

4-3 NOTES

1. The Big Idea

Patriot forces faced many obstacles in the war against Britain.

Main Ideas

- Many Americans supported the war effort.
- The Patriots both won and lost battles during the years 1775-1777.
- France and Spain helped the Patriots fight the British.
- The winter at Valley Forge tested the strength of Patriot troops.
- The war continued at sea and in the West.

2. Main Idea 1:

Many Americans supported the war effort.

- More than 230,000 soldiers served in the Continental Army.
- 145,000 enlisted in local militias.

African-Americans

- First banned from serving, but when the British promised freedom to any slave who fought on their side, the Continental Army began to allow free African Americans to serve.

Women

- Ran farms and businesses
- Helped by raising money for supplies or by making clothing
- Served as messengers, nurses, and spies
- Some dressed as men and fought.

3. Main Idea 2:

The Patriots both won and lost battles during the years 1775-1777.

Canada

- Captured Montreal November 1775
- Some patriots thought British-controlled Canada should be the “14th colony.”
- American forces attacked Quebec.
- Attack failed, and hopes of taking Canada faded.

New York

- British fleet arrives June 1776
- Washington’s 23,000 militiamen opposed by 32,000 better-equipped British soldiers.
- Series of battles
- Washington’s forces pushed into New Jersey.

New Jersey

- **Battle of Trenton** won by Americans on December 26, 1776.
 - Washington crossed the Delaware on Christmas night.
 - Patriots attacked the **mercenaries** as they slept.
- Defeated the British at the Battle of Princeton January 2, 1777.

4. Battle of Saratoga

- **British upset by two quick defeats in New Jersey.**
- **British General John Burgoyne planned to seize Hudson River Valley to cut off New England.**
- **British army crushed by Patriot forces under General Horatio Gates on October 17, 1777.**
- **Battle of Saratoga in New York was the turning point of the Revolutionary War.**

5. Main Idea 3:

France and Spain helped the Patriots fight the British.

- French and Spanish had lost large expanses of land in North America to the British.
- Both countries happy to see trouble for Britain in the American colonies.
- After the Battle of Saratoga, France, Spain, and Holland joined the fight on the side of the Patriots.

6. Help from Europe

Independent Soldiers

- Marquis de Lafayette supplied money and military skills.
- Baron Freidrich von Steuben came from Prussia to help train the Continental Army.

France

- Officially joined Patriot forces in May 1778
- Signed treaty of support
- Increased level of supplies and agreed to provide soldiers and ships

Spain

- Joined war in 1779
- Bernardo de Gálvez, governor of Spanish Louisiana, seized British posts.

7. Main Idea 4: The winter at Valley Forge tested the strength of Patriot troops.

- Continental Army was low on supplies.
- Washington and 12,000 men settled for the winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, during 1777–78.
- Troops suffered through the brutal winter and shortages of food, clothing, and shelter.
- Continental Army survived, but 2,000 died of disease and malnutrition.

8. Main Idea 5: The war continued at sea and in the West.

War at Sea

- Tiny Continental Navy could not fight large battles.
- Sunk hundreds of individual British ships
- John Paul Jones was commander of victorious *Bonhomme Richard*. This former British outlaw became an American naval hero.

War in the West

- George Rogers Clark captured British trading village of Kaskaskia, Illinois, in 1778.
- Clark's forces won Battle of Vincennes in 1779.