

Chapter 6: American Revolution Timeline

DATE	EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE
April 1775	Battles of Lexington and Concord	Skirmishes between colonial militias and British troops marked the beginning of the American Revolution
May 1775 [1]	Capture of Fort Ticonderoga	Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys are victorious in a surprise attack and its cannons are used to end the Siege of Boston in March 1776
May 1775 [2]	Second Continental Congress	Group of colonial delegates begins meeting [SCC] in Philadelphia, PA, to coordinate the war effort and the transition toward independence
June 1775 [1]	Continental Army created	Created to organize the militia units gathered around Boston, George Washington is named commander [SCC]
June 1775 [2]	Battle of Bunker Hill	The first major battle of the Revolutionary War takes place in Boston, MA, and is a costly victory for the British
July 1775	Olive Branch Petition	Sent to King George III declaring the colonists' loyalty and asking for repeal of Intolerable Acts [SCC]
January 1776	<i>Common Sense</i> published	Thomas Paine wrote this pamphlet to urge the colonists to declare independence from Britain
July 1776	Declaration of Independence	Written by Thomas Jefferson, adopted on 4 July 1776 declaring the colonies are "free and independent States" [SCC]
August 1776	Battle of Long Island	The largest battle of the war, Washington suffered heavy casualties before retreating under a dense fog cover to avoid capture
December 1776	Battle of Trenton	Tired of running away, Washington crossed the frozen Delaware River on Christmas night to make a surprise attack on Hessian troops
October 1777	Battle of Saratoga	Turning point of the war as Benedict Arnold leads American victory that convinces France to join the U.S. as an ally against Britain
November 1777	Articles of Confederation	First American constitution approved by SCC set the rules for operations of the United States government during the war
Winter 1777-1778	Winter camp at Valley Forge	Washington's troops made camp 25 miles northwest of Philadelphia, frostbite and diseases killed 2,500 men (out of 12,000)
January 1778	Treaty of Alliance	France recognized United States as independent nation and promised military support in case of attack by British forces
January 1781	Battle of Cowpens	Decisive victory in the South by American forces led by General Daniel Morgan leads to reconquest of South Carolina from the British
October 1781	Battle of Yorktown	Last major battle of the Revolutionary War as British army led by Cornwallis surrenders to combined American and French forces
September 1783	Treaty of Paris	[1] Britain recognized the United States as independent nation, [2] borders established from Atlantic Ocean to Mississippi River and from Great Lakes/Canada (Britain) to Florida, and [3] FL returned to Spain