

The American Revolution

Practice Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully. Answer all questions in complete sentences unless otherwise indicated. For multiple-choice questions, circle the letter of the best answer. For essay questions, write a well-organized response using specific historical evidence. Use the space provided for your answers.

1. Explain the significance of the Battle of Saratoga in the American Revolution. Why is this battle considered a turning point in the war?

2. Which of the following was a primary cause of the American Revolution?
- A. The desire to establish a new monarchy in the colonies
 - B. British taxation policies and restrictions on colonial trade
 - C. The refusal of colonial assemblies to elect representatives
 - D. The demand for universal suffrage for all colonists

3. Describe the purpose and key provisions of the Declaration of Independence. What grievances against King George III were highlighted in this document?

4. The Treaty of Paris (1783) officially ended the American Revolutionary War. Which of the following was NOT a term of this treaty?
- A. Great Britain recognized the independence of the United States
 - B. The United States gained territory west to the Mississippi River
 - C. The United States agreed to repay debts owed to British merchants
 - D. Great Britain retained control of the port of New Orleans

5. Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of the Continental Army and the British Army during the American Revolution. Provide at least two strengths and two weaknesses for each side.

6. What role did women play in the American Revolution? Provide at least two specific examples of women's contributions to the war effort.

7. Which event is most directly associated with the phrase “No taxation without representation”?
- A. The Boston Massacre
 - B. The Stamp Act of 1765
 - C. The Battle of Bunker Hill
 - D. The Boston Tea Party

8. Explain the significance of the winter at Valley Forge (1777–1778) for the Continental Army. How did this experience affect the soldiers and the outcome of the war?

9. The Intolerable Acts (Coercive Acts) were passed by the British Parliament in 1774. Which of the following was a consequence of these acts?
- A. The closing of the port of Boston
 - B. The establishment of the First Continental Congress
 - C. The repeal of all taxes on the colonies
 - D. The creation of the Declaration of Independence

10. Write a short essay (at least three paragraphs) explaining the major causes and consequences of the American Revolution. Be sure to include political, economic, and social factors in your response.

Answer Key

1. **The Battle of Saratoga** (October 1777) was a decisive American victory over British forces led by General John Burgoyne. It is considered a turning point because it convinced France to formally ally with the United States, providing military and financial support that was crucial to winning the war. The victory also boosted American morale and demonstrated that the Continental Army could defeat British regulars in a major engagement.
2. **B.** British taxation policies and restrictions on colonial trade. (The Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, and other taxes, along with trade restrictions like the Navigation Acts, fueled colonial resentment and resistance.)
3. **The Declaration of Independence** (adopted July 4, 1776) declared the thirteen colonies independent from Great Britain. Its key provisions include the preamble stating that all men are created equal and endowed with unalienable rights (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness), the list of grievances against King George III (including taxation without consent, quartering of troops, and denial of trial by jury), and the formal declaration of independence. The document justified the break by asserting that governments derive their power from the consent of the governed.
4. **D.** Great Britain retained control of the port of New Orleans. (In fact, the treaty granted the United States territory west to the Mississippi River, and New Orleans was not a British possession at the time; Spain controlled it.)
5. **Continental Army:**
 - *Strengths:* Motivated soldiers fighting for a cause; strong leadership (George Washington); support from France and other allies; familiarity with local terrain.
 - *Weaknesses:* Poorly trained and equipped; chronic shortages of food, clothing, and supplies; small size compared to the British; lack of a strong central government to fund the war.

British Army:

- *Strengths:* Well-trained and disciplined professional soldiers; powerful navy; financial resources and established supply lines; support from Loyalists and Native American allies.
 - *Weaknesses:* Fighting far from home with long supply lines; unfamiliar terrain; underestimation of colonial resistance; difficulty recruiting troops and reliance on mercenaries (Hessians).
6. **Women's roles:** Women supported the war effort in various ways. Examples include:
 - **Martha Washington** and other women who followed the army, providing nursing care, cooking, and laundry services at camps like Valley Forge.

- **Molly Pitcher** (Mary Ludwig Hays) who famously carried water to soldiers and reportedly took her husband's place at a cannon during the Battle of Monmouth.
 - **Abigail Adams** who advocated for women's rights and supported the patriot cause through her letters and political influence.
 - Women also organized boycotts of British goods (e.g., spinning bees to produce homespun cloth) and served as spies or messengers.
7. **B.** The Stamp Act of 1765. (This act imposed a direct tax on all printed materials, leading colonists to protest with the slogan "No taxation without representation.")
 8. **Valley Forge** (winter 1777–1778) was a severe test of endurance for the Continental Army. Soldiers faced extreme cold, disease, and shortages of food and clothing. Despite these hardships, the army emerged stronger: Baron von Steuben trained the troops in military discipline and drill, improving their effectiveness. The experience forged a more cohesive and professional army, and the survival of the Continental Army demonstrated resilience that helped secure French support and eventual victory.
 9. **A.** The closing of the port of Boston. (The Intolerable Acts included the Boston Port Act, which closed the harbor until the destroyed tea was paid for, along with other punitive measures.)
 10. **Essay response should include:**
 - *Political causes:* British policies limiting colonial self-government (e.g., suspension of colonial assemblies), the idea of "virtual representation" vs. actual representation, and Enlightenment ideas about natural rights and consent of the governed.
 - *Economic causes:* Mercantilist policies, taxation without representation (Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, Tea Act), and restrictions on trade and manufacturing.
 - *Social causes:* Growing colonial identity and unity, the influence of colonial newspapers and pamphlets (e.g., Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*), and the mobilization of ordinary citizens.
 - *Consequences:* Establishment of an independent United States, creation of a republican form of government, the spread of democratic ideals, and the inspiration for other revolutionary movements worldwide. Also, the war left economic challenges and unresolved issues such as slavery and women's rights.