

American Revolutionary War Battles: Graphic Organizer



Painting of George Washington leading his troops in battle

The American Revolutionary War began in 1775 and lasted just over eight years, ending in 1783.

Research four key battles of the war: the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Battle of Saratoga, the Battle of Cowpens, and the Battle of Yorktown. Complete the graphic organizer for each one.

Battle of Bunker Hill (also called Battle of Breed's Hill) **Sample answers**

Date	June 17, 1775
Location	Charlestown, Massachusetts
Key Leaders	Americans: Israel Putnam, William Prescott, and Artemas Ward British: Thomas Gage, Richard Howe, and John Burgoyne
Cause	American forces occupied Breed's Hill, which overlooked Boston Harbor. The British wanted to exert control of the hills surrounding Boston. They attacked the colonists, expecting an easy victory.
Outcome	The British seized the hill but suffered many more casualties than they expected. It was the bloodiest battle of the entire war.

Battle of Saratoga

Date	September 19 and October 7, 1777
Location	Saratoga, New York
Key Leaders	American: Horatio Gates and Benedict Arnold British: John Burgoyne
Cause	The British battle plan for 1777 was to capture Albany, New York, in order to isolate and destroy colonial forces in New England.
Outcome	The Americans lost the first battle but then defeated the British in the second. The American victory in the second battle convinced France to come join American forces in February 1778.

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Keep going! Fill in the details of each battle. **Sample answers**

Battle of Cowpens

Date	January 17, 1781
Location	On the border of North and South Carolina
Key Leaders	American: Daniel Morgan British: Banastre Tarleton
Cause	The British wanted control of the southern colonies. Tarleton pursued Morgan's troops, but the colonists stood their ground and fought off the British.
Outcome	The British lost the battle. Tarleton was forced to flee. It was a small victory that had a significant impact in shifting the momentum of the war.

Battle of Yorktown

Date	September 28, 1781 – October 19, 1781
Location	Yorktown, Virginia
Key Leaders	American: George Washington British: Charles Cornwallis
Cause	Cornwallis landed his army in Virginia, hoping to link up with British forces in the South. Washington raced his army south to trap the British, who were waiting for supply ships.
Outcome	French ships block all supplies coming to help the British. Cornwallis felt trapped and was forced to surrender. This defeat effectively ended the Revolutionary War.

Review the information you have learned about these American Revolutionary War battles. Choose the battle you think had the greatest impact on the outcome of the war, and explain why in a few sentences. **Answers may vary.**
