

Timeline of Events in North America And the Revolutionary War



1607

May 14: Jamestown Colony established in Virginia

1620

November 9: The Mayflower lands in Plymouth

1636-1638

Pequot War

1675

June-August: King Philip's War

1688

The Glorious Revolution (England)

1689-1697

King William's War (The First French and Indian War)

1754-1763

The French and Indian War (The Seven Years War)

1754

June 19-July 11: The Albany Congress

1763

Oct. 7: Proclamation of 1763

1764

April 5: The Sugar Act

September 1: The Currency Act

1765

March 22: The Stamp Act

March 24: The Quartering Act of 1765

May 29: Patrick Henry's "If this be treason, make the most of it!" speech

May 30: The Virginia Stamp Act Resolutions

Oct. 7-25: The Stamp Act Congress

1766

March 18: The Declaratory Act

1767

June 29: The Townshend Revenue Act

1768

August 1: Boston Non-Importation Agreement

1770

March 5: The Boston Massacre

1772

June 9: The Gaspee Affair

1773

May 10: The Tea Act Dec. 16: The Boston Tea Party

1774

March 31: Boston Port Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts"

May 20: Administration of Justice Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts"

May 20: Massachusetts Government Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts"

June 2: Quartering Act of 1774, one of the "Intolerable Acts"

June 22: Quebec Act, one of the "Intolerable Acts"

Sept. 5-Oct. 26: The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia and issues Declaration and Resolves

Oct. 10: Battle of Point Pleasant, Virginia (disputed as to whether it was a battle of the American Revolution or the culmination of Lord Dunmore's War)

Oct. 20: The Association (prohibition of trade with Great Britain)

Oct. 24: Galloway's Plan rejected

1775

March 23: Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech

Apr. 18: The Rides of Paul Revere and William Dawes

Apr. 19: Minutemen and redcoats clash at Lexington and Concord "The shot heard 'round the world."

May 10: Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys seize Fort Ticonderoga

May 10: The Second Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia

June 15: George Washington named Commander in Chief

June 17: Battle of Bunker Hill: The British drive the Americans from Breed's Hill

July 3: Washington assumes command of the Continental Army

Nov. 10-21: Ninety Six, SC, Patriots sieged

Nov. 13: The patriots under Montgomery occupy Montreal in Canada

Dec. 11: Virginia and NC patriots rout Loyalist troops and burn Norfolk

Dec. 22: Col. Thomson with 1,500 rangers and militia capture Loyalists at Great Canebrake, SC

Dec. 23-30: Snow Campaign, in SC, so-called because patriots are impeded by 15" of snow

Dec. 30-31: American forces under Benedict Arnold fail to seize Quebec

1776

Jan. 1: Daniel Morgan taken prisoner in attempt to take Quebec City
Jan. 15: Paine's "Common Sense" published
Feb. 27: The patriots drive the Loyalists from Moore's Creek Bridge, North Carolina
March 3: The Continental fleet captures New Providence Island in the Bahamas
March 17: The British evacuate Boston; British Navy moves to Halifax, Canada
June 8: Patriots fail to take Three Rivers, Quebec
June 12: The Virginia Declaration of Rights
June 28: Sullivan's Island, SC, failed British naval attack
June 29: The First Virginia Constitution
June 28: Patriots decisively defeat the British Navy at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina
July 1: At the instigation of British agents, the Cherokee attack along the entire southern frontier
July 1-4: Congress debates and revises the Declaration of Independence.
See Chronology of the Declaration
July 4: Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence; it's sent to the printer
July 8: The Declaration of Independence is read publicly
July 15: Lyndley's Fort, SC, Patriots fend off attack by Indians and Tories dressed as Indians
Aug. 1: Ambushed by Cherokees, Patriots are saved by a mounted charge at Seneca, SC
Aug. 2: Delegates begin to sign The Declaration of Independence
Aug. 10: Tugaloo River, SC, Andrew Pickens defeats Cherokees
Aug. 12: Andrew Pickens' detachment surrounded by 185 Cherokee Indians, forms a ring and fires outward. It is known as the "Ring Fight."
Aug. 12: Col. Williamson and Andrew Pickens defeat Cherokee Indians and burn Tamassy, an Indian town
Aug. 27: Redcoats defeat George Washington's army in the Battle of Long Island. Washington's army escapes at night.
Sept. 15: The British occupy New York City
Sept. 16: Generals George Washington, Nathanael Greene, and Israel Putnam triumphantly hold their ground at the Battle of Harlem Heights
Sept. 19: Col. Williamson's patriots attacked by Cherokees at Coweecho River, NC
Oct. 11: Benedict Arnold defeated at the Battle of Valcour Island (Lake Champlain), but delayed British advance
Oct. 28: The Americans retreat from White Plains, New York. British casualties

(~300) higher than American (~200).

Nov. 16: The Hessians capture Fort Washington, NY

Nov. 20: Lord Cornwallis captures Fort Lee from Nathanael Greene

Dec. 26: Washington crosses the Delaware and captures Trenton from Hessians

1777

Jan. 3: Washington victorious at Princeton

Jan. 6-May 28: Washington winters in Morristown, NJ

Apr. 27: Benedict Arnold's troops force a British retreat at Ridgefield, Connecticut.

May 20: Treaty of DeWitt's Corner, SC: Cherokees lose most of their land east of the mountains

June 14: Flag Resolution

July 5: St. Clair surrenders Fort Ticonderoga to the British

July 27: Lafayette arrives in Philadelphia

Aug. 6: The Redcoats, with Iroquois support, force the patriots back at Oriskany, NY, but then have to evacuate

Aug. 16: American Militia under General Stark victorious at the Battle of Bennington, VT (actually fought in Walloomsac, New York, several miles to the west)

Aug. 23: British withdraw from Fort Stanwix, NY, upon hearing of Benedict Arnold's approach

Aug. 25: British General Howe lands at Head of Elk, Maryland

Sept. 11: The British win the Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania

Sept. 16: Rain-out at the Battle of the Clouds, Pennsylvania

Sept. 19: Burgoyne checked by Americans under Gates at Freeman's Farm, NY. This is part of the "Battles of Saratoga."

Sept. 21: Paoli Massacre, PA

Sept. 26: British under Howe occupy Philadelphia

Oct. 4: Americans driven off at the Battle of Germantown

Oct. 7: Burgoyne loses second battle of Freeman's Farm, NY (at Bemis Heights). This is part of the "Battles of Saratoga."

Oct. 17: Burgoyne surrenders to American General Gates at Saratoga, NY

Oct. 22: Hessian attack on Fort Mercer, NJ repulsed

Nov. 16: British capture Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania

Dec. 5-7: Americans repulse British at Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania

Dec. 19: Washington's army retires to winter quarters at Valley Forge

1778

Feb. 6: The United States and France sign the French Alliance
March 7: British General William Howe replaced by Henry Clinton
May 20: Battle of Barren Hill, Pennsylvania. Lafayette with 500 men and about 50 Oneida Indians successfully evade British onslaught
June 18: British abandon Philadelphia and return to New York
June 19: Washington's army leaves Valley Forge
June 28: The Battle of Monmouth Court House ends in a draw
July 4: George Rogers Clark captures Kaskaskia, a French village south of St. Louis
Aug. 8: French and American forces besiege Newport, RI
Dec. 29: The redcoats occupy Savannah

1779

Feb. 3: Maj. Gen. Moultrie defeats British detachment at Port Royal Island, SC
Feb. 14: Patriots Andrew Pickens and Elijah Clarke beat Loyalists at Kettle Creek, GA
Feb. 23-24: American George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes (in what is now Indiana) on the Wabash in the Western campaign
March 3: British Lt. Col. Jacques Marcus Prevost defeats Americans under Gen. John Ashe at Brier Creek, GA
May 11-13: Maj. General Augustin Prévost (brother of Jacques, see above) breaks his siege when American forces under Maj. Gen. Lincoln approaches
June 20: Stono River, SC, Maj. Gen. Lincoln inflicts extensive British casualties in indecisive battle
June 21: Spain declares war on Great Britain July 8: Fairfield, CT, burned by British
July 11: Norwalk, CT, burned by British July 15-16: American "Mad" Anthony Wayne captures Stony Point, NY
Aug. 19: "Light Horse" Harry Lee attacks Paulus Hook, NJ
Aug. 29: Newtown, NY, after two massacres, American forces burn Indian villages
Sept. 23: John Paul Jones, aboard the *Bonhomme Richard*, captures British man-of-war *Serapis* near English coast Sept. 28: The Tappan Massacre ("No Flint" Grey kills 30 Americans by bayonet)
Oct. 9 American attempt to recapture Savannah, GA fails
Nov.-June 23, 1780 Washington's 2nd winter at Morristown, NJ (the harshest winter of the 18th century)

1780

May 12: British capture Charleston, SC
May 29: British crush Americans at Waxhaw Creek, SC

June 20: Patriots rout Tories at Ramseur's Mill, NC
July 11: French troops arrive at Newport, RI, to aid the American cause
Aug. 6: Patriots defeat Tories at Hanging Rock, SC
Aug. 16: British rout Americans at Camden, SC
Sept. 23: John André arrested, leading to the exposure of Benedict Arnold's plans to cede West Point to the British
Oct. 7: King's Mountain, SC: battle lasts 65 minutes. American troops led by Isaac Shelby and John Sevier defeat Maj. Patrick Ferguson and one-third of General Cornwallis's army
Oct. 14: Washington names Nathanael Greene commander of the Southern Army

1781

Jan. 1: Mutiny of unpaid Pennsylvania soldiers
Jan. 17: Patriot Morgan overwhelmingly defeats British Col. Tarleton at Cowpens, SC
Feb. 1: The Battle of Cowan's Ford, Huntersville, NC
March 2: Articles of Confederation adopted
March 15: British win costly victory at Guilford Courthouse, NC
April 25: Greene defeated at Hobkirk's Hill, SC
May 15: British Major Andrew Maxwell cedes Fort Granby, SC to patriot Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lee
June 6: Americans recapture Augusta, GA
June 18: British hold off Americans at Ninety Six, SC
July 6: "Mad" Anthony Wayne repulsed at Green Springs Farm, VA
Sept. 8: Greene defeated at Eutaw Springs, SC
Sept. 15: French fleet drives British naval force from Chesapeake Bay
Oct. 19: Cornwallis surrounded on land and sea by Americans and French and surrenders at Yorktown, VA

1782

March 20: Lord North resigns as British prime minister
July 11: British evacuate Savannah, GA
Nov. 30: British and Americans sign preliminary Articles of Peace
Dec. 14: British leave Charleston, SC

1783

April 19: Congress ratifies preliminary peace treaty
Sept. 3: The United States and Great Britain sign the Treaty of Paris
Nov. 25: British troops leave New York City
Dec. 23: Washington resigns as Commander

1787

Sept. 17: U.S. Constitution signed

1788

June 21: U.S. Constitution adopted, when New Hampshire ratifies it

