

Road to Independence

Trace key battles and the reasons the American side won.

SS4H1.c "Describe the major events of the American Revolution and explain the factors leading to American victory and British defeat; include the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Saratoga, and Yorktown."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the name of each battle, write 1, 2, or 3 beside it in time order, and circle facts that explain why Americans won or Britain lost.

Three Battles, One Victory

- ① In April 1775, British troops marched from Boston toward Concord, Massachusetts, to seize colonial military supplies. At Lexington, local militia met them. Shots were fired, and the British moved on. In Concord, colonial fighters forced the British to retreat. As the soldiers returned to Boston, militia fired from behind trees and stone walls. The Battles of Lexington and Concord began open fighting in the American Revolution.
- ② Over the next years, Americans struggled against a powerful British army. In 1777, American forces defeated British troops at Saratoga, New York. This victory convinced France to become an American ally. France sent soldiers, money, weapons, and warships. Help from France made the American cause stronger. The Americans also knew the local land and often had support from civilians, while Britain fought far from home.
- ③ In 1781, British General Charles Cornwallis stationed his army at Yorktown, Virginia. American and French troops surrounded the British on land, while French warships blocked escape by sea. Cornwallis surrendered. Yorktown was the last major battle of the war. Britain had spent much money and lost many soldiers during a long war far away. After Yorktown, British leaders agreed to peace, and the United States became independent.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Battles of Lexington and Concord change the conflict between the colonies and Britain?

2 Why was the American victory at Saratoga important?

3 What happened at Yorktown that caused Cornwallis to surrender?

4 Name two factors from the passage that helped the Americans win or helped Britain lose.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence explanation of how Lexington and Concord, Saratoga, and Yorktown led to American independence. Include at least two factors that helped the Americans win or Britain lose.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the name of each battle, write 1, 2, or 3 beside it in time order, and circle facts that explain why Americans won or Britain lost. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Battles of Lexington and Concord change the conflict between the colonies and Britain?	They began open fighting in the American Revolution.
2	Why was the American victory at Saratoga important?	It convinced France to become an American ally and send help.
3	What happened at Yorktown that caused Cornwallis to surrender?	American and French troops surrounded the British on land, and French warships blocked escape by sea.
4	Name two factors from the passage that helped the Americans win or helped Britain lose.	Answers may include French aid, American knowledge of local land, civilian support, and Britain's costly war far from home.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The fighting at Lexington and Concord began the American Revolution when militia resisted British troops seeking supplies. At Saratoga, an American victory brought France into the war as an ally with money, soldiers, weapons, and warships. At Yorktown, American and French forces trapped Cornwallis's army and made it surrender. French help, local knowledge, civilian support, and Britain's costly war far from home helped the Americans win.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect Lexington and Concord to the start of open fighting, Saratoga to French support, and Yorktown to the British surrender. For the open response, look for all three battles in correct order and at least two accurate victory or defeat factors.