British Strategy

* control cities
* use navy to control coast and move men and supplies easily

American Strategy

* "Live to Fight Another Day" - thinking British will tire of the war and loss of trade from colonies and give up
  + do not need to "win"

Battle of Bunker Hill

|  |
| --- |
| The Rebel militia took control of a hill from which they were able to control Boston Harbor   * Had a canon that had been captured from British Fort Ticonderoga in up-state New York and brought to Boston   British needed to take the hill   * Militia built fortification at the top of the hill   + Thus militia men were protected when firing   + While the British would need to charge uphill unprotected   The British make two charges   * Untrained Militia told the line famously associated with originating from this battle "Don't shoot till you see the whites of their eyes!" * Take the hill when Militia run out of ammunition   British lose 226 men and 800+ are wounded, while Militia loses less than half that amount |

Washington in first Battle as Commanding General - Battle on Long Island

|  |
| --- |
| Washington's first really important battle   * British had pulled out of Boston and regrouped for new strategy in Nova Scotia * Approach New York with 427 battleships and 30,000 men * Organize for attack on Staten Island   Washington places men on Long Island protecting Brooklyn Heights  British launch a three-pronged attack   * 1st - at landing sight - just to get men off ship * 2nd - establishing what seems to be a key engagement spot * 3rd - while Washington's troops are focused on 2nd front, the third group is able to flank him   Defeated and surrounded, Gage thinks Washington will surrender, ending the war   * The sides are 200 yards apart as night falls with gage expecting surrender in morning   Washington retreats!   * Uses cover of night, heavy rain, and fog to evacuate men to New York * He later loses the city retreating into New Jersey |

Battle of Trenton

|  |
| --- |
| Washington needs a victory   * Washington's army has done nothing but retreat * Men are tired, morale is low, little to no new enlistment   Washington strings a series of unexpected circumstances into surprise attack -   * He will attack Trenton   + It is held by Hessian mercenaries (German soldiers paid by the British to fight) * Many things make this attack unexpected   + At night, in the winter, on Christmas Day, in a snow/ice storm, needing to cross the Delaware River, needing to march 9 miles   The conditions are miserable   * Many of the men have no shoes! * Two men starve to death   The surprise attack is victorious! Give the Continental Army the needed victory! |

Winter Camp at Valley Forge

|  |
| --- |
| Armies in that time period did not fight in the winter   * The British are wintering in new York * Washington's troops winter in rural Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia   Conditions are terrible - 10 men die per day   * Had only an 8 day supply of food when arrive   + Man are starving * Not protected from the elements - Without necessary shoes, clothing, and housing   + Men die of exposure * No hospital   + Men are wounded   + There is an outbreak of Typhus, an deadly infectious disease transmitted by lice, ticks, mites, and fleas   Washington never leaves his men   * He stays the whole winter when other officers go home * He fight Congress for more help and supplies * He tries even to use the time to better train his men   Thomas Paine write a new set of pamphlets to help the men find reason to persevere   * They start with these famous lines * These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. |

Saratoga

|  |
| --- |
| * The British have developed a new plan to split the colonies, cutting off New England and all their militia from the rest   + March south from their fort at Quebec in Canada   + Retake Fort Ticonderoga   + Go toward the Hudson River   + General in New York is supposed to be coming north at the same time * Colonists seek to delay the march south to buy time   + Fell trees in path of advancing army   + The French must carry all supplies with them as far from supply lines   + Very heavily treed area, unfamiliar with territory * Advantages of Colonists   + Colonist capitalize on delay to choose excellent high ground on which to meet the British   + Colonists thus outnumber British troops     - British have bragged about Native allies – This encourages even more militia to show up as upset that Natives will attack their women and children   + General from New York ignores plan and marches south on Philadelphia instead * Colonists guided by strategy developed by Benedict Arnold   + Force British to fight on more heavily treed terrain instead of open fields   + Fire on Natives, who then abandon the British   + Use snipers in trees to aim specifically at officers and officers’ horses * Actually two battles   + British claim win in the fist, but     - Have lost twice as many men as the Colonists     - Colonists still block path south   + Colonists victorious in second battle * Colonists are victorious – British surrender 6,000 men * Turning point – Brings French into war |

French Help

|  |
| --- |
| * After the Battle of Saratoga, the French offer support to the colonists   + Waited until after Saratoga as had to make sure colonists could win * Do it to get back at Britain, their rival   + “The enemy of my enemy is my friend.” * Provide   + Money   + Supplies   + Their navy     - To get supplies past British blockade     - To prevent British from being resupplied and bringing in reinforcement troops   + Troops   + Commanding Generals |

Surrender at Yorktown

|  |
| --- |
| * Victory with combined French and Colonial Forces   + Both Colonial General George Washington and French General Rochambeau lead   + Accompanied by French warships * Surround British troops in fort in Yorktown Virginia   + Lay siege   + French navy prevents any resupply or reinforcement by British ships   + Troops prevent escape by land   + Bombard fort every day for weeks * Finally force British to surrender   + Leads to negotiation of the Treaty of Paris to end the war |