

Turning Points of War

Trace causes, actions, and results in three Revolutionary War events.

USI.6.e "examining the causes, course, and consequences of key events and battles of the era."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each cause, circle each action that shows what happened, and box each consequence. These marks will help you trace how one event led to the next.

Three Events That Changed the War

- ① In 1775, tension between Britain and the colonies turned into fighting at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. British troops marched from Boston to seize colonial military supplies at Concord. Colonial riders warned local militia members, who met the troops at Lexington. After shots were fired, the British continued to Concord but found many supplies moved. Militia fighters attacked the British column as it returned to Boston.
- ② Two years later, British leaders planned to cut off New England by sending an army south from Canada. General John Burgoyne's army moved slowly and lost soldiers and supplies. Near Saratoga, New York, Continental soldiers and militia stopped the British advance in two battles. Burgoyne surrendered in October 1777. This victory convinced France that the Americans could win, so France became an American ally and sent military and financial support.
- ③ By 1781, British General Charles Cornwallis had moved his army to Yorktown, Virginia, near the coast. American General George Washington and French commander Comte de Rochambeau marched south to trap him. French warships blocked British ships from bringing help or carrying Cornwallis away. After a siege, Cornwallis surrendered in October 1781. The defeat led Britain to seek peace, and the 1783 Treaty of Paris recognized United States independence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What British action caused colonial militia members to gather near Lexington and Concord?

2 What happened to the British troops as they returned to Boston from Concord?

3 How did the American victory at Saratoga change the war?

4 Why could Washington and Rochambeau trap Cornwallis at Yorktown?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose Lexington and Concord, Saratoga, or Yorktown. Write three sentences in your own words: one sentence telling a cause, one telling what happened, and one telling a consequence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each cause, circle each action that shows what happened, and box each consequence. These marks will help you trace how one event led to the next. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What British action caused colonial militia members to gather near Lexington and Concord?	British troops marched from Boston to seize colonial military supplies at Concord.
2	What happened to the British troops as they returned to Boston from Concord?	Militia fighters attacked the British column as it returned to Boston.
3	How did the American victory at Saratoga change the war?	It convinced France that the Americans could win. France became an American ally and sent military and financial support.
4	Why could Washington and Rochambeau trap Cornwallis at Yorktown?	They marched south to trap him, and French warships blocked British ships from bringing help or carrying Cornwallis away.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At Yorktown, Cornwallis's coastal position gave American and French forces a chance to trap his army. Washington, Rochambeau, and French warships surrounded the British, leading to a siege and surrender. The defeat pushed Britain toward peace and helped bring recognition of United States independence.

Accept accurate cause, course, and consequence statements that match the passage, even if students use different wording. For the open response, check that all three parts describe the same event and are historically consistent with the passage.