

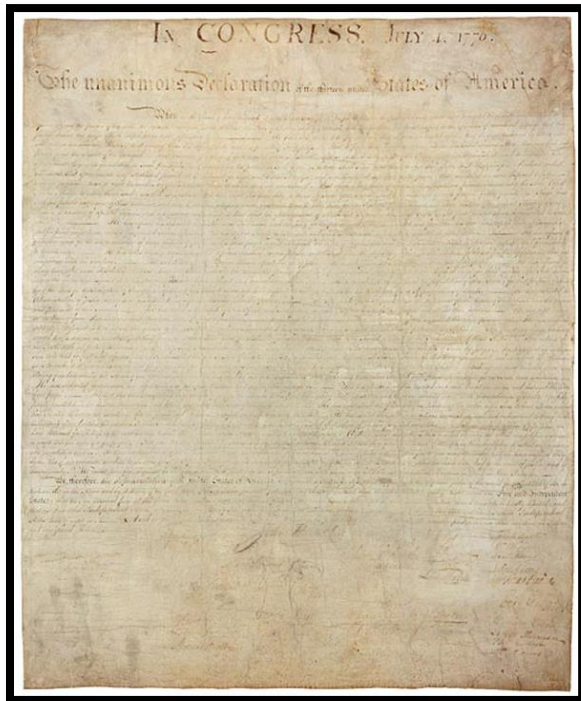


Name _____

Date _____

Student Reading 7.4: The Revolutionary War

The Revolutionary War took place from 1775 to 1783 between Great Britain and the united **colonies** of North America. There were many reasons that this war began. First, because of the distance between the colonies and Great Britain, the **colonists** were already doing many things on their own. The colonists were unhappy about the **Proclamation** of 1763, which said they could not settle



The Declaration of Independence. Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration.)

beyond the Appalachian Mountains. The British government also told the colonists that they had to provide shelter and food for the British soldiers. Finally, the British tried to force the colonists to pay **taxes** without allowing them to have **representatives** in British government.

Great Britain decided to begin taxing the colonies because it was out of money after the French and Indian War. The

Name _____

Date _____

British tried to **impose** taxes on sugar, tea, and printed **documents**. This caused the colonies to come together to fight against British rule and become their own nation. At the second Continental Congress, the colonial government, led by



(Portrait of George Washington. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.)

Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Ben Franklin, wrote the **Declaration of Independence** and organized an army led by George Washington.

The war was long and difficult for the colonists. It was difficult to get food, supplies, weapons, and transportation.

George Washington led the troops, the Continental Army, which was made up of mostly untrained **volunteer** soldiers.

Once France joined the colonists' side of the war, French ships would often

interfere with British ships' travelling across the ocean. The British had enough

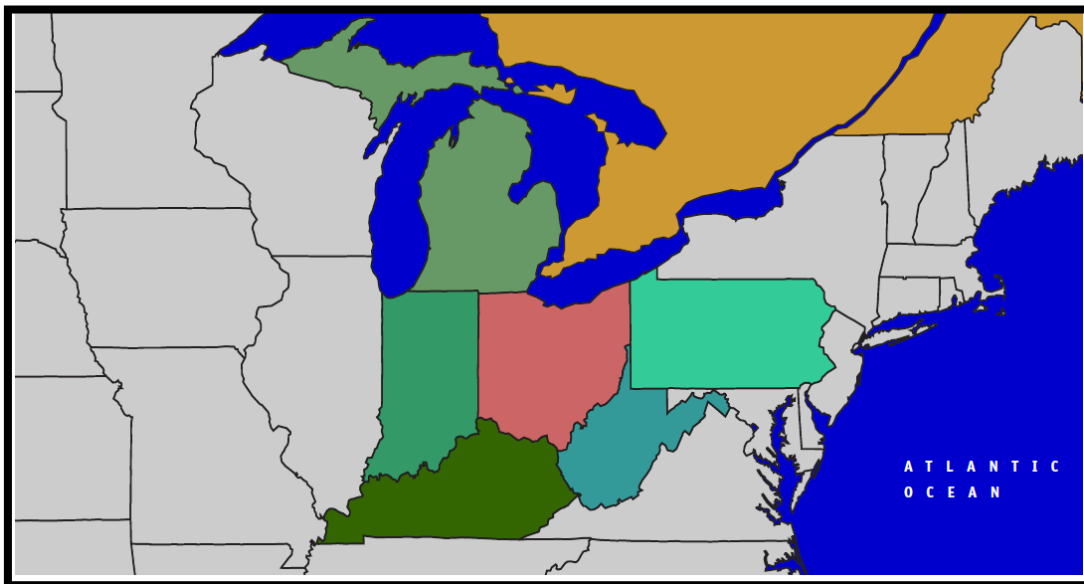


Name _____

Date _____

money that they could still buy supplies from the colonists who were **loyal** to Great Britain.

After over seven years of fighting, George Washington and the continental army defeated the British. The British **surrendered** to Washington after the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. By signing the **Treaty** of Paris in 1783, the two sides agreed to officially end the war. The colonists had fought for the right to be their own country and they had won. They gained lands west of the Appalachian Mountains, including what is now Ohio.



(Partial map of the United States with Ohio and surrounding states highlighted.)



Name _____

Date _____

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What were three reasons that the colonists wanted to be independent from Britain?

2. **True or False** Great Britain began taxing the colonists because they needed money.

3. **True or False** George Washington led the British army.



Name _____

Date _____

4. **True or False** The Revolutionary War lasted for about 10 years and the British won.
5. The war was difficult for the colonists because
- a. They had too many weapons
 - b. They had to travel across the ocean
 - c. It was difficult to get food, supplies, weapons, and transportation
 - d. Washington was not a strong leader