

# The Early Years

## Part One

1. Who are the Patriots? (162)
2. What 4 advantages did the British have? (163)
3. Name 3 disadvantages the American colonists had?
4. What is a Loyalists, and what was another name given to them? (163)
5. What fraction of Americans were Loyalists? (163)
6. Where were the loyalists the strongest and weakest? (164)
7. Name two reasons Loyalists remained loyal to Britain? (164)
8. What was Lord Dunmore's Proclamation? (It was what he announced) (164)
9. Name 3 American advantages. (164)
10. What is a mercenary? (164)
11. Who were the Hessians? (164)
12. Who was the leader of the Continental Army?(165)
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14. Who were Margaret Corbin and Deborah Sampson? (165)



# The Early Years

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

The British and the Americans each had advantages and disadvantages as they faced one another in war.

### Key Terms

neutral, mercenary, recruit

### Reading Strategy

**Classifying Information** As you read the section, re-create the chart below and describe British and American advantages and disadvantages in the spaces provided.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
British		
American		

### Read to Learn

- why some Americans supported the British.
- how the Battle of Saratoga marked a turning point of the war.

### Section Theme

**Groups and Institutions** Although British forces won several battles early in the war, Patriot victories slowed their progress.

### Preview of Events

1776

**July 1776**

American colonies declare independence

1777

**December 1776**

Patriots capture Hessians at Trenton

**October 1777**

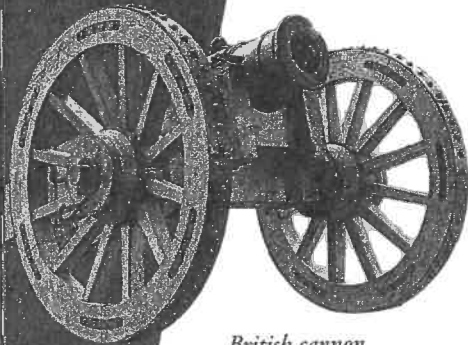
Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga

1778

**1778**

African American regiment forms in Rhode Island

## AN American Story



British cannon

The mighty British troops sailed to America, confident that they would quickly and easily crush the rebellious colonists. A British officer wrote to his friend, describing a military skirmish:

September 3, 1776

We landed on Long-Island. . . [I]t was a fine sight to see with what [eagerness] they dispatched the Rebels with their bayonets after we had surrounded them so that they could not resist. . . The island is all ours, and we shall soon take New-York, for the Rebels dare not look us in the face. I expect the affair will be over [after] this campaign. . .

## The Opposing Sides

Following years of disagreement and negotiation, the tensions between the colonies and England had reached a critical point. After the colonies declared independence from England in July 1776, the war for freedom was unavoidable.

Both the British and the Americans expected the war for independence to be short. The British planned to crush the rebellion by force. Most of the Patriots—Americans who supported independence—believed the British would give up

after losing one or two major battles. Few Patriots believed John Adams when he predicted in April 1776:

“We shall have a long . . . and bloody war to go through.”

At first glance the British had an overwhelming advantage in the war. They had the strongest navy in the world; an experienced, well-trained army; and the wealth of a worldwide empire. Britain also had a much larger population than the United States—over 8 million people in Britain compared to only 2.5 million in the United States.

The colonists suffered serious disadvantages. They lacked a regular army and a strong navy. American soldiers also lacked military experience, and weapons and ammunition were in short supply. Many Patriots belonged to militia groups—local forces—but they were volunteer soldiers who fought for short periods of time before returning home.

The Patriots faced another obstacle. Not all Americans supported the struggle for independence. Some people were neutral, taking neither side in the conflict. The Quakers, for example, would not participate in the war because they opposed all armed conflict. Still other Americans remained loyal to Britain.

### The Loyalists

Those who remained loyal to Britain and opposed the war for independence were called Loyalists or Tories. At least one American in five was a Loyalist—perhaps as many as one in three. Some people changed sides during the war, depending on which army was closer. Loyalist strength varied

# TWO VIEWPOINTS

## The War Between Americans

The American Revolution was not only a war between the British and the Americans. It also divided Americans themselves. While American Patriots fought passionately for independence, Loyalists fought just as fiercely for their British king.

### Loyalist Views

#### The Congress—1776 song

Ye Tories all rejoice and sing  
Success to George our gracious King,  
The faithful subjects tribute bring  
And [denounce] the Congress.

Prepare, prepare, my friends prepare  
For scenes of blood, the field of war;  
To royal standard we'll repair,  
And curse the haughty Congress.

Huzza! Huzza! and thrice Huzza!  
Return peace, harmony and law!  
Restore such times as once we saw  
And bid adieu to Congress.

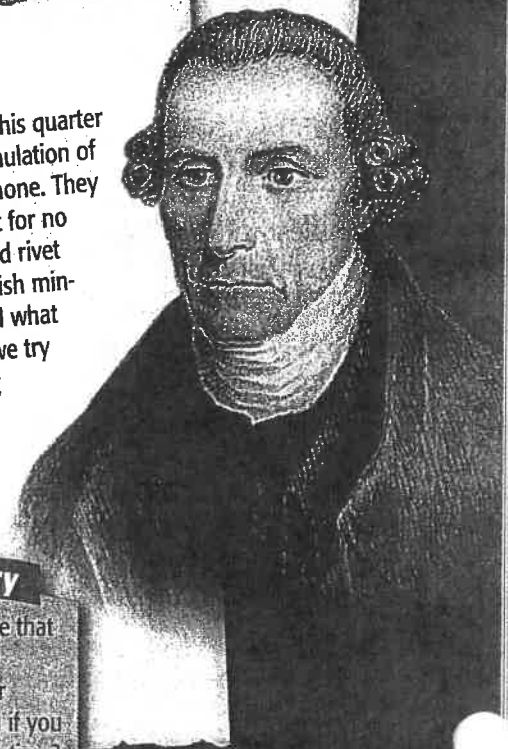
### Patriot Views

#### Patrick Henry of Virginia, 1775 —

“Has Great Britain any enemy in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are meant for us; they can be meant for no other. They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging. And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we try argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years . . . I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”

### Learning From History

1. Why did Patrick Henry believe that war was necessary?
2. Which argument—Loyalist or Patriot—would convince you if you had been an American at this time? Explain your answer.



# Linking Past & Present



Past  
Molly Pitcher

## Women in War

Molly Pitcher and Deborah Sampson were two of the few women who actually fought in the Revolution. Other colonial women, along with their families, followed the armies to cook and clean for their husbands. Today women make up nearly 15 percent of the active-duty armed forces in the United States. During the twentieth century,

women served in every war as well as in peacekeeping missions around the world. One of every seven U.S. soldiers serving in the Iraq War in 2005 was female.

Present  
Women marines served in the Gulf War in 1991.



“Neighbor was against neighbor, father against son and son against father. He that would not thrust his own blade through his brother’s heart was called an infamous villain.”

## African Americans in the War

Some African Americans also sided with the Loyalists. At the start of the war, the British appealed to enslaved Africans to join them. Lord Dunmore, the royal governor of Virginia, announced that enslaved people who fought on the British side would be freed, and many men answered his call. Eventually some of them ended up free in Canada, and others settled the British colony of Sierra Leone in Africa.

## Patriot Advantages

The Americans possessed some advantages. They were fighting on their own ground and fought with great determination to protect it. The British, on the other hand, had to wage war in a faraway land and were forced to ship soldiers and supplies thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean.

The makeup of the British army in America also helped the Patriots. The British relied on mercenaries—hired soldiers—to fight. The Americans called the mercenaries **Hessians**, after the region in Germany where most of them lived. To gain support for the war effort, Patriots compared their own troops, who were fighting for the freedom of their own land, to the Hessians, who fought for money. The Patriots had a much greater stake in winning the war than the hired soldiers did. This personal stake gave the Americans an edge over the Hessians in battle.

The Americans’ greatest advantage was probably their leader, George Washington. Few could match him for courage, honesty, and determination. The war might have taken a different turn without Washington steering its course.

## Raising an Army

The Americans placed great value on liberty and personal freedom for citizens. After throwing off the rule of the British Parliament, they

from region to region. In general it was strongest in the Carolinas and Georgia and weakest in New England.

Loyalists supported Britain for different reasons. Some remained loyal because they were members of the Anglican Church, headed by the British king. Some depended on the British for their jobs. Many feared the disorder that would come from challenging the established government. Others simply could not understand what all the commotion was about. No other country, one Loyalist complained, “faced a rebellion arising from such trivial causes.”

The issue of independence disrupted normal relations. Friends and families were divided over their loyalty to Britain. For example, William Franklin, son of Patriot Benjamin Franklin, was a Loyalist who had served as a royal governor. As one Connecticut Loyalist observed:



were unwilling to transfer power to their own Continental Congress. In some ways the American Revolution was really 13 separate wars, with each state pursuing its own interests. As a result Congress experienced difficulty enlisting soldiers and raising money to fight the war.

Although the militia played an essential role in the Patriots' forces, the Americans also needed a regular army—well-trained soldiers who could fight anywhere in the colonies. The Congress established the Continental Army but depended on the states to recruit, or enlist, soldiers.

At first soldiers signed up for one year of army service. General Washington appealed for longer terms. "If we ever hope for success," he said, "we must have men enlisted for the whole term of the war." Eventually the Continental

Congress offered enlistments for three years or for the length of the war. Most soldiers, however, still signed up for only a year.

Women also fought with the Patriot forces. **Margaret Corbin** of Pennsylvania accompanied her husband when he joined the Continental Army. After he died in battle, she took his place. **Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley** also accompanied her husband in battle. The soldiers called her "Moll of the Pitcher," or **Molly Pitcher**, because she carried water pitchers to the soldiers. As a teenager, **Deborah Sampson** of Massachusetts watched her brothers and their friends go off to war. Moved by a sense of adventure, she disguised herself as a boy and enlisted.

**Reading Check Summarizing** What disadvantages did the Patriots face?



## The Revolutionary War, 1776–1777



- 1 British capture New York City, 1776
- 2 Americans attack Trenton and Princeton, 1776–77
- 3 Howe captures Philadelphia, 1777
- 4 Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga, 1777



### Geography Skills

- British and American forces fought many battles in the North.
1. **Location** Who won the battles at Trenton and Princeton?
  2. **Analyzing Information** What was the outcome of the Battle of Saratoga?

### The Fighting Forces, 1777



Continental Army and colonial militias (20,000)