Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

U.S. History and Government ~ Miss Cummings Colonial America

**HOW DID THE COLONISTS WIN THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE?**

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| THE 13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA |  | | | | GREAT BRITAIN |
|  |  | | | |  |
| About 2.5 million | POPULATION | | | | About 8 million |
|  |  | | | |  |
| Patriots – colonists for independence (also called Whigs & Rebels)  About 1/3 of the Americans supported revolution | AMERICANS CHOOSE SIDES  About 1/3 were neutral | | | | Loyalists – colonists loyal to Great Briton (called Torries & Redcoats)  About 1/3 of the colonists were loyal to great Britain |
|  |  | | | |  |
| Continental Army – never more than about 18,500 | ARMIES | | | | British Army – About 50,000 regulars. These are never at one place or time |
| State Militias – About 230,000 militiamen served; but never at one time or place (owing to regional loyalties & due to short enlistments of 3-12 months). There were many desertions and time outs to harvest crops.  French Troops – after 1778, about 8,000.  African-Americans – About 5,000.  Native Americans – 2 Iroquois tribes. | | | German Mercenaries – King George III hired 30,000 soldiers from six German Principalities. (Because more than half came from Hesse-Cassel, they were called Hessians) Most were forced to serve by their local ruler, who pocketed the British payments. Many remained in America after the war.  African-Americans – some slaves in return for their freedom.  Native Americans – 3 Iroquois tribes. | | |
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| American – 13 frigates; 40 merchantmen; more than 2,000 privateers | NAVY | | | | British – by 1781, about 460 ships of the line |
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| General George Washington, 1732-1799 Commander in Chief | LEADERS | | | | General William Howe, 1729-1814 Commander in Chief 1775-1778 |
| General Benedict Arnold, 1741-1801  (turned traitor in 1779)  General Horatio Gates, 1729-1806  General Nathaniel Greene, 1742-1786  General Henry Knox, 1750-1806  General Charles Lee, 1732-1810  General Benjamin Lincoln, 1735-1810  Commodore Esek Hopkins, French Allies Lt. General Comte de Rochambeau, 1750-1815  Vice-Admiral Comte d’Estaing |  | | | | General Henry Clinton, 1738-1805 Commander in Chief 1778-1783 General Charles Cornwallis, 1738-1805  General John Burgoyne, 1722-1792  Admiral Richard Howe, 1726-1799  (brother of William Howe)  Admiral George Rodney, 1719-1792 |
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|  | ADVANTAGES | | | |  |
| 1. Outstanding leadership of General George Washington, a man of high character who inspired courage. 2. Strong motivation – Americans were fighting to become free to think for themselves, choose their own laws and to govern themselves. 3. Fighting on home ground – knew the territory 4. Experienced officers – including Washington, who had fought in the French & Indian War. 5. Superiority of the American rifle (German made) – in range and accuracy to the British smoothbore musket. 6. Sharpshooters – because of their frontier experience. | | | | 1. Military power – strongest army in the world; well equipped and disciplined. 2. Superior numbers – outnumbered the American patriots in most battles. 3. Indian support – from many Native Americans fearful of losing even more land to white settlers 4. Loyalist cooperation – from about 1/3 of Americans who wanted to remain British 5. Hefty war chest – enough money to hire 30,000 German soldiers. 6. Bright red uniform – took pride in appearance. | |
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|  | DISADVANTAGES | | | |  |
| 1. Inexperienced army & militia – most militiamen were farmers; untrained and undisciplined. 2. Short enlistments – often only 3-12 months. 3. Brand new navy – few ships to defend coastline. 4. Constant shortages – money, food, clothing, medicine. 5. Near-bankrupt treasury – Congress printed Continental paper money that lost its value because of no hard value. 6. Loyalist warfare – often neighbor against neighbor. | | | | 1. Weak motivation – not fighting for a cause. 2. Unagressive officers – failed to press advantages. 3. Far from home – 3,000 from Britain; poor communications and a long supply line. 4. Enemy coastline – 1,500 mile stretch to blockade. 5. Vast land – could conquer; unable to hold territory. 6. European aid to America – enemies of Britain coming to the aid of America. | |