hung as a spy.
- 1.9** \_\_\_\_\_ The British captured the American capital in 1777.
- 1.10** \_\_\_\_\_ Washington drove the British out of Boston with cannons taken from Fort Ticonderoga.
- 1.11** \_\_\_\_\_ Ethan Allen captured Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain.
- 1.12** \_\_\_\_\_ Benedict Arnold kept the British from retaking Lake Champlain in 1776.
- 1.13** \_\_\_\_\_ The British army could get its orders quickly and easily.



**Answer these questions.**

**1.14** What happened at the Battle of Trenton? \_\_\_\_\_

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**1.15** Why were the victories at Trenton and Princeton so important to the Americans? \_\_\_\_\_

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**1.16** Who said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country?" \_\_\_\_\_

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## New Hope

**British plan.** The British came up with a good plan for the summer of 1777. They decided to attack New York from three directions. Three British armies would march to Albany in the middle of New York from the south, north, and west. Then the whole state could be captured. That would separate New England from the rest of the United States, making it difficult for the Americans to keep fighting together. It would have been a great victory, if it had worked.



| The British plan to attack New York

# SELF TEST 1

**Match these people** (each answer, 3 points).

- |              |   |                                |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>1.01</b>  | _____ Led the Green Mountain Boys to capture Fort Ticonderoga   | a. George Washington           |
| <b>1.02</b>  | _____ He and his army were captured at Saratoga   | b. Ethan Allen                 |
| <b>1.03</b>  | _____ Won a brilliant victory at Trenton after crossing the ice-filled Delaware River                   | c. Nathan Hale                 |
| <b>1.04</b>  | _____ American patriot, hung as a spy, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." | d. Benedict Arnold             |
| <b>1.05</b>  | _____ Patriot turned traitor  | e. "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne |
| <b>1.06</b>  | _____ Captured British forts in the Northwest Territory   | f. Benjamin Franklin           |
| <b>1.07</b>  | _____ Drilled the American army at Valley Forge   | g. Baron von Steuben           |
| <b>1.08</b>  | _____ French general who fought with Washington   | h. Nathanael Greene            |
| <b>1.09</b>  | _____ America's representative in France  | i. General Rochambeau          |
| <b>1.010</b> | _____ British general, lost his army at Yorktown  | j. General Cornwallis          |
| <b>1.011</b> | _____ American general who freed the south by exhausting the British                                    | k. George Rogers Clark         |
| <b>1.012</b> | _____ Captured by the Americans while carrying messages between a traitor and the British               | l. John André                  |

- 1.029** \_\_\_\_\_ Nathanael Greene won almost all of his battles in the south.
- 1.030** \_\_\_\_\_ The British had a large army and navy to use in the war.
- 1.031** \_\_\_\_\_ The new government of the United States had the power to raise taxes only to pay for the war.
- 1.032** \_\_\_\_\_ Many of the men in the American army agreed to stay after the victory at Trenton.

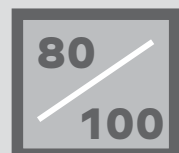


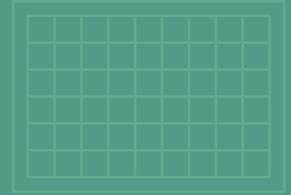
**Teacher check:**

Score \_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_





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