

Lesson 2: Patriots at War

Vocabulary

Green Mountain Boys a group of Vermont soldiers who captured British cannons

mercenary a soldier from one country who is paid to fight for another country

Battle of Saratoga a battle that the Continental Army won; it showed that they could defeat the British

Washington Takes Command

In May 1775 a group of soldiers called the **Green Mountain Boys** took over Fort Ticonderoga. George Washington wanted the cannons that were in this British fort. Washington used the cannons to force the British to leave Boston. Washington put the cannons on hills above Boston. When the British saw the cannons, they left. But the war was not over. The British had the best navy in the world. They also had money to hire German **mercenaries**. Mercenaries are soldiers from one country who are paid to fight for another country.

Defeat and Victory

The Americans lost several battles after they forced the British out of Boston. George Washington's army camped in Pennsylvania in December 1776. His troops were running out of supplies. Washington decided to attack Trenton, New Jersey. Trenton was held by German mercenaries fighting for the British. Washington and his army crossed the Delaware River on December 25, 1776. They attacked Trenton the next day. They took the town.

The Turning Point

In the spring, the British began attacking. British General John Burgoyne had a plan to win the war. His plan was to divide the United States in half. In late September and early October, the American and British armies fought in the **Battle of Saratoga**. On October 17, 1777, Burgoyne surrendered to the

Americans. The Battle of Saratoga is often called the turning point of the American Revolution. After the Battle of Saratoga, France agreed to join the Americans in their fight against Britain.

African Americans and the Revolution

African Americans fought for both the British and the Americans. Many enslaved African Americans who fought for the British were given freedom. Those who fought or worked as spies for the Americans were also given freedom. After the war some African American Patriots worked to end slavery in the United States.

Women in the Revolution

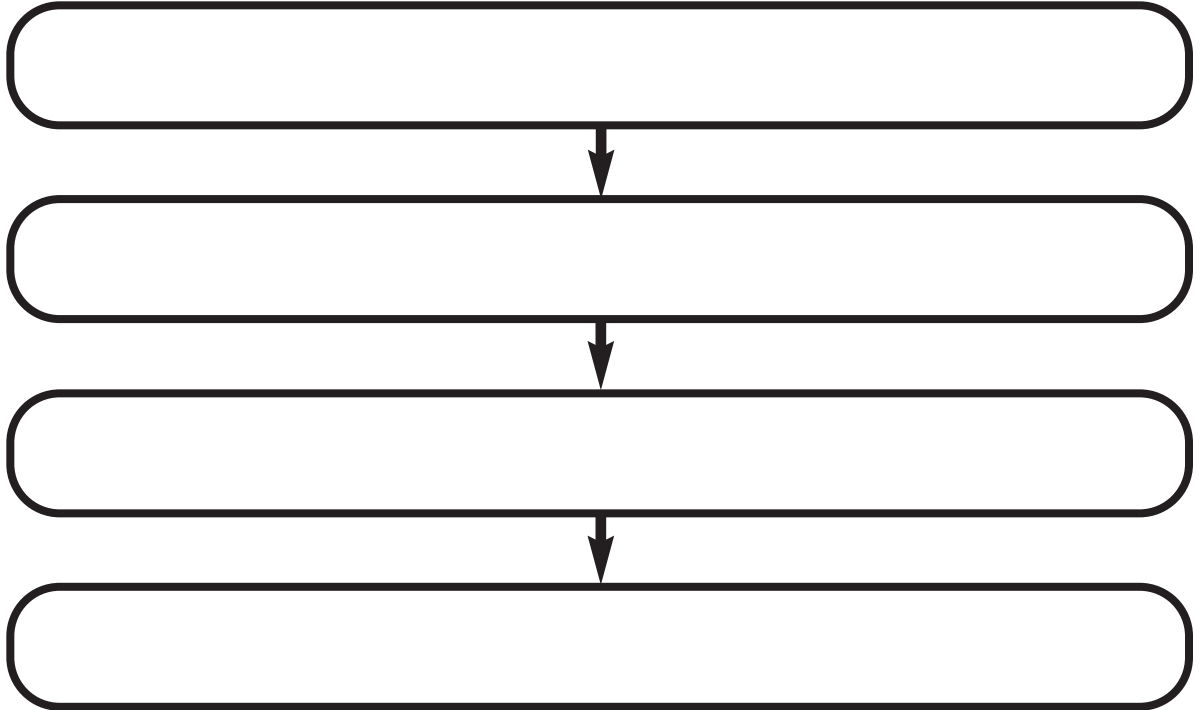
George Washington had a hard time finding soldiers and getting supplies. Women helped the American Revolution by collecting food, raising money, and making clothing for soldiers. Some women cooked for the army. Others took care of wounded soldiers and fixed uniforms. Some women fought alongside the men. Women also wrote letters and poems supporting independence.

Winter at Valley Forge

In late 1777 the British captured Philadelphia. Washington's army camped in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, for the winter. The army was running out of food, clothing, and other supplies. During the winter at Valley Forge, many soldiers died of hunger, cold, and disease.

Lesson 2: Review

1. **Sequence** Fill in this diagram by listing four major events from this lesson in the correct order.



2. How was Washington able to force the British to leave Boston?

3. Describe one important effect of the American victory at Saratoga.

4. **Critical Thinking: Fact or Opinion** When the Revolution began, some American leaders did not think African Americans would make good soldiers in the Continental Army. Was this a fact or an opinion? How can you tell?

5. Describe three different ways in which women helped support the American Revolution.
