

The American Revolution

Grade 5 • SOCIAL-STUDIES • Students identify major causes, key events, and effects of the American Revolution and explain how they are connected. • Standards: D2.His.1.3-5, D2.His.14.3-5

Read each question carefully and write your answer based on what you know about the causes, events, and effects of the American Revolution.

1. The colonists were angry because Britain made them pay taxes but did not give them representation in Parliament. What does 'representation' mean in this context?
2. Which event happened when colonists threw tea into the harbor to protest unfair taxes?
3. The first battles of the American Revolution were fought at Lexington and Concord. In which colony did these battles take place?
4. What important document, signed in 1776, announced that the thirteen colonies were free and independent from Britain?
5. Britain passed laws that taxed items like sugar, paper, and tea. Why did these taxes make the colonists angry enough to start a revolution?
6. Put these events in the correct order from first to last: A) Declaration of Independence signed, B) Battles at Lexington and Concord, C) Boston Tea Party. Write your answer as letters separated by commas.
7. The American victory at the Battle of Saratoga was a turning point in the war. Why was this battle so important?
8. The last major battle of the Revolution was fought at Yorktown. What was the outcome of this battle?
9. Explain how the cause 'taxation without representation' led to the effect 'colonists declared independence.' Use at least two connecting events in your explanation.

10. After winning independence, the thirteen colonies became the United States of America. Name two major challenges the new nation faced as a result of the war.

Answer Key — The American Revolution

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. Having someone speak for you or vote on your behalf in government (*Representation means having a voice in government decisions through elected officials.*)
2. The Boston Tea Party (*This protest against the tea tax became known as the Boston Tea Party.*)
3. Massachusetts (*Both Lexington and Concord were towns in Massachusetts.*)
4. The Declaration of Independence (*The Declaration of Independence formally declared separation from Britain.*)
5. The colonists had no say in making these tax laws and felt it was unfair to be taxed without representation (*The colonists believed they should not be taxed by a government in which they had no voice.*)
6. C, B, A (*Boston Tea Party (1773), Lexington and Concord (1775), Declaration of Independence (1776).*)
7. It convinced France to join the war as an ally of the Americans (*France's support provided crucial military aid, supplies, and naval power to the colonists.*)
8. The British army surrendered, leading to the end of the war (*British General Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, effectively ending the fighting.*)
9. Unfair taxes angered colonists who protested through events like the Boston Tea Party. Britain responded with harsh punishments, which led to fighting at Lexington and Concord. These conflicts made colonists realize they needed to break away completely, so they declared independence. (*Students should connect taxation to protests, British reactions, armed conflict, and the decision to declare independence.*)
10. The nation had large war debts to pay and needed to create a new government to replace British rule (*Other acceptable answers include rebuilding the economy, uniting different colonies, or establishing trade relationships.*)