

American Revolution

1775-1781

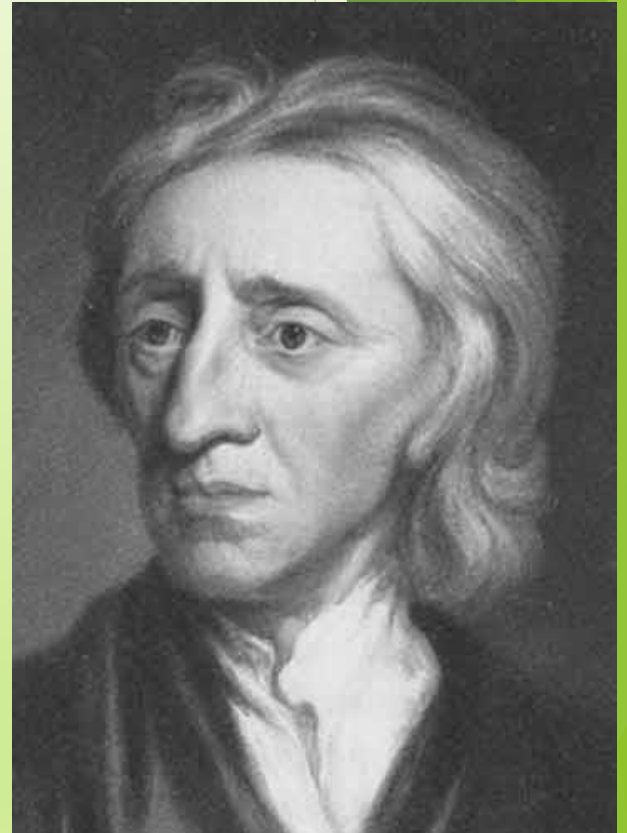
Georgia standards

SSUSH4 The student will identify the ideological, military, and diplomatic aspects of the American Revolution.

- ▶ a. Explain the language, organization, and intellectual sources of the Declaration of Independence; include the writing of John Locke and the role of Thomas Jefferson.
- ▶ b. Explain the reason for and significance of the French alliance and foreign assistance and the roles of Benjamin Franklin and the Marquis de Lafayette.
- ▶ c. Analyze George Washington as a military leader; include the creation of a professional military and the life of a common soldier, and describe the significance of the crossing of the Delaware River and Valley Forge.
- ▶ d. Explain the role of geography at the Battle of Yorktown, the role of Lord Cornwallis, and the Treaty of Paris, 1783.

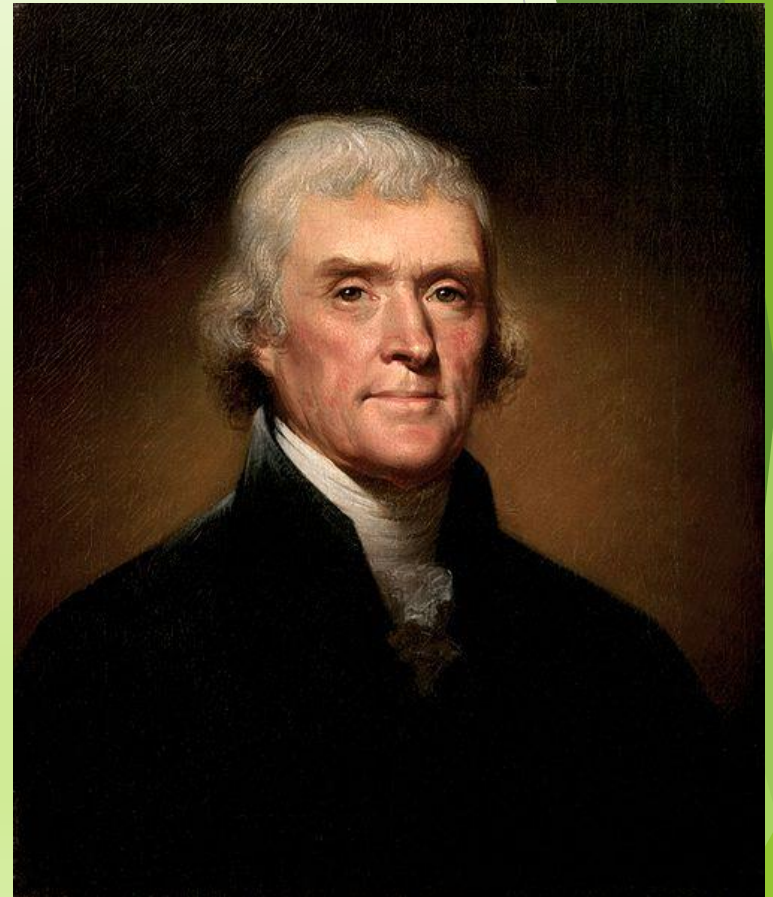
John Locke

- ▶ John Locke (1632-1704)
- ▶ Locke describes the natural state of human existence arguing:
 - ▶ ...that everyone is born with a natural right to defend his “life, liberty and property”.
 - ▶ ...individuals would agree to form a state (i.e. government) that would provide a “neutral judge” to protect the before-mentioned rights.
 - ▶ ...”all men are created equal.”



Thomas Jefferson

- ▶ Principle author of the Declaration of Independence
- ▶ Influenced heavily by Locke and other Enlightenment thinkers
- ▶ Supporter of separation of church and state
- ▶ Slave owner from Virginia



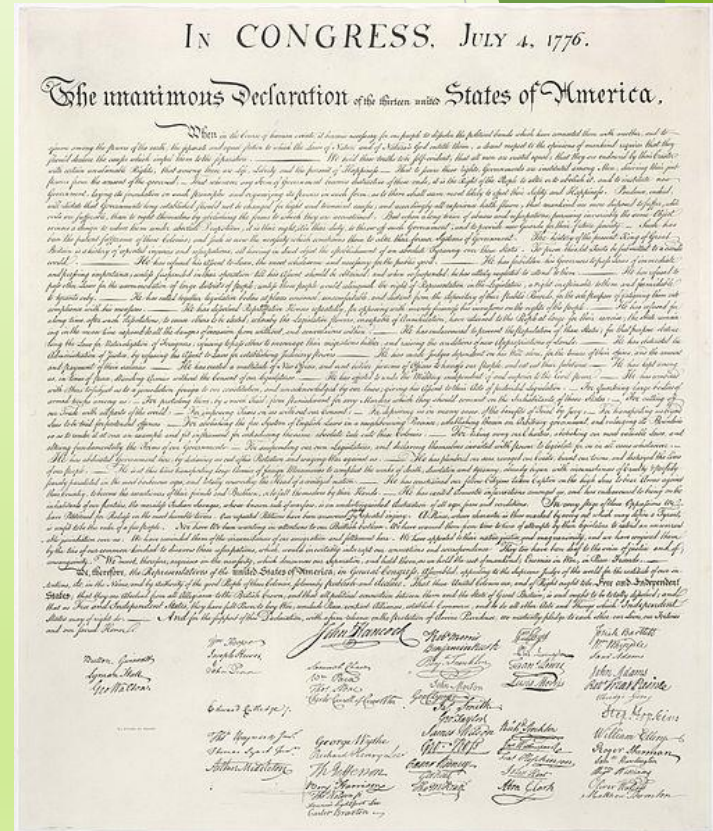
Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

- ▶ 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.



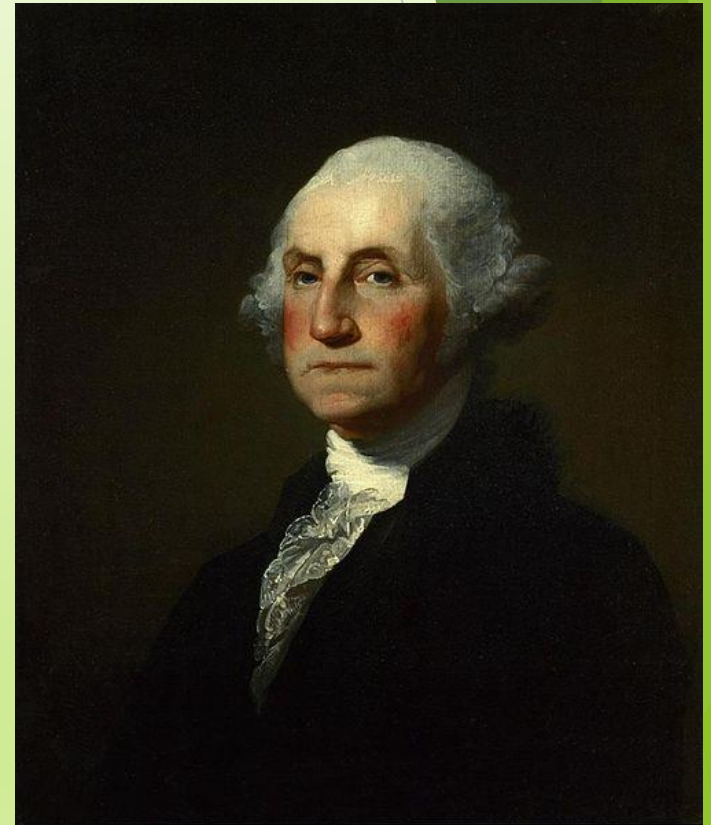
Declaration of Independence

- Summer of 1776
- the 2nd Continental Congress
- Philadelphia.
- Written by Thomas Jefferson
- include the writing of John Locke and Montesquieu
- July 4, 1776.
- The “break-up” between the colonies and Great Britain.
- Colonists’ grievances to the King.



George Washington

- ▶ “Father of the USA”
- ▶ Gained military experience in the French and Indian War.
- ▶ Chosen as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.
- ▶ One early problem Washington encountered was the creation of a professional military.
- ▶ Washington organized and trained (with the assistance of the French) the various state militias into one “national” army.



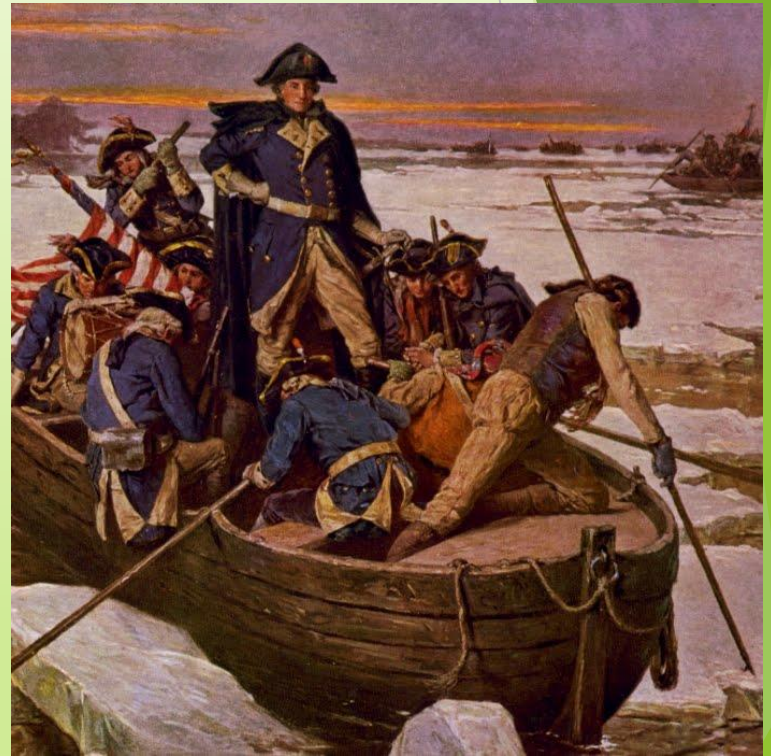
Life as a common soldier

- ▶ At the urging of Washington, Congress provided for the creation of a standing army.
- ▶ Enlistments were 1-3 years.
- ▶ Pay was meager.
- ▶ Rations were short and the army often have to scavenge to find supplies and food.
- ▶ Disease was common due to close confinement combined with poor diet and sanitation.



Washington As a Military Leader

- ▶ Lost a lot battles
- ▶ Believed quick, strong strikes followed by an immediate retreat “hit and run” .
- ▶ This principle is best illustrated when Washington crossed the Delaware River on December 25, 1776 in a surprise attack against British allies.
- ▶ This victory further boosted the morale of the American forces...victory was now strategically possible.





Valley Forge

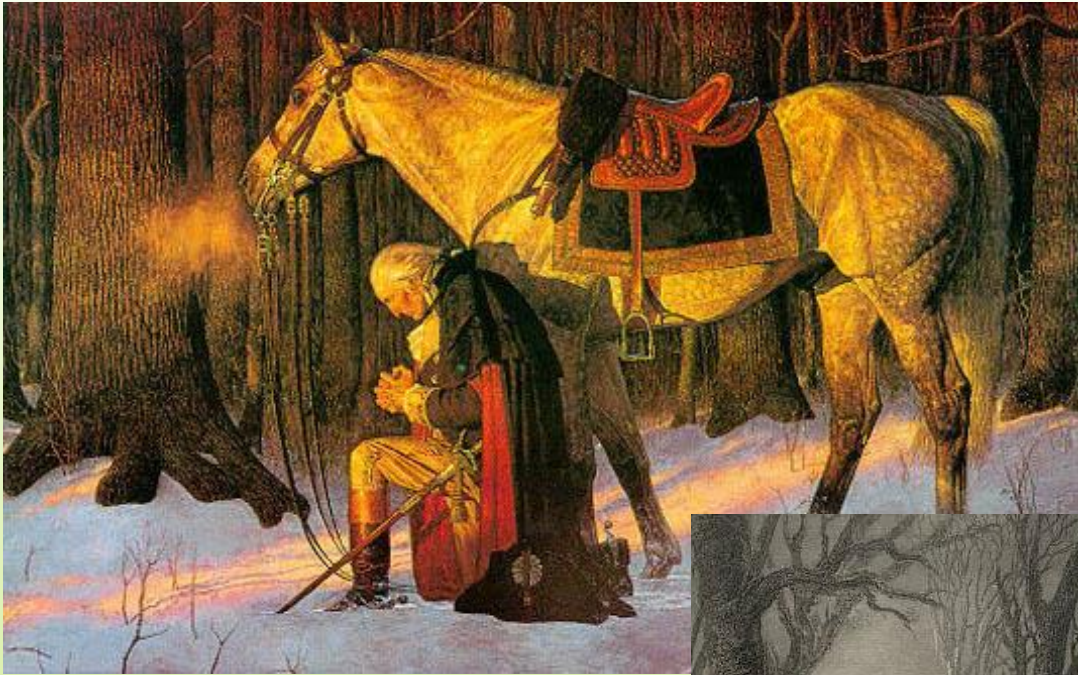
- ▶ Washington's skill at maintaining his force under trying conditions is best shown during the winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.
- ▶ The Continental Army was stuck at Valley Forge with very little rations; very little food and insufficient winter attire.
- ▶ However Valley Forge proved to be critical in the further development of the army.
- ▶ Lafayette and other foreign military leaders arrived and trained the soldiers extensively at Valley Forge.
- ▶ This newly trained force would go on to defeat the British at Yorktown 3 years later.











Franklin asks France for Help

- ▶ In the 18th century England and France maintained a deep rivalry that played out all over the globe.
- ▶ While the colonial army scored many victories early in the war with England, victory was far from certain.
- ▶ Most Indian tribes were assisting the British who supplied them with high-tech weapons and promised a return of their native lands.
- ▶ At the time of the Declaration, Benjamin Franklin was serving as a diplomat to France.
- ▶ Franklin convinced the French government to lend support to the American rebels against the British.
- ▶ France felt that by supporting the colonial rebellion, they could weaken England militarily and enact revenge for the defeat in the French and Indian War.

Marquis de Lafayette

- ▶ Marquis de Lafayette: French General who was an integral part of the American assistance in the Revolution.
- ▶ France supplied money, supplies, troops, weapons, ships, military expertise, etc.
- ▶ Lafayette served alongside General Washington and was influential in the eventual defeat of the British at Yorktown.



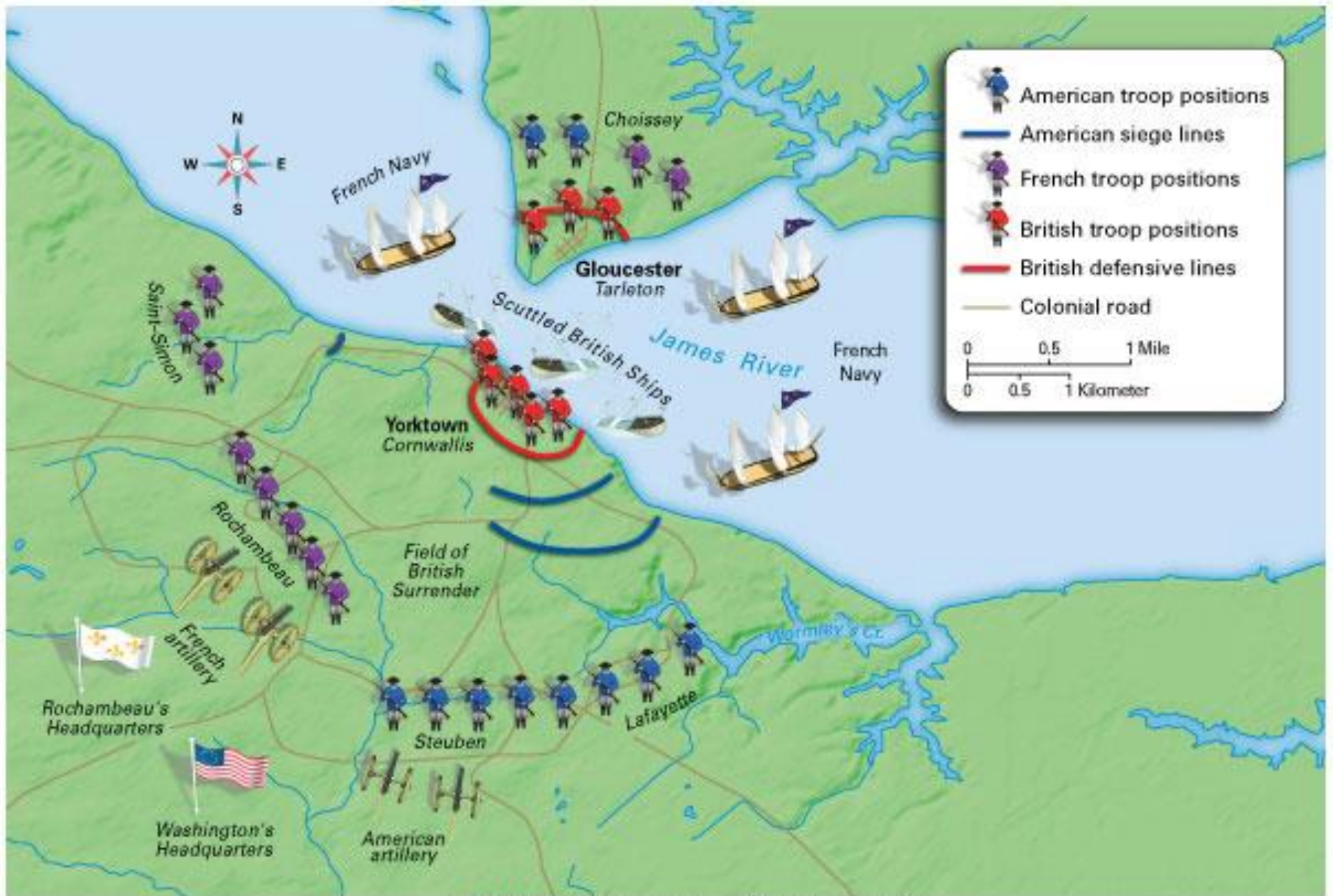
Statue of Lafayette in D.C



Siege at Yorktown

- ▶ General Lord Cornwallis: British leader who planned to push French-American forces southward in an attempt to divide the Continental Army in two.
- ▶ Cornwallis succeeded...eventually ending up with American forces near the coastal town of Yorktown in Virginia.
- ▶ While awaiting reinforcements from the British navy, the French and Americans were able to corner Cornwallis and his men.
- ▶ Cut off from reinforcements, Cornwallis was forced to surrender effectively ending the American Revolution.





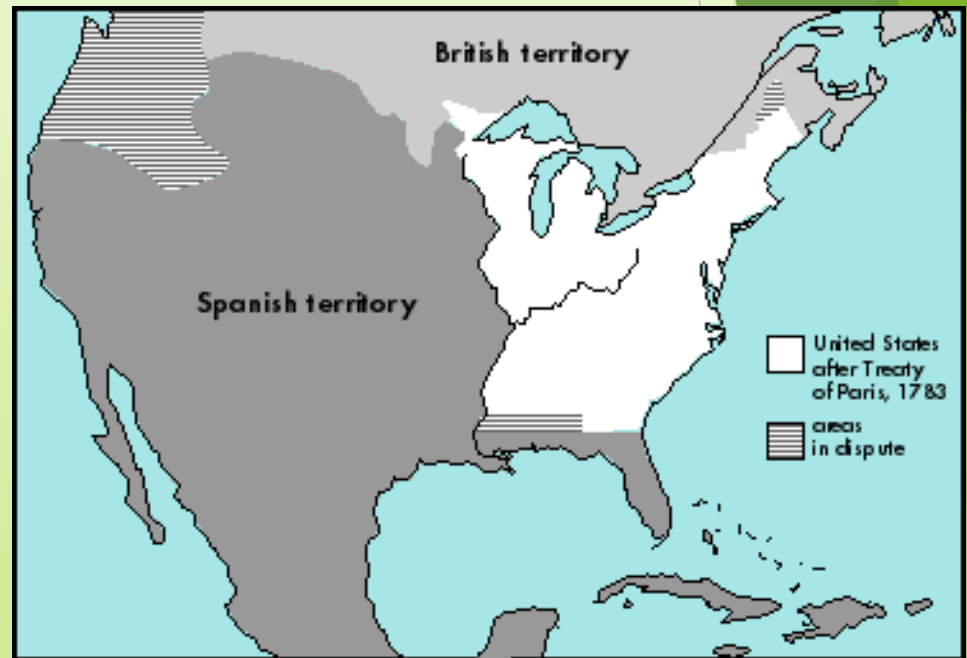
-  American troop positions
-  American siege lines
-  French troop positions
-  British troop positions
-  British defensive lines
-  Colonial road

0 0.5 1 Mile
0 0.5 1 Kilometer



Treaty of Paris (1783)

- ▶ The Treaty of Paris (1783) formally ended the American Revolution.
- ▶ The United States won its independence from Great Britain and gained control of land stretching west to the Mississippi River.
- ▶ Next, the newly freed colonists would have the tumultuous task of creating any entirely new government on their own.



How did the Americans win the war?

Auditory	Visual	Tactile
Journal/Diary Fact File (Fact/Opinion 5 facts)	Flow Map (artistic map) Comic Strip (6 pics)	How-to-book/video News broadcast (script and video)