

Name: _____

Date: _____

Informational Writing: Battles of the American Revolution

*Read the two texts below. Then, write an informative essay using the provided prompt.
Be sure to use examples, details, or quotations in your essay.*

Text #1 The Battle of Camden

The battle of Camden took place near Camden, South Carolina, on August 16, 1780. The British, under the command of Lord Charles Cornwallis, had about 2,100 soldiers. The Americans were commanded by General Horatio Gates and had about 3,700 soldiers. The remaining troops were militia, which were citizens who had volunteered for the war. The militia were not as trained or as experienced as the regular soldiers.

Before the battle began, the British controlled most of South Carolina. Camden was an important location, as it would help the Americans control the rural areas of South Carolina.

The battle began at dawn and lasted about an hour. Most of the militia panicked with the first shots from the British and left the battleground. General Gates left the battleground at the same time. The remaining American forces were defeated by the British troops. At the end of the battle, over half of the American forces were either killed, wounded, or taken prisoner.

The loss at Camden was a big blow to the American army. General Gates had made several serious errors that contributed to the loss. He was overconfident after winning his previous battle, the Battle of Saratoga. Camden was deep in enemy territory and his troops had trouble getting good supplies. His battle plan also had serious problems. After the battle, General George Washington replaced General Gates with General Nathanael Greene as commander of the southern American forces.

Text #2 The Battle of Guilford Court House

The battle of Guilford Court House was fought in Guilford County, North Carolina, on March 15, 1781. Over 4,000 American troops under the command of General Nathanael Greene met about 1,900 British troops under Lord Charles Cornwallis. While American forces outnumbered the British, many of the American soldiers were militia, which were regular citizens who had volunteered for the war. They did not have as much training or experience as the British troops.

At the battle, General Greene set the militia in the first two lines. He asked them to fire several shots and then leave the battleground. The militia had rifles that shot farther than the British muskets. On the third line, General Greene placed the regular Continental Army soldiers. This plan meant the British would be heavily damaged and the Americans would not.

The battle lasted about 90 minutes. General Greene retreated to save his troops and the British claimed victory.

While the U.S. forces lost the battle, it was a costly victory for the British. The British lost almost a quarter of their troops, while the Americans suffered comparatively light losses. General Greene continued to battle the British in South Carolina, keeping the pressure on the British forces. Lord Cornwallis, the commander of the British forces, left North Carolina to go to Virginia to collect more troops. There he would be defeated by General Washington at the Battle of Yorktown, which would end the war.

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Write an informative essay using the prompt below. Be sure to use examples, details, or quotations in your essay. Use transitional words to link your ideas together like “also,” “however,” or “for example.”

How were battles fought during the Revolutionary War?
