

Battle of Long Island (NY)

When: August 27-September 15, 1776

Where: Long Island/Brooklyn, New York

Who: [Gen. George Washington and troops](#) /

[Gen. William Howe, Adm. Richard Howe and troops](#)



- Following the evacuation of Boston and the Declaration of Independence, the British planned to divide and hinder the colonies by capturing New York where they focused fleets of men and supplies.
- Washington attempted to defend the area but the British distracted, flanked and crushed the American defenses.
- Washington led his troops in retreating out of New York and narrowly escaped the British. General Howe chose not to pursue and therefore lost the opportunity to capture the Americans.



The loss was the worst period of the war for Washington and cause for independence as the morale collapsed.

Battle of Trenton

When: December 26, 1776

Where: Trenton, New Jersey

Who: [Gen. George Washington and troops](#) /

[Col. Johann Rall and Hessians \(German mercenaries\)](#)



- After being driven out of NY and before his troops end their enlistment, Washington creates a plan to attack the Hessians in Trenton.
- Washington unexpectedly crosses the snowy/frozen Delaware River and through the snow and darkness attacked unprepared Hessians.
- Prior to the attack, Rall is warned of movement but does nothing. Hessians forces are unprepared, surprised and overwhelmed. Rall is fatally wounded and the Hessians easily surrendered at Trenton.



The victory proved to be much needed encouragement for the Americans

Battle of Princeton

When: January 3, 1777

Where: Princeton, New Jersey

Who: [Gen. George Washington and troops](#) /
[Gen. Charles Cornwallis and troops](#)



- Following the victory at Trenton, Gen. Cornwallis would make advancements hoping to overwhelm Washington's exhausted troops.
- Cornwallis sent troops to guard the Delaware River, expecting Washington to take his route. Instead, Washington left his campfires burning and snuck around the side of the British camp.
- Washington would lead his troops into Princeton where they significantly outnumbered and ambushed the British guard. The British would be defeated.



The victory added to the American motivation and proved they could defeat the British with superior leadership and strategy.

Valley Forge

When: Winter 1777-1778

Where: Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

Who: [Gen. George Washington and troops](#),

[Marquis de Lafayette](#), [Baron Friedrich von Steuben](#), [Thaddeus Kosciusko](#), [Casimir Pulaski](#)

- Americans soldiers would suffer through the harsh, frozen winter. They experienced a lack of supplies, men died due to frostbite/disease, had no clothing or food.
- News of the suffering spread and Patriots from around the Colonies helped by collecting food, ammo, medicine.
- Europeans would come to the aid of the Americans during this time. They provided funds, trained troops and cavalry, plans for defenses.



The Americans would overcome the struggle against the elements and low morale. They would receive the necessary training, influencing their success.

Victory in the South

When: Fall of 1780-Spring of 1781

Where: North and South Carolina

Who: [General Daniel Morgan](#), [General Nathanael Greene](#), [Francis Marion](#), and troops/militia

[General Henry Clinton](#), [General Charles Cornwallis](#) and troops

- Britain believed it could win the war by winning several battles in the south where it had much Loyalist support.
- After losing the large cities, the Patriots would win key battles in the South at Kings Mountain, Cowpens and inflict significant casualties at Guilford Court House.
- The Americans utilized knowledge of the land and Guerrilla warfare with the militia to gain victories and drive out the British.



The American success would force the British out of the South and lead to the retreat to Yorktown

Battle of Yorktown

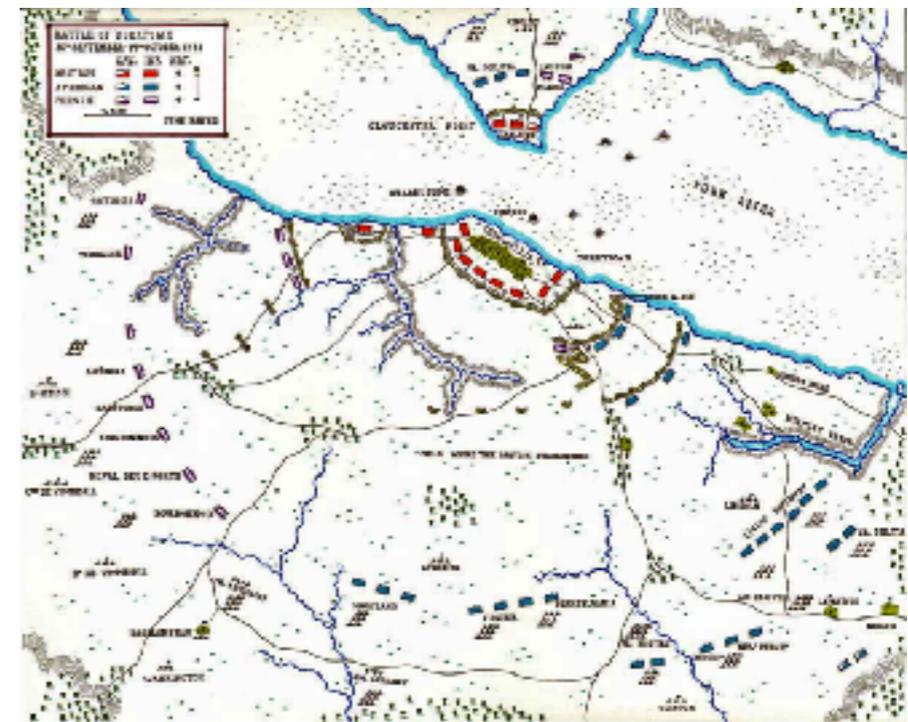


When: September 28th - October 19th 1781

Where: Yorktown, Virginia

Who: **General G. Washington and troops/militia** - **Comte de Rochambeau, Lafayette and troops**
General Charles Cornwallis and troops

- After changing plans to take the Carolinas, British troops settled in on a peninsula thinking they would get more supplies/troops.
- French navy prevented Britain from retreating to sea and resupply from the British navy
- Washington and his troops along with the French put the British under siege causing them to surrender



The British military would be forced to surrender ending the war.

Treaty of Paris

When: September 3, 1783

Where: Paris, France

Who: Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, John Jay, Henry Laurens / David Hartley, Richard Oswald, Prime Minister Shelburne



- After Yorktown, the Continental Congress appointed a small group to negotiate a peace treaty with the British. Once the news of the surrender spread, support for the war faded in Britain.
- The British government now saw the Americans as an opportunity to build a lucrative trade alliance, without the costs of running and defending the colonies. As a result, Treaty of Paris terms were very favorable to the United States.
- Terms:
 1. Officially end the war between Britain and America
 2. British recognized the United States as an independent nation
 3. Borders of the new nation were set...Atlantic Ocean to MS River, Canada to northern border of FL



The treaty ended the war and officially recognized America as a new nation