

The American Revolution

Section 4



MAIN IDEAS

1. Patriot forces faced many problems in the war in the South.
2. The American Patriots finally defeated the British at the Battle of Yorktown.
3. The British and the Americans officially ended the war by signing the Treaty of Paris of 1783.

Key Terms and People

Francis Marion a Patriot leader who used hit-and-run attacks, known as guerilla warfare

Comte de Rochambeau commander of 4,000 French troops that aided the Patriot forces at the Battle of Yorktown

Battle of Yorktown the last major battle of the American Revolution

Treaty of Paris of 1783 the peace agreement in which Great Britain recognized the independence of the United States

Section Summary

WAR IN THE SOUTH

The war in the northern colonies did not go as the British government had hoped. The northern Patriots were tough to beat. The British moved the war into the South, where they believed large groups of Loyalists would help them win. General Henry Clinton led the British troops. The British plan worked at first.

The war in the South proved especially nasty. Patriots and Loyalists engaged in direct fighting. The British wiped out crops, farm animals, and property. Georgia fell to the British. Next, the British conquered the port of Charleston, South Carolina. The Patriots failed to retake Camden, South Carolina.

Patriot General Nathanael Greene arrived to shape up the army. Meanwhile, under the leadership of **Francis Marion**, the Southern patriots used surprise attacks to cut off British communication and supply lines. The British could not capture Marion and his men.

Why did the British move the war to the South?

Underline the sentence that explains how the British army waged war in the South.

How did Francis Marion and his men evade the British?

Section 4, continued

BATTLE OF YORKTOWN

The Patriots were in trouble in early 1781. They had little money for paying soldiers and buying supplies. The British held most of the South as well as Philadelphia and New York.

The Continental Army began to pressure the British in the Carolinas. General Charles Cornwallis moved his 7,200 men to Yorktown, Virginia. In New York, General Washington combined his troops with French troops commanded by **Comte de Rochambeau**. Washington marched his force to Virginia in hopes of trapping Cornwallis in Yorktown.

With 16,000 soldiers, Washington's force surrounded Cornwallis. For weeks the French-American force wore down the British troops. Finally, the British surrendered. The Patriots captured 8,000 British prisoners at the **Battle of Yorktown**.

What was Cornwallis's mistake in battle strategy?

THE TREATY OF PARIS

Britain lost most of its army at Yorktown and could not afford a new one. So Great Britain and America began peace talks. Delegates took more than two years to reach a peace agreement.

The Treaty of Paris of 1783 gave the United States independence from Great Britain. It also created America's borders. In a separate treaty, Britain returned Florida to the Spanish. The Patriots' courage had won the Revolutionary War.

Why might reaching a peace treaty have taken so long?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Predict Imagine that the Patriots had lost the Revolutionary War. Help lead a class discussion on how your lives would be different today.