

Great Battles for Boys: The American Revolution

Study Guide Questions

INTRODUCTION

1. What is a colony?
2. What was the meaning of the phrase “no taxation without representation”?
3. Who were the Sons of Liberty?

THE BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD

1. What is a “stockpile”?
2. Who alerted the American colonial militia that the British were coming?
3. What were the normal “rules of warfare” at this time in history?
4. What is “irregular warfare” or “guerrilla tactics”?

THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL

1. What is siege warfare?

2. Who led the Continental Army?
3. Why would someone say this battle has the wrong name?
4. Who was leading the Patriots through the dark of night to Bunker Hill?

THE OTHER FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

1. Before the American Revolution, the world was structured like a staircase. What did that structure mean for different people?
2. What was a powder boy?
3. What was the Boston Massacre?
4. Who was William “Billy” Lee? Was he on the sidelines during battle?

THE BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND

1. When did the British government declare war on the American colonies?
2. When was the Declaration of Independence signed? Was it safe for men to sign this document?

3. Who were the military commanders on each side in this battle?
4. Before the battle, General Howe offered to pardon — or forgive— the Continental Army soldiers. What was George Washington’s reply?
5. In this battle, how did Howe outsmart Washington?
6. Can you name an important military lesson that Washington learned from this battle?

BATTLE OF TRENTON

1. Who wrote “Common Sense”?
2. When did Washington launch his surprise attack on the British?
3. Who was sent to spy on the British Army?
4. What was the nickname given to the men who rowed Washington across the Delaware River?
5. What kind of boats did they use?

BATTLE OF PRINCETON

1. Who did General Howe put in command of the British forces in New Jersey?

2. Who was leading the American Militiamen?
3. After the battle's first day, what mistake did Cornwallis make?
4. Who won the Battle of Princeton?
5. Who was Henry Knox?
6. Before the war, how did Henry Knox learn about military tactics and strategies?

GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON

1. What Is the name of the Virginia Plantation that Washington inherited?
2. What was George Washington's first job?
3. What was the name of the war he served in—for the British—before the American Revolution?
4. Name some of the character traits that made George Washington an excellent leader.
5. After the Revolutionary War, did Washington want to become King?
6. When George Washington died, his will included a request regarding his slaves. What was that request, and how was it handled?

THE BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE CREEK

1. In 1777, which northern city was the Colonial capital?
2. When did General Howe and his troops arrive at Kennett Square?
3. What was the name of the French nobleman who fought with the Americans?
4. What are some features of the area that Washington chose to make his defensive stand?
5. Who won the battle?

THE BATTLE OF SARATOGA

1. Who was nicknamed “Gentleman Johnny”?
2. Was the Battle of Saratoga one battle?
3. Can you describe some of Benedict Arnold’s actions in this battle?
4. Later, in 1799, what did Benedict Arnold secretly try to do?
5. When his secret plan was uncovered, what did Benedict Arnold do?

VALLEY FORGE

1. What is mutiny?
2. When did Washington lead his men to Valley Forge?
3. Why did Washington lead his men to Valley Forge?
4. Why did Washington choose that location of Valley Forge?
5. Who did Washington appoint to train his disorganized fighters?

THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH

1. What is an alliance?
2. Who became the British commander after General Howe left North America?
3. Why was Washington “boiling mad” during this battle?
4. Who won the Battle of Monmouth?

THE BATTLE OF CAMDEN

1. Why did British General Clinton turn his attention to the southern colonies?
2. Who was the new commander of the American forces in the South?

3. How did that commander behave during this battle?
4. How many Generals served the entire eight years of the American Revolutionary War? Can you name them?

WOMEN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1. Who disguised herself as “Timothy Thayer” and “Robert Shirtliff” so she could join the army?
2. Who warned Lafayette that his life was in danger?
3. What object did Ana Smith Strong use to let fellow spies know a message was ready?

THE BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN

1. Who did the Patriots choose as their overall leader for this battle?
2. What were the rugged colonists who lived in the Carolinas called?
4. What kind of gun did these rugged men use? Was it often used in battle?
5. What kind of gun were the Loyalists using?
6. Who won the Battle of Kings Mountain?

THE BATTLE OF COWPENS

1. What is a "double envelopment"?
2. Can you describe Daniel Morgan's brilliant military maneuver in this battle?
3. Who won the Battle of Cowpens?

THE BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE

1. What is a pyrrhic victory?
2. What tactical mistake did Nathanael Greene make in this battle?
3. Which side technically won the Battle of Guilford Courthouse?
4. Who was nicknamed the Swamp Fox? Why?

THE BATTLE OF YORKTOWN

1. How had the long years of fighting affected both sides—for the worse?
2. How did "deliverance" arrive for Washington and his men?
3. How did Washington move his men closer to the British camp?
4. Who won the Battle of Yorktown—and the war?
5. Did Cornwallis attend the formal surrender ceremony?

THE AFTERMATH OF VICTORY

1. Who reignited the war between England and France?
2. Who signed a declaration of war against Great Britain?
3. Who wrote the poem “The Star-Spangled Banner”? What was he describing?
4. When did the United States and Great Britain sign another peace treaty?