

We hold these Truths...



The Declaration of Independence

When in the course of human events...

Timeline of the Revolutionary War

1754-1763

[The French and Indian 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" 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

- 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 the 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
- 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** Andrew Pickens and Elijah Clarke beat Loyalists at Kettle Creek, NC
- Feb. 23-24** American George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes (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. 25** Benedict Arnold's plans to cede West Point to the British discovered
- 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** Cornwallis clashes with Greene at Guilford Courthouse, NC
- 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