



#4 The American Revolutionary War

1. The purpose of the British military advance on Concord, Massachusetts, in April 1775 was to
 - A) train their troops for what appeared to be inevitable war.
 - B) force Massachusetts leaders to pay for the tea destroyed in the Boston Tea Party.
 - C) track down the persons responsible for burning the *Gaspee*.
 - D) seize war supplies and apprehend key colonial leaders.
2. Shortly after it convened in May of 1775, the Second Continental Congress
 - A) declared independence from Great Britain because of the bloodshed at Lexington and Concord.
 - B) formed the Continental Army under the leadership of George Washington.
 - C) applied pressure on Parliament to repeal the Intolerable Acts by arresting several British government officials in Massachusetts.
 - D) refused to take any action that might be interpreted as disloyal to England.
3. After the Battle of Bunker Hill, Congress and the bulk of the American people were
 - A) still reluctant to declare independence.
 - B) ready to surrender on any terms the British offered.
 - C) convinced that the war could not be lost.
 - D) forming local militias to fight the British.
4. In January of 1776, the British pushed the colonists toward independence by hiring _____ mercenaries.
 - A) Hessian
 - B) Swiss
 - C) Prussian
 - D) Bavarian
5. “We have it in our power to begin the world again. A government of our own is our natural right. O! ye that love mankind! Ye that dare oppose not only tyranny but the tyrant, stand forth.” The author of this famous statement is
 - A) Benjamin Franklin.
 - B) Thomas Jefferson.
 - C) Patrick Henry.
 - D) Thomas Paine.
6. The historical “point of no return” regarding war between the thirteen colonies and Great Britain was
 - A) armed conflict at Lexington and Concord.
 - B) the Second Continental Congress.
 - C) publication of *Common Sense*.
 - D) the Battle of Bunker Hill.

7. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” This statement appeared in
- A) an early Quaker pamphlet denouncing slavery.
 - B) the Olive Branch Petition.
 - C) *Common Sense*.
 - D) the Declaration of Independence.
8. The choice of George Washington as commander of the Continental Army was sound because of his
- A) powerful oratorical and literary abilities demonstrated through his public expressions for political leadership of the new nation, should the colonies win the war.
 - B) image among the American people.
 - C) successful record as a military leader during the French and Indian War.
 - D) reputation for relaxed and informal manner among soldiers under his command.
9. At the outset of the Revolutionary War, the British made the false assumption that
- A) other European powers would eventually ally with the British to defeat the rebellious colonies and restore order.
 - B) the clamor for war among colonial leaders would dissipate once actual fighting commenced.
 - C) victory would not require a large commitment of manpower.
 - D) the Patriot forces would be no match for the highly-trained British regulars.
10. A significant disadvantage facing the British during the war was
- A) insatiable American desire for independence.
 - B) lack of military and financial resources.
 - C) unmanageable logistics.
 - D) inferior naval forces.
11. The best estimate of the proportion of Loyalists and Patriots throughout the colonies during the Revolutionary War is
- A) Loyalists probably comprised less than five percent of the total population.
 - B) most colonists were apathetic toward the issue of war, so there were actually very few of both Loyalists and Patriots.
 - C) except in New England, the amount of Loyalists far exceeded Patriots.
 - D) one-fifth were Loyalists, two-fifths were Patriots, and two-fifths were generally neutral and indifferent.
12. As a group, the Loyalists in America
- A) came from every social and economic class and geographic area; precise demographic categorization was impossible.
 - B) were tightly organized through a central committee of Loyalists.
 - C) offered verbal backing for Great Britain, but refused to engage in outright battlefield support.
 - D) were treated fairly and tolerantly by Patriots who recognized, after all, that the Loyalists were their friends and neighbors—even relatives, in some cases.

13. Battles in and around _____ during August and September of 1776 were ignominious defeats for General George Washington's forces and seemed to presage an easy British triumph in the war.
- A) Boston
 - B) Philadelphia
 - C) Denver
 - D) New York City
14. The battles at Trenton and Princeton in December 1776 were important because
- A) the British were forced to open peace negotiations.
 - B) they provided huge morale boost after a year of defeats and desertions for the Continental Army.
 - C) American victories caused the British to shift the center of military operations to the southern states.
 - D) France decided to become an open ally of the United States.
15. Historians consider the Battle of Saratoga to be the turning point in the Revolutionary War because
- A) the American victory convinced France to enter the war against Great Britain.
 - B) it spurred Thomas Paine to write *Common Sense*.
 - C) Britain lost the support of the Six Iroquois Nations.
 - D) the death of General John Burgoyne sufficiently hampered the British will to fight.
16. Which was NOT a factor in the British decision to confine its war efforts to the South after mid-1778?
- A) Major assistance from the larger concentration of Loyalist forces in the region.
 - B) Possibility of aid from area slaves who were offered freedom in exchange for fighting.
 - C) Additional Indian allies from various southern tribes, especially those of the Iroquois Confederation.
 - D) Presence of superior sea power.
17. The most overwhelming American defeat in the war was General Henry Clinton's capture of _____ in May of 1780.
- A) Boston
 - B) Philadelphia
 - C) Trenton
 - D) Charleston
18. The British defeat at Yorktown resulted largely from the
- A) unexplainable delay by General Charles Cornwallis to withdraw his forces amidst clearly superior enemy numbers.
 - B) French fleet winning control of Chesapeake Bay and preventing General Charles Cornwallis from escaping from the peninsula by sea.
 - C) ability of General George Washington to outmaneuver General Charles Cornwallis's much larger army and force him to retreat to the peninsula.
 - D) failure of the British to convince area Loyalists of the dire need to actually take up arms against the Continental Army.

19. Which was NOT among the substantial numerous contributions of women during the American Revolution?
- A) Operating as spies, for which they were inherently suited because of their freedom to mingle in camps.
 - B) Accompanying their soldier husbands to army camps where they would perform “housekeeping” tasks such as cooking, washing, and mending.
 - C) Replacing black slaves as field hands on some southern plantations, thus enabling the slaves to enlist in local militias.
 - D) Assisting soldiers on the battlefields, often as nurses, but sometimes bravely replacing fallen soldiers at their posts.
20. The American negotiators at the Paris Peace Conference violated their instructions from Congress by
- A) rejecting any attempt to restore Loyalist property seized during the Revolution.
 - B) agreeing to permit continued British control of Canada.
 - C) departing from the idea of negotiating jointly with France to generate a treaty, instead forming a separate treaty with Great Britain.
 - D) surrendering American fishing rights in the rich Newfoundland waters.
21. Which was not a method by which the Continental Congress financed the Revolutionary War?
- A) Borrowing from France.
 - B) Taxing American colonists directly.
 - C) Printing paper money as needed.
 - D) Requisitioning funds and supplies from the states.
22. General Charles Cornwallis once complained, “When a storm threatens, our friends disappear.” He was referring to
- A) Britain’s European allies, especially France and Spain.
 - B) southern Loyalists.
 - C) Native American tribes which had promised allegiance to Britain when the war started.
 - D) frontier militias outside of direct military command of British officers.
23. The outstanding painter of the great events of the Revolution, best known for works such as *The Battle of Bunker’s Hill* and *The Declaration of Independence*, was
- A) Benjamin West.
 - B) Pablo Picasso.
 - C) Emanuel Leutze.
 - D) John Trumbull.
24. Which key conclusion can be supported by looking at the series of maps presented by Garraty/Carnes showing various campaigns throughout the war?
- A) Fighting in the South between Patriots and Loyalists was especially brutal.
 - B) The war started in New England, then shifted to the South where it concluded in 1781.
 - C) One of the contributing factors to the American war victory was failure of the highly-regarded British military leadership to meet pre-war expectations.
 - D) The Continental Army managed to overcome desertions, inadequate pay, lack of true military training, and supply shortages to win the war.

25. “The shot heard ‘round the world” is the poet Ralph Waldo Emerson’s reference to
- A) the “midnight ride” of Paul Revere to warn Massachusetts colonists of the advancing British soldiers.
 - B) gunfire exchanged between Patriots and Redcoats at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, considered the military onset of the Revolutionary War.
 - C) formal announcement on July 4, 1776, by the Second Continental Congress that its Declaration of Independence had been unanimously adopted by the colonies, and the subsequent public celebration in Philadelphia.
 - D) the summary execution of American spy Nathan Hale, caught behind enemy lines in New York during the fall of 1776.



26. The depiction of Patriot soldiers in the watercolor above, completed in 1781 by a French officer, suggests that the Continental Army was
- A) devoted to drilling and training in order to match the appearance of the impressive Redcoats.
 - B) comprised of a variety of colonists offering an assortment of fighting skills and weapons.
 - C) plagued by ill-trained men and discouraging desertion rates.
 - D) woeful as a fighting force and would have been defeated had it not been for the mid-war rescue of French.

27. Garraty/Carnes notes that during and after the Revolution, slavery
- A) was immediately abolished in the northern states.
 - B) increased rapidly throughout the colonies.
 - C) was outlawed in all British colonies.
 - D) died where it was not economically important.

28. Which role did Robert Morris and Haym Salomon play in the Revolutionary War?
- A) They were the most brilliant of the French military commanders.
 - B) They organized a network of civilians for the purpose of rooting out Loyalists.
 - C) They were the most outspoken of a small group of Parliament members advocating immediate peace with the colonies by recognizing American independence.
 - D) They provided substantial financial support for the Continental effort.

29. Historians reacted to depiction of the American Revolution in *The Patriot* with
- A) overwhelming praise for the acute historical accuracy of the entire movie.
 - B) enthusiastic demands for additional research about the war due to intriguing questions raised by some scenes in the film.
 - C) both praise and criticism.
 - D) heavy criticism of practically all historical aspects of the film.
30. When analyzing the relationship between the American Revolution and nationalism, Garraty/Carnes concludes that a feeling of American nationalism
- A) provoked the movement toward American independence.
 - B) was ignited by Benjamin Franklin's "Join, or Die." cartoon of 1754.
 - C) emerged out of the necessity to unite in order to win the war.
 - D) had been very strong since the founding of the colonies.
31. The capital of Delaware is
- A) Wilmington.
 - B) Dover.
 - C) Milford.
 - D) Oklahoma City.