

Topic 1 Political, Social, Economic, and Technological Revolutions

1.1 American Revolution

1.2 French Revolution

1.3 Haitian Revolution

1.4 Red River Resistance, Northwest Resistance

1.5 Advances in science and technology

1.6 Industrialization

1.7 New Methods of Transportation, including the railway, steamships, cars, and aircraft

Topic 1.1 American Revolution

Focus question: Why did thirteen British colonies fight to become an independent country?

Key question

How did a conflict about taxation and political rights become a war for independence?

Why Did the American Revolution Begin?



*Script

S1 Britain has war debt
The war cost a lot of money.

S2 Parliament approves new taxes

S3 Stamp act tax

S4 Where is our representative?

Debt → Taxes → Protest

Vocab	What it means
Colony	a territory controlled by another country
Parliament	Britain's national law-making body
Taxation	a system through which a government collects money
Representation	having elected people speak and make political decisions

Easy explanation

Britain controlled thirteen colonies on the east coast of North America.

The Seven Years' War ended in 1763. Britain won, but the war left a large debt.

Britain introduced new taxes and controlled colonial trade more closely.

Many colonists argued that Parliament should not tax them without their political consent.

How Did Protest Become War?



*Script

S1 Petition boycotts

We can refuse to buy British tea.

A boycott is a protest.

S2 Poston tea party 1773

The tea goes into the harbor.

Britain is angry.

S3Intolerable acts 1774

Britain closes Boston Harbor.

The Colonies unite.

S4 Lexington & Concord 1775

The military prepares to fight.

War begins.

Vocab	What it means
Petition	a written request asking a government to change something
Boycott	an organized refusal to buy something as a protest
Intolerable Acts	British laws that punished Massachusetts after the Boston Tea Party
Militia	a group of ordinary people trained to fight when needed

Easy explanation

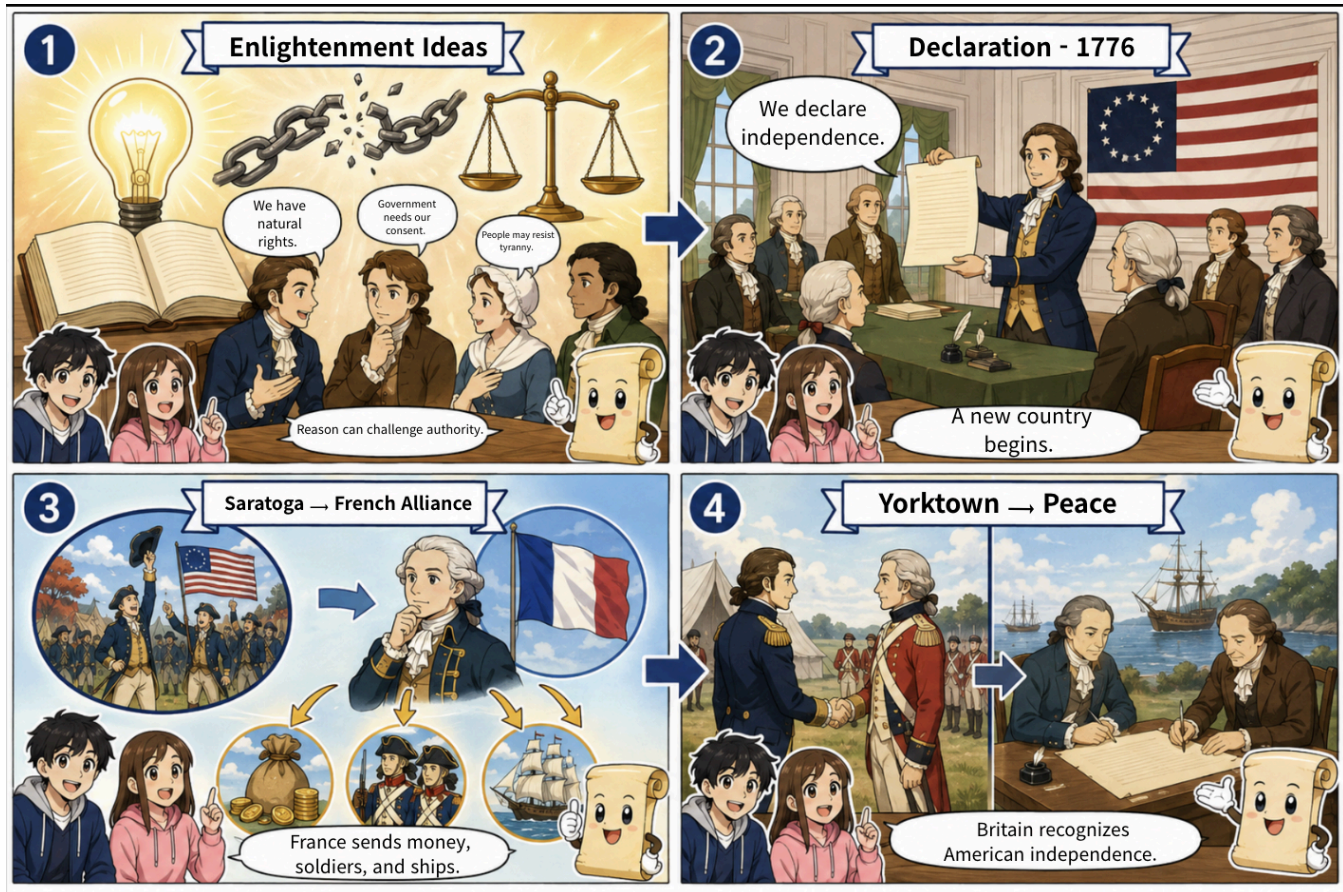
At first, many colonists wanted Britain to respect their rights. They did not immediately demand independence.

Colonists sent petitions, organized protests, and boycotted British products.

After the Boston Tea Party, Britain punished Massachusetts with the Intolerable Acts.

Fighting began at Lexington and Concord in April 1775.

How Did the Americans Win?



*Script

S1 Enlightenment Ideas

We have natural rights.

The government needs our consent.

People may resist tyranny.

Reason can challenge authority.

S3 Saratoga -> French Alliance

France sends money, soldiers, and ships.

S2 Declaration - 1776

We declare independence.

A new country begins.

S4 Yorktown -> Peace

Britain recognizes American independence.

Vocab	What it means
Alliance	an agreement between countries to support each other
Saratoga	the 1777 American victory that helped bring France into the war
Yorktown	the 1781 battle where a major British army surrendered
Treaty	a formal agreement between countries

Easy explanation

Britain had to move soldiers and supplies across the Atlantic Ocean.

George Washington kept the Continental Army together through serious difficulties.

After Saratoga, France supplied money, weapons, soldiers, ships, and naval power.

The war officially ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Britain recognized American independence.

Patriot, Loyalist, or Neutral?



*Script

Patriot, Loyalist, or Neutral?

Patriot : I support independence.

Neutral : We want to stay safe.

Loyalist : I remain loyal to Britain.

Vocab	What it means
Patriot	a colonist who supported American independence
Loyalist	a colonist who remained loyal to Britain
Neutral	a person who tried not to support either side
Civil conflict	a conflict that divides people within the same society

Easy explanation

The colonists did not all support independence.

Families and communities were sometimes divided by the war.

People made choices based on safety, family, location, land, freedom, or economic interests.

Many Loyalists later moved to other parts of British North America.

Freedom for Whom?



***Script** - Which side may offer freedom?

Two people in the middle : Which side may help us become free?

Two people (left side) The choices are difficult.

The paper : Freedom is not guaranteed.

Vocab	What it means
Sovereignty	the authority of a nation or people to govern itself
Enslaved person	a person legally forced to work and denied freedom
Political rights	rights to vote, hold office, and influence government
Contradiction	a situation in which two ideas or actions do not agree

Easy explanation

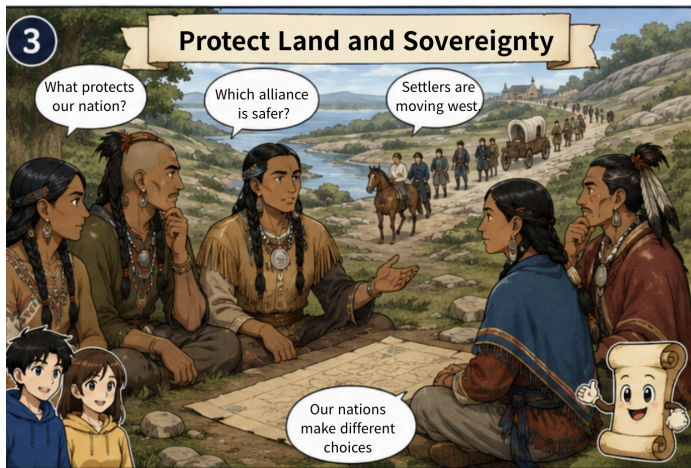
Enslaved people often chose the side that seemed more likely to offer freedom. Their choices were not all the same.

Indigenous nations made different strategic choices. Many feared that American independence would increase settlement on their lands.

Women managed farms and businesses, produced supplies, and gathered information, but they did not gain equal political rights.

The Declaration promoted liberty and equality, but its promises did not apply equally to everyone.

What Changed After the Revolution?



***Script** - Protect Land and Sovereignty

Person 1 : What protects our nation?

Person 2 : Which alliance is safer?

Person 3 : Our nations make different choices

Settlers : Settlers are moving west.



***Script** - The promise and The Reality

Work changes. Political rights do not change.

Vocab	What it means
Political consequence	a change involving government or political power
Social consequence	a change affecting groups, rights, or relationships in society
Economic consequence	a change involving trade, labour, debt, or money
Inflation	a general increase in prices and fall in the value of money

Easy explanation

Politically, the thirteen colonies became an independent United States. Government by popular consent became a powerful ideal.

Socially, ideas about liberty and equality spread, but slavery and unequal political rights continued. Indigenous lands faced greater pressure.

Economically, the new country left British trade rules, but the war caused debt, inflation, destruction, and interrupted trade.

The American Revolution influenced later revolutions, including the French and Haitian revolutions.

Final Summary

Easy explanation

Britain's war debt led to new taxes and tighter control.

Colonists protested because they lacked elected representation in Parliament.

Protest developed into war, and the colonies declared independence in 1776.

French assistance helped the Americans defeat Britain.

The Revolution expanded ideas about rights and consent, but freedom remained unequal.

Check Your Understanding

1. Why did Britain introduce new colonial taxes after 1763?

2. What did "No taxation without representation" mean?

3. How did colonial resistance change between 1765 and 1776?

4. Why was French support important?

5. Explain one contradiction between the Declaration and American society.

6. Choose one group. How did the Revolution affect that group?

7. Was the Revolution a complete social revolution? Use two facts.

Teacher Answer Key

1. Britain had a large debt after the Seven Years' War and wanted the colonies to help pay defence costs.
2. Colonists believed a government should not tax people without their political consent.
3. Resistance changed from petitions and boycotts to organized political opposition, armed conflict, and independence.
4. France supplied money, weapons, soldiers, ships, and naval power, especially at Yorktown.
5. The Declaration promoted liberty and equality, but slavery continued and women and Indigenous peoples lacked equal political power.
6. Answers vary. Strong answers explain the experience of Patriots, Loyalists, neutral colonists, enslaved people, Indigenous nations, or women.
7. Strong answers recognize major political change while explaining limits in social equality.

Sources used for fact-checking

U.S. National Park Service — American Revolution Overview and Timeline

Library of Congress — No Taxation Without Representation

Library of Congress — British Reforms and Colonial Resistance

Library of Congress — Battle Joined: Creating the United States

The manga-style illustrations are original educational artwork created for MOSAIC. They are learning visuals, not primary sources.