

# The American Revolution 1776-1784



# Steps to the American Revolution:

## REVOLUTION



13. Colonists react

12. Battle of Bunker Hill

11. Second Continental Congress

10. Lexington and Concord

9. American colonists take action

8. Intolerable Acts

7. Boston Tea Party

6. British Parliament passes Tea Act

5. Boston Massacre

4. British Parliament passes Townshend Acts

3. American colonists take action

2. British Parliament passes new laws

1. French and Indian War





# Lexington and Concord



# Colonial Nationalism

By the beginning of the American Revolution most of the American Colonists share certain experiences and ideas.

- ◆ Common Experiences- Paying Taxes
- ◆ Military Service- French and Indian War
- ◆ British troops- They all hated the troops
- ◆ Print Media- People got most of their information from American newspapers and writers
- ◆ **“Americanism”**- They started to identify themselves as Americans, not British

# Ethan Allen

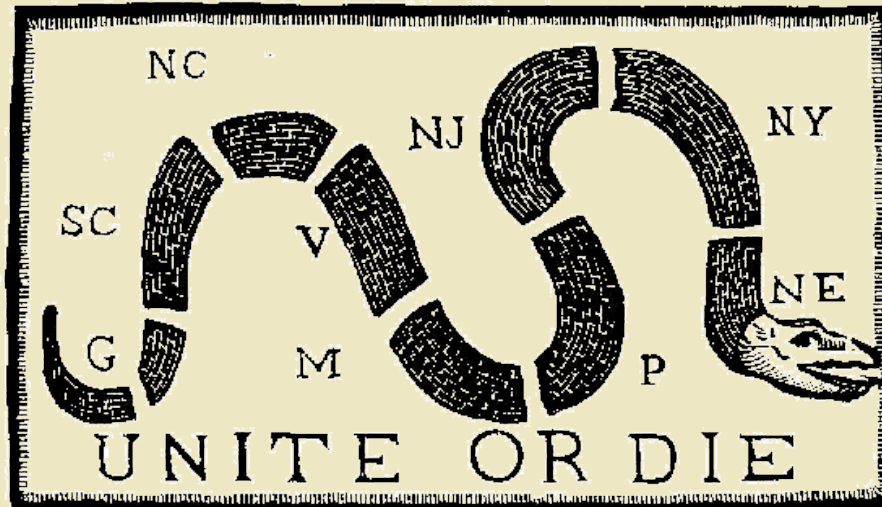
- ◆ He was the leader of a militia group called the **Green Mountain Boys**
- ◆ Together they captured the British **Fort Ticonderoga** further escalating the conflict against Great Britain



# Benjamin Franklin

- ◆ Editor of the Pennsylvania Gazette Newspaper
- ◆ Published the Unite or Die Cartoon

What do you think he is trying to Say?



# Benjamin Franklin

- ◆ He was also a popular politician, thinker, and inventor, and diplomat
- ◆ And one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence
- ◆ He would become one of America's founding fathers

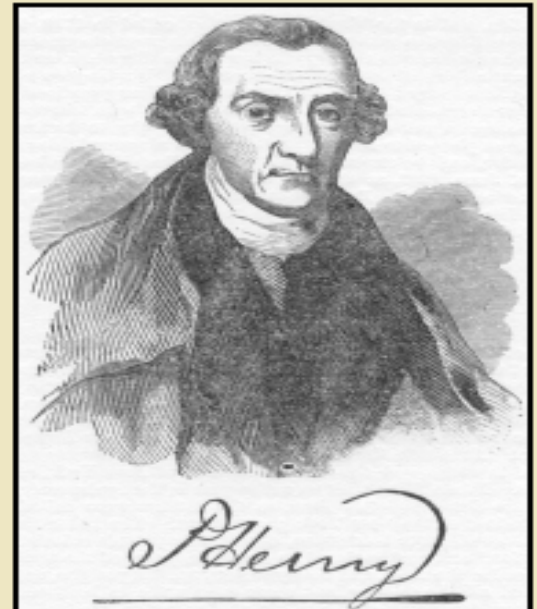


**What is a Founding Father?**



# Patrick Henry

- ◆ Member of the Virginia House of Burgesses
- ◆ Spoke out Strongly against the British
- ◆ Famous for his, “Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death!” Speech







# The Second Continental Congress, 1775

- Delegates from each colony got together to decide on a plan.
  - A). Created a National Government
  - B). Sent a petition called *“Olive Branch Petition”*  
Asking King George III for peace and again a repeal of the taxes
  - C). *“Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms”* Was sent explaining why the Colonists had fought back

# The Second Continental Congress, 1775

- They also:

D). Created an Army called the **Continental Army**

E). Gave command of the Army to a Virginian by the name of **George Washington.**



# George Washington

- ◆ Chosen to lead the Continental Army
  - Because of his leadership experience during the French and Indian War
  - Because he was from Virginia and it would help keep the Southern Colonies involved



# Revolutionary Propaganda

**Propaganda** is information used to influence others ideas or opinions

-**Thomas Paine**, 1776

A). Wrote *Common Sense*

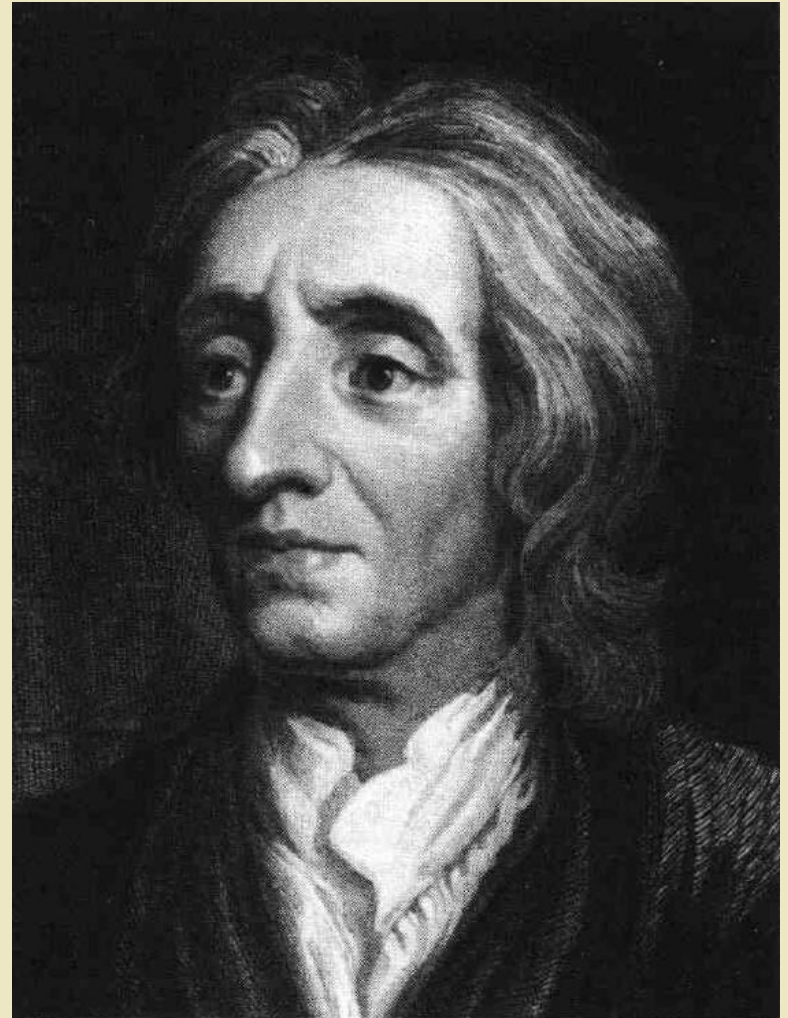
B). An argument for rebellion against Great Britain

C). It inspired Many Americans



# John Locke

- ◆ English Philosopher
- ◆ Believed that all men had natural rights to Life, Liberty, and Property
- ◆ His ideas influenced many American thinkers



# Thomas Jefferson

- One of Virginia's Representatives in the Continental Congress
- Virginia's Governor during the war
- He was given the task of Writing the Declaration of Independence





What is a Declaration?

What is Independence?

# Declaration of Independence

## Reasons for independence

- A. Government Abuse of Power**
- B. “Self-evident” truths**
- C. Equality**
- D. Natural Rights**
- E. Consent of the Governed**
- F. Right to overthrow**





Indeed we must all hang  
together or we  
will surely hang  
Separately!



Ben Franklin

Gentlemen, we must all hang  
together!



John Hancock

# Limitations to Declaration



- ◆ **What about slavery?**
- ◆ **Elite white males only**
- ◆ **Not the poor**
- ◆ **Excluded women**
- ◆ **Written secretly**

← *Abigail Adams*



# Patriots Vs. Loyalists

- ◆ **Patriots**- Colonists who rebelled against the British. They wanted to start their own country.
- ◆ **Loyalists**- Colonists who remained loyal to the British Government.
  - Also known as **Tories**, or **Kings Men**

# Patriots Vs. Loyalists

**30% oppose and 30% do not care about the Revolution**



**John Adams**



# Each Side had Certain Advantages

## British

- Wealthy
- Confident and Organized
- Professional Army
- Better Firepower
- Best Navy in the World

## Colonists

- Home turf
- Defensive War
- French Support
- Spread out population
- Size of region
- Local non-combatants  
(aka civilians)



# Each Side had Certain Disadvantages

## Britain

- Distance from home
- Distance from Supplies
- Uniforms made good targets
- Followed the “Rules of War” at the time

## Colonists

- Little training
- Underpaid and fed
- Loyalties to different colonies rather than the whole country
- Occasional Mutinies

# The Soldiers

## I). **Continental Army**

A). Washington trained them

B). Lower classes, peasants,  
landless, workers



# The Soldiers

## II). **British “Redcoats”**

A). Harsh Discipline

C). Also Lower classes

## III). Used German **Mercenaries** or soldiers for hire; called **Hessians**





# Revolution in The North, 1776-77

## I). Bunker Hill

A). General Howe

## II). Trenton & Princeton

A). Surprise Attacks

## III). Saratoga

A). General Burgoyne

B). Turning Point

## IV). Benedict Arnold

A). Treason





# The Early War

The Continental army did not have much success during the early part of the war.

Why?

- ◆ Soldiers had little training
- ◆ The Continental Army had limited gun powder and bullets
  - ◆ They also had fewer cannons
- ◆ Most leaders had little or no experience in battle

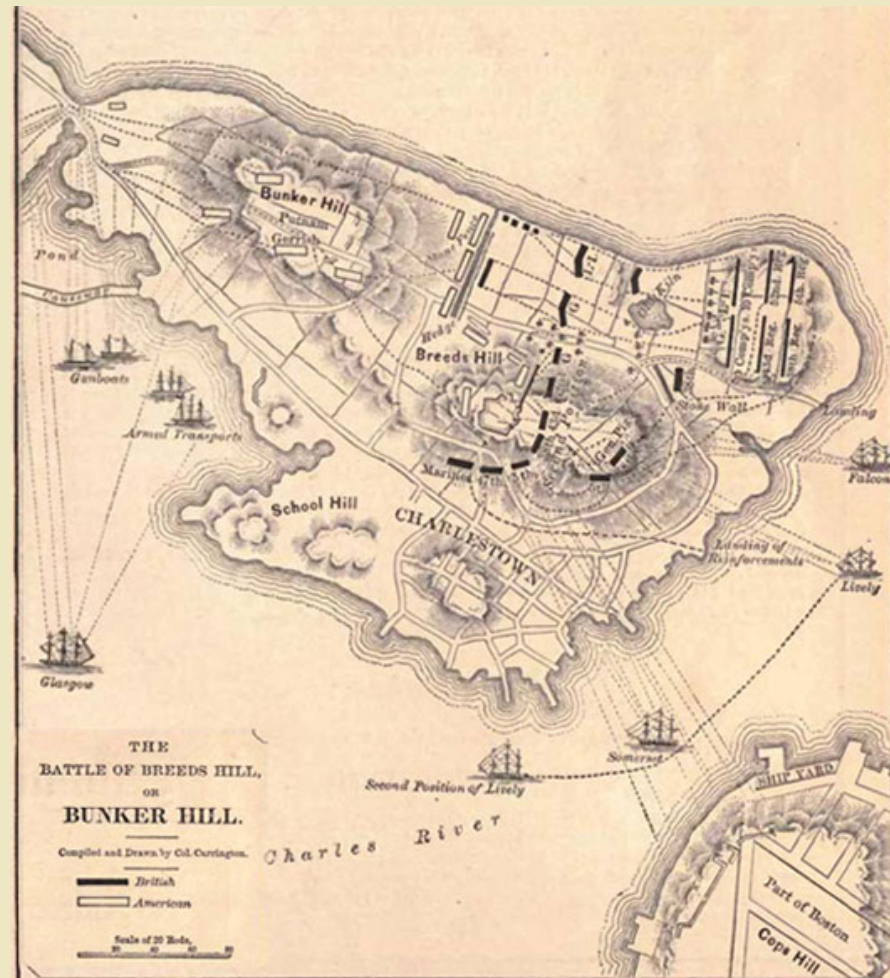
# The Battle of Bunker Hill

- ◆ June 1775-The Continental Army arrived near Boston and set up a camp on a hill overlooking Boston Harbor where they could fire down at the British ships and soldiers in the town.



# The Battle of Bunker Hill

- ◆ The British Army under **General Howe** charged the hill 3 times before they finally won
- ◆ But not before loosing 1,054 of their 2,300 soldiers



# Battles of Trenton and Princeton





# Battles of Trenton and Princeton

- ◆ They led a **surprise attack** and defeated a professional army of Hessian mercenaries at **Trenton New Jersey**

(video)

- ◆ Eight days later they came upon two British regiments outside **Princeton, New Jersey.**

# Battles of Trenton and Princeton



# Saratoga, NY 1777



- ◆ The British Army under **General Burgoyne** attempted to divide the Patriots in the north along the Hudson River
- ◆ They were met by the Continental Army



# Battle of Saratoga

Eventually the  
British were  
surrounded and  
surrendered!

The Battle of Saratoga is  
a turning point in the  
war





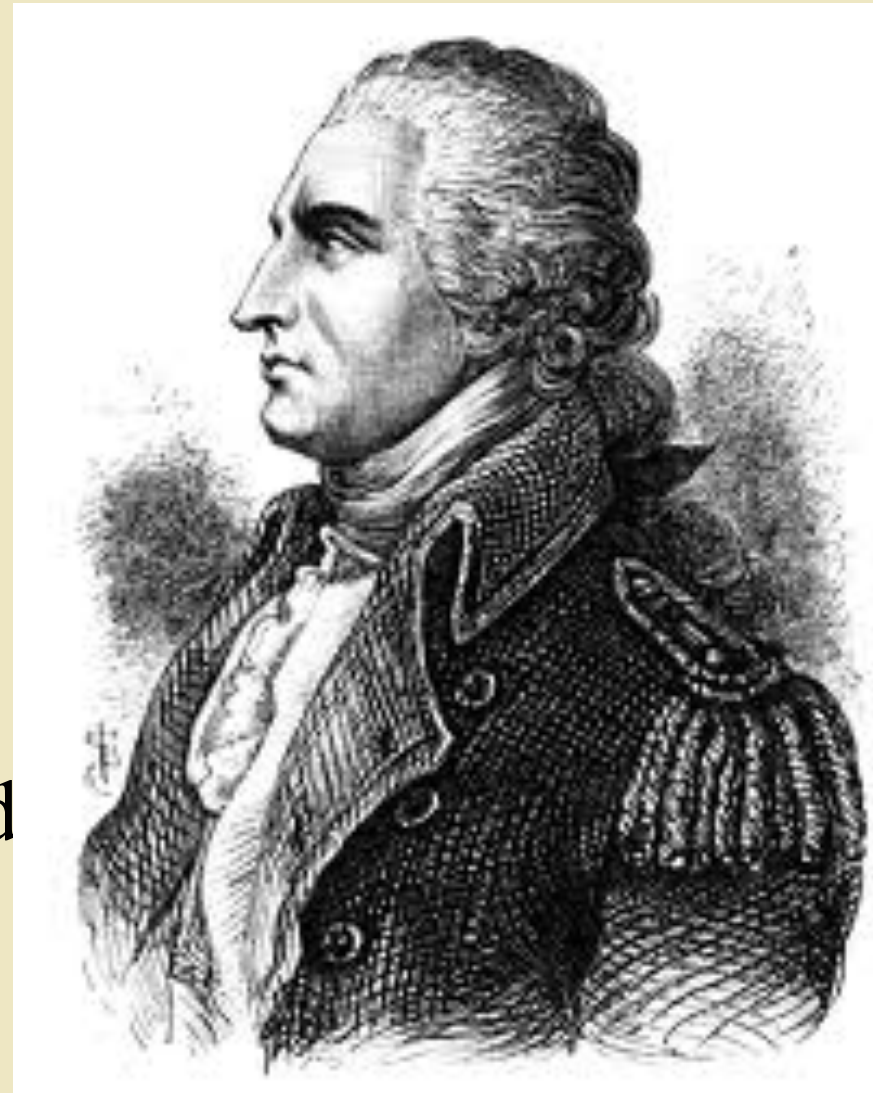
# What is a Turning Point?

Why is the Battle of Saratoga a Turning Point?

- ◆ **It boosted the moral of the Patriots**
- ◆ **It showed the Patriots could win large battles against the British**
- ◆ **The French decided they would support the Americans because of this**

# Benedict Arnold

- ◆ A general for the Continental Army
- ◆ Decided to join the British and give up the Fort at West Point New York
- ◆ Betraying ones own government is called **Treason** and is punishable by death



# Valley Forge



- ◆ During the Winter of 1777-78 Washington led the Continental Army to a camp at **Valley Forge** Pennsylvania

# Valley Forge



- ◆ When they arrived the soldiers were starving, poorly clothed, sick, and discouraged
- ◆ 2500 of them died of sickness, or freezing
- ◆ However, by the time they left they were healthier, happier, and better trained

# Alexander Hamilton



- ◆ Washington's aide during the Revolution
- ◆ "...our countrymen have all the folly of the ass and all the passiveness of the sheep...They are determined not to be free... If we are Saved, France and Spain must save us."
- ◆ Secretary of the Treasury after the Revolution

# The French & Spanish

I). **French** join the Americans  
1778

B). Leadership, training, and  
Soldiers

A). Navy

II). **Spanish** join the Americans  
1779

A). Funding and Supplies

III). Reasons for the Alliance

A). Curb British power

B). Increase Trade



# French Support

- ◆ Benjamin Franklin was ambassador to France when news came of the success at Saratoga
- ◆ He was able to convince King Louis XVI to send support





# Comte De Rochambeau

- ◆ Lead 7000 French soldiers fighting for the Americans
- ◆ In Charge of all French forces in America
- ◆ Brought with him a substantial Navy which the Americans lacked



# Marquis De Lafayette

- ◆ French General in the Continental Army
- ◆ He helped train and organize the American troops



# Spanish Aid

- ◆ The Spanish also join the Americans by providing much needed supplies and money
- ◆ This leveled the playing field for the Americans against the British



# Spanish Aid

- ◆ The Spanish also attacked the British in the South forcing them out of Florida and attacking them along the Mississippi River





# The Southern Campaign, 1781-83

**Campaign-** a series of military operations which work towards a specific goal

## I). The Battle of **Charleston** (SC)

- General Clinton in the South
- Concentrated British troops

## II). Battle of **Cowpens** (SC), Jan '81

- Retreat and Counter

## III). **Yorktown** and Surrender

- General Cornwallis
- Surrounded by French and Americans

# The Battle of Charleston

- ◆ After the loss at Saratoga the British under **General Henry Clinton** decided to focus on the Southern Colonies where they had had more success
- ◆ They gathered their forces to take **Charleston, South Carolina**





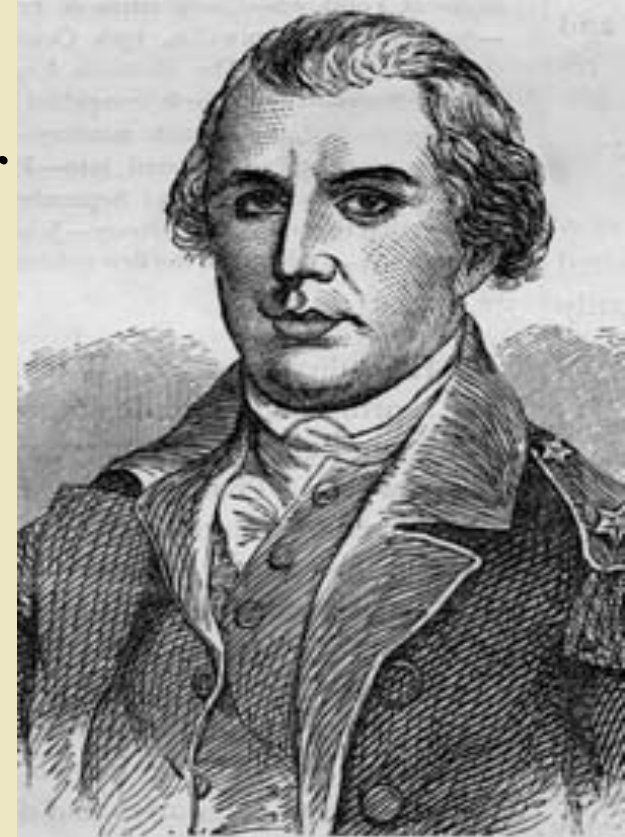
# The Battle of Charleston

- ◆ They put the city under **siege** meaning they surrounded the city and cut off supplies in order to starve out the Patriots
- ◆ The Patriots surrendered, giving up the 5000 troops stationed there.

It was the worst loss of the War for the Americans

# The Battle of Cowpens

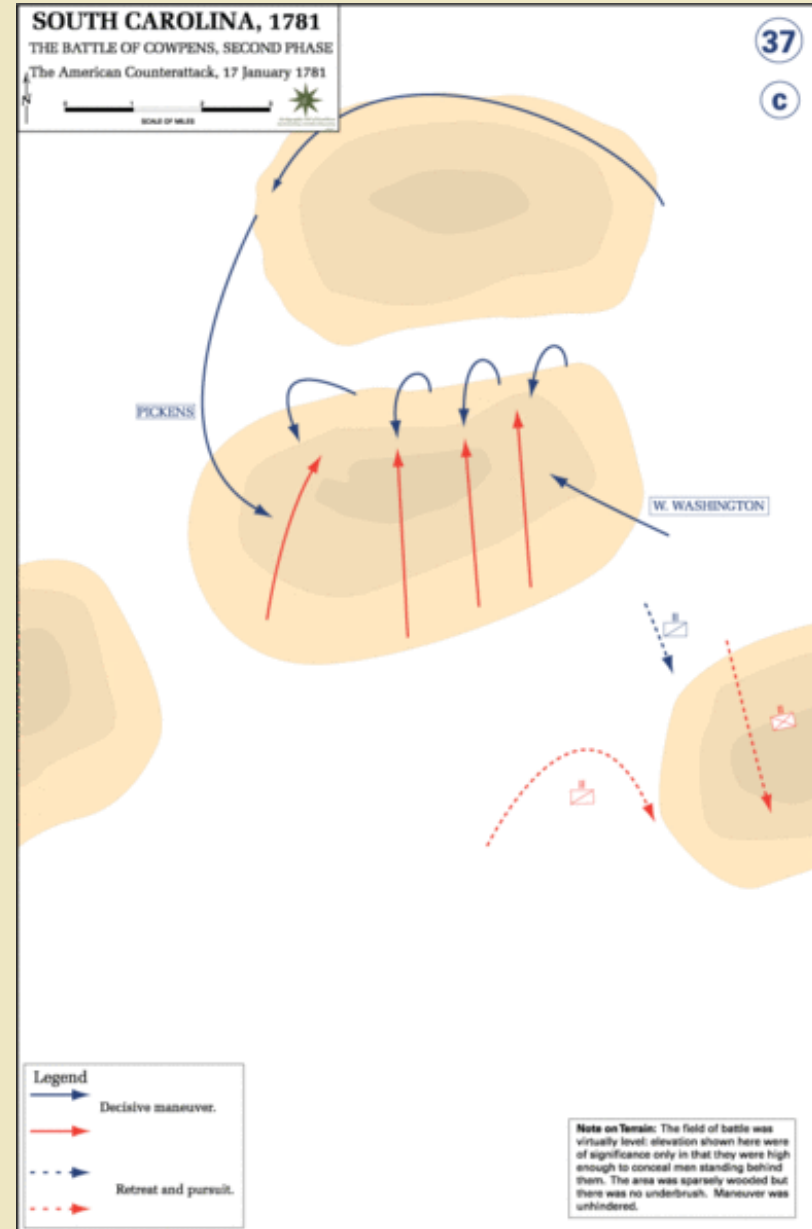
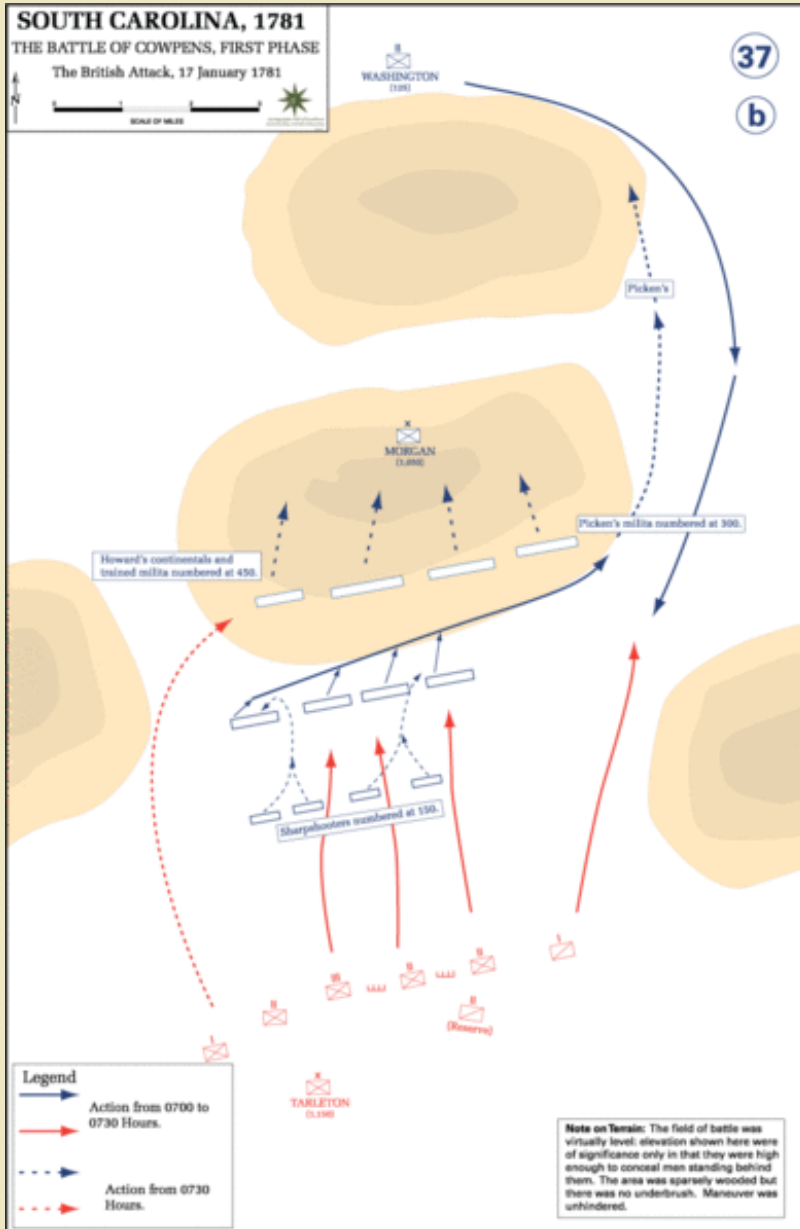
- ◆ At the **Battle of Cowpens** The American Forces under **General Nathaniel Greene** beat a superior force of British Soldiers by using an unusual tactic
- ◆ They pretended to retreat then turned for a **counter attack** or an attack in reply to the first attack



Looks like Mr. Hanks ^\_^



# The Battle of Cowpens



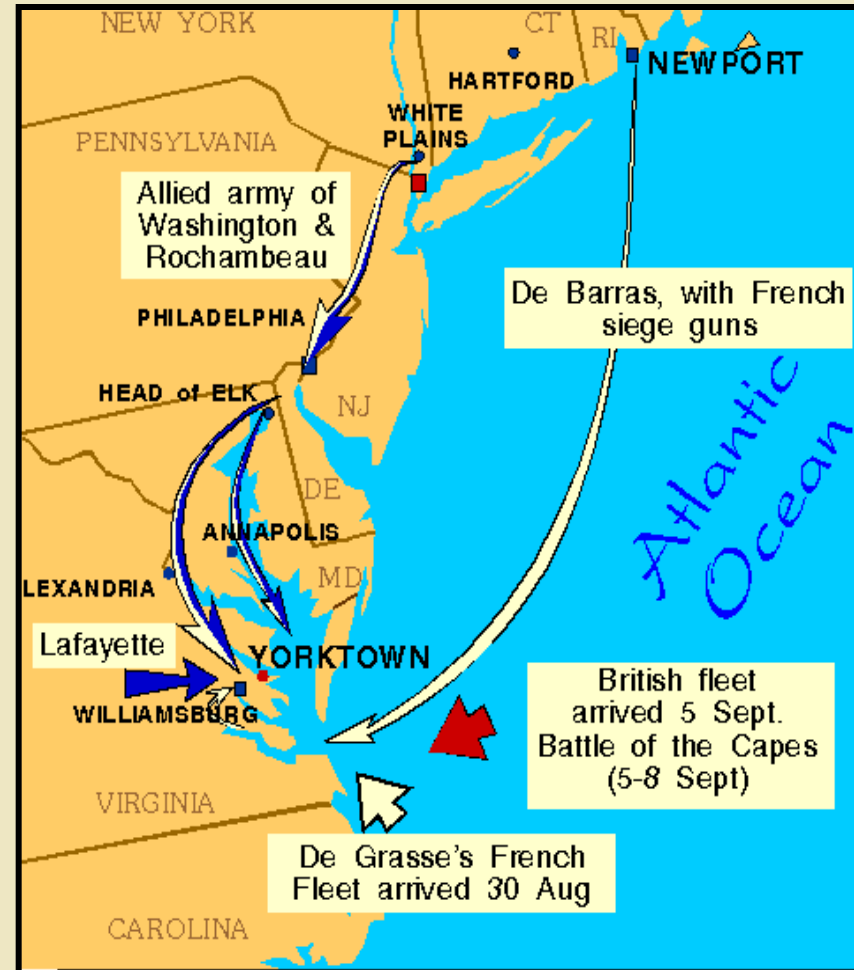
# Battle of Yorktown, 1781

The British General  
**Charles Cornwallis**  
was in charge of  
Virginia

The Americans planned  
a fake attack in the  
North

-Link up with French  
by land and sea

-Trap Cornwallis at  
**Yorktown**



# Surrender of Cornwallis





# Peace of Paris, 1783

**Ben Franklin, John Adams, John Jay**

**Met in Paris, France with  
representatives of King George the III**

**They agreed upon and signed another  
Treaty of Paris to end the American  
War for Independence**



# Treaty of Paris

- ◆ Acknowledge America as a Free and Independent Country
- ◆ Establish the boundaries between the United States and British North America (Canada)
- ◆ Grant fishing rights to United States
- ◆ Debts and loans will still need to be paid
- ◆ Try to get back the property taken from loyalists in America
- ◆ United States will prevent future confiscations of the property of Loyalists;

# Treaty of Paris

- ◆ Both sides agree to give back their Prisoners of War
  - ◆ The Mississippi River was to remain open to both Countries
  - ◆ Land taken after the Treaty was signed would be returned
  - ◆ The Treaty must be agreed to within in 6 months time
- Also
- ◆ Spain received Florida
  - ◆ France received Colonies in The Caribbean and Africa





# Women & African Americans

## Women

- ◆ Most Worked in camps or behind the lines
- ◆ **Molly Pitcher**- one example of women fighting
- ◆ Spies, messengers

## African Americans


- ◆ Many were promised freedom for service
- ◆ They were rarely armed
- ◆ Southerners feared slave uprisings

# Legacy for Native Americans

- ◆ **Native Americans generally believed it was not their war**
- ◆ **This war for liberty and independence took liberty and independence away from them**
- ◆ **American soldiers were paid with Indian land, not free land**







# Results of the American Revolution

- ◆ It created a new Country, The United States of America
- ◆ It expanded the rights and freedoms for white men (later to be all people) in the Country
- ◆ Strengthened Slavery in the South but caused anti-slavery feelings to grow in the North
- ◆ It caused huge amounts of debt
- ◆ Led to the Establishment of the Countries first constitution called the **Articles of Confederation.**