

VS.5a→ Conflicts developed between the colonies and Great Britain over how the colonies should be governed as expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

Terms to Know

- **assembly:** a lawmaking group of people gathered together for a meeting
- **parliament:** the group of people who serve in the government and who are responsible for making the laws in Great Britain
- **colony:** an area that is controlled by or belongs to a country and is usually far away from it
- **tax:** an amount of money that a government requires people to pay according to their income or the value of their property
- **representation:** a person or group that speaks or acts for or in support of another person or group
- **declaration:** a document that contains an official statement
- **independence:** gaining freedom from outside control or support

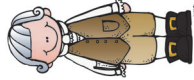
The American colonists and the British Parliament disagreed over how the colonies should be governed.

- The British Parliament believed it had legal authority in the colonies, while the colonists believed their local assemblies had the legal authority.
- The British Parliament believed it had the right to tax the colonies, while the colonists believed they should not be taxed since they had no representation in Parliament.

The new laws developed by the British Parliament angered the colonists. The colonists objected to taxation without representation by the British Parliament.



Virginians participated in events leading to war with Great Britain with the appointment of Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration of Independence.



The Declaration of Independence gave reasons for and some basic ideas on which a government should be based. It also gave reasons why Americans should become independent of Great Britain.

- The Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson, states that:
- the authority to govern belongs to the people rather than to kings
 - that all people are created equal
 - all people have rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

On July 4, 1776, delegates of the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and adopted the Declaration of Independence.



VS.5b→ Virginians made significant contributions to the American Revolution.

Terms to Know

- **patriot:** a person who is loyal or supports one's own country

During the Revolutionary War era, most Virginians provided food, clothing, and supplies for the Continental Army. Many people tried to help the Americans win the war.

Virginia patriots served in the Continental Army and fought for independence, leading to the British surrender at Yorktown. Farmers, sailors, business owners, and teachers all helped.

Women took on more responsibilities to support the war effort.

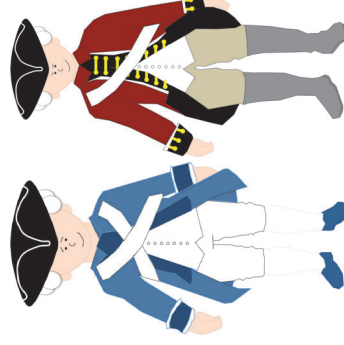
- Most Virginia women farmed and supported troops.
- They continued to work the farms when the men were fighting in the war.
- They made clothes for the soldiers in the Continental Army and cared for the soldiers who were wounded.











African Americans were divided about the Revolutionary War.

- Some enslaved African Americans supported the British, who promised them freedom.
- Some free African Americans fought for independence from Great Britain.

Some American Indians fought alongside the Virginia patriots, while others fought with the British. American Indians in western Virginia fought against the Virginia patriots to protect their land while others volunteered to fight against the British.

Some Virginians were neutral and did not take sides, while other Virginians remained loyal to Great Britain.



Contributions of Virginians during the Revolutionary War era	
	
	
	
	
	

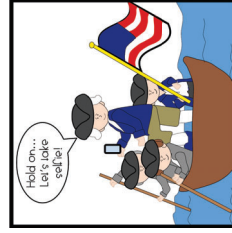
George Washington provided military leadership by serving as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

Thomas Jefferson provided political leadership expressing the reasons for colonial independence from Great Britain in the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence laid out some basic ideas on which a government should be based. It also gave reasons why Americans should become independent.

Patrick Henry inspired patriots from other colonies when he spoke out against taxation without representation at the Henrico Parish Church (named St. John's Church fifty years later) in Richmond, Virginia, by stating, "...give me liberty or give me death."

The Marquis de Lafayette, a French nobleman, volunteered his service to the Continental Army during the American Revolution. The king of France provided French troops, ships, and money. The Marquis de Lafayette contributed to the victory at Yorktown.

James Lafayette, an enslaved African American from Virginia (New Kent County), served as a spy in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He took important military information to other American spies. He successfully requested his freedom after the war with the support of the Marquis de Lafayette.



VS.5c→ Virginians made significant contributions to the American Revolution.

Terms to Know

- minutemen:** soldiers who pledged to be ready to fight at a minute's notice

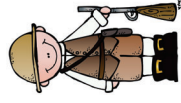
American Revolution Timeline:

You do not need to memorize these. This is just for background information. Bold events happened in Virginia.

March 1765	Stamp Act	September 1774	First Continental Congress
June 1767	Townshend Acts	April 1775	Battles of Lexington and Concord
October 1768	British troops arrive in Boston	December 1775	Battle of Great Bridge
May 1773	Tea Acts	July 1776	Declaration of Independence signed
December 1773	Boston Tea Party	September 1781	Battle of Yorktown
May-June 1774	Intolerable Acts	September 1783	Treaty of Paris

Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 1775)

The battles of Lexington and Concord took place in Massachusetts and were the first battles of the American Revolution. The British were unable to capture the minutemen's supplies. The battles signaled that the American colonists would fight for their freedom.



Battle of Great Bridge (December 1775: Location: 7 miles south of Norfolk, Virginia)

The road leading from North Carolina to Norfolk was known as the Great Road. A bridge crossing the marshlands to Norfolk was constructed. Its purpose was to transport goods that were to be shipped to Great Britain. A village was started at this point known as Great Bridge. Although it was a brief battle (30 minutes), it was the first decisive battle fought in Virginia. It led to the destruction of Norfolk in January of 1776. The Virginian victory was a major step in eliminating British supply lines, which forced the British governor to flee from the city of Norfolk and made the British realize the colonists would be hard to beat.

Battle of Yorktown (1781)

Yorktown was located on a peninsula on the southern shore of the York River in southeastern Virginia. Virginia patriots served in the Continental Army and fought against the British. The French Navy gained control of the Chesapeake Bay, preventing the English Navy from helping British General Cornwallis. The French Army helped the Americans dig trenches around Yorktown and fought in the battle.

The American victory at Yorktown resulted in the surrender of the British army in 1781, which led to the end of the war. While this victory did not end the war, it was the last significant military battle involving British forces and the Continental Army.

Treaty of Paris (1783)

The war ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The Treaty of Paris between the United States, England, France, and Spain, formally ended the war in 1783. It acknowledged the independence of the 13 colonies as the United States of America.

**Italicized words are not part of the SOL but are included for background information.*

VS.5d→ A variety of factors explain the reasons for moving Virginia's capital.

Reasons why the capital was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond

- The population was moving westward, across the Fall Line, for more opportunities.
- Richmond was a more central location in Virginia.
- *The James River allowed English supply ships to dock in deep harbors and maintain transportation links.*
- Moving to Richmond increased the distance from the sea and possible attack by the British.



Richmond has been the capital of Virginia since 1780.

