

# VS.5 THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION – 2020 UPDATE

## STANDARD VS.5A REVOLUTION; INDEPENDENCE

*Conflicts developed between the colonies and Great Britain over how the colonies should be governed.*

*The Declaration of Independence gave reasons for independence and ideas for self-government.*

The colonists and the British Parliament disagreed over how the colonies should be governed.

- **Parliament** believed it had **legal authority** in the colonies, while the colonists believed their **local assemblies** had legal authority.
- Parliament believed it had the **right to tax** the colonies, while the colonists believed they should not be taxed since they had **no representation in Parliament**.



Declaration of Independence

The **Declaration of Independence**, written by **Thomas Jefferson**, states that **authority to govern belongs to the people** rather than to kings and that **all people are created equal** and have **rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness**.

## STANDARD VS.5B REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS

*Virginians made significant contributions during the Revolutionary War era.*

*American Indians, whites, enslaved African Americans, and free African Americans had various roles during the American Revolution.*

**Varied roles of American Indians, whites, enslaved African Americans, and free African Americans in the Revolutionary War era**

- Virginia **patriots served in the Continental Army** and fought for independence, leading to the **British surrender at Yorktown**.
- Some **American Indians** fought alongside the Virginia **patriots**, while others fought with the **British**.
- Some Virginians were **neutral** and did not take sides while other Virginians remained **loyal** to Great Britain.
- **Women** took on more responsibility to support the war effort.
- Some **enslaved African Americans** supported the **British** who promised them freedom.
- Some **free African Americans** fought for independence in the American Revolution.



Battle of Yorktown Oct. 1781- American & French troops storming British fort.

## Contributions of Virginians during the Revolutionary War era

- **George Washington** provided military leadership by serving as **commander-in-chief of the Continental Army**.
- **Thomas Jefferson** provided political leadership by expressing the reasons for colonial independence from Great Britain in the **Declaration of Independence**.
- **Patrick Henry** inspired patriots from other colonies when he spoke out against taxation without representation by saying, “...**give me liberty or give me death.**”
- The **Marquis de Lafayette**, a French nobleman, volunteered his service to the Continental Army during the American Revolution.
  - The king of France provided **French troops**, ships and money.
  - The Marquis de Lafayette contributed to the **victory at Yorktown**.
- **James Lafayette**, an **enslaved African American** from Virginia, served as a **spy in the Continental Army** during the Revolutionary War.
  - James Lafayette then had to fight for his freedom and **won his freedom** many years after the war with the support of the **Marquis de Lafayette**.



Washington



Lafayette

## STANDARD VS.5C

### AMERICAN VICTORY AT YORKTOWN

*The last major battle of the Revolutionary War was fought at Yorktown, Virginia.*

The American victory at **Yorktown** resulted in the **surrender** of the British army in 1781, which led to an **end to the war**.

While this victory did not end the war, it was the **last significant military battle** involving British forces and the Continental Army.

The war ended with the **Treaty of Paris** in 1783.

## STANDARD VS.5D

### VIRGINIA'S CAPITAL MOVES

*A variety of factors explain the reasons for moving Virginia's capital.*

**Reasons why the capital was moved from Williamsburg to Richmond**

- The population was **moving westward** for more opportunities.
- Richmond was a more **central location**.
- Moving to Richmond increased the distance from the sea and possible **attack by the British**