

Battles That Changed

Compare goals, tactics, and effects in the Revolutionary War.

SS.5.A.5.5 "Examine and compare major battles and military campaigns of the American Revolution."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about each battle's tactics or military goal. Circle details that tell how each battle or campaign affected the war.

Three Turning Points

- ① In 1775, fighting began at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. British soldiers marched from Boston to seize colonial military supplies at Concord. Local militia met them at Lexington, then fought along the road as the British returned to Boston. The battles did not end the war, but they showed that colonial fighters could quickly gather, use familiar land, and challenge British troops.
- ② Two years later, the Saratoga campaign took place in New York. British General John Burgoyne planned to move south from Canada and cut New England off from the other colonies. American forces surrounded his army after battles at Freeman's Farm and Bemis Heights. Burgoyne surrendered in 1777. This major American victory persuaded France to become an ally and send money, soldiers, and naval support.
- ③ In 1781, the Yorktown campaign in Virginia came later than Saratoga. American and French forces trapped British General Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown while French ships blocked escape by sea. Unlike the quick militia attacks near Concord, this campaign depended on a planned siege and French help. Cornwallis surrendered, and the British government soon began peace talks. Yorktown became the last major battle of the war.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the fighting at Lexington and Concord differ from the fighting at Yorktown?

2 What was Burgoyne trying to do in the Saratoga campaign, and what happened to his army?

3 Why was Saratoga more than a battlefield victory for the Americans?

4 How did the result at Saratoga connect to the result at Yorktown?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose Saratoga and Yorktown. Write exactly three sentences that compare the two campaigns, including one similarity, one difference, and an explanation of which campaign had a bigger effect on the war.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about each battle's tactics or military goal. Circle details that tell how each battle or campaign affected the war. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the fighting at Lexington and Concord differ from the fighting at Yorktown?	At Lexington and Concord, local militia made quick attacks along the road and used familiar land. At Yorktown, American and French forces used a planned siege and French ships blocked escape by sea.
2	What was Burgoyne trying to do in the Saratoga campaign, and what happened to his army?	He planned to move south from Canada and cut New England off from the other colonies. American forces surrounded his army, and Burgoyne surrendered.
3	Why was Saratoga more than a battlefield victory for the Americans?	The victory persuaded France to become an ally and send money, soldiers, and naval support.
4	How did the result at Saratoga connect to the result at Yorktown?	Saratoga helped bring France into the war as an American ally. French forces and ships then helped trap Cornwallis at Yorktown, leading to his surrender and peace talks.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Saratoga and Yorktown both ended with British generals surrendering after American forces gained an advantage. Saratoga had a bigger effect on the war because it brought France in as an ally with money, soldiers, and naval support. At Yorktown, that French help helped trap Cornwallis and led Britain to begin peace talks.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage. For the open response, accept either campaign as having the bigger effect if the student gives a logical passage-based explanation.