Unit 5: American Revolution
Political and Economic Relationships between Great Britain and the Colonies

England became Great Britain in the early 1700s, and it was throughout this century that the British colonies in America grew and prospered. The growth of the colonies made it more and more difficult for Great Britain to remain in control. King George III decided to use politics and economics to remind the colonists that he was still in charge.

Political Relationships

The Parliament in London was the lawmaking branch of Great Britain’s government. It passed laws for all British people, including the colonists. However, Parliament allowed the colonies to set up legislatures to make some of the laws that affected them. For example, Virginia’s House of Burgesses was the first legislature (lawmaking body) in the British colonies.

Each colony also had its own governor. Although the colonial legislature made laws for the colony, the governor kept a careful watch on the legislatures. All laws passed by a colonial legislature had to be approved by the governor. The governor monitored the colonial legislatures to make sure that they were making laws that the British government would approve of. They also made sure the colonists were obeying laws passed by the British Parliament and King. In some colonies, the governor was appointed by the king or queen. Those colonies were known as royal colonies. In other colonies, the governor was named by the proprietor (owner of the colony).

Economic Relationships

Beginning in 1651, Great Britain passed the first in a series of laws to control trade in the colonies. These laws are known as the Navigation Acts. Through these laws, the British government imposed strict rules on colonial trade.

Colonial merchants could only send their exports or goods leaving a country to Great Britain or to other British colonies. The British government also said that colonists could only buy British made imports, or goods brought into a country to be sold. The colonies depended on trading raw materials for goods. However, the colonists could not legally trade with other countries, even if they offered better prices.

Great Britain also tried to control the economy of the colonies by placing taxes on goods traded in the colonies. A tax is money collected by a government to pay for government services. For example, Parliament placed taxes on tobacco, molasses, sugar, tea, and even paper documents to help pay the cost of fighting the French and Indian War and other expenses.
Political and Economic Relationships between Great Britain and the Colonies (Continued)

Political Relationships

- Colonists had to obey __________________ laws that were enforced by colonial __________________________.
- Colonial governors were appointed by the ____________ or by the ______________________.
- Colonial legislatures made ____________ for each colony and were _________________ by colonial governors.

Economic Relationships

- __________________ ________________ imposed strict control over __________________________.
- Great Britain ________________ the colonies after the ________________________ ________ ________
- Colonies traded _______ materials for goods.

Directions: Imagine you are a reporter for the Colonial Daily Newspaper. Write an article from the colonists’ point of view covering the political or economic relationship between Great Britain and the colonies. Add an illustration.
Dissatisfaction (unhappiness) in the Colonies

As Great Britain expanded control over the American colonies, many colonists became dissatisfied and rebellious. The British were almost broke. They needed money for the upkeep of soldiers after the war. Why not make the colonists help pay?

When France surrendered at the end of the French and Indian War, boundary lines were redrawn, and the colonists were thrilled. Now they could go west and take even more land from the Indians. Their happiness did not last long. Britain told the colonists that they were placing restrictions on moving west. The Proclamation of 1763 said that territory between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River was off-limits. The colonists were not happy. The new law said that all the Indians were now under the protection of the king and all lands within Indian Territory occupied by the colonists had to be abandoned.

Great Britain’s desire to be a world power was costing a fortune, and the French and Indian War had been very expensive. It took a lot of money to keep its army and navy clothed, fed, and armed. Soon after the war ended, the British announced a new tax on the colonists. They thought it only fitting that the Americans pay for part of the cost of the war and to maintain British troops in North America.

It all began with the Sugar Act of 1764. For years there had been a tax on molasses. The colonists had gotten quite good at avoiding the tax by smuggling. The new act lowered the tax, but also gave tax agents a lot of power. The British began cracking down on the smuggling, and the new tax – levied by Parliament, not the colonial legislatures – made many colonists angry.

In 1775 another tax, the Stamp Act, was placed on paper goods such as newspapers, many kinds of books, and playing cards. This was still not the end. In 1767, yet another series of taxes was announced by Charles Townshend, the man in charge of England’s finances. The Townshend Acts placed taxes on paint, glass, and tea. Soon after, additional British troops began arriving in American cities along with orders that the colonial legislatures must find places to house the soldiers and pay their rent (Quartering Act). Tempers were beginning to boil on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

**FIVE REASONS THE COLONISTS WERE ANGRY**

1. The proclamation of 1763 restricted the western movement of the colonists.
2. The colonists opposed the endless British taxes.
3. Colonists had no representation in Parliament, meaning they had no say in the new taxes.
4. Some colonists began to resent the power of the colonial governor.
5. Great Britain wanted strict control of the colonial legislatures.
Dissatisfaction (unhappiness) in the Colonies (continued)

**Great Britain’s Reasons for Control**

1. Great Britain desired to be a ______________ ________________.

2. In the ______________ colonies, Great Britain’s desire to remain a ______________ ______________ resulted in conflict with the __________ known as the French and Indian War.

3. Great Britain imposed __________, such as the Stamp Act, to raise necessary revenue to pay the cost of the ______________ ______________ ______________ War.

**Great Britain’s Reasons for Taxation**

1. To help ________________ the French and Indian War.

2. To help with the ________________ of British troops in the colonies.

**Reasons for Colonial Dissatisfaction (unhappiness)**

1. Colonies had no ________________ in Parliament.

2. Some colonies resented the power of the colonial ________________.

3. Great Britain wanted strict control over colonial ________________.

4. Colonies ________________ taxes.

5. The Proclamation of ________________, which followed the French and Indian War, ________________ the western movement of settlers.
The Revolutionary War

Colonists Speak Out
As Great Britain took steps to expand its control over the colonies, many colonists become upset. Angry colonists soon began to protest or work against the Stamp Act. Some colonists chose not to pay the tax. Others signed letters asking King George III, king of Great Britain, to do away with the Stamp Act. Many colonists chose to boycott, or refuse to buy, British goods. A group of women called the Daughters of Liberty began weaving their own cloth instead of buying it from Great Britain.

Another group called the Sons of Liberty held protest marches against the Stamp Act. The Sons of Liberty attacked the homes of tax collectors and other British officials. They also captured some tax collectors and chased them from towns or tarred and feathered them.

So many colonists stopped buying British goods that the boycotts hurt businesses in Great Britain. After much discussion, Parliament (lawmaking group in Great Britain) voted to repeal or cancel the Stamp Act. However, new taxes were placed on goods such as glass, paint, and tea. Once again, the colonists’ protested. All the new taxes were repealed except the one on tea!

The Boston Massacre
As protests, grew, Parliament sent more British soldiers to the colonies. Most of them were stationed in cities along the Atlantic coast. About 4,000 of the soldiers were sent to Boston.

Many colonists did not want the soldiers in their towns. They often shouted insults at the soldiers. They called them “redcoats” to make fun of their bright red uniforms. Some British soldiers responded by destroying the colonists’ property.

On the night of March 5, 1770, an angry crowd gathered near the Massachusetts State House (political building) in Boston. The crowd shouted at a group of British soldiers and threw rocks and snowballs at them. As the crowd moved forward, the soldiers fired their guns. Five colonists died. Crispus Attucks, an African American sailor, was the first person killed. The event soon become known as the Boston Massacre even though the shooting was not really a massacre. A massacre is the killing of many people who cannot defend themselves.

Boston Tea Party
In 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act. This new law said that only the East India Company of Great Britain could sell tea to the colonies. The colonists could buy the tea – Pay the tax on it – or else not drink tea. Many colonists boycotted tea.

On the night of December 16, 1773, about 150 members of the Sons of Liberty dressed as American Indians and marched to Boston Harbor. The group, led by Samuel Adams and Paul Revere, boarded three British ships. The colonists threw more than 300 containers of tea overboard. This angry protest became known as the Boston Tea Party.

In March of 1774, Parliament passed a set of laws to punish the colonists after the Boston Tea Party. One law closed Boston Harbor stopping trade until the colonists paid for the destroyed tea. Another law stopped the Massachusetts colonial legislature from meeting. Parliament also ordered the colonists to quarter, or give food and housing to British soldiers. Many colonists said that the new laws were intolerable, or unacceptable. They became known as the Intolerable Acts.
The First Continental Congress
In September 1774, leaders from all the colonies except Georgia met in Philadelphia. The meeting was later called the First Continental Congress. A congress is a formal meeting of the delegates or representatives.

Delegates hoped for a peaceful solution to their problems with Great Britain. The Congress sent a petition, or a signed request, to King George III. The petition reminded the King of the colonists' basic rights as British citizens. Congress voted to stop most trade with Great Britain. It also asked the colonies to form militias, or armies of citizens. Some colonial leaders in Virginia suggested that the colonies begin preparing for war. In a speech, Patrick Henry, an outspoken member of the Virginia House of Burgesses (group of representatives) said, “I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!” These words inspired other colonists and soon became a favorite patriotic slogan. A patriotic slogan is a saying that people repeat to express pride in their county.

Lexington and Concord
In April 1775, British soldiers marched toward the towns of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. They planned to arrest two leaders of the Sons of Liberty and capture the group’s weapons. Paul Revere rode on horseback to warn the militia of each town to prepare for battle.

Members of the Massachusetts’s militia, called Minutemen, were waiting for the British in Lexington. No one knows who fired first, but shots rang out. Eight Minutemen were killed and several others were injured.

The British moved on to Concord, where they faced the Minutemen again. After much fighting, the British retreated to Boston. The fighting at Lexington and Concord turned out to be the first armed conflict in a long war called the American Revolution and “the shot heard around the world”.

The Road to War
News of the fighting at Lexington and Concord spread through the colonies. Hoping to avoid more fighting, colonial leaders called for the Second Continental Congress to meet in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775. The delegates expressed their desire for a peaceful end to the fighting. By June, however, the delegates agreed that the colonies should prepare for war with Great Britain.

The first step was for Congress to form an army. It was called the Continental Army. Unlike the part-time militias that each of the 13 colonies already had, the Continental Army was made up of full-time soldiers.

Congress chose George Washington of Virginia as the commander of the Continental Army. Washington’s skills as a leader were well known in the colonies. Phillis Wheatley, a former enslaved African American, honored George Washington in a poem. Phillis Wheatley wrote many poems and plays supporting American independence.

Bunker Hill
The first major battle of the American Revolution was fought on June 17, 1775 on Breed’s Hill, near Boston. (The battle was wrongly named for nearby Bunker Hill.) The fighting was much tougher than the British has expected. Twice, the British were pushed back off the hill. In Boston, people watched in horror as the nearby city of Charlestown was hit and set on fire by cannonballs shot from British ships in the harbor.

The British eventually won the battle of Bunker Hill. However, they suffered heavy losses. More than 1,000 British soldiers were killed or wounded. About 350 colonists had been killed or wounded. The British learned that fighting the American colonists would not be as easy as they had thought.
Debating Independence

New ideas about government were reaching the colonies from Europe. Some European philosophers, or thinkers, such as John Locke believed that government was an agreement between people and their rulers. Leaders had the responsibility to rule justly and people had the right to replace unjust rulers. Another philosopher was Thomas Paine. He wrote a pamphlet called “Common Sense” that helped the colonists shape the ideas of the Declaration.

During the Second Continental Congress, June 7, 1776, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, representatives from the colonies formed a committee to write a declaration, or statement, to the king. The major author of this official statement was Thomas Jefferson, a young lawyer and planter from Virginia. The Declaration of Independence included why the colonists wanted independence from Great Britain, how the colonists felt about government, a long list of grievances, or complaints, against the king and British Parliament, and that the 13 colonies were no longer part of Great Britain.

The Declaration of Independence was based upon ideas first expressed by European philosophers. Using these philosophies, Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that all people have rights that cannot be taken away. These “certain unalienable rights” included life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. He also wrote that governments are given their power by the people and are established by the people to protect these rights and added the belief that the citizens of a nation have the right and the duty to change any government that takes away or deprives the people of their rights.

The Declaration of Independence was approved by Congress on July 4, 1776. John Adams, who had championed, or supported the cause of independence wrote to Abigail Adams, his wife, that Independence Day should be celebrated “from this time forward.” Ever since, Americans have celebrated the Fourth of July as a national holiday!

Struggles and Triumphs

The Americans had gone to war against one of the most powerful armies in the world. Most soldiers in the Continental Army had little training and many had no guns or uniforms. Early on, the British won many battles and captured several important colonial cities.

By December 1776, many American soldiers were ready to give up. Then, on Christmas night, the Americans made a sneak attack on British soldiers near the town of Trenton, New Jersey. In a short fight, the Americans defeated the British army there. This victory gave the Continental Army new hope for winning the war.

Earlier that year, Congress had sent Benjamin Franklin to France to try to get the French to support the colonists. At first, the French refused to help. Then in October 1777, the Continental Army won the Battle of Saratoga in New York. This was a turning point in the war. A turning point is an event that causes an important change. After the victory at Saratoga, Benjamin Franklin convinced France to help the Americans. The French provided guns, ships, and soldiers.

Winter at Valley Forge

The Americans were encouraged by their victories. However, they still struggled. In the winter of 1777, General Washington set up his headquarters at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. He chose this site because it was high and flat. From there, soldiers could easily watch for enemies.

The weather at Valley Forge was bitterly cold that winter. The army did not have enough supplies, and diseases spread quickly. By Washington’s own count, 2,898 men had no boots. The Continental Army was almost destroyed.

However, the Continental Army got some help from some European friends. Marquis de Lafayette, from France, spent his own money to buy warm clothes for the soldiers. Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, from Germany, taught the American troops better ways to march and fight. He showed them how to work better together and gave them confidence. By 1778, the Continental Army was much stronger.
The War Moves South
When the British learned that the French were helping the Americans, the British planned a new campaign in the South. A campaign is a series of military actions carried out for a certain goal. The British had captured many important cities in the North. Now they wanted to defeat the Americans in the South before French help could arrive.

There were many battles in the South. Some were won by the British, and some were won by the Continental Army.

Yorktown
By the Summer of 1781, British General Lord Charles Cornwallis had set up his headquarters at Yorktown, Virginia. Yorktown was a small town located near the Chesapeake Bay. The bay made it easy for British ships to bring in supplies. However, Yorktown’s location also meant that the town could be surrounded easily. Knowing this, the Americans and their French allies made a plan to defeat Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Both the French and American soldiers marched south to surround Yorktown. At the same time, the French navy took control of the York River and Chesapeake Bay. Cornwallis was trapped. The French fleet blocked supplies from reaching the British troops, and the Americans shot cannons at the town for weeks.

In late September, Cornwallis sent word to his commander in the North. He asked for help and extra soldiers. The 5,000 extra soldiers did not get to Yorktown in time. After being surrounded for weeks, Cornwallis finally gave up on October 19, 1781. The battle and surrender at Yorktown was huge victory for the Americans and it helped end the war.

The War Ends
The American victory over the forces of Lord Cornwallis marked the end of the Revolutionary War. News of Great Britain’s surrender at Yorktown quickly spread throughout the colonies. The long fight was over. The Patriots had finally won their independence. The United States of America was an independent country, free from British rule.

The war had clearly been decided by the victory at Yorktown in 1781. However, the fighting dragged on in some places for more than two years. It was not until April 1782 that the two sides met in Paris, France, to write a peace treaty. A treaty is an agreement between counties that satisfies people on different sides.

The Americans, represented by John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams wanted Great Britain to recognize American independence. The also wanted all British soldiers to leave American lands. The British wanted Loyalists who remained in the United States to be treated fairly.

The Treaty of Paris
On September 3, 1783, the British and the Americans signed the Treaty of Paris. In the treaty, Great Britain recognized the United States of America as a nation. The treaty also set the borders for the United States. The new nation reached from Georgia in the south to the Great Lakes in the north and from the Mississippi River in the west to the Atlantic Ocean in the east.
Declaration of Independence

Inspiration for the Declaration of Independence

Important ___________ in the Declaration of Independence were based upon ideas first expressed by European _________________.

____________________________ ___________________________ wrote a pamphlet called ___________________ _________________ that much of the Declaration in independent was based on.

Four sections of the Declaration of Independence

1. 
2. 
3. 
4.

Key Ideas of the Declaration of Independence

• People have certain “_______________ _______________” (rights that cannot be __________ ____________) – life, liberty, ________________ __ __ _________________.

• ____________ establish government to _______________ those rights.

• Government derives power from the __________________________.

• People have a ____________ and a _____________ to change a government that ______________________ their rights.
Key People of the American Revolution

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Key People of the Re American Revolution (continued)

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## Important Events of the American Revolution

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14 | American Revolution
Why the Colonists Won

With Independence achieved, the Americans had done what had seemed impossible. Their small, poorly trained army had defeated one of the most powerful armies in the world. How did they do it?

Perhaps the biggest advantage for the Americans was the fact that they were **defending their principles and beliefs on their own land**. In the colonies, the patriots had much support for their cause. Many colonists wanted to help them. As the Americans made progress in their struggle against the British, other nations, such as **France and Spain offered help**.

The Americans also had **very strong leadership**. General George Washington made good decisions that helped the Continental Army win important battles. John Adams said the Washington had “great talents and universal character.”

It was hard for the British to fight a war more than 3,000 miles from home. Loyalists offered some aid. However, the British had to wait a long time for supplies and more soldiers to arrive. Also, unlike the Continental Army, British soldiers were not familiar with the land on which they were fighting.

- Some colonists’ ____________ of their own ________________, ________________, and ________________.

- Additional support from ________________________________.

- Strong ________________________________.
American Revolution Quiz and Test Study Guide

The political and economic relationships between the colonies and Great Britain

Economic relationships
- Great Britain imposed strict control over trade.
- Great Britain taxed the colonies after the French and Indian War.
- The colonies traded raw materials for goods made in Great Britain.

Political relationships
- Colonists had to obey British laws, which were enforced by governors.
- Colonial governors were appointed by the king or by the proprietor.
- A colonial legislature made laws for each colony but was monitored by the colonial governor.

Great Britain’s reasons for controlling the colonies
- Great Britain desired to remain a world power.
- In the American colonies, Great Britain’s desire to remain a world power resulted in a conflict with the French known as the French and Indian War.
- Great Britain imposed taxes, such as the Stamp Act, to raise necessary revenue to pay the cost of the French and Indian War.

Great Britain’s reasons for taxation
- To help finance the French and Indian War
- To help finance the maintenance of British troops in the colonies

Reasons why the colonies became dissatisfied
- The colonies had no representation in Parliament.
- Some colonists resented the power of the colonial governors.
- Great Britain wanted strict control over colonial legislatures.
- The colonies opposed the British taxes.
- The Proclamation of 1763, which followed the French and Indian War, restricted the western movement of settlers.

Key philosophies in the Declaration of Independence
- Were based upon ideas first expressed by European philosophers.
- People have “certain unalienable rights” (rights that cannot be taken away)—to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness.
- People establish government to protect those rights.
- Government derives power from the people.
- People have a right and a duty to change a government that violates their rights.

Study Strategy: Start with the first topic. Memorize the main idea of each bullet point. Continue with that topic until you can restate the main ideas without looking. Then move onto the next topic. You could also make flashcards for each topic.

Reasons the Colonists Defeated Great Britain
- Some colonists’ defense of their own land, principles, and beliefs
- Additional support from France
- Strong leadership

Study Strategy: Study the bullet points above until you can repeat the main ideas from memory.
### Important Events of the Revolutionary War

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Boston Massacre</td>
<td>Colonists in Boston were shot after taunting British soldiers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. First Continental Congress</td>
<td>Delegates from all colonies except Georgia met to discuss problems with Great Britain and to promote independence.</td>
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<td>4. Battles at Lexington and Concord</td>
<td>The first armed conflicts of the Revolutionary War</td>
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<td>5. Battle of Bull Run</td>
<td>The first major battle of the Revolutionary War – British victory</td>
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<td>6. Approval of the Declaration of Independence</td>
<td>The colonies declared independence from Great Britain (July 4, 1776).</td>
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<td>7. Battle of Saratoga</td>
<td>This American victory was the turning point in the war.</td>
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<td>8. Surrender at Yorktown</td>
<td>This was the colonial victory over forces of Lord Cornwallis that marked the end of the Revolutionary War</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Signing of the Treaty of Paris</td>
<td>Great Britain recognized American independence in this treaty</td>
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### Study Strategy:
Remove this paper from your binder. Fold it in half. Look at the Event and try to describe its importance. Continue until you can state all from memory in order. Then turn the paper over and identify the event from the description.

### Important People of the Revolutionary War

1. King George III: British king during the Revolution era (time period)
2. Lord Cornwallis: British general who surrendered to Washington at Yorktown
3. John Adams: Championed (supported) the cause of independence
4. George Washington: Commander of the Continental Army (colonists)
5. Thomas Jefferson: Major author of the Declaration of Independence
6. Patrick Henry: Outspoken member of the House of Burgesses. Said, “Give me liberty or give me death
7. Benjamin Franklin: Prominent (important) member of the Continental Congress, helped frame (prewrite) the Declaration of Independence, and helped get France’s support to help fight the British
8. Phillis Wheatly: Enslaved African American who wrote poems and plays so support American independence.
9. Paul Revere - Patriot who made a daring ride to warn colonists of the British arrival
10. Thomas Paine: Wrote the pamphlet *Common Sense*, promoting American independence
11. The Marquis de Lafayette: French nobleman who served in the Continental Army; worked with the king of France to send French troops, ships, and funds that assisted the colonists in the American Revolution and contributed to the victory at Yorktown

### Study Strategy:
Study each person until you can state that person’s importance from memory.