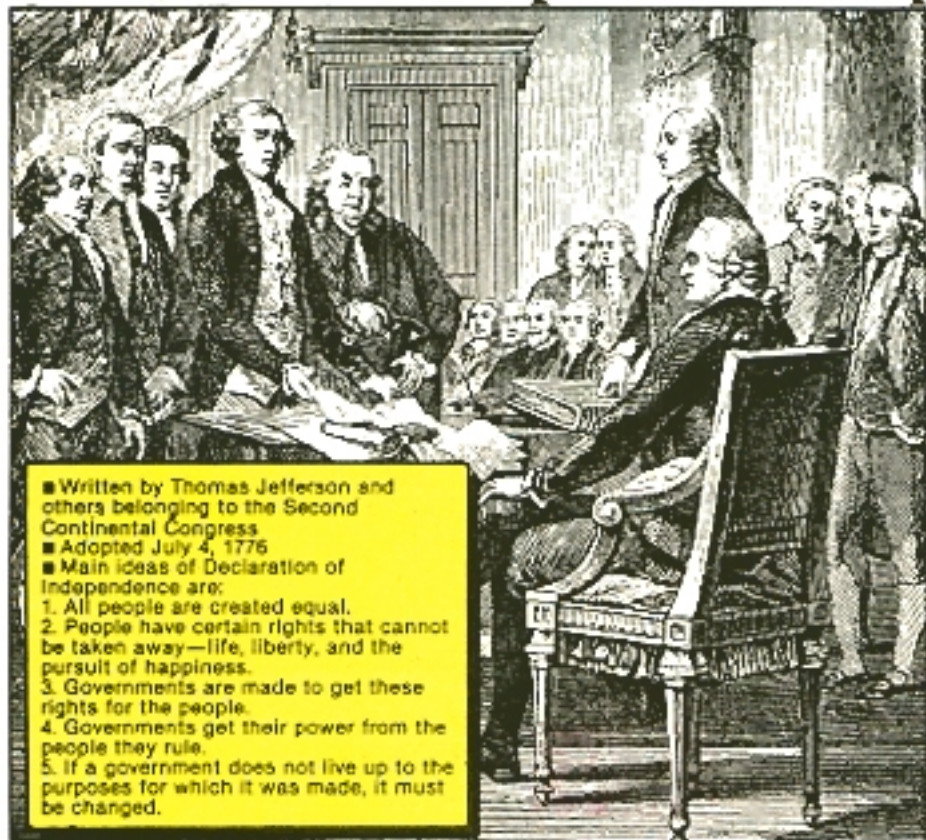


NATION: The Declaration of Independence**Declaration of Independence Adopted**

- Written by Thomas Jefferson and others belonging to the Second Continental Congress
- Adopted July 4, 1776
- Main ideas of Declaration of Independence are:
 1. All people are created equal.
 2. People have certain rights that cannot be taken away—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
 3. Governments are made to get these rights for the people.
 4. Governments get their power from the people they rule.
 5. If a government does not live up to the purposes for which it was made, it must be changed.

Philadelphia, July 4, 1776

The **Second Continental Congress** has said it is willing to go to war with England.

Leaders from all 13 colonies have signed a **Declaration of Independence**.

The Declaration says:

- All people are equal. No one is better than another.
- All people have rights that cannot be taken away—rights like life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Governments get their powers from the people.
- If a government does not do what it was set up to do, it should be done away with.

In short, the Declaration says America should be free from England. But England is believed ready to fight to keep America.

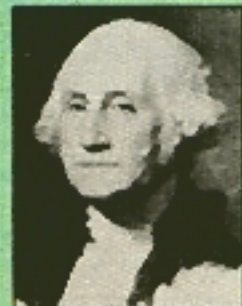
In fact, every signer of the Declaration is seen as a traitor to England. They can be killed. That includes **Thomas Jefferson**, who wrote the Declaration of Independence.

Paine, "Common Sense" Says Fight!

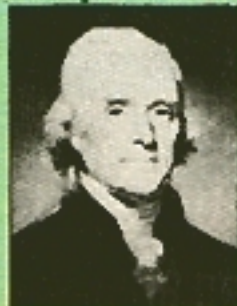
New York, 1775

Thomas Paine, writing in a little book called "**Common Sense**," is telling Americans to

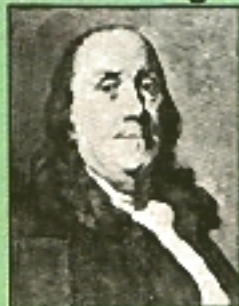
fight. Americans have put 150 years into building this land, he says. Why should England now tell Americans how to run it?

Newsmakers: Important Men During the War

George Washington
 ■ Named the head of the Continental [American] Army.



Thomas Jefferson
 ■ Wrote the Declaration of Independence.



Benjamin Franklin
 ■ Got the French to help America during the Revolutionary War.



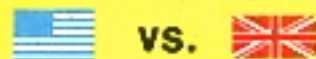
John Adams
 ■ Worked to have George Washington made Commander-in-Chief [head] of the Army.



John Hancock
 ■ Served as President of the second Continental Congress.
 ■ Was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence.

NATION: The Revolutionary War

American Colonies VS. England



General:
 ■ George Washington

Soldiers:
 ■ Patriots, some called "Minutemen" [a group of colonists ready to fight with very little warning].

General:
 ■ Lord Cornwallis

Soldiers:
 ■ Redcoats [trained English soldiers]
 ■ Hessians [German soldiers hired by England]

Top five Battles of the Revolutionary War—flag symbol in left-hand corner means "winner."

- 
1 Lexington & Concord
 ■ First battle of war
 ■ April 19, 1775
- 
2 Bunker Hill
 ■ Colonists are surprised to see how well they can fight
 ■ June 17, 1775
- 
3 Trenton
 ■ America defeats 1,000 Hessians hired by England
 ■ December 25, 1776
- 
4 Saratoga
 ■ Victory leads France to help the colonists
 ■ October 17, 1777
- 
5 Yorktown
 ■ Last big battle of the war
 ■ October 19, 1781

REVOLUTIONARY WAR



1775-1783

HOW THEY MATCH UP

Here's a look at the advantages and disadvantages of each side during the Revolutionary War. In a revolution, a group fights to get free from its government. The colonists are fighting the Revolutionary War to get free from England.

STRONG GOVERNMENT



■ England is an old, strong country with a strong government to back a war. The American government [Articles of Confederation] is very weak.

MORE MONEY



■ England has money to buy its army food, clothing, and guns. America has very little money to pay for a war. The colonial army is short of supplies.

FIGHTING ON OWN SOIL



■ Americans know the land they are fighting on. Also, Americans are fighting for their own freedoms. Many of the English soldiers are Hessians [hired German soldiers]. They do not care about the war as much as the Americans do.

WELL-TRAINED ARMY



■ England has one of the best trained and best equipped armies in the world (50,000 soldiers). Some Americans fought in the French and Indian War. But most American soldiers are not trained.

SKILLED ARMY LEADERS



■ Washington knows the land in America. He has army training and is a good leader. England's leaders are not as strong.

BETTER FIREARMS



■ Americans are used to guns. They use guns to hunt food and fight Indians. England's rifles are not as good as colonial rifles.

HELP FROM OTHER COUNTRIES



■ America gets much-needed soldiers, supplies, money, and leaders from France. Spain and Holland also give some help to America. England gets no help from other countries.

GOOD NAVY

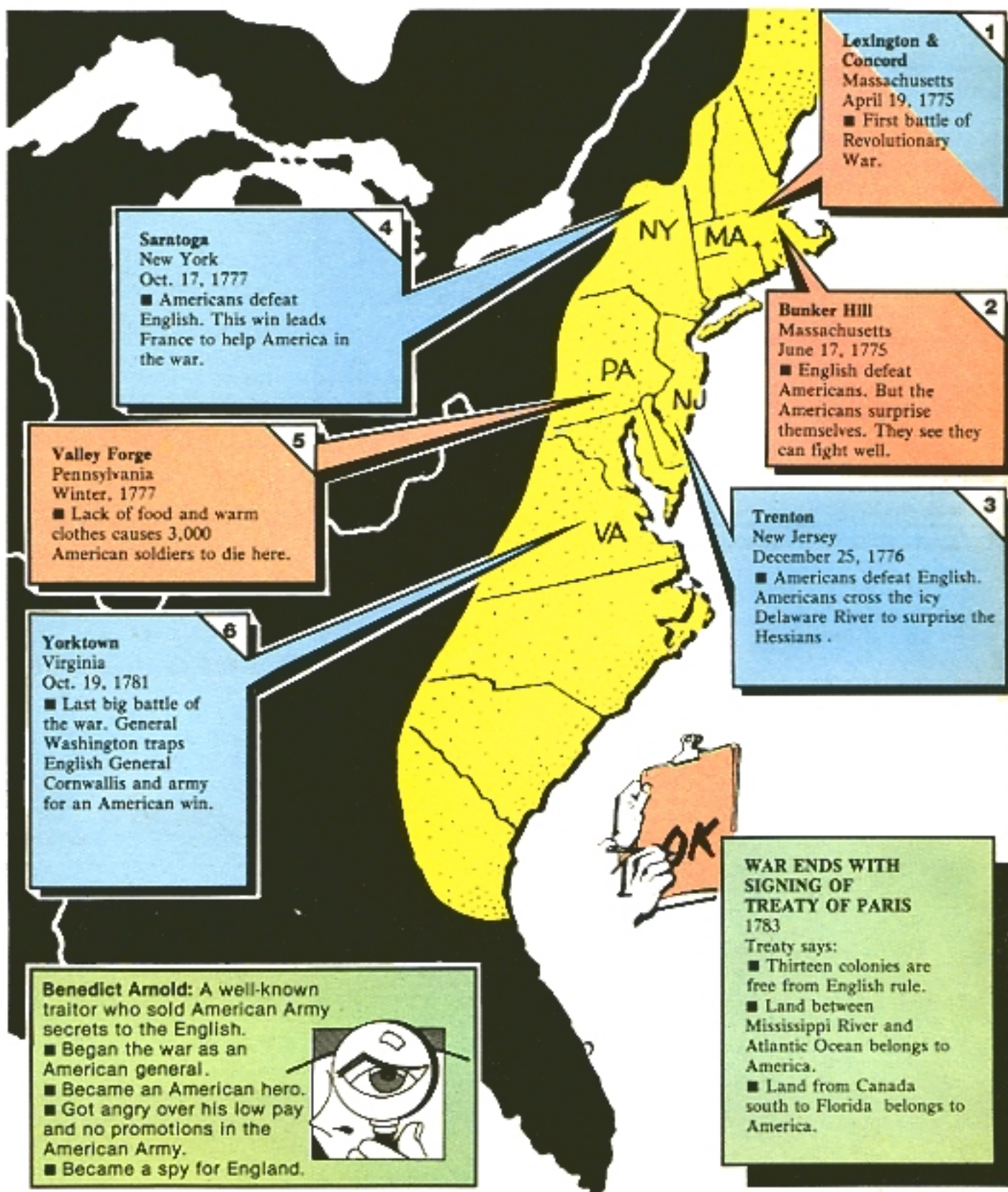


■ England has a big navy that knows how to fight. It has 50 ships. America has one ship.

NATION: Major Battles of The Revolutionary War

U.S. Fights for Freedom: Where the Battles Were

Here's a closer look at the major battles of the Revolutionary War.



1
Lexington & Concord
 Massachusetts
 April 19, 1775
 ■ First battle of Revolutionary War.

2
Bunker Hill
 Massachusetts
 June 17, 1775
 ■ English defeat Americans. But the Americans surprise themselves. They see they can fight well.

3
Trenton
 New Jersey
 December 25, 1776
 ■ Americans defeat English. Americans cross the icy Delaware River to surprise the Hessians.

4
Saratoga
 New York
 Oct. 17, 1777
 ■ Americans defeat English. This win leads France to help America in the war.

5
Valley Forge
 Pennsylvania
 Winter, 1777
 ■ Lack of food and warm clothes causes 3,000 American soldiers to die here.

6
Yorktown
 Virginia
 Oct. 19, 1781
 ■ Last big battle of the war. General Washington traps English General Cornwallis and army for an American win.

WAR ENDS WITH SIGNING OF TREATY OF PARIS 1783

Treaty says:
 ■ Thirteen colonies are free from English rule.
 ■ Land between Mississippi River and Atlantic Ocean belongs to America.
 ■ Land from Canada south to Florida belongs to America.

Benedict Arnold: A well-known traitor who sold American Army secrets to the English.
 ■ Began the war as an American general.
 ■ Became an American hero.
 ■ Got angry over his low pay and no promotions in the American Army.
 ■ Became a spy for England.



NATION: The War For Independence From England

American Victory Caps Revolutionary War

Yorktown, Virginia,
October 19, 1781

After a surprise attack led by American General George Washington, Lord Cornwallis and his English army have given up at Yorktown.

The **Battle of Yorktown** ends the Revolutionary War (1775-1781). This war was fought over who shall rule America. The victory gives Americans the freedom to make their own laws—**independence**.

England lost even though it was the strongest country in Europe. Most people thought England would win the war

because America was weak. America had no government, no money, and no army. But England lost because:

- Americans fought at home. The English had to send men and supplies 3,000 miles.
- Americans knew how to fight in forests, swamps, and the mountains. The English did not know the land.
- Americans fought hard to save their homes and families. The English were fighting people they did not know or care about.
- Americans had smart leaders, such as George Washington. The English leaders sometimes did

not follow battle plans.

- Americans got help from other countries, such as France, Spain, and Holland. The English had to fight America alone.

Treaty of Paris Signed

Paris, France, September 1783

The Revolutionary War is over! In signing the Treaty of Paris, England has given America:

- Independence.
- All land between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mississippi River from Canada to Florida.
- The right to fish off the coast of Newfoundland.

The War: Who Fought, Who Didn't, and Why

Loyalty to England Divides Colonists

A look at who wanted to fight and who didn't.

1/3 of colonists:
No, stay with England.

1/3 of colonists:
Well, I just don't know....

1/3 of colonists:
Yes, let's fight and get our independence!



THE BIG SPLIT: TOP 3 IN AMERICA

LOYALIST—a colonist who wanted to remain under the rule of England.

NEUTRALIST—a colonist who did not side with Patriots or Loyalists.

PATRIOT—a colonist who wanted to break away from the rule of England.

Victory Does Not Please Everyone

America, 1781

Not all Americans are happy with the American win in the Revolutionary War.

■ **Loyalists** have lost their homes to the Patriots. Many Loyalists have run away to Canada.

■ **Neutralists** have lost their chance to make money. They have been buying poor food and cheap, thin uniforms. Then they have sold these at high prices to the American army.

But the **Patriots** who led the fight to free America from England are very happy. The Patriots say that America should be independent. America should be free to:

- Buy and sell goods to any country—not just England.
- Make its own laws—not be made to obey the laws of an English king and an English government.