

American Revolution Study Guide – US History

Build up to War

- What were the causes of the revolution?
- Who were the leaders of the revolution?
- How were colonials viewed by the British? Think of how they are portrayed in the film *Liberty!*
- Why did the British impose taxes on the colonies?
- What arguments did the colonists make regarding the taxes the British imposed?
 - How did the British respond?
 - What was the boycott?
 - What was the Continental Congress?
- Why did the British introduce the Tea Act?
 - What was the response of the colonists in Boston?
 - What were the Coercive Acts?
- Why did the Continental Congresses make such an effort to profess loyalty to George III?
 - Who were the loyalists?

The War and the Revolution

- What was revolutionary about the form of independence the colonists wanted?
- Why was the Battle of Saratoga an important turning point in the war?
- In what ways was the Peace of Paris (1783) very favorable to the United States?
- Be familiar with strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
- Why did the leaders of the new United States decide to replace the Articles of Confederation?
- Why was slavery such a difficult for the Founding Fathers?
- What does it tell us about the United States and the Constitution that ratification of the Constitution was so difficult?
- What role did the Bill of Rights play in the ratification of the Constitution?

Early Republic

- Understand the debate over Alexander Hamilton's financial plan – in what way did this reveal two divergent visions of the future of the country?
- Why was federalism – the debate over which should be the center of American government, the states or the federal government – so important?
- What challenges to the future of the republic did John Adams face during his presidency?
- Why did the founders fear factions?
- Why did Jefferson consider his election in 1800 as a revolution?

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Honors students – be familiar with the Toward Revolution: Guided Readings (the one we actually looked at in class) – Expect a question asking you to explain one of these documents and state your view of the argument put forward.

TIMELINE -

This is just to help you clarify the major events of the era. I will not give you a question that requires you to create a timeline.

1754-1763

The French and Indian War / Seven Years War

1764

The Sugar Act

1765

The Stamp Act

The Stamp Act Congress

1766

Repeal of Stamp Act and passage of the Declaratory Act

1767

Townshend Revenue Act

1768

Boston Non-Importation Agreement

1770

The Boston Massacre

1773

May - The Tea Act

Dec. 16: The Boston Tea Party

1774

The Intolerable Acts (Colonial name) or the Coercive Acts (British name)

The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia and issues Declaration and Resolves

Congress orders prohibition of trade with Great Britain

1775

Minutemen and redcoats clash at Lexington and Concord "The shot heard 'round the world."

Start of the War of Independence

The Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia

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1776

Paine's "Common Sense" published
Congress debates and revises the Declaration of Independence.
Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence; it's sent to the printer
Battle of Saratoga won by the Americans

1778

The United States and France sign the French Alliance

1780

French troops arrive to aid the American cause

1781

Articles of Confederation adopted
British surrender at Yorktown, VA

1782

British and Americans sign preliminary Articles of Peace

1783

The United States and Great Britain sign the Treaty of Paris

1787

U.S. Constitution signed

1788

June 21: U.S. Constitution adopted, when New Hampshire ratifies it
George Washington elected president

1790-1791

Hamilton's financial plan

1796

John Adams elected
XYZ affair
Alien and Sedition Acts

1800

Thomas Jefferson elected president.