1

2 The War for Independence 1774–1783
   From Rebellion to War
   Why was reconciliation between the colonies and Britain virtually impossible by the beginning of 1775?
   The Continental Congress Becomes a National Government
   What functions did the Congress fulfill as it sought to manage the American rebellion?
   The Combatants
   What were the key differences between the British and American forces?

3 The War for Independence 1774–1783
   The War for Independence
   Why was the alliance with France a key turning point in the war?
   War and Society, 1775–1783
   How did the War for Independence affect women, African Americans, and Native Americans?
   The American Victory, 1782–1783
   What were the key factors in the American victory in the Revolutionary War?

4 Video Series: Key Topics in U.S. History
   • The American Revolution: 1763–1783
   • The Second Continental Congress
   • Declaring Independence
   • Battle of Saratoga

5 From Rebellion to War
   • Contradictory British Policies
   • Mounting Tensions in America
   • The Battles of Lexington and Concord

6 Contradictory British Policies
   • Lord North
• Ordered colonial arms destroyed
• Massachusetts declared in rebellion
• Conciliatory Proposition
  • Colonists would not be taxed
  • Assemblies would collect money for colonies’ defense

7 Mounting Tensions in America
• Tensions focused on Boston
• Provincial Congress met
  ▪ Appointed Committee of Safety
• Minute Men
  ▪ Local militias

8 The Battles of Lexington and Concord
• General Gage
  ▪ Moved to arrest Samuel Adams and John Hancock
  ▪ News spread
• Forces met at the Battles of Lexington and Concord
  ▪ Two confrontations
• Beginning of Revolutionary War

9 The Continental Congress Becomes a National Government
• The Second Continental Congress Convenes
• Early Fighting: Massachusetts, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Canada
• Independence
• The Loyalists

10 The Second Continental Congress Convenes
• Second Continental Congress
  ▪ Convened May 10, 1775
  ▪ Fighting was underway
  ▪ Sent Olive Branch Petition to George III – July 5
  ▪ Passed Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking
Up Arms – July 6
- Rejected Conciliatory Proposal – late July
- Continental Army
  - Led by George Washington

12 Early Fighting: Massachusetts, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Canada
- Standoff from July 1775
- Cannons seized from Fort Ticonderoga
  - Dragged to Boston
- March 1776 – guns deployed over Boston Harbor
- British left Boston

13 Independence
- Public opinion slow to support independence
- Thomas Paine’s Common Sense
  - Highly influential in shaping public opinion
- Richard Henry Lee proposed independence
  - Vote delayed in Congress while Declaration of Independence was drafted
- Declaration of Independence – July 4, 1776
  - Embodied contract theory of government

15 The Loyalists
- From all social and economic categories
  - Some were more recent British immigrants
- Migration north helped to draw a line between United States and what became Canada

16 The Combatants
- Professional Soldiers
- Women in the Contending Armies
- African American Participation in the War
- Native Americans and the War
17  Professional Soldiers
   • Republican theory opposed to professional armies
     ▪ But a professional army proved to be a necessity
   • Washington reshaped army
   • Challenges
     ▪ Provisioned by states
     ▪ Mutinies and desertion
     ▪ Officers’ protest – Newburgh, New York, 1783

18  Women in the Contending Armies
   • Camp followers
     ▪ Wives of soldiers
     ▪ Servants
     ▪ Nurses
     ▪ Some helped in battle
   • A few women served in battle, disguised

19  African American Participation in the War
   • Most free blacks fought for Massachusetts and Rhode Island
   • In South Carolina, Loyalists’ slaves given to white volunteers as reward for service

20  Native Americans and the War
   • Complex impact
     ▪ Some tribes sided with one side or the other
     ▪ Some tribes split by different loyalties
   • Some American attacks on Indians along frontier

21  The War for Independence
   • Britain Hesitates: Crucial Battles in New York and New Jersey
   • The Year of the Hangman: Victory at Saratoga and Winter at Valley Forge
   • The United States Gains an Ally
   • Fighting on the Frontier and at Sea
• The Land War Moves South
• American Counterattacks

22 Britain Hesitates:
Crucial Battles in New York and New Jersey
• British base established in New York City
  ▪ Washington moved in as well
  ▪ Battle of Brooklyn Heights
• Washington retreated into Pennsylvania
  ▪ Desertions rose
  ▪ Washington crossed Delaware
  ▪ American victories at Trenton and Princeton

23 The Year of the Hangman:
Victory at Saratoga and Winter at Valley Forge
• Burgoyne’s offensive
  ▪ Joined by Thayendanegea
  ▪ Recaptured Fort Ticonderoga
• Battle of Saratoga – October, 1777
• British captured Philadelphia
• Continental Army camps at Valley Forge
  ▪ Army transformed into a more disciplined force

24

25 The United States Gains an Ally
• Benjamin Franklin
  ▪ In Paris since 1776
• Victory at Saratoga decisive
• War widened
  ▪ Fighting in West Indies and India
• Other countries aligned against Britain
  ▪ League of Armed Neutrality

26 Fighting on the Frontier and at Sea
• British encouraged Indian attacks
  ▪ Led Americans to concentrate on gaining western forts
• Thirteen frigates built – 1775
  • Far outnumbered by Royal Navy
  • Americans commissioned privateers

28 The Land War Moves South
• British confident of Loyalist support in southern colonies
  • Captured key southern cities
• Battle of Charleston
  • Major British victory
• Cornwallis left in command of southern forces

29 Explore the American Revolution on MyHistoryLab

31 American Counterattacks
• Nathanael Greene
  • Victories in South Carolina
• Guilford Court House, North Carolina
  • High casualties
  • British victory but at very high cost
• Yorktown
  • American victory
  • British surrender – October 1781

34 War and Society: 1775–1783
• The Women’s War
• Effect of the War on African Americans
• The War’s Impact on Native Americans
• Economic Disruption

35 The Women’s War
• Women remained in traditional spheres
  ▪ Sewing
  ▪ Maternal roles: “republican mothers”

37 Effect of the War on African Americans
• Slavery already weak in northern colonies
  ▪ War helped end it
  ▪ Still legal
• Many blacks emigrated
  ▪ West Indies, Canada, Sierra Leone

38 The War’s Impact on Native Americans
• British surrendered territory east of Mississippi
  ▪ But Indians there had never surrendered
  ▪ Nor were Indians at peace negotiations
• West would be open to American settlement

39

40 Economic Disruption
• Continental dollar worthless by 1780
• States printed paper money
• Average real wealth declined from 1774 to 1805

41 The American Victory: 1782–1783
• The Peace of Paris
• The Components of Success

42 The Peace of Paris
• Fighting in Caribbean ended, 1782
• Negotiations in Paris
  ▪ Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, John Jay
• Peace of Paris
  ▪ Signed – 1783
  ▪ Americans got most of their war goals
The Components of Success

- Washington’s leadership
- Britain had the numerical advantage
  - But fighting far from home
- French assistance
  - Possibly decisive

Conclusion

- American Revolution set a precedent for future revolutions; the French Revolution broke out just a few years later.
- The North American continent became the site of a grand experiment in republicanism.
- The challenge remained to put declared ideals into practice.