

**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 10.2.3*****The American Revolution***

**Specific Objective:** Understand the unique character of the American Revolution, its spread to other parts of the world, and its continuing significance to other nations.

**Read the summaries and time line to answer the questions on the next page.**

The American Revolution was rooted in the belief that people possess natural rights and that government has a responsibility to protect those rights. American Patriots believed that the British government had violated their rights. As a result, they declared their independence from British rule and sought to create their own government.

**Key Events in the American Revolution**

- 1760s** American colonists protest unfair taxes and other rights violations by the British.  
**1775** War breaks out as shots are fired between colonists and British soldiers.  
**1776** American colonists issue a Declaration of Independence from British rule.  
**1781** British Army surrenders; Americans achieve independence.  
**1781–1787** States agree to a weak central government under the Articles of Confederation.  
**1787** States accept the U.S. Constitution, creating a stronger national government.  
**1791** The Bill of Rights is added to the U.S. Constitution.

**Unique Success**

The American Revolution occurred during an era of revolutionary movements. Not all revolutions succeeded in creating stable democracy. For example, after the French Revolution in 1789, France descended into chaos, as people rebelled against many traditions. A dictatorship took over in 1799. By contrast, the American colonists rebelled mainly against British rule. After the revolution, they established laws that protected individual rights balanced with representative national and state governments.

**Other Revolutionary Movements**

The American Revolution was the first of a series of wars for independence that shared some common beliefs. Shared ideas included an emphasis on individual rights and the idea that a government's power comes from the people.

- French Revolution 1789–1799
- Haitian Revolution 1791–1802
- Batavian Revolution (Netherlands) 1795–1801
- Latin-American Wars for Independence (Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, and more) 1810–1824
- Greek war for independence 1821–1827

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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## The American Revolution

Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 A key issue that sparked the colonists to declare their independence from England was
  - A the example of the French Revolution.
  - B the issue of slavery.
  - C concern for individual rights.
  - D restrictions on immigration.
  
- 2 Which statement *best* describes the context in which the Declaration of Independence was issued?
  - A The Declaration of Independence was issued, and then war broke out.
  - B War broke out, and then the Declaration of Independence was issued.
  - C The British army surrendered; then the Declaration of Independence was issued.
  - D Americans achieved independence; then the Declaration of Independence was issued.
  
- 3 John Adams, second U.S. president, said that even before the War for Independence began, "The Revolution was in the hearts and minds of the people." What is the best way to paraphrase Adams's meaning?
  - A The American people were eager for war.
  - B Colonists had left England for the purpose of becoming revolutionaries.
  - C Every colonist one day becomes a revolutionary.
  - D The American Revolution was rooted in people's beliefs.
  
- 4 Which document was written before all the others?
  - A Articles of Confederation
  - B U.S. Constitution
  - C Declaration of Independence
  - D United States Bill of Rights
  
- 5 What is *one* reason that the American Revolution resulted in a stable democracy, while some other revolutions did not?
  - A The United States rebelled against everything it had known.
  - B The Articles of Confederation provided a period of transition from British rule.
  - C Americans created both a strong government and protections for individual rights.
  - D The Declaration of Independence legislated the ideals of equality and liberty.
  
- 6 What feature was shared by the major revolutionary movements of the late 1700s and early 1800s?
  - A All maintained that government's power comes from its people.
  - B All took place in colonized parts of the world.
  - C Each ended with a bill of rights being passed by the new government.
  - D Each began with a declaration of independence.