

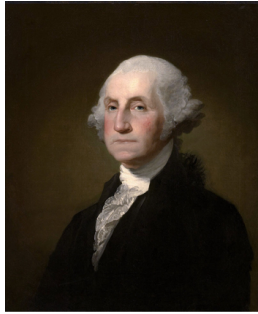
Key People During the Revolutionary War

Freckle Level: 10C

The Revolutionary War was far more than a conflict between two different nations; it was the culmination of ideas, decisions, and mistakes by a number of different people around the world. Men like George Washington, King George II, and Charles Cornwallis heavily influenced the path and ultimate outcome of the Revolutionary War.

George Washington

George Washington, the man who would eventually become the first President of the United States, was born in Virginia in 1732. He established himself as a strong force in the army during the French and Indian War but was frustrated with the inefficiency of the militia and resigned.



George Washington

Washington focused only on the care and farming of his thousands of acres of land until the growing unhappiness of his fellow colonists caught his attention in 1767. Britain's Intolerable Acts of 1774 further encouraged Washington to serve as a delegate in the First Continental Congress in September 1774 and then the Second Continental Congress in May 1775. His devotion to America's cause earned him the appointment of Major General and Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army against Great Britain.

As a general, Washington is often best remembered for leading his men across the Delaware River on Christmas night to successfully attack the British troops who significantly outnumbered and outpowered them. This attack dealt the British an embarrassing loss and further boosted Washington's reputation as a skillful leader. Washington was happy to return to

Writing

Skills: Argument, Writing Conventions, Drawing Evidence

- Many people influenced the outcome of the Revolutionary War. Choose one key figure on the American side and write an argument that explains why the war could not have been won without this individual. Support your claims using valid reasoning and relevant evidence from the text.

Vocab

- colonists
- intolerable
- unanimously
- declaration
- inspiration
- ammunition
- precedent

Reading

Skills:

- RI.1: Explicit Information
- RI.5: Text Structure & Development

RI.1: Explicit Information

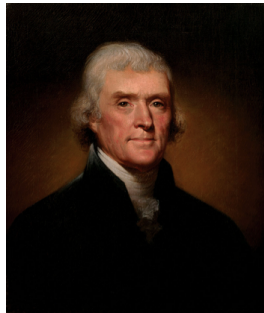
How does the author support the conclusion that George Washington was a strong leader? Select all that apply.

his property at Mount Vernon after leading the Americans to successfully gain their independence in the war, but his services were once again needed in 1787 when the young nation needed to rewrite the Articles of Confederation to strengthen the central government.

Washington was unanimously chosen to serve as President of the Constitutional Convention that led to the creation of the Constitution that still rules the United States of America today. It was by no means an easy job, but he led his people with such talent that he was then elected as the first President of the United States in 1789. In fact, he remains, to this day, the only president in American history to be unanimously elected.

Thomas Jefferson

Much like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson played many integral roles during the Revolutionary War period. He began as a delegate in the Second Continental Congress and then, at the young age of 33, was asked to draft the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson worked with other Founding Fathers, like John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, to develop the ideas, and then wrote one of the most famous documents in American history that explained why the thirteen colonies desired to be free from British rule. His declaration was adopted by America on July 4, 1776.



Thomas Jefferson

Jefferson then moved on to serve the Virginia House of Delegates, during which time he developed the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom that would eventually serve as the inspiration for the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. His work did not stop there; Jefferson served in Congress, as President Washington's Secretary of State, Vice President to John Adams, and was eventually sworn in as the third President of the United States in 1801.

Alexander Hamilton

Alexander Hamilton made a huge impact on America's political system as it grew from its infancy during and after the Revolutionary War. He began moving up the ranks after he served as an artillery captain and joined George Washington's staff toward the end of the war. Hamilton's marriage to the daughter of a major general in 1780 further established his elite

✓ The author describes a successful attack that Washington led on Christmas night.

The author explains how Washington was relieved to return to Mount Vernon after the war.

The author describes how Washington farmed thousands of acres of land before joining the war efforts.

✓ The author explains that Washington was appointed Major General and Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

RI.1: Explicit Information

Which two statements about Marquis de Lafayette can you infer to be true based on the text?

Marquis de Lafayette later betrayed the Americans due to his loyalty to France.

✓ Marquis de Lafayette was a trusted friend of George Washington.

Marquis de Lafayette supported the Continental Army from afar.

✓ Marquis de Lafayette felt sympathetic toward the American colonists.

RI.1: Explicit Information

Which detail from the text supports the inference that the French treated the Native Americans better than the British?

position in society, and he became more involved with Congress to fight for a larger national government after America gained its independence from Britain.

It was Hamilton's idea to gather for a Constitutional Convention in order to revise the failing Articles of Confederation that at the time formed America's government. He was actually unhappy with the final outcome of the Constitution, but nonetheless helped write *The Federalist Papers*, a collection of essays meant to convince all thirteen states to adopt the Constitution for the sake of a stronger federal government. He was successful and ultimately became the Secretary of Treasury and created the First Bank of the United States.

Marquis de Lafayette

Lafayette was a French military officer with close ties to Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Jefferson. He played an important role in the Revolutionary War for the support that he lent America as it struggled to defeat the larger and more powerful British Army and Navy. Lafayette was actually only 18 when he learned of the American Revolution and felt strongly that the struggles of the colonists reflected his own values. It was a difficult journey to make it to America, but when he did, Lafayette offered to work with the Americans without pay. George Washington immediately assigned him as a major general.



Marquis de Lafayette

Lafayette proved his dedication to the American cause by suffering through the 1777 winter in Valley Forge with all of Washington's men. He even spent his own money to provide American soldiers with new uniforms and muskets, offering Washington an unceasing loyalty and admiration that inspired him to serve the Americans as best he could. Many Americans came to view Lafayette as a savior with the skills to save their nation from the British. Indeed, Lafayette utilized his French connections to secure large French forces, providing support to the Continental Army. He also played a vital role in the final battles that led to British surrender.

King George III

Lafayette was a French military officer with close ties to Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Jefferson.

Lafayette utilized his French connections to secure large French forces to provide support to the Continental Army.

✓ The British had gained control of France's North American land after the French and Indian War, and both the French and the Native Americans resented the outcome.

Chief Pontiac led a Native American attempt to overthrow the British from their land.

RI.5: Text Structure & Development

How does the structure of the text reflect the author's purpose?

The cause and effect text structure shows how the author wanted to explain why the American colonists won the Revolutionary War.

✓ The descriptive text structure shows how the author wanted to outline the key leaders during the Revolutionary War.

The chronological text structure shows how the author wanted to explain the sequence of events during the Revolutionary War.

The comparative text structure shows how the author wanted to note the similarities or differences of the key leaders of the Revolutionary War.

King George III was the King of England during the Revolutionary War. It was his decision to support the British Prime Minister's choice to raise taxes on the American colonies in an effort to resolve deep British debt that existed at the time. These taxes on tea, paper, and stamps ultimately caused the colonists to rebel against King George III and his monarchy, leading to the American Revolutionary War.



King George III

It is believed that King George III wanted to punish the colonists for their rebellion by waging war for as many years as it took to defeat them; it was not in his plans to consider their independence or seek any solution other than military dominance. However, after British General Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, King George III told John Adams, "I was the last to consent to the separation; but the separation having been made and having become inevitable, I have always said, as I say now, that I would be the first to meet the friendship of the United States as an independent power."

Chief Pontiac

Before the American colonists began fighting for their independence from the British, Chief Pontiac led a Native American attempt to overthrow the British from their land. The British had gained control of France's North American land after the French and Indian War, and both the French and the Native Americans resented the outcome. The British deprived the Natives of gunpowder, ammunition, and other supplies that were considered customary at the time.

Chief Pontiac served as the leader of the movement to drive the British out, initiating a war on May 7, 1763. His battle plans proved unsuccessful and the British simply increased their presence on the frontier.

Charles Cornwallis

Charles Cornwallis served as a general for the British during the Revolutionary War. Cornwallis experienced success against the Americans in New York, Brandywine, and Camden, but is most remembered for surrendering to George Washington at the Battle of Yorktown. The strength of the American army during the Battle of Yorktown took Cornwallis by surprise, as he did not expect the French military and naval support that the Americans

RI.5: Text Structure & Development

What makes the structure of this text effective in presenting the author's claim that many people impacted the movement that led to American independence?

The chronological text structure allows the author to show how each key figure impacted the war at different points in time.

The comparative text structure allows the author to prove which of the key figures were not important in securing America's victory.

The cause and effect text structure allows the author to explain how each key figure's actions affected the war's outcome.

✓ The descriptive text structure allows the author to provide examples of how various people influenced the war's outcome.

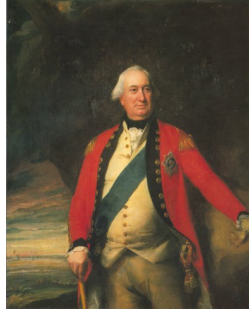
RI.5: Text Structure & Development

Why did the author choose to use chronology in the section 'George Washington'?

The author wanted to show how Washington led the Americans to victory through several battles.

The author wanted to describe Washington's leadership as President of the United States.

received. Cornwallis' defeat at Yorktown marked the end of the Revolutionary War and was followed by many months of peace discussions that culminated in the Treaty of Paris.



Charles Cornwallis

Overall, these men worked in their own capacity to impact the movement that led to American independence and set an important precedent for colonized nations all over the world.

The author wanted to explain why it took Washington so long to draft the Declaration of Independence.

✓ The author wanted to demonstrate how, over time, Washington became a leader in America's fight for independence.

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