

American Revolution Timeline for Kids

1765 to 1783

The thirteen colonies were ruled by the king of Great Britain. Many colonists thought his rules were not fair. They fought a war to become their own country. This timeline shows how the United States began.



1765

The Stamp Act

Great Britain makes the colonists pay a tax on paper goods like newspapers. The colonists have no vote on the tax.

Why it matters: Colonists said this was not fair. They began to work together against the tax.



1773

The Boston Tea Party

Britain puts a tax on tea. One night, colonists climb onto three ships in Boston Harbor. They dump 342 chests of tea into the water.

Why it matters: The king was angry and sent more soldiers. The two sides moved closer to war.



1775

The War Begins

British soldiers march to the towns of Lexington and Concord. Colonists with muskets are waiting for them. The first shots are fired.

Why it matters: This was the start of the war called the American Revolution.



1776

The Declaration of Independence

On July 4, leaders of the colonies agree to the Declaration of Independence. It says the colonies are free from Britain. Thomas Jefferson wrote most of it.

Why it matters: This is the birthday of the United States. Americans celebrate it every Fourth of July.

American Revolution Timeline for Kids (page 2)



Winter of 1777

Valley Forge

George Washington's army camps at Valley Forge for the winter. The soldiers are cold and hungry, but they keep training.

Why it matters: The army came out stronger and ready to keep fighting.

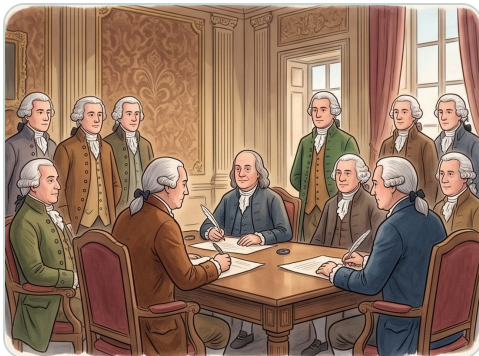


1781

Victory at Yorktown

American and French soldiers trap a British army at Yorktown, Virginia. The British army gives up.

Why it matters: It was the last big battle of the war. The Americans had won.



1783

Peace

Britain and the United States sign a peace agreement in Paris. Britain agrees that the United States is a free country.

Why it matters: The war was over. Now Americans had to build a new government.

Words to know

tax: money that people must pay to the government

colonist: a person who lives in a colony

independence: being free to rule yourself

army: a large group of soldiers