



The American Revolution



Term	Definition
Bill of Rights	A legal document giving Americans a set of rights, including free speech, ownership of property, and fair trial. These rights were not extended to slaves or Native Americans.
Boston Massacre	The killing of five American colonists by soldiers during a brawl on the streets of Boston.
Boston Tea Party	An event in which American colonists dressed up as Native Americans and boarded three ships in Boston Harbour. They dumped 342 chests of tea into the water in protest at British taxes.
Causes	The actions that result in events happening, actions that bring about effects
Consequences	The results from an action or an event; an effect
Constitution	Set of fundamental rules for running a country that outlines the powers of government and the rights of citizens.
Continental Army	The army of American colonists that fought the British in the American Revolution.
Continental Congress	An assembly of delegates from each of the thirteen American colonies. It set out complaints against British rule and acted as a temporary government during the Revolution.
Course	The events that take place during a period of time
Declaration of Independence	A document declaring America to be independent of British rule. It was adopted by the Continental Congress on 4th July 1776.
Federal Republic	A system of government where power is divided between a central government (usually headed by a president) and various regions or states.
Guerrilla warfare	Hit-and-run or surprise military tactics. Most often used by a small, mobile force against a larger, less mobile force.
Loyalist	A colonist in 18th Century America who favoured or remained loyal to Britain
Militias	Part-time, amateur armies.
Minutemen	Boston militia prepared to fight the British at a minute's notice.
Navigation Acts	Laws stating that some American goods such as tobacco, cotton and sugar could be sold only to Britain.
Patriots	Americans who favoured independence for America
Revolution	A rapid and significant change in society, politics, technology or the economy.
Stamp Act	A tax on documents including newspapers, playing cards, stamps and legal documents.
The Enlightenment	A period from the late 1600s to the early 1800s when writers and thinkers questioned traditional ideas such as the divine right of kings. Also known as the Age of Reason.
Townshend Acts	Laws imposing taxes on goods imported into America, including wine, glass, paint and tea; all of which had to be bought from Britain.
Turning point	A time when decisive events occurs which changes the future

Revolutionary Leader

George Washington (1732-1799)

Washington was a founding father and first President of the United States. He was born in Virginia and became a successful planter, soldier, and politician. He served as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, leading the colonies to victory against the British. He presided over the Constitutional Convention after the war.

3.3 EXAMINE the causes, course and consequences of one revolution in pre- twentieth century Europe and/or the wider world

Causes	Course	Consequences
<p>1607 saw the establishment of the 13 colonies along the east coast of North America by British settlers. While they prospered and their populations grew, the colonies became unhappy with British rule for several reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Enlightenment was the movement of thinkers who valued science and reason above faith or authority as the basis for society in the eighteenth century. This led to many challenging the idea that kings have a divine right to rule.• Restrictions on trade; Britain wanted American as both a cheap source of material but also as the marked to sell their finished goods to. The British Parliament passed the Navigation Acts which forced the American colonies to see some of their produce to Britain alone.• The Seven Years War (1756-1763): Britain defeated France during the war, seizing much of the French colony territories as a result. The British government wanted the colonies to contribute to the cost of the army's stay in the colonies.• 'No Taxation Without Representation': Britain introduced two acts which angered many colonists. The Stamp Act (1765) placed a fee for stamps on all legal documents, wills, newspapers, certificates and playing cards while the Quartering Act (1765) taxed colonists in order to cover the costs of the soldiers in the colonies. Opposition groups to these taxes begun to use the slogan 'No Taxation Without Representation' against a government in which they had no voice. Widespread violence and protests followed these Acts.	<p>The Boston Massacre was a violent incident that occurred on March 5, 1770, in Boston, Massachusetts. A crowd of colonists had gathered around a group of British soldiers, taunting and throwing snowballs at them. The soldiers eventually fired their weapons, killing five colonists and injuring several others. The incident was widely reported and led to increased tensions between the colonists and British authorities.</p> <p>The Boston Tea Party was an act of rebellion against British taxation policies that took place on December 16, 1773, in Boston, Massachusetts. A group of colonists, disguised as Native Americans, boarded three British ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbour. The colonists were protesting the British government's Tea Act, which they saw as an unfair tax on their tea imports.</p> <p>The Battles of Lexington and Concord (1775): The first military engagements of the American Revolution, these battles marked the start of armed conflict between British forces and colonial militia.</p> <p>The Declaration of Independence (1776): The declaration was a formal statement declaring the thirteen American colonies as independent and free from British rule.</p> <p>The Battle of Saratoga (1777): A crucial victory for American forces, the battle of Saratoga was a turning point in the war, as it convinced France to officially support the American cause.</p> <p>The Winter at Valley Forge (1777-1778): A brutal winter that nearly destroyed the Continental Army, but also marked a period of intense training and discipline that would prove crucial in later battles.</p> <p>The Siege of Yorktown (1781): The final major battle of the American Revolution, the siege of Yorktown resulted in a decisive victory for American and French forces and led to the British surrendering, effectively ending the war.</p>	<p>Independence of the United States: The most significant consequence of the American Revolution was the establishment of the United States as an independent nation, free from British rule. The newly formed country adopted a constitution and a system of government that would serve as a model for other nations seeking independence.</p> <p>Spread of democratic ideals: The ideas of individual rights, democracy, and limited government that were central to the American Revolution influenced political movements and revolutions around the world, including the French Revolution and Latin American independence movements.</p> <p>Weakened British Empire: The British Empire, which had been a dominant world power for centuries, was significantly weakened by the loss of its American colonies. The financial and military resources expended in the war left Britain vulnerable to other challenges, such as the rise of other European powers.</p> <p>Influence on France and Ireland: the American Revolution served as an inspiration for the French Revolution of 1789, which sought to establish a similar system of government based on individual rights, democracy, and the rule of law; particularly with the ideas of individual liberty, equality, and democracy. The American and French Revolutions inspired the United Irishmen, a revolutionary group in Ireland, to seek independence and establish a democratic republic. However, the British government responded with a crackdown, and the 1798 rebellion failed.</p> <p>Economic growth and expansion: The new United States was able to expand westward, opening up new opportunities for trade, settlement, and economic growth. This led to the establishment of new industries, such as textiles and agriculture, and helped to establish the United States as a major global power.</p> <p>Native American displacement: The American Revolution led to the displacement of many Native American tribes as the United States expanded westward, leading to significant changes in Native American culture and society.</p>

